

Fairfax Station ❖ Laurel Hill
CONNECTION
Clifton ❖ Lorton ❖ Lorton Valley ❖ Crosspointe

LAF Exec
Steps Down

NEWS, PAGE 3

County Deficit
\$320 Million

NEWS, PAGE 3

Colonial
Christmas

NEWS, PAGE 4

At Gunston Hall on Saturday night, Cass Hennig warms himself by the fire during the candlelight tours with the soldiers of the 1st Virginia Regiment.

CALENDAR, PAGE 10 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 18 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 20

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Springfield Mall

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Springfield Mall is giving away \$1000 a day November 28 through December 22. Two lucky winners each day will receive \$500. One FREE entry per person per day.

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New Management at Workhouse

Lorton Arts Foundation CEO steps down in wake of slowing economy.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON
THE CONNECTION

Less than three months after the grand opening of the Workhouse Arts Center on Ox Road in Lorton, the Lorton Arts Foundation (LAF) has reshuffled its management and public relations leadership. Tina Leone, chief operating executive has stepped down and Sharon Mason, executive director for the foundation, will serve as acting CEO.

Conrad Mehan, president of the foundation and a member of

“Our ability to depend on donations, it’s not the same as it was three months ago.”

— Conrad Mehan, LAF president

the Board of Directors, said a change was needed after phase one of the Workhouse was completed this fall. “At the end of September, the foundation moved into what we viewed as an ongoing business concern,” said Mehan.

Mehan thanked Leone and praised the work she had done to shepherd the Workhouse through its infancy since taking over in

SEE LAF EXECUTIVE, PAGE 17



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

The grand opening of the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton took place on Sept. 19 to much anticipation. Recently, Tina Leone, the chief operating executive, stepped down amid a reshuffling of the Lorton Arts Foundation’s management.

16 Years for Robbery

Convicted man’s childhood friend was ‘low on cash.’

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Melvin Taylor, 24 of Washington, D.C., was sentenced Friday, Dec. 12 to 192 months in federal prison and five years of supervised release for the armed robbery of Wachovia Bank in Lorton on Jan. 31, 2008.

Because “he was low on cash,” Taylor asked his childhood friend, Amobi Agu, if he could join Agu when he robbed banks, according to federal court documents. Agu told Taylor to get a pistol they could use in the robbery, according to U.S. District Court documents.

Dressed in black, Taylor and Agu entered the Wachovia Bank at 8994 Lorton Station Blvd, at 9:48 a.m. Taylor remained in the bank lobby, preventing customers from leaving the bank, while Agu vaulted the counter and stole \$33,814 from the bank, according to court documents. They fled in Agu’s white pickup truck.

Both men went on a shopping spree with the currency. In addition to buying multiple shoes at a sports store, Taylor bought a \$2,950 gold necklace with gold



FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE

A surveillance camera caught this image of two masked men entering a Wachovia Bank in Lorton on Jan. 31, 2008.

and white diamonds forming the initials “MT” and a 2000 Buick for \$3,000.

Agu also stole \$77,998 from a Bank of America in Woodbridge on Feb. 19, 2008, planning to use Taylor’s Buick and help.

FBI agents first arrested Agu. Agu first attempted to protect Taylor, who fled to St. Louis, Mo. Taylor was arrested in St. Louis on May 31, 2008.

On Sept. 18, 2008, a federal jury convicted Taylor of conspiracy, armed bank robbery and using a firearm in relation to a crime of violence following a trial in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, according

SEE 16 YEARS, PAGE 17

Worse Than Expected

Fairfax County’s projected deficit climbs to \$650 million.

Elect officials confirmed that the county’s projected deficit is likely to be around \$650 million, \$220 million more than they had initially predicted last summer.

The increased projection is likely to mean significantly deeper cuts than the county has already discussed with the community. It also reflects the extent to which the county’s home values have declined.

Real estate taxes make up the bulk of the county’s revenue and officials had not accounted for the degree of deterioration that has taken place in the county’s residential and commercial real estate markets.

“We have also seen a decrease in commercial property values. We had thought the commercial property values were going to stay flat but there was actually a bit of a decline,” said Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock), who is head of the county budget committee.

She added that the county’s other large sources of revenue like the sales tax and business and professional licensing fees have also dropped.

“It is everything you are hearing about on the national scene,” said Bulova, who is also running to replace Gerry Connolly as the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman. She will face Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) in a special election

SEE PROJECTED DEFICIT, PAGE 17

Guilty Plea for Robbery

On Oct. 3, Robert F. Price was sentenced to a year in prison for his part in the summertime 2007 robbery of a Chantilly convenience store. Now Antonio Wilson of Lorton — another of the suspects in that crime — has pleaded guilty to his role in the offense.



POLICE PHOTO

Antonio Wilson

The incident occurred June 22, 2007 at the Prime Mart at 4300 Chantilly Shopping Center. Fairfax County Police said two masked men “using a taser/stun gun as their weapon” entered the store just after 6 a.m., while an accomplice waited outside.

The intruders overpowered the clerk, 51, of Herndon, and stole an undisclosed amount of cash, plus store and personal items. Police were called and soon apprehended Price, of Springfield, nearby.

Later, based on DNA evidence, they also arrested his brother, Rickey Fentrell Price of no fixed address; their cousin, Devin Manigo, of Rockland Village in Chantilly; and an acquaintance of theirs, Wilson.

Charged with robbery and abduction with intent to extort money, Rickey Price pleaded guilty to both offenses, Aug. 11, and is scheduled for sentencing on Jan. 8. Manigo is slated to enter a plea, this Friday, Dec. 15.

Police charged Wilson with abduction with intent to extort money, robbery and possession of a stun gun by a convicted felon. The weapon charge was later dropped and, on Nov. 19, Wilson pleaded guilty to the other two crimes in Circuit Court.

Before accepting his pleas, Judge Bruce White made sure he was entering them freely and voluntarily and because he was, in fact, guilty as charged. White then set Wilson’s sentencing for Jan. 8.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Memorial Service for Schlifke

William Cameron Schlifke, a Fairfax native and a graduate of Robinson Secondary School, died Monday, Nov. 24, from injuries he sustained in a Nov. 22 automobile crash in Newport News, Va. Schlifke was a student at Christopher Newport University.

A memorial service for Schlifke will take place Sunday, Dec. 21, 4 p.m., at Fairfax Country Club Ballroom, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that contributions be made in Schlifke’s name to Bright Futures — Cameron Schlifke Fund or the Pi Lambda Phi Educational.

Bright Futures provides summer camp scholarships for children eligible for free and reduced lunches. The program is sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Foundation. For the last four years, Schlifke worked at one of the Park Authority’s Rec-PAC summer camps, most recently as site director at Laurel Ridge Elementary. Make checks payable to: Fairfax County Park Foundation, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22032. Write “Bright Futures — Cameron Schlifke Fund” in the memo section of the check. To learn more about Bright Futures, call 703-324-8581 or visit www.CampBrightFutures.com.

The Pi Lambda Phi Educational Foundation provides financial assistance to students attending Christopher Newport University that participate in the fraternity, of which Schlifke was a member. Make checks payable to The Pi Lambda Phi Educational Foundation, 36 Mill Plain Road, Danbury, CT 06811. Write “Memory of Cameron Schlifke” in the memo section of the check. For more information about the foundation, visit www.PiLambdaPhi.org.



Brian Allen, Sarah Clark, Zach Casper and Allida Born wait in line for a carriage ride around the plantation on Saturday evening.

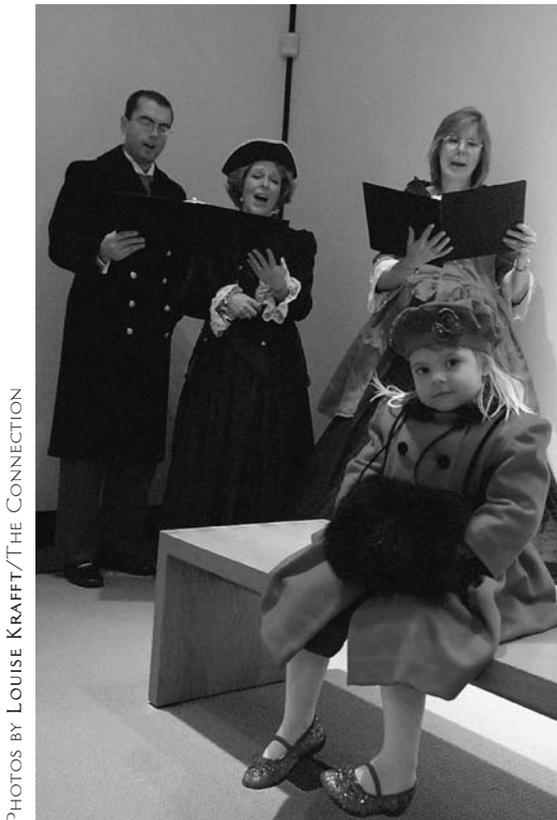
Candlelight Christmas

George Mason’s home welcomes visitors to 18th century Christmas.

“D uring the time of George Mason, Christmas Day primarily was a religious holiday. People who were inclined to attend church did so as the weather and availability of clergy permitted. Some, but by no means all, Virginians indulged in a par-

ticularly fine dinner. Guns fired into the air sent a volley of seasonal greetings from plantation to plantation. Gift-giving generally was directed to subordinates and most often in the form of tips for servants and slaves who might also be afforded some free time. But, for many, masters and household servants alike, the day was not unlike any other. Expect not to find a decorated tree or lavish bows and boughs. A few greens used sparingly might be on a mantle. It was the eye-catching table setting that was the preeminent seasonal embellishment at any social gathering ...”

— GUNSTON HALL



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Nathan Heslink, Lynn Keen and Sue McKinney of Voices USA sing carols for the guests at Gunston Hall.



Mike Gotard of the 1st Virginia Musket Line stands guard Saturday night in front of Gunston Hall.

COMMUNITY



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SYDNEY SAWYER

First Feast Jessica Busch's afternoon kindergarten class at Clifton Elementary presents a Thanksgiving play on Nov. 20. The students performed Thanksgiving songs and had a reenactment of the landing of the Mayflower. They also presented the first Thanksgiving feast between Pilgrims and locals. After the show, parents and students had a luncheon feast of their own.

Strings Attached Through the colorful artwork that decorated all the walls and the fine music, the Clifton Elementary gymnasium was transformed to Chez Clifton for the annual Thanksgiving lunch. Parents and grandparents joined their children for turkey and trimmings, bringing the number of meals served to just under 500. The Advanced Strings played some traditional favorites, adding to the festivities of the day. The photo shows Shannon Reilly and Heather Holman and, back row, Caroline Hoang and Amy Jenkins.



CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Sully District of the Fairfax County Police Department through Dec. 12.

PETTIT LARCENY FROM VEHICLE/ UNLAWFUL ENTRY/ ARREST

14900 block of Carlbern Drive. On Monday, Dec. 8, a 49-year-old Centreville woman discovered around 9:15 p.m. that someone entered her 2003 Dodge Durango and Jeep Wrangler parked in the 14900 block of Carlbern Drive. Several items had been stolen from inside both vehicles. The victim saw a male figure running through her yard but was unsure if he had been inside her cars. Approximately 20 minutes later, police responded to an assault in the 14700 block of Braddock Road. An investigation led to the arrest of Angel Samayoa Prada, 18, of the 15200 block of Bicentennial

Court in Chantilly, and an investigation determined he was allegedly the suspect who stole items from the Dodge and Jeep. Prada was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with two counts of petit larceny from a vehicle and three counts of unlawful entry.

LARCENIES

13900 block of Antonia Ford Court. Wallet stolen from vehicle.
6100 block of Barros Drive. Tires stolen from vehicle
5600 block of Lierman Circle. Camera and jewelry stolen from residence.
4100 block of Meadowland Court. GPS unit stolen from vehicle.
13500 block of Northbourne Drive. Camera stolen from vehicle.
5600 block of Pickwick Road.

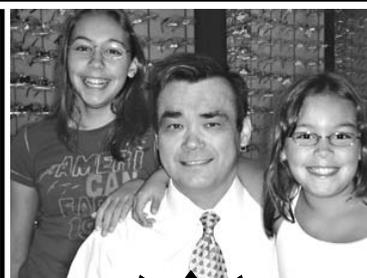
Watches stolen from business.
Pickwick Road/Wharton Road. UPS packages stolen from residence.
5600 block of Stone Road. Lotion stolen from business.
5600 block of Stone Road. Beer stolen from business.
5900 block of Trinity Parkway. Cellular phone stolen from business.
14100 block of Willard Road. Chipping hammer and construction equipment stolen from vehicle.

Activities reported by the West Springfield District of the Fairfax County Police Department through Dec. 12.

LARCENIES

6800 block of Brian Michael Court. Grill, bumper and license plate stolen from vehicle.
7900 block of Cluny Court. License plate stolen from vehicle.

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PEOPLE

Local Performer Plays Dual Instruments

Kaleigh plays both the violin and viola.

Fairfax Station Violist Kaleigh Elizabeth Acord will perform with Russian pianist Irina Kats, Sunday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The program will include Bartok, Bach and Brahms. Free. 703-838-4994 or recitalprogramsandpromotions@verizon.net.

Introduce yourself:

I am a 17-year-old high school senior. A classical musician, I perform on both violin and viola.

How did you get your start in music and how long have you been performing?

I began piano lessons at age 7, and took up violin and viola at age 11. I have been performing almost as long as I have been playing music.

What is it that you love about performing?

I find my greatest satisfaction in knowing that I have crossed the bridge between technicality and musicality, conquered all my personal demons, and succeeded in communicating something truly meaningful to an audience.

What is your best memory when it comes to music?

I do not have a single best musical memory. But every time I play respectfully at a performance I was nervous about, I am on cloud nine for the rest of the night — sometimes the rest of the week. It's also extremely rewarding to go back to a piece you struggled with a while ago, only to realize that all those passages that were so perplexing are much more manageable.

Where is your favorite place to play, either publicly or personally?

Retirement and nursing home audiences are so appreciative; I adore them and love to play for them. As for venue and acoustics alone, I am quite fond of the Lyceum, which is fortunate since I perform there relatively frequently.

Best compliment about a performance?

All the compliments that I have appreciated most have been those regarding my ability to command the stage. As a performer, it's your goal to have everyone so wrapped up in your musical messages that they almost forget to blink.

What is your favorite piece of music and why?

There are many pieces of music near and dear to my heart. My current favorite, however, is Brahms' "Double Concerto for Violin and Cello." It's got everything: brilliantly voiced interplay between the two solo instruments, flashy virtuosity, shimmering nostalgia, unforgiving flirtatiousness, dark mysteriousness, utter ferocity ... and beyond. The emotional color palette is astounding.

Describe your sound:

I like to think that I have not one sound, but many. I have recently become more aware of the fact that within any one piece or movement, there are separate characters represented by different motifs or harmonies. My job as a performer is to give each of these characters an individual voice. As a possible juxtaposition: a ghostly, mysterious character should have a chalky, quivering, uncertain voice; a sprightly character should have a bright, resilient voice.

Biggest musical influences:

While there are several composers I revere highly, I undoubtedly have the strongest connection with Brahms. My strengths lie in fiery brilliance and warm sentimentality, which are both integral parts of



Fairfax Station Violist Kaleigh Elizabeth Acord will perform with Russian pianist Irina Kats on Sunday, Dec. 21 at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum.

Brahms' musical vocabulary.

Anything special about the upcoming show?

There are few pieces written specifically and originally for the viola, and Bela Bartok's spectacular "Viola Concerto" is one of them. It is both technically and musically demanding, and is written extremely intricately. Bartok was very interested in European folk music, some of which he wove into the Concerto (as well as many other works). Bartok also made use of "continuing variation"—the concept of taking one musical theme or motif, dissecting it, and using isolated aspects to create what sound like new themes. However, if you go back

to the score of the piece with a knowing eye, it's clear that it all relates.

What would you recommend to someone starting out in the business?

Try out as many different types of music as possible, and find which one(s) suit you best. Knowing your strengths will help you to better recognize and deal with your weaknesses. Never try to squelch your personality in your music; the audience is interested in your unique temperament, not how many notes you make or miss, what note you didn't articulate quite correctly, or what bow stroke you wish you'd had more time to perfect.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SYDNEY SAWYER

Walk for Homeless

Students at Clifton Elementary School raised over \$1,400 for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries through the Walk for the Homeless. Students in kindergarten through grade six participated in the 1-mile walk on school grounds. Here, students pause in their walk to learn facts about the numbers of homeless people in Fairfax County.

VIEWPOINTS

What's on your holiday wish list?



"Pull out of this funk this country's in. I hope everyone in my family gets through it safely, and I hope we have a good safe holiday."

Greg Golden,
Fairfax



"A nice new flatpanel T.V. for the transition, even though the old one will still work, and world peace."

Karl Schaefer,
Fairfax



"Getting a laptop. It's going to be a boring Christmas this year. I hope all the homeless kids get something good."

Shelby Gabriel,
Potomac

— CANNON COOK



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OPINION

When To Chase? How to judge when benefits outweigh risks to police, public?

In the past week, there were two instances of police chasing perpetrators through multiple jurisdictions that raise some questions.

In one case, a tractor trailer driven by a man fleeing police in Montgomery County crossed the American Legion Bridge on the Capital Beltway into Fairfax County and then exited in Tysons Corner before crashing down the block from this newspaper's offices on Westpark Drive. Dozens of police cars from Maryland and Virginia participated in the chase, broadcast live on some channels via helicopter.

The chase ended with a few fender benders and the suspect being tasered. No one else was hurt.

But we wonder what kind of damage could have occurred.

When does it make sense to chase a suspect driving a vehicle with contents unknown into the center of one of the largest shopping districts in the United States during the holiday shopping season? With helicopters in pursuit perhaps this is a case where tracking the truck until it ran out of gas was a possibility.

Last week, a 19-year-old bank robbery sus-

pect from McLean was shot dead by police within sight of a middle school after a foot chase led them to an Arlington neighborhood.

Last February, a Fairfax County Police Officer drove her police cruiser through a red traffic signal on Richmond Highway on the way to answer a call, striking the car of 33 year-old Ashley McIntosh and killing her. The officer was cleared of charges of reckless driving.

We don't pretend to understand all of the factors that come into play in making such decisions in general or these decisions in particular. We do know that we would like police to be open with the public about their policies.

More on Poor Students

Several thoughtful e-mails were sent responding to our editorial, "Don't Lump Poor Students Together." [Dec. 3, 2008, www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=322904&paper=65&cat=110]

Some writers pointed to many factors besides concentration of student poverty that affect the

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

Coming to Terms with I-66

To the Editor:

Interstate 66 is not a local road or community street. It carries 145,000 vehicles per day inside the Beltway. By 2030, the number will be at least 152,000.

I-66 is a federal, state and regional highway. The need for an additional lane in each direction for better daily mobility and

evacuation capability in this corridor has been apparent for years. Federal, state and regional officials have a responsibility to address this deficiency.

Arlington's interests are clearly advanced by these spot improvements. By siphoning regional traffic from local streets, I-66 spot improvements protect Arlington neighborhoods. Not widening I-66 means more neighborhood traffic, air pollution and greenhouse gases.

VDOT has gone to extraordinary expense to assess, explain and listen to citizen input related to an obvious need. The fact that only about one hundred citizens attended the meeting also shows that most Arlingtonians recognize the benefits of widening I-66.

It's time to construct the west-bound spot improvements and move forward to add a full new lane in each direction.

Robert O. Chase
Northern Virginia
Transportation Alliance
Vienna
www.nvta.org
info@nvta.org

What Is FCPS Waiting For?

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to a FCPS proposal to suspend the revision of the system's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) school

quality of a school.

For example, Graham Road Elementary, with a high percent poverty rate, performs comparably to many schools with wealthy student populations. Graham Road, at least one writer said, is a good school because of great principal, great resources and parents who care.

The way the editorial was written does present too simplistic a picture.

While concentration of poverty in schools creates significant and often unnecessary challenges, and decreasing the concentration has benefits, this is far from the only factor involved in creating a successful school and student achievement.

Absolutely a great principal can inspire staff and parents; teachers and parents who care can make an incredible difference. And it is also quite possible for a school populated by affluent families to be mediocre.

Any yet, as the school system draws new boundaries, it is a mistake to create this additional challenge of concentrating poor students in one school.

But there is much more work than that involved in creating great schools.

— MARY KIMM

THE CONNECTION

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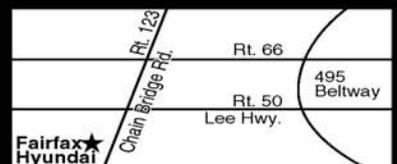
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CALENDAR

LAUREL HILL/FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON CONNECTION ASSISTANT EDITOR PAULA FRIEDRICH
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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.

THURSDAY/DEC. 18

3 Doors Down featuring Switchfoot. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$29.50-\$55, available online at www.ticketmaster.com or at 703-573-SEAT. The George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Visit www.3doorsdown.com.

Starlight, Starbright. 10:30 a.m. Age 2-5 with adult. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

Stories and Science. 4 p.m. Stories and activities with an age-appropriate science experiment. Age 4-6 with adult. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.

American Red Cross Blood Drive, 8 a.m. at CALIBRE, 6354 Walker Lane in Metro Park. Contact Bob Montcalm at 703-797-8751.

Jack Hidle. 8 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 19

Lunch Bunch. 12 p.m. Bring lunch, listen to stories. Birth-5 with adult. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.

Amanda Murphy & The Lost Indian's. 8:30 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 20

Oasis Dig Out Your Soul World

Tour, featuring Ryan Adams. 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets are \$49.50 and \$69.50, available through www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

"Over the North Pole," 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Harris Theatre, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$17 adults, \$15 students and seniors 703-222-5511 or www.encore-tap.org.

Pet Pictures with Santa Claws. 1-2 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Lake Accotink Road, Springfield. 703-569-0285.

Santa's Hayride 3:30-8:30 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Lake Accotink Road, Springfield. Enjoy a horse-drawn or tractor wagon ride and have a picture taken with Santa. 703-569-3464.

December to Remember with This Time It's War, In Alcatraz 1962 and more. 4 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

A Classical Christmas with Jubilant Sykes and Christopher Parkening. 8 p.m. at George Mason Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Holiday classics, sacred songs and hymns. Tickets are \$22-\$44. Charge at 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.

Amanda Murphy & The Lost Indian's. 8:30 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

DEC. 21

"Over the North Pole," 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Harris Theatre, George



Kitten and Cat Adoption Extravaganza, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 3915 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. All cats and kittens are fully socialized, vaccinated and de-wormed, and can be selected on the adoption site. Many may be taken home the same day. Commonwealth Cat Rescue, Inc. 703-568-3600.

Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$17 adults, \$15 students and seniors 703-222-5511 or www.encore-tap.org.

Fairfax Station Violist Kaleigh Elizabeth Acord will perform with Russian pianist Irina Kats, 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. The program will include Bartok, Bach

and Brahms. Free admission and lot parking. 703-838-4994 or recitalprogramsandpromotions@verizon.net.

Karaoke. 8 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Open Mic Night. 8 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 22

Writer's Group. 7 p.m. Read aloud for feedback. Adults. Kingstowne

FRIDAY/DEC. 26

Don Cobert. 8:30 p.m. Kate's Irish

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10
Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield.
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SATURDAY/DEC. 27

Virginia Ballet Company's 59th "Nutcracker," 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center Theater, Annandale Campus. Tickets \$30 adults, \$20 children, students and seniors. 703 249-8227 or www.virginiaballetcompany.org.
Don Cobert. 8:30 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 28

Virginia Ballet Company's 59th "Nutcracker," 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center Theater, Annandale Campus. Tickets \$30 adults, \$20 children, students and seniors. 703 249-8227 or www.virginiaballetcompany.org.
Karaoke. 8 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 29

Fairfax High School Theatre Department Winter Break Drama Camp for grades 1-8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. \$75 for three half-day sessions or \$165 for the full three-day camp. Activities include musical theater and puppetry. 703/818-0926 or www.fxplayers.org.
Open Mic. 8 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.
Virginia Ballet Company's 59th "Nutcracker," 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at

the Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center Theater, Annandale Campus. Tickets \$30 adults, \$20 children, students and seniors. 703 249-8227 or www.virginiaballetcompany.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 2

Jeff Dunham 'Spark of Insanity' tour. 8 p.m. Ventriloquism with his featured character puppets. Tickets \$49.50, at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. The George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com. Visit www.jeffdunham.com.
Johnny 3 Legs, Frayz, John Cerda, BLVD and more. 8:30 p.m. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 day of show. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.
Terry Lee Ryan. 8:30 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 3

Concert for Cancer Awareness, hosted by D-Rock with Members of the Monster Madness TV Show. Roadducks, Not-Liable, Sordid, Bitter, Dirtydaws, Punk Rodgers, G19, Unskilled Professionals, Engulfed in Flames, Bucket and Undisputed. 2 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.
Terry Lee Ryan. 8:30 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

SUNDAY/JAN. 4

Karaoke. 8 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

MONDAY/JAN. 5

Open Mic Night. 8 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

TUESDAY/JAN. 6

Computer Tutoring, 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

Teen Book Club, 7 p.m. Enjoy fun, food and great book discussions. Age 12-18. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

Snowflakes 10:30 a.m. Stories, activities and a craft. Age 2-3 with adult. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. 703-339-7385.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 7

Rotting Christ with Mantic Ritual, Epicurean, Apothys, The Red Horse of War and more. 7 p.m. \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Practice Your English Conversation Group, 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Adults. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Girls Night Out book group, 7 p.m. Call for title. Age 12-15 with adult. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13



Virginia Ballet Company will present their 59th annual 'Nutcracker' from Dec. 27-29 at the Northern Virginia Community College, Richard J. Ernst Cultural Center Theater, Annandale Campus.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

Lunch Bunnies, 12 p.m. Bring lunch, listen to stories. Age 1-5 with adult. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

THURSDAY/JAN. 8

Puppy Tales, 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and activities about puppies. Age 13-23 months with parent. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

Daytime Book Discussion Group, 12:15 p.m. "Babbitt" by Sinclair Lewis. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610. Adults.

Don Cobert, 8 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 9

Lunch Bunch, 12 p.m. Bring lunch and join us for stories. Birth-5 with adult. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.

Localpalooza, Violet Says 5, Noo Shots for Ben, Pain! and more. 6:15 p.m. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Don Cobert, 8:30 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 10

Friends Book Sale, 10 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Flu Vaccinations, 12 p.m. Shots \$25 or Medicare Part B; must be 18 or

older. Call Inova for details at 703-698-2424. Adults. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. 703-339-7385.

Tales To Take Hold Of, 2 p.m. Juggling and folk tales from around the world with juggler storyteller Renee Brachfeld. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.

Don Cobert, 8:30 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

SUNDAY/JAN. 11

Karaoke, 8 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

MONDAY/JAN. 12

Happy Birthday, Princess Priscilla, 10:30 a.m. Celebrate the branch teddy bear's birthday with stories and songs. Age 24-35 months with adult. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Winter Crafts, 3:30 p.m. It's time to make a winter craft. Age 6-12. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.

Open Mic Night, 8 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

TUESDAY/JAN. 13

Computer Tutoring, 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

Computer Tutoring, 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

Teen Game Night, 7 p.m. Play games

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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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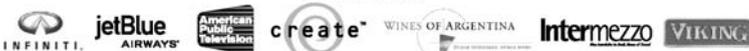
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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13
and have fun at the library. Age 12-18.
Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.
Penguin Parade, 11:15 a.m. Stories, activities and a craft about penguins. Age 2-3 with adult. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.
Mother-Daughter Book Group, 7 p.m. Call for title and to sign up. Age 9-11 with adult. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 14
Science and Stories, 4:30 p.m. Stories and simple science experiments. Age 4-6. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.
Practice Your English Conversation Group, 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Adults. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

THURSDAY/JAN. 15
Once Upon a Fairytale, 1:30 p.m. Stories, activities and a craft. Age 4-5 with adult. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. 703-339-7385.
Dave Berry, 8 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 16
AVP Hot Winter Nights Pro Beach Volleyball Tour, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$15-\$65, available through www.ticketmaster.com or 202-397-SEAT. George Mason Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. www.patriotcenter.com.



Get Pet Pictures taken with Santa Claws on Saturday, Dec. 20 at Lake Accotink Park in Springfield.



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* With coupon, not valid with any other offer, one per person per visit.

PEOPLE

All Aboard

Train ride to Manassas filled with holiday cheer.

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus joined carolers from South County Secondary School in entertaining riders during a train ride from Burke to Manassas on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Children and their families hopped on the Santa Train at the Burke VRE station. The ride was part of the 12th Annual Operation Lifesaver Santa Train Cupid Express, an event that raises funds for Operation Lifesaver, a safety railroad program sponsored by the VRE and the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots program.



Benjamin Acosta, 4, of Mount Vernon talks with Santa Claus.



Santa and Mrs. Claus greet fans as they exit the Santa Train on Saturday.



Jessica Reeves has her picture taken with Santa Claus while riding the Santa Train.



South County choral students Lesley Admana and Chelsea Coffman sing holiday songs while riding on the 12th Annual Operation Lifesaver Santa Train on Dec. 13.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Horses and Bunnies and Dogs

Hundreds of pets abandoned as recession worsens.

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

Cupcake is a dwarf rabbit, as sweet a small furry thing as one can imagine. She loves to lie down on her back next to you and fall asleep as you rub her stomach. She did not focus on the appeal by the U.S. automobile executives for a \$34 billion bailout or the billions pumped into the banking system, but she is a victim of the rising U.S. recession nevertheless.

Her young mistress, who dearly loved her, lost her job and had to move in with others in a building that doesn't allow animals. She brought her beloved Cupcake to the Fairfax County Humane Society with tears in her eyes, grateful that someone would try to take care of the little animal.

Now Cupcake lives with six other rabbits hoping for adoption in a time when, according to Susan Spaulding, a 20-year veteran of rescuing animals, "there is a huge drop in adoptions and that means shelters don't have the space to care for more animals."

Sugar and Spice, a pair of chestnut Quarter horses, lucked out in this dangerous world. When their 72-year-old mistress lost her farm home in Lorton to foreclosure last August, the Fairfax County Humane Society was able to take them in. The equine pair took the second ride of their lives on a horse trailer, nervously induced to go up the ramp with horse treats. Now they roam a 13-acre farm run by the Society on Route 29 in Centreville. Adoption, perhaps not together, is a possibility. There are seven other horses at the farm and six on the waiting list.

Licorice's owners brought this lovely black and white cat and her companion Candy to the Humane Society because they lost their jobs and went back to Canada. Then Candy was adopted and Licorice was so upset for a while that she wouldn't come out of her carry all. Now she's one of 39 cats awaiting new homes at the Humane Society.

Carol Relkin, who runs the Humane Society's headquarters where small animals reside, said the calls she gets everyday "are often heart-breaking," as people try to find a place for beloved pets.

THERE WERE thousands of foreclosures in Fairfax over the past year, and many people cannot afford the rent in county apartments. Michelle Hankins, number two official of the Fairfax County's government-run shelter said the number of "owner-sur-



Sugar and Spice landed at the Humane Society farm in Centreville after their 72-year-old owner lost their home to foreclosure.



The Humane Society's Vicki Kirby with Spice; Sugar is in the background.

rendered animals" is up 39 percent over 2007 and it keeps the shelter packed.

The county had 32 cats ready for adoption earlier this month and 38 other pets from gerbils and rabbits to parrots and hamsters.

But that literally is the tip of the iceberg. Hundreds of cats and dogs are being cared for in shelters and foster care while seeking adoption by animal rescue groups across



Licorice arrived at the Humane Society when her owners lost their jobs and moved back to Canada.



Cupcake's owner lost her job and had to move in with friends in a place where no pets were allowed, landing Cupcake at the Humane Society of Fairfax County.

"Now they bring in animals because they can't afford food or vet bills or they lost their jobs or are facing foreclosure."

**— Vicki Kirby,
Fairfax County Humane Society**

the area.

Chris Haslam, president of the Commonwealth Cat Rescue, Inc., has 38 cats for adoption. Now he gets 10 or 12 calls a day from owners seeking to find a home for a cat they cannot afford.

The chief of NOVA Rottweilers (www.md-novarotties.org) said her group's funds are exhausted and adoptions have virtually stopped. She has two Rottweilers left, but cannot take any more until she gets more contributions and finds more foster homes.

Space and money are the factors in the humane handling of animals. Fairfax County's animal shelter, run under the direction of the police department, has an earned reputation for being one of the more the humane shelters, according to Spaulding who has moved around the coun-

Donate, Adopt

The Humane Society of Fairfax County needs donations of money, pet food, and other items. Mail or drop off at the Humane Society offices, 4057 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, 22030. Call 703-385-7387 or see www.hsfc.org.

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try in her husband's years as a military officer from South Texas to California and then to Northern Virginia.

"What we try to do is change the 'pound attitude' to a 'shelter attitude,'" she said, urging county authorities to view their role as helping small animals and not just waiting to kill them.

Behind the current crisis is "pet overpopulation," which Paw Prints and Purrs, Inc., a national study group, said results from people not understanding what a responsibility pet ownership is. According to the Doris Day Animal League, more than six million dogs and cats are "euthanized in shelters each year." Millions of other pets die on the streets, highways and forests from starvation, freezing and attacks by predators.

Spaulding said that owners often let cats loose when they abandon them under the theory that cats can survive more easily than dogs, but animal experts said most house cats only last a short time in the open. The critical lack of space and foster homes in this new rush of abandonment means more cats and dogs are facing euthanasia.

Haslam said that not only is the intake of animals skyrocketing, but also the adoptions have dropped off sharply meaning that the foster homes where his animals are cared for have no more space.

Two years ago, the Fairfax Humane Society refurbished its farm on Route 29, building a multi-room dog facility with fenced outdoor play areas and veterinary treatment and viewing rooms. It built new stables and refurbished the farmhouse. Here they care for nine horses as well as some dogs.

Neutering is the primary defense against pet overpopulation. All the animals that enter rescue homes or the county shelter are neutered before they can be adopted as pets and other medical needs are met. But the cost is not cheap.

"Our main expense is veterinarian care," said Haslam. "You need blood work, testing, surgery." Animal care far exceeds the small fees that they charge for adoptions.

November and December are prime months for gifts to meet the Dec. 31 deadline for tax deductions. But Kirby said that donations are coming in more slowly than past years.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

LAF Executive Resigns

FROM PAGE 3

2002. He called the transformation of the arts center from a construction and financing operation to a running business a "monumental shift" that required a different skill-set from the current administration. Mehan said the foundation was currently conducting negotiations with Leone about a continued role with the non-profit business.

"We're working on something with her and trying to work out the potential for her to help us in the future," said Mehan.

IN ADDITION, Andrea Sims will step in as vice president of development and marketing. Sims is the president and founder of Lion's Share Communications Inc., which specializes in public relations and event promotions. She will come in with a reduced public relations staff, but Sims argued that her background and experience would help make it "mean, lean staff" that is capable of bringing star power to future Workhouse events.

On her company's Web site, Sims lists celebrities and politicians such as Sharon Stone, Hilary Clinton, Ben Affleck and Larry King as big name attractions Lion's Share has recruited for events and galas in the past.

Mehan also blamed worsening economic conditions for the necessity of restaffing, citing lower than expected donations since the financial markets

tumbled in September.

"The economic outlook has changed so dramatically that our ability to depend on donations it's not the same as it was three months ago," he said.

He said the timing of the layoffs, a month before Christmas, was unfortunate but unavoidable.

"When we looked at our calendar for the next fiscal year, in our opinion, based on our analysis, we simply did not feel we could wait until we get into the first quarter of 2009."

Still, Mehan said the foundation, which operates as a 501c3 non-profit organization, expects to make enough on its own to avoid public funding.

"We do not see ourselves as one to turn to public sources such as the county in the future," he said. "We really see ourselves as a self sustaining," he said.

Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) said the county would be willing to provide back up support to the foundation in the event of any loan trouble, but that was he was confident in the foundation's ability to remain independent.

"I don't anticipate that the present downturn is going to adversely affect them unless there's some issue with their lender, which I don't anticipate," said Hyland.

The first phase of the Workhouse Arts Center was completed in September 2008.

Mehan said plans for additional phases and construction have not been delayed or halted as a result of any of the moves.

Projected Deficit \$650 Million

FROM PAGE 3

Feb. 3.

Even though the county faces an uphill battle financially, Fairfax is in a better situation than other localities because of preventative measures the supervisors took, said Bulova.

In spite of Connolly's request, the supervisors did not tap a reserve fund of approximately \$100 million to help close their budget gap in this fiscal year and will have some of that money available to deal with the upcoming shortfall.

The county has also taken some actions to address the foreclosure problem and to provide assistance, financial and otherwise, to help people stay in their homes, she added.

Bulova also said the supervisors reached out to residents and county employees earlier in the budget cycle than they have ever done in the recent past.

"There was an unprecedented early engagement of the community," she said.

But Herry said more could have been done to mitigate the county's current financial crisis.

The Springfield supervisor said the county board should have been willing to make cuts to this year's budget earlier, in anticipation of next year's short-

fall. The supervisors only recently agreed to make current year fiscal cuts and rejected Herry's call to do so in October.

"It is a no brainer if you have any kind of sense in my book. Times are bad. To me, this isn't a change. It is expected," he said.

LAST SPRING, Herry had proposed the county eliminate some of its major programs. For example, he asked the supervisors to roll back an affordable housing preservation program, which cost approximately \$22 million.

Herry said it also did not make sense for the board last year to adopt "across the board" cuts - where every department was asked to cut an equal percentage of its budget. Instead, the supervisors should have been looking for county programs to reduce or eliminate.

"There is no way the county could have prevented this other than being more fiscally prudent," said Herry.

If elected chairman, Herry would try to help the county distinguish between the "needs to have" and "nice to have" aspects of the county budget, he said.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

16 Years for Bank Robbery

FROM PAGE 3

to Dana J. Boente, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Agu, who committed six armed robberies in Northern Virginia, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 319 months in prison, according to Boente. Carlton

Coltrane, another accomplice in the case against Agu, was sentenced to 141 months in prison.

The FBI investigated the case with the Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington and Prince William County police departments and the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Patricia Giles and Benjamin Hatch prosecuted the case.



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It's a Matter of Toughness

Under first-year coach South County girls adopt alternative training method.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

It started with a simple, logistical conversation when Chrissy Kelly and Andy Jimmo met for the first time during an in-service day earlier this school year. In the South County auditorium, Kelly, the new girls basketball coach, and Jimmo, the fourth-year wrestling coach, needed to determine who would have access to the weight room on what days and at what times.

Both wanted that coveted after-school slot and agreed their teams could split the equipment and the time rather easily. What started as a simple sharing of space quickly developed into something more.

The two teams began to not only share the same weight room but the girls started to adopt some of Jimmo's wrestling workouts. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Jimmo would put the girls through a program that had them lifting and flipping truck tires, swinging sledge hammers and carrying bags of sand.

In addition to open gym every Tuesday and Thursday, the girls would run up and down Silverbrook Hill with the boys, a hilly stretch of road that runs right past South County and the site of the former Lorton prison.

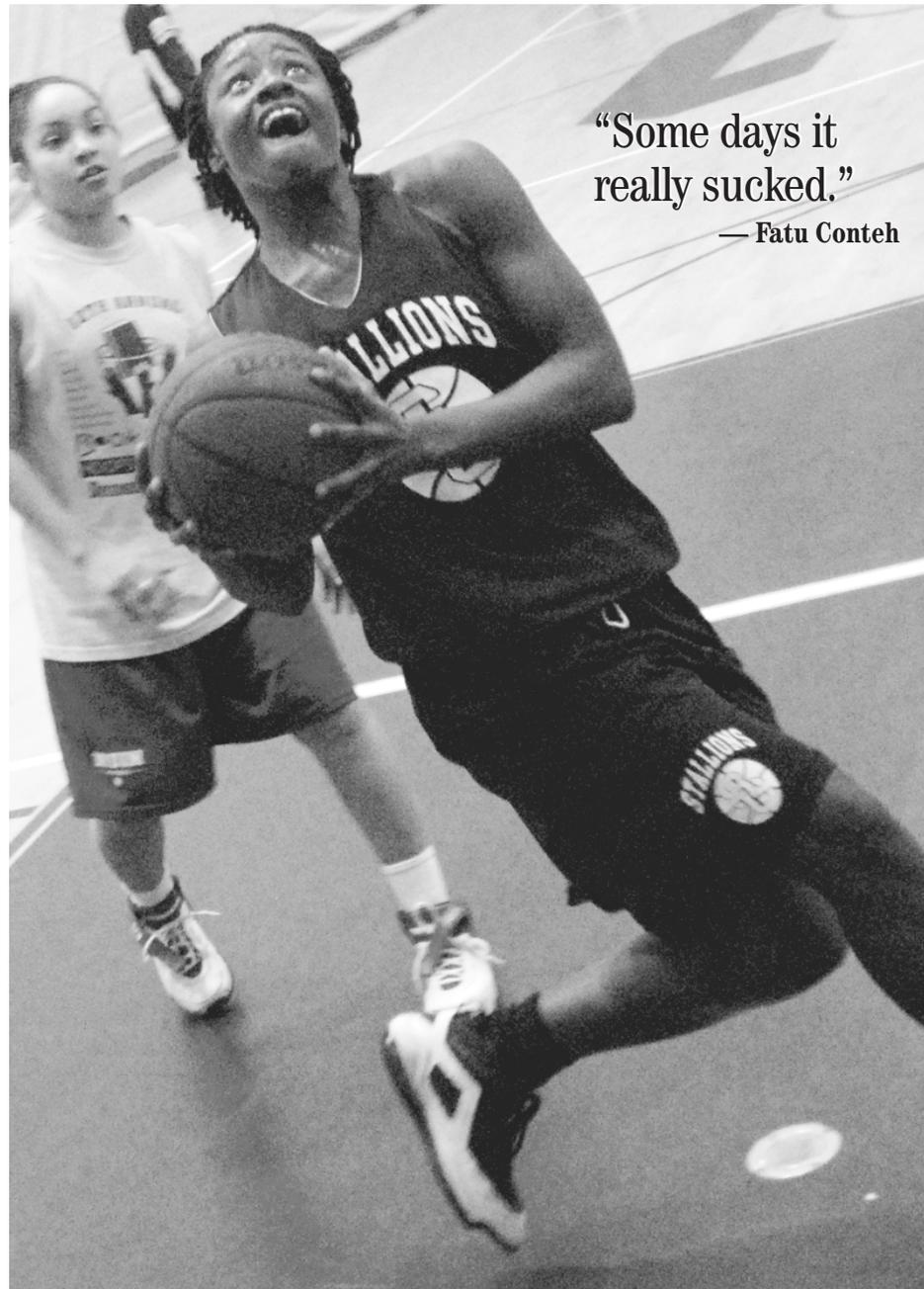
"Energy, drive and mental toughness were all things that I felt were necessary for them to develop in the off-season," Kelly said. "The whole purpose of my kids working out with the wrestlers is because wrestlers have a very different mentality, and they have a very different work ethic."

IT SOON STARTED to circulate around school that the girls basketball team was working out with the wrestling team, and, to dispel the immediate misconceptions, no actual wrestling was involved. It was just conditioning. And it was conditioning that made the girls stronger.

"Some days it really sucked," said junior guard Fatu Conteh. "But it just taught me never to give up because if I can go through coach Jimmo, I know I can go through anybody, especially coach Kelly."

"We toughened up because the wrestling coach wasn't easy on us, and he made us do everything he made his wrestlers do," said junior guard Lauren Adams. "It was hard. Every day it was something different. You were always tired and sore."

To an outsider, the idea of a girls basket-



"Some days it really sucked."

— Fatu Conteh

Junior guard Fatu Conteh drives for a layup during the South County girls basketball team's practice Monday night. The Stallions, 6-17 last season, were 5-0 entering Tuesday night's game with Lee.

ball team training with a wrestling team might seem strange, but not when one gets to know Chrissy Kelly. A 1991 graduate of West Potomac High School, Kelly went on to become a four-year starter at Division I Charleston Southern University.

Kelly still holds the career record for points (1,750) and assists (504) at the school and those are only two of many career, season and single-game marks that bear her name. She was named the 1995-96 Big South Player of the Year and nearly two years after graduation went into coaching.

She spent two seasons at Mount Vernon before becoming the head coach at Forest Park in Prince William County, where she transformed a moribund program into a state contender, compiling 143-43 record and winning two Virginia AAA state titles. She was even hired at George Mason Uni-

versity and spent one season with the Patriots before a coaching change cut that opportunity short.

Everywhere Kelly has coached, she has won. And she's done so with a basic emphasis: defense.

"Defensively it's five on one, so it has to be a team concept," Kelly said. "You're guarding one basket and defending one basketball, and in the process there are four other people that are revolving around that situation. You have to learn to read where you're supposed to be and what you're supposed to do as it all happens."

THROUGH TUESDAY the Stallions had started 5-0, with wins over area powers Mount Vernon, Langley and Centreville. South County squared off Lee on Tuesday,

SEE WRESTLER, PAGE 19

Kuter Signs With Mason

From the beginning of the recruiting process, Robinson senior Brandon Kuter knew that he wanted to stay close to home. But in the end, the school just a long toss away from home won out.

Kuter, a 6-foot-6 right-handed pitcher, recently signed a national letter of intent to play baseball at George Mason University. Kuter will join a Patriot squad that already boasts one Robinson graduate in senior outfielder Spencer Wiggins.

"I got a good offer from Mason, and I decided to run with it," said Kuter, who also plays basketball at Robinson and averaged 14.4 points and six rebounds per game last winter. "I didn't

WEEK IN SPORTS want to go too far; I wanted to stay in Virginia. It just felt like the right thing."

This past spring, Kuter amassed a 3-3 record on the mound with a 3.11 ERA and 28 strikeouts. The Rams finished 14-10 and lost to West Springfield, 1-0, in the Northern Region quarterfinals.

Kuter's fastball has been clocked between 89 and 92 miles per hour. In addition to switching between two- and four-seam fastballs, he also relies on a curveball and changeup to keep hitters off balance.

"Widely considered to possess unlimited potential, he will be ready to assume a big role for us as a freshman," said Mason coach Bill Brown, whose team finished 30-25 overall, 18-10 in the Colonial Athletic Association this past spring.

Bruins Win Bobcat Classic

Lake Braddock's girls gymnastics team earned a first-place finish at the Bobcat Classic Invitational on Saturday, Dec. 13. The Bruins held off host Battlefield, 105.75-105.125. Senior Emily Parillo took first in the all-around division with score of 37.00, while freshman Caitlin Liberatore placed third (35.20). Earlier this season, Lake Braddock placed second in a six-team meet on Dec. 8. The Bruins trailed Langley, 129.20-126.80, and they were led by Liberatore's third-place finish (33.20) and a fourth-place effort from sophomore Mary Gnozzio (32.25).

SPORTS

George Mason Grad Has Rams Ready

Local product Tom Koucheravy takes over Robinson swim and dive program.

BY JASON MACKAY
THE CONNECTION

His silver-studded belt, which was trying desperately to hold up a pair of tight, faded jeans, gave Tom Koucheravy away. As the new Robinson swim and dive coach waved his arms, mimicked strokes and shouted words of encouragement from the coach's platform at Oak Marr RECenter Friday night, Koucheravy's shirt continually lifted away from his jeans to reveal his youthfulness.

It was a fashion statement not exactly befitting a 40-year-old man, which, conveniently, Koucheravy is not. After graduating from George Mason in 2007, Koucheravy

has taken over for longtime coach Rich Gordon, who stepped down this off-season for personal reasons but not before he molded Robinson's swim and dive program into one of the area's best.

"You should get the kids excited when they start racing," said Koucheravy, 23, of his rambunctious coaching style. "I don't feel like the kids are getting any input when you just stand there. I don't care what kind

of silly dance I have to do to get these kids to move fast. ... I'll do it."

With a program such as the one his predecessor built, Koucheravy might want to cue the music. The Robinson boys team has won the past six Virginia AAA state titles, and last season the girls squad won its first Northern Region title since 1994. The girls split the region crown with Fairfax and finished second to the Rebels at February's state championship meet.

At Mason, Koucheravy was a three-time Colonial Athletic Association Swimmer of the Year and competed in the 2008 Olympic Trials in the 1,500-meter freestyle, finishing sixth. He still holds several school records, most notably in the 500- and 1,650-yard freestyle events and as a member of the 800-meter freestyle relay team.

"I went to Robinson, so I'm used to the tradition," said Koucheravy, sporting an oversized state championship ring from his senior year when the Rams won the first of the sixth consecutive state titles. "For the more elite swimmers, I feel like I can get their respect, and for the kids who aren't year-round swimmers I'm very good at giv-

"I don't feel like the kids are getting any input when you stand there."

— Tom Koucheravy



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Tom Koucheravy, a 23-year-old graduate of both Robinson and George Mason University, will take control of his old high school swim and dive program this season.

ing them the basics just to get them to swim well."

DESPITE THE losses of Derek Bui, Tim Wingert and Matt Krebs, Robinson should have more than enough talent to keep the tradition alive. Koucheravy will look to seniors Geoff Bobsin, Robbie Munch and Joe Zanellato, all of whom delivered strong showings Friday night during the boys

team's 182-133 win over Fairfax.

"Gordon had very competitive practices, but [Koucheravy's] practices are considerably harder," said Munch, who finished first in the 50 freestyle and swam both anchor legs on the first-place 200 freestyle and 200 medley relay teams. "I was upset at first that coach Gordon was leaving, but Tom is a very good choice. And I'm really glad he pushes us."

The Robinson girls team will look offset the losses of Hailey Hewitt, Allison Baker and Lauren Kranz with seniors Amanda Kendall and Madison Rupp and juniors Christine Canty and Hannah Walden. Rupp had two individual wins during the team's 167.5-147.5 victory on Friday. She also swam the anchor leg on the first-place 200 freestyle relay team along with Walden, Christine Canty and her younger sister Rachel. Kendall missed the dual meet with a club team commitment.

"We're a team and we keep each other motivated for help and support," Christine Canty said. "Losing states last year put our hopes down because we thought that was our only chance at winning states, but now we have a whole new group of girls and we hope to win."

Koucheravy has had his own adjustments, too.

"I'm not used to answering 50 e-mails a day," Koucheravy said of the biggest adjustment since taking over for Gordon. "It's gone pretty smoothly, but it's just been a matter of knowing when to turn paperwork in on time because I'm not exactly the best planner on Earth."

Wrestler Tough

FROM PAGE 18

which ended after The Connection went to press. South County had allowed only 40.6 points per game and had nearly matched its win total from a season ago: six.

"Having a new coach that pushes us really helps, and she knows a lot about the game," said sophomore guard Alex Brown. "We probably spend 90 percent of practice on defense and it really does help in games."

"She expects more from us," sophomore forward Simone Antwi said. "So we have higher expectations from ourselves, too."

KELLY ISN'T a coddling, be-your-friend-type of coach and was well aware of the effect that her style could have on a fragile team. That's why she was heavily in favor of the wrestling idea, even if it sounded a bit impractical at first.

"I know that a big part of this game is mental," Kelly said. "The basketball aspect will eventually come, but being able to mentally last through a game without folding is critical, and I know they had some tough games last year. Getting them over that mental hump was going to be, first and foremost aside from playing defense, the biggest challenge that we were going to face."



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

South County's first-year coach Chrissy Kelly, who won two Virginia AAA state titles as the head coach at Forest Park, has emphasized toughness this season with her team, even to the point of initiating workouts with the school's wrestling team.

WEEK IN SPORTS

Fastpitch Softball Team Seeks Players

The Leesburg Revolution, a U-10 girls fastpitch softball team, is recruiting girls from all over Northern Virginia who are interested in playing travel softball. The Revolution has two open roster spots. Girls interested in trying out for the spring team may contact Dave Carver at 10Urevolution@leesburggirlssoftball.org. The Revolution will conduct an open tryout in early March. For more, including dates and a location for the tryout, visit the team's Web site at www.revolutionfastpitch.org/.

Volunteer Sport Officials Wanted

The Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services' Teen Services Division needs volunteer sports officials to work the annual Friday Night Lights event and intramural sports programs (flag football, basketball and soccer). Volunteers must be 21 or older; know the rules of the selected

sports and have past experience participating in the sport he or she chooses to officiate. For more, contact Paulette Armstrong at 703-324-5679 (TTY 711), or send an e-mail at paulette.armstrong@fairfaxcounty.gov. For more, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec.

Jefferson Roundup

Jefferson's girls gymnastics team took first place at a meet on Wednesday, Dec. 10, besting second-place Edison, 132-117.65. Burke native Chrissy Franzel placed second on the vault (8.95), third on the beam (9.1) and first on the bars (8.3). ... Both the boys and girls Jefferson swim and dive teams scored wins at a dual meet against Stone Bridge. The boys team earned a 226-60 win, while the girls held off the Bulldogs, 193-93. Brianna Kim of Fairfax posted a top three finish in the 100-yard butterfly, while Jon Spitz (Fairfax) was top three in the 50 freestyle and Sam Surette (Fairfax) finished top three in the butterfly.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CMU ATHLETICS

Lake Braddock graduate and Springfield native Ashley Danner set a pool record at George Mason University before she took her first class at the school.

Danner Starts Fast

Lake Braddock grad Ashley Danner assaults George Mason's record book.

BY JASON MACKAY
THE CONNECTION

Before the 2008 Virginia AAA state swim and dive championships, which took place at George Mason's Aquatics and Fitness Center this past February, Lake Braddock graduate and Springfield native Ashley Danner was fairly confident that someday her name would adorn the wall space reserved for the school's record holders.

As one of the top swimmers in the ultra-tough Northern Region and as someone who was recruited to spend her next four years in that same water, Danner had a feeling that her own pool record at Mason would come. She just didn't think it would happen before the end of the evening.

"Before states I would go to the pool and look up at the record board and think that I wanted to try and get that," said Danner, who's now a freshman on the swim and dive team at Mason. That night, she set a pool record in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2 minutes, 1.19 seconds — a mark she'd later break, twice.

THE RECORD-SETTING performance not only delivered one of three (two individual, one relay) state titles for Danner the high-schooler, but it also served as a foreshadowing of her current career on the Mason swim and dive team.

"When I looked up and saw it I was so happy that all my hard work had paid off," Danner said. "Coming here at the beginning of this school year, I thought it was really cool to go and see my name and to have some of my new friends saying, 'Oh look, you're name is already up there.'"

Perhaps the perfect testimony to her suc-

cess thus far on University Drive, Danner's February mark no longer stands as a pool record. She smashed it. Danner is not even halfway through her first collegiate season and already has a stranglehold on the Mason swimming record books.

Danner has set or tied five school records (100 freestyle, 100 and 200 breaststrokes, 200 IM, 400 medley relay), broken four CAA records (100 and 200 breaststrokes, 200 IM, 400 medley relay) and has made the NCAA "B" Cut in the 400 IM.

For the 2008 U.S. Short Course National Championships at the beginning of the month, Danner set records in three events, most notably the 100 breaststroke where she obtained school and conference records and was declared the 18-and-under national champion. She also set school and CAA marks in the 200 breaststroke (2:10.06) and 200 IM (2:00.26).

"Her swimming was on such a level that she outgrew high school," said Miriam Lynch, who coached Danner during her junior and senior seasons at Lake Braddock. "To see her do so well at college, I wasn't surprised because it was a bigger forum. She just needed that forum, that level and those people to push her."

"I think she's gotten stronger and it's been largely from the weights," said George Mason swim and dive coach Peter Ward. "As she's gotten stronger, she's more powerful in the water, and I think that's made a big difference in all of her strokes."

"It's a lot different for me because I never did weight training or dry-land stuff before, and I think that has helped me a lot to become a better swimmer," Danner said. "There are more people here that are at my level and I like that because it makes me push myself harder to see how far I can go."

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Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality to limit air pollution emitted by a facility in Fairfax County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: December 18, 2008 to January 20, 2009

PERMIT NAME: State Operating Permit to Operate Issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Air Pollution Control Board

NAME, ADDRESS AND REGISTRATION NUMBER OF PROPOSED PERMIT HOLDER: Impressions Marketing, Inc. 7951 Anleton Court, Lorton, VA 22079; Registration Number: 73714

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Impressions Marketing, Inc. has applied for a State Operating for their Lorton, Virginia facility. The facility manufactures store and office displays and is comprised of four spray booths, three printing presses, and wood cutting and milling machines. The facility is classified as a minor source of air pollution. The proposed permit would allow the facility to operate this equipment. The pollutant of concern is Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC). The facility has a permitted limit of 30.88 tons per year of VOC.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by the DEQ within the comment period. The public may request a public hearing. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named below. The draft permit is also available on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov. To request a public hearing, written comments must include: 1) the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the requester and of all people represented by the requester. 2) The reason a hearing is requested, including associated air quality concerns. 3) A brief, informational statement regarding the extent of the interest of the requester, including how the operation of the facility affects the requester.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENTS, REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Thomas M. Valentour, Environmental Engineer, Sr. Northern Regional Office, Department of Environmental Quality, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193, phone: 703-583-3800, email: tmvalentour@deq.virginia.gov

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TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as
12101 Henderson Road, Clifton, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Linda R. Clary, dated May 3, 2007, and recorded August 14, 2007, in Deed Book 19511 at page 365 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 18, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Tax Map No. 095 3 01 0015

Commonly known as 12101 Henderson Road, Clifton, Virginia 20124.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$10,000.00 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 7.0 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.

This sale is being made subject to a superior trust.

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

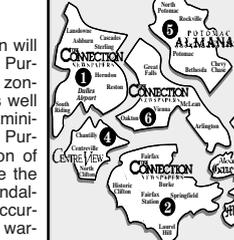
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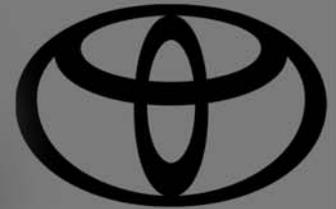
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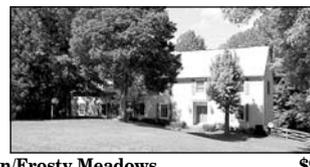
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