

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Newing

Dog Tricks
At Greenspring
NEWS, PAGE 3

Albo Wins by
Wide Margin
NEWS, PAGE 3

Austin Barbera
portrays Aslan and
Doug Dunphy
appears as Peter in
West Springfield
High School's
upcoming produc-
tion of 'The Lion,
the Witch and the
Wardrobe.'

Spartan 'Lion' Roars

THINGS TO DO, PAGE 8

CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 12

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 12-17, 2009 ♦ VOLUME XXIII, NUMBER 45

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Certified dog trainer shares skills with Greenspring neighbors.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

When Joan MacKenzie moved into Greenspring Village in Springfield, she and her dog Sandy were eager to make new friends and become involved in their new community.

MacKenzie ended up going a little further, offering a weekly training session for the residents and their four-legged friends.

"Greenspring is so much fun," MacKenzie said of her new home and friends.

After moving to the senior living community in June, MacKenzie started thinking about offering her services as a classical conditioning and obedience trainer, a skill she obtained shortly after she adopted Sandy, a Tibetan Spaniel. Sandy is a rescue dog that came with a few emotional issues, MacKenzie said.

"I enjoyed working with Sandy so much I wanted to learn to be a trainer myself," MacKenzie said.

She and Sandy began training with Carole Peeler, owner of C&C PALS, a training agency based in Falls Church. MacKenzie, who had worked as a lawyer before retiring, was a natural, Peeler said, eager to

"One dog practically crawled under a stick, like the limbo, to get a treat."

— Jason Connors

learn how to train her dog using skills that have been around since the 1920s or 1930s but were only applied to dogs in the past 20 or so years, Peeler said.

The kind of training Peeler and MacKenzie utilize is based more on getting the dog's owner to understand how to best interact with their dogs, using humane, positive reinforcement techniques. Dogs are eager to please their people, Peeler said, and want to learn their tricks and how to make their owners happy.

MacKenzie "showed intellectual interest" in becoming a trainer from her first session with Peeler, and it wasn't long before the

two were discussing MacKenzie getting her national certification to become an official trainer herself.

Now MacKenzie is using those skills at Greenspring, much to the delight of the six residents and dogs with which she is working for her first session of training lessons.

Greenspring already has a dog park where owners can let their furry friends run around off their leashes, and while the dogs have to stay on leashes at all other times, MacKenzie is working with her six students on behaving better on their leashes and being good citizens in the community.

During her training sessions, dogs are

learning some basic obedience skills, along with some tricks and some agility exercises, MacKenzie said. The hour-long sessions have been meeting on Thursday mornings for a month now, and everyone is progressing nicely, she said.

"These techniques build confidence for the dogs, and they're happy if their owner is happy," she said.

MacKenzie also sends out an e-mail after each session, so her students and their owners can practice their lessons at home.

This reinforcement is paying off, said Jan

SEE TRAINING, PAGE 14



Joan MacKenzie runs with her dog Sandy.

COURTESY OF GREENSPRING VILLAGE

Albo Beats Werkheiser by Larger Margin Than 2005

Race is considered one of most expensive delegate contests in Virginia history.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Charlietta Jeffries is the type of person who always votes, no matter how small the election, and the political campaigns know it.

"I have received a lot of mail and phone calls and visitors," said Jeffries, as she walked out of her polling place at the Lorton Community Library on Richmond Highway Nov. 3.

Though people talked about the enthusiasm of President Barack Obama's campaign last year, Jeffries said the 42nd District delegate race between Del. Dave Albo (R) and Democratic candidate Greg Werkheiser created more mail, calls and visits than any of the races in 2008.

Albo, who has represented the 42nd District since 1994, defeated Werkheiser, receiving 56.6 percent of the vote and 11,765 votes on Election Day. The challenger garnered 43.3 percent of the vote and 9,000 ballots in the contest.

Overall, Jeffries estimated that she had received at least five political phone calls per day over the past two weeks, mostly in connection with the local delegate race.

Over the last month, Jeffries also has had five to seven people knock on her townhouse door on behalf of candidates running for office. In one case, she noticed two volunteers who had come to talk specifically to her. When they left one night, she watched out a side window and noticed they didn't even bother stopping at anyone else's door on her cul de sac.

"I think this year was the worst," said Jeffries, who has lived in Lorton for nine years.

Debbie Hersman, who voted at South County Secondary School, agreed with Jeffries about omnipresence of the local delegate race in her mailbox.

"Most of the mail was from the delegate race. I didn't receive very much mail from the statewide candidates at all," said Hersman, who tries to vote in every election.

Virginia Candidates can purchase lists of voting histories for the residents in the district where they are running from the Commonwealth. These lists often identify to the candidates and campaign operatives who is likely to show up at the polls on Election Day.

For people who are flagged as "hardcore voters," this can result in a lot of unsolicited attention from political staffers, volunteers and the candidates themselves.

As of Oct. 21, the 42nd Delegate district had already become the most expensive delegate race in the history of Virginia, according to information posted on the Virginia Public Access Project, a nonpartisan campaign finance watchdog organization.

Combined, the Albo and Werkheiser campaigns spent more than \$1.9 million on a political contest that only attracted 20,765 voters, according to the Virginia State Board of Elections. The exact amount of money spent by each campaign will not be known

until December, when the last campaign finance reports covering the 2009 election cycle are made public.

But with two weeks left until Election Day, Albo had already spent \$754,286, about \$64.11 for every voter that cast a ballot for him Nov. 3. With the same number of days to go in the campaign, Werkheiser spent \$641,404 — or about \$71.27 per voter.

This year's race was Werkheiser's second run at ousting Albo from the 42nd District. He also ran against the Republican incumbent four years ago in 2005.

In 2009, the Democratic Party of Virginia made the 42nd District race one of their highest priorities in the commonwealth.

"The Democrats decided they wanted to take me and (Del.) Tom Rust (R-86) out," said Albo on the day of the election.

The Democratic House of Delegates' caucus contributed at least \$235,338 to

SEE ALBO, PAGE 11

Police Investigate Two Deaths

The bodies of a 66-year-old man and a 52-year-old woman were found Monday, Nov. 9 in a Springfield home with apparent gunshot wounds.

According to a Fairfax County Police release, officers responded to a report of a shot person at a home in the 8400 block of Springfield Oaks Drive at approximately 1 p.m. Upon arrival, the officers found Richard C. Scott and Suzanne M. Scott deceased with gunshot wounds to the upper body.

Police said that the incident appears to be domestic in nature. Crime scene and homicide detectives are investigating the case and the Medical Examiner's office will determine exact cause and manner of death.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

NVCC Registration Nov. 16

Registration begins Nov. 16 for the spring 2010 semester at Northern Virginia Community College. The school is encouraging students to register early for the best selection of courses.

Students can secure their classes now and defer paying tuition until Dec. 18. Anyone who registers after Dec. 18 must pay tuition before 5 p.m. on the next business day.

The online registration system is available 24 hours a day at www.nvcc.edu. Students may get personal assistance at NVCC's six campuses in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Springfield and Woodbridge.

NVCC's spring 16-week semester begins Jan. 11. Two eight-week sessions, starting Jan. 11 and March 15, are also available. The eight-week sessions cover the same material and award the same credits as 16-week courses.

Many students qualify for financial aid in the form of scholarships, grants, loans and work study. For more information, call 703-323-3000 or visit the NVCC's Web site, www.nvcc.edu.

Gifts for Our Daily Bread

During November and December, the Democratic Women of Clifton will collect food gift cards for the food distribution program of Our Daily Bread. ODB is a non-sectarian non-profit that feeds needy families in Fairfax County. Food gift cards in any amount and from any local food store may be brought to the meeting or mailed until Dec. 20 to DWC, P.O. Box 143, Clifton, VA 20124. Last year, the DWC donated \$2,000 in food cards to ODB after reading about their food program on the National Day of Service Web site, <http://www.nationalservice.gov/>. If donating a food card, make sure value is clearly indicated. To contribute by check, make it payable to Our Daily Bread and write "Food Program" on the memo line. The club will deliver all donated food cards and check to ODB in time for January distribution.

BizFair 2009 Kicks Off Nov. 19

Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Springfield Civic Association and Springfield Mall will host BizFair 2009 Tuesday, Nov. 19, 6-9 p.m. This annual event will take place on the lower level of Springfield Mall to allow for a growing number of exhibitors, and built-in foot traffic.

BizFair visitors will be eligible to win door prizes, including overnight accommodations at the brand new Residence Inn Springfield, restaurant gift certificates, gift baskets, a \$250 Springfield Mall gift card, and more.

The Chamber and Civic Association are encouraging residents to visit exhibitors at BizFair 2009 and to shop locally during the upcoming holiday season.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 5

A Place for the Families

Lynbrook Elementary opens Family Learning Center.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Lynbrook Elementary School serves such a large and diverse community that it has found that communication is the key to success. Lynbrook students come from a myriad of backgrounds and speak different languages, so involving the faculty, students and their parents every step of the way is crucial.

So, to meet their goals, the school has created the Family Learning Center, a room within the facility dedicated to bridging the gap between home and school in order to encourage academic and social growth.

"The purpose of the Family Learning Center is to offer our families a variety of learning opportunities to support learning at home and the child's learning at school," said Principal Mary McNamee. "The programs we will offer will support social, emotion and academic development."

The center's opening is the culmination of a two-year effort to expand the school's support system for its students. According to McNamee, two years ago, the school began to see a growing for more parent involvement in their children's education, based on research and on requests from the parents themselves. So, the faculty and PTA began floating ideas on how to meet the need, and a Family Learning Center was quickly adopted.

About a year ago, after one year of brainstorming and planning, McNamee said that the "nitty-gritty" of the work began. First of all, space needed to be created, so the school's existing literacy center was moved to a new location in the building, and the room was cleared out for the center. The school then obtained recycled furniture from other schools within the FCPS to fill their room, and finally, secured a \$3,000 "Sharing the Dream Grant" from the National Association of Elementary School Principals to help get the center up and running.

"This has been a long time dream for us," McNamee



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Principal Mary McNamee and Center Coordinator Maggie Perez-Rives speak during the Oct. 29 open house of Lynbrook's Family Learning Center.

said. "The research says that the more involved the parents are with their child's education, the higher the achievement level [that the child will reach will be]."

The center, which will be run by former Parklawn Elementary School Family Learning Center Coordinator Maggie Perez-Rives, will launch its programs the first week of November. The classes will take place during the day and at night, and offerings include nutritional, violence prevention and mothering classes, and local television station WETA will lead a class on how to promote learning at home. The center will also offer English for Speakers of Other Languages and technology courses, utilizing the center's

SEE LYNBROOK, PAGE 5



Laptops are ready to use at the Family Learning Center.

NEWS

Lynbrook

FROM PAGE 4

computers.

A preview of these programs and a sneak peak of the center itself were given to the school's students and their parents at a Thursday, Oct. 29 open house. After a brief presentation by McNamee and Perez-Rives, parents were invited into the room not only to see it, but also to use the computers to register for FCPS' "Parent View," an Internet communication tool that keeps parents abreast of what is going on in their child's classroom.

"Everything in this room looks great, and the programs sound great," Tayna Espinoza said. "I think that it is a great way to help not only the children, but the whole family as well."

While the opening provided a great deal of satisfaction, McNamee and the other school officials that poured two years of hard work into the center said that they are simply eager to get the programs started so they can see their vision fully realized. Once these programs begin and parents fill the room, they said, not only will their students have more and better opportunities, but the community will grow stronger, as well.

"The center helps us connect families from all the diverse groups we have here," said PTA member Julie Childress. "It provides a space for us to learn and grow together, and makes us a stronger community."

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 4

BizFair 2009 will provide local business to consumer vendors the opportunity to showcase their product or service. BizFair is the ideal time to place a company's name in the forefront as shoppers begin planning for the holidays. Exhibit space is available until Nov. 13.

MILITARY NOTES

Kyle R. Prokop has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. Prokop is the son of Robert F. and Carla A. Prokop of Greeley Boulevard, Springfield.

Andrew T. Ton graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. The cadet is a student at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg. He is the son of Tuan T. and Thu-Ha Ton of Silver Pine Drive, Springfield.

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Veterans Day

Remember lives lost, but also to care for all Veterans.

Family members say Bill Cahir had a kind of indomitable spirit, one that propelled him through difficulties toward accomplishing a goal, reported Michael Lee Pope earlier this year.

After 9/11, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. After his application to become a Marine had originally been denied because of his age, he lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound sustained while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan.

"We all thought he was crazy," said Brett Lieberman, a former colleague at Newhouse News Service.

On April 8, 2006, Cahir married Washington lawyer Rene Brown at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. The couple settled in Rosemont on West Cedar Street. Brown was pregnant with twins at the time of Cahir's death.

MORE THAN 4,300 U.S. military members have been killed in Iraq and nearly 800 more have been killed in Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001. More than 35,000 have been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Veterans Day, we honor and thank all those who have served in the military, in times of war and peace. It is also a time to reinvigorate efforts to provide the best services and opportunities to our veteran. In the past year, the new GI Bill provides a giant step to pay for college for veterans. The Post-9/11 GI Bill, championed by Virginia's U.S. Sen. Jim Webb (D), dramatically increases the educational benefits extended to members of the military who have served at least three months of active duty since Sept. 11, 2001. George Mason University has been on the forefront of implementing the GI Bill for veterans locally.

Efforts to improve health care, employment and housing for veterans are also underway and deserve meaningful commitment of resources.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. "He loved his country, and we're so proud of him," said his mother.

2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Ga. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington.

Pfc. David Sharrett, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand along with former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R) as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept. 23, 2008, while serving in Iraq.

His unit came under small arms fire, and Brown, 26, died from his wounds.

Here are the names of some of the local men and women who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. We repeat these names several times a year to honor their service and to keep their memories in our consciousness.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

EDITORIAL

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet. His father, Ed Kirkpatrick, calls him the "warrior poet," and he and his wife help injured vets at Walter Reed through the Yellow Ribbon fund (www.yellowribbonfund.org).

Ami Neiberger-Miller of Sterling lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb while serving in Baghdad, Iraq. He was 22 when he died. Since her brother's death, Neiberger-Miller has devoted herself to

It is also a time to reinvigorate efforts to provide the best services and opportunities to our veterans.

the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (www.taps.org), which provides peer-based emotional support and other services for families of the fallen, and provides intensive services and activities.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007.

Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, of wounds inflicted when an "improvised explosive device" exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, of wounds received during combat in Anbar province in Iraq.

Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006. He had been a respected football and basketball player at J.E.B. Stuart High School and had proposed to his high-school sweetheart about three weeks before he was killed.

Airman 1st Class LeeBernard E. Chavis, 21, was killed Oct. 14, 2006, by sniper fire in Iraq, trying to protect civilians from a roadside bomb.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

United States Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and

flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children. His parents live in Alexandria.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, who, at 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after 9/11.

Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in An Najaf, Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005.

Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded.

Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Samarra, Iraq, Oct. 17.

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005.

Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq Oct. 28, 2005.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq.

Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

AMONG OTHER local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria; Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krishna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church; Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria; Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

LETTERS

Programs Or Construction?

To the Editor:

As noted in your article "Voters Approve Bond" [Connection, Nov. 5-12, 2009], Fairfax County has been passing school bonds since the 1970s. It does show how much the residents support our schools in wanting a good education for their sons and daughters. Most voters may not be aware that school bonds do not provide funds to maintain or increase staff for the schools once built. Each passage of a school bond increases the cost to the Fairfax County yearly budget, which is currently running a record deficit this year and will continue next year.

To live within their budget, several proposals to cut programs have been voiced by the school administration. One recently [mentioned] is to cut out the music program at the grade school level. This will hurt our young kids wanting to be part of a school music program at a time when they need it most. Voters need to be reminded that they must decide whether they want more schools to be built, which will continue to force important existing school programs to be cut. We cannot have both with the economy as it is today.

Ronald L. Baker
Springfield

BULLETIN BOARD

THURSDAY/NOV. 12

Medical Lecture. Dr. Bill Hamilton will present Osteoarthritis, Joint Replacement Advances and New Anterior Approach to Hip Replacement 7 p.m. at the Springfield Hilton, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield. To register for this free class call 703-750-8800 or register online at <https://webcentaur.inova.org/weblink/cIsc.do>.

Constituent Day. Supervisor John C. Cook (R-Springfield) will host his third Constituent Day from 5-8 p.m. at North Springfield Elementary School, 7602 Heming Court in Springfield.

MONDAY, NOV. 16

Clifton Community Woman's Club Arts Demo at the Torpedo Factory, Old Town Alexandria. Lunch at the Chart House. Those interested in attending any CCWC meeting or event may contact Membership Chair Linda Beckman at 703-266-0213.

TUESDAY/NOV. 17

Healthcare Speech. Inova Health System President and CEO Knox Singleton speaks 7-9 p.m., at The Johnson Center Cinema on George Mason University's Fairfax Campus. Free. www.som.gmu.edu/dss. For more, contact Patty Pak at ppak2@gmu.edu or 703-993-6492.



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PHOTOS BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Caitlin Jackson and John Barbato play Mr. and Mrs. Beaver in West Springfield High School's 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.'

Theater Season Begins

West Springfield, Lee high schools are both preparing for their fall productions.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Leaves falling and temperatures dropping, for most people signifies not only the advent of winter, but the hectic holiday season as well. For students at area schools the time marks the start of a season that is just as frenzied and frantic, but instead of buying presents and cooking meals, they don costumes and memorize lines. For them, this is play season.

West Springfield High School and Robert E. Lee High School are both immersed in preparations for their respective productions, "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe," and "Godspell." With so much

work to do in such a short period of time, the students are showing the true meaning of commitment.

At West Springfield High School, drama teacher and production director Mary Jo Levesque chose a play adaptation of C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" for her students to perform. Levesque picked the play, which focuses on the battle between good and evil in the fantasy world of Narnia, last June with the idea that it would appeal to all members of the community. If it has broad appeal, she said, it would sell more tickets, and in turn, benefit the theater program more.

"We were trying to find a show that had a lot of possibilities for characters and something that would be popular within the community," Levesque said. "Plays that children like are golden."

Though the play was chosen last June, due to auditorium availability, Levesque and her students were only able to start making scenery and begin rehearsals less than three weeks ago. As a result, Levesque is simultaneously giving directions to actors on stage,

discussing set construction, lighting and sound with theater techs to ensure that the play is ready in the 19-day timeframe they were given. Her students, meanwhile, pick up the rest of the slack, giving constructive criticism to their peers onstage during rehearsals, designing costumes, and in the case of senior Kelsey Rose, even composing a 32-track original score.

"Mrs. Levesque said that she wanted to make the play special, so I offered to compose the score," Rose said. "I read the script several times and the music just

SEE HIGH SCHOOL,
PAGE 14

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/NOV. 12

Mason Dance Company Fall Concert. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$15 adult, \$10 students and seniors. 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

The HeathenFest, Eluveitie, Belphegor, Alestorm, Kivimetsan Druidi, Vreid, From the Ashes of My Sins and Gomorrah. 6:15 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$20 advance, \$25 at the door. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Nature Detectives: American Indians. 10-10:45 a.m. Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Learn about American Indians who lived in this area 500 years ago, through an activity, and a craft. Reservations required. \$6. 3-5 years. 703-768-2525.

FRIDAY/NOV. 13

Second Annual Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. More than 9,000 books, CDs, DVDs, videos, computer software and games and rare books section. www.robinsonpts.org or tmatlaga@yahoo.com.

Author Signing. Two-time Newberry-Award winner Patricia Reilly Giff will present "Writing: The Story of My Life." 7 p.m., in the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Books available for sale and signing including her new book "Wild Girl." No registration required. For details visit the library's Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or call 703-324-8428.

NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m., at Richard J. Ernst Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Directed by Christopher Johnston, orchestra performs Joseph Haydn's "Symphony No. 104," ("The London"), Camille Saint Saens' "Dance Bacchanale," Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait" with actor Randy Lindgren and Franz Schubert's "Overture to Rosamunde." Adults \$15, seniors and teens \$10, children free. 703-569-0973.

La Leche League of Springfield Monthly Meeting. 10:30 a.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Breastfeeding support and education. Mothers and their children are invited to attend. maliacameron@gmail.com.

George Mason University Jazz Ensemble and the Fairfax Law Foundation: Eighth Annual Jazz for Justice. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall. \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

"Bye Bye Birdie." 7 p.m. at Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. \$8 adults, \$6 students. 703-924-8014 or www.edisondrama.com.

"Godspell." 7:30 p.m. at Robert E. Lee High School Lancer Theatre, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield.

Tickets are \$8 students and seniors, \$10 adults. 703 924-8300.

Mason Dance Company Fall Concert. 2 p.m. at the George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$15 adult, \$10 students and seniors. 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Patricia Reilly Giff. 7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Newbery Award winner, author of the Polk Street School books, presents "Writing: The Story of My Life." 703-249-1520.

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

The Friday the 13th Microphone Massacre, Young Ace, Red Roz, Mike Major, Matok and Julce, 23rd Street, Reel, King Solomon the Poetic and Trademark. 6:15 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Christmas Bazaar and Silent Auction, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.,

Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Café lunch served from 12-2 p.m. Baked goods, jewelry, hand-made crafts, white elephants, home-made foods, silk scarves and more. Silent auction items include golf packages, weekend or week-long stays at vacation homes, restaurant gift certificates, spa packages and more.

Second Annual Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. www.robinsonpts.org or tmatlaga@yahoo.com.

Holiday Craft Fair. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at W.T. Woodson High School in 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Handcrafted jewelry, pottery, quilts, holiday items and more, all made by local artisans. www.wtwcrew.org.

"Bye Bye Birdie." 7 p.m. at Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. \$8 adults, \$6 students. 703-924-8014 or www.edisondrama.com.

St. Mary of Sorrows Holiday Express Craft & Gift Sale. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Parish Hall, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Admission is free. Sweet Shoppe, cafe, silent auction and raffle table. 703-323-6232.

Flu Shot Clinic. 9 a.m. at Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Standard shot \$25 pre-registered, \$27 walk-in. Nasal flu mist \$30 (must be pre-registered). Medicare Part B and Medicaid accepted. 703-239-2436 or zripleys418@msn.com.

Drama Students to Perform the Musical "Godspell." 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Robert E. Lee High School Lancer Theatre, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Tickets are \$8 students and seniors, \$10 adults. 703 924-8300.

Conservation Advocacy Workshops. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Springfield. Working with the Press, Working with Government Officials, and Advocacy for the Busy Person.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9



See the Plays

Lee High School will present "Godspell" Friday, Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 14 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and people 65 and older. Call 703-924-8300. West Springfield High School will present "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" Thursday-Friday, Nov. 19-20 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Call 703-913-3934 or go to www.fcps.edu/westspringfieldhs/academic/perf/theatre/theatre.html to purchase tickets.

Ruth Rado as the White Witch and Brianna Lau as Fenris Ulf.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

Free. Hosted by Coalition of nine Northern Virginia environmental non-profits. Linda Burchfiel, 703-506-4310.

Shanghai Symphony Orchestra with Long Yu, conductor, and Peng Peng, piano. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$25-\$50. Pre-Performance Discussion held 45 minutes prior to the performance. 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Mason Dance Company Fall Concert. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$15 adult, \$10 students and seniors. 888-

945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.
ASNV Celebrates Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail System Anniversary. 8 a.m. at the Occoquan NWR on Dawson Road in Woodbridge. Participants should meet at the visitor centers. The walk will be led by experienced birders and will last for 1-2 hours. Free. www.audubonva.org.

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

Books: The Magic is Real. 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Magician Joe Romano makes literacy come alive through his magic. Age 6-

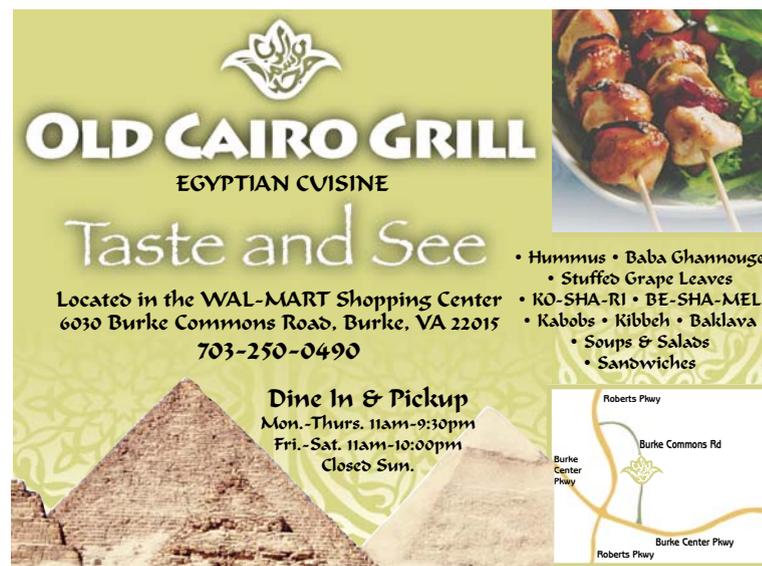
12. 703-339-4610.
Stroke and Osteoporosis Screening. 9 a.m. at Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road, Springfield. Screenings for cardiovascular conditions, abdominal aortic aneurysms, hardening of the arteries and bone density available. Packages start at \$139. Pre-registration required at 1-877-237-1287 or www.lifelinescreening.com.

HipHopalooza, Johnny 3 Legs, TBA, Sensylla, TBA, Technopolyphonic and more. 8:30 p.m. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

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Big Bad Bruins Stomp West Springfield

Renzi's three interceptions lead Bruins to victory, co-Patriot District championship.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock Secondary's football team wasn't shy about labeling West Springfield High School as the focus of its ire this season. In fact, the whole Internet can watch them call out the Spartans.

On a YouTube video introducing the team's offense and defense, one-by-one, each Bruin featured names one team as the school's biggest rival — West Springfield High School.

After 10 grueling weeks of football, the Bruins can now relish their latest victory, a 42-13 drubbing of West Springfield on Nov. 6 at West Springfield High School.

"We beat them on Senior Night," junior quarterback Michael Nebrich said. "It doesn't get better than that."

Less than 2 miles separate the two schools, but adding to the intrigue of this cross-town rivalry was the Bruins' acquisition of former West Springfield head coach Bill Renner.

Renner, whose spread offense helped West Springfield win back-to-back Patriot District Championships since 2006, introduced his

high-powered offense to the Bruins as the team's assistant head coach this season.

The additional spice to the rivalry did not go unnoticed by the Lake Braddock players.

"There was a lot of hype at the beginning of the week about Bill Renner coming here and us using his offense," said wide receiver Brandon Johnson, who caught eight passes for 170 yards Friday night. "But the players are the ones who beat them."

Interestingly, it wasn't Bill Renner's explosive offense that stole the show during the game.

While the offense delivered its usual thrills in the form of 395 passing yards courtesy

of Nebrich, the Bruins defense showed just how big and bad it could be by forcing six interceptions, deflating the West Springfield attack.

"In practice, we go 100 percent," said safety Ross Renzi. "Our coaches tell us to bring the fire and we always bring the fire."

Coming together is one way to describe the Bruins' recent domination of opponents, a run that has seen the team outscore opponents 194 to 25 including the victory against West Springfield.

"We have no weaknesses on defense," Renzi said. "Every player is a playmaker. I

"Our coaches tell us to bring the fire and we always bring the fire."

— Ross Renzi



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA NEBRICH

Junior quarterback Michael Nebrich rushes for a gain during the Bruins' 42-13 victory against cross-town rival West Springfield High School.

know that if I mess up, someone will have my back and we can count on each other."

Lake Braddock head coach Jim Poythress said that his defense's recent string of success is coming at the right moment for the team that enters next week's regional playoffs as the No. 3 seed.

"There's a lot of talent on the defense," Poythress said. "The defense is peaking and they're definitely peaking at the right time."

Adding to the pleasure of ending their rival's season without a post-season berth is the fact that the Bruins are Patriot District co-champions with W.T. Woodson High School.

W.T. Woodson and Lake Braddock both finished the season with 6-1 Patriot District records. Although Woodson defeated Lake Braddock 43-42, no tie-breaking procedures are in place for the District Championship.

Poythress, however, isn't completely satisfied with sharing the title with another team.

"Co-champions is nice and the kids will get a nice banner," Poythress said. "But let's see what we can do in the playoffs. If you lose your first round playoff game, what good was it?"

Lake Braddock plays Fairfax Friday, Nov. 13 at home.

It's First and First for Bruins, Spartans

Lake Braddock's girls take Northern Region title, but Spartans' Kwartunas finishes first.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Winning the Northern Region Individual Cross-Country Championship on Thursday, Nov. 5 did not come easy for West Springfield High School senior Paige Kwartunas.

As Kwartunas emerged from a tree line in front of a crowd of people watching the race, Lake Braddock Secondary School freshman Sophie Chase ran just feet behind Kwartunas heels, moving into position to overtake the senior.

"It was a hard race," Kwartunas said. "[Chase] is a really good runner. I didn't want to let her get ahead of me."

Kwartunas fended off Chase for the remainder of the course, finishing Burke Lake's 2.98-mile cross-country route with a time 17:36. Lake Braddock's Chase finished

just 6 seconds behind the Spartan runner.

"There were a few times that I knew I could win the race," Kwartunas said. "But [Sophie] stayed with me for the whole race and pushed me."

Kwartunas said that her pre-race plan went off without a hitch, despite a few scattered showers before the start time that muddied the course.

"I planned on going out at the beginning really fast and running hard all the way through the course," she said. "I wanted to get far enough away from everyone to win it."

Her victory is the first time that any girl from West Springfield High School has won the Northern Region title.

"It's a bigger race and there's a ton of good runners in this region," Kwartunas said. "It means [a lot] to win the Region."

The strong individual performance also

earned her high praise from West Springfield head coach Duke Baird who said it was one of the programs and Kwartunas' best individual finishes.

"It was probably her best race this season," Baird said. "She's the first to win regional, and in our [area] that's pretty good."

The rest of the girls' team was in fine form as well and finished second overall in the team rankings. The girls' team will advance to the Virginia AAA Finals on Nov. 14 at The Plains, Va.

"I'm very pleased with the girls' team," Baird said. "We had seven personal best times [at the regional race]."

For Lake Braddock's freshman runner Sophie Chase, the second place finish was far from disappointing for the first-year varsity runner.

"I'm just so happy about how this team has helped me," Chase said. "We have great support, great coaches and we work hard every practice."

Chase, who finished with a time of 17:42, said that her teammate Liana Epstein's injury during the Patriot District Champion-

ship last week inspired her to go all out at the Regional race.

"I really felt inspired when one of our elite runners fell 100 meters before the end of the race," she said. "It inspired me to do my best at this race and get the best place for my team."

Epstein stumbled at the end of the Patriot District Championship race on Oct. 29 from what her coaches say was dehydration, but she was able to rehabilitate in time to participate in the regional race.

"I'm healthy and I took a few days off," Epstein said. "[The injury] didn't affect me that much. I won't say I didn't have doubts [about returning], but when you step on the [starting] line, you have to put it all out of your head." Epstein finished in fourth place with a time of 17:53.

The Lake Braddock girls' team captured first place in the team competition and the Northern Region title with an average team time of 18:19.

The Lake Braddock boys' team finished the team competition in second place with an average time of 15:59.

POLITICS

Albo Tops Werkheiser in 42nd

FROM PAGE 3

Werkheiser's campaign and the Democratic Party of Virginia threw in at least \$194,889. The Fairfax County Democratic Committee also contributed at least \$14,000.

But Albo widened his margin of victory over Werkheiser from about 3 percent to over 13 percent this year.

Albo also received a lot of money from political parties and the Republican House leadership. According to the Virginia Public Access Project, the Republican Party of Virginia contributed at least \$117,900 and Dominion Leadership Trust political action committee, which is run by the Republican speaker of the House of Delegates, donated \$99,500 to Albo. Del. Chris Jones (R-76) also transferred at least \$26,200 to Albo's campaign.

According to the Virginia Public Access Project, Albo spent at least \$209,695 on television and radio, \$145,378 on mail to constituents, \$43,909 on polling and other forms of phone calls and \$13,732 on signs and bumper stickers.

Werkheiser spent at least \$155,660 on television and radio pieces and \$62,961 on mail to constituents.

The two candidates had different explanations for why the campaign had grown so expensive.

According to Albo, closely contested elections create an "arms race" mentality about advertising and messaging. If one candidate is sending mail to all their potential supporters in the district every day, then the other candidate feels the need to do the same and it just spirals, he said.

Werkheiser said it is a direct outgrowth of gerrymandered districts. The candidate supports creating a nonpartisan method of adjusting political boundaries in Virginia, in part because gerrymandered districts create a situation in which certain races become outlandishly expensive, he said.

Since most of the delegate seats are drawn to be safe for their incumbent and a certain political party, the Republicans and Democrats end up funneling enormous resources into the handful of races that are competitive, like the 42nd District contest.

"It would be a better situation if everyone had to spread that money around to the 100 delegate seats," said Werkheiser.

STILL, ALBO, who is senior Republican in the House of Delegates, appeared vulnerable to the Democrats for a good reason. The 42nd District has broken for Democrats in several recent election cycles.

President Barack Obama won 57 percent of the vote in Albo's delegate seat in 2008 and Gov. Tim Kaine (D) beat his Republican opponent with 55 percent of the vote in 2005.

Still, Albo said that the public is starting to gain a better impression of Republicans again, now that

President George W. Bush is no longer in office. The 2009 statewide Republican ticket also performed better at the Fairfax County polls than most others in recent elections.

"This is the first year I haven't had to fight against my statewide ticket in my own district," said Albo.

The delegate also said he tries to spend time fixing "local issues" for the community that do not necessarily have a partisan bent to them. For example, Albo worked with state Sen. George Barker (D-39) to secure state funding for the new South County Middle School.

He is also meeting with other elected officials and the West Springfield High School community to try and find a solution to the school's physical shortcomings.

Christine Wells, who was wearing an Albo shirt and passing out campaign literature for the delegate at Saratoga Elementary School, said she first came

in contact with the Republican through her homeowners association about five years ago.

Wells and others were concerned about the impact job transfers to Springfield as a result of the military's Base Realignment And Closure process would have on the local transportation infrastructure.

"He is very responsive and very approachable. I don't think he promises anything that he doesn't think he could do," said Wells, who has never volunteered for a political campaign before.

Wells said she thinks Albo has appeal across political party lines.

"I am pretty sure some of the my neighbors that vote for Democrats in national races will vote for Dave locally," said Wells.

But some Democratic activists criticized Albo for putting his political party above the needs of the 42nd District, particularly when it comes to transportation issues.

Christopher Ambrose, a Democratic precinct captain in Lorton, said Albo often sides with the Republican leadership in the House of Delegates, which will not consider raising statewide taxes to help meet Virginia's transportation needs. According to Ambrose, this type of inflexibility has mired the transportation funding issue for several years.

"They just don't do anything. I am just frustrated with the whole House of Delegates. It is unbelievable how obstructionist they have been," said Ambrose, while campaigning for Werkheiser outside the Lorton community library.

Saratoga resident Ralph Cooper, who was also campaigning for Werkheiser on Election Day, said he does have any personal issues with Albo. But he does not trust that the Republicans in charge of the House of Delegates are serious about addressing Northern Virginia's transportation needs.

"I have no problems with Dave Albo but that people in his party in the House of Delegates need to go," said Cooper.

"It would be a better situation if everyone had to spread that money around to the 100 delegate seats."

— Greg Werkheiser

COLLEGE NOTES

Zorah Samizay of Alexandria received a juris doctor degree from Widener University School of Law at its commencement for the 18th graduating class of its Harrisburg campus on Sunday, May 17.

Charles Soschin of Springfield received a juris doctor degree from Widener University School of Law at its commencement for the 18th graduating class of its Harrisburg campus on Sunday, May 17.

Springfield residents **Matthew R. Ballew, Sakeena Farhath, and Michelle M. Prevost** have been recently named to the dean's list at Boston University for the Spring semester.

THIS IS "AJAX"



Domestic Long Hair, Male, D.O.B. August 1, 2009. This little one and his siblings were found in someone's backyard. They are waiting to get big enough to go to their forever home.

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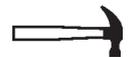
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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **David Petrikin Welch**, Deceased, were issued on September 3, 2009 in Docket No. P16032, pending in County Court of Midland County, Texas, to:

First National Bank of Midland
310 West Wall Street, Suite 1200
Midland, Texas 79701

All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All persons having claims should address them in care of the representative at the address stated below.

Dated the 4th day of November, 2009.

Bill Hill, Senior Vice President and Trust Officer
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Estate of David Petrikin Welch
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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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COMMUNITY

Training Canines

FROM PAGE 3

Madden, who attends the class with her 4-year-old Cavalier King Charles Tri-color Spaniel, Gilbey.

"Every morning, I have to take Gilbey's treats out of the refrigerator first thing or he barks at me," Madden said with a laugh. "He knows if his treats are out, we're going to practice his tricks. He just loves practicing his tricks."

While Gilbey might be one of the smaller dogs in the class, Madden said he's having a great time.

"I thought it would be fun if Gilbey could walk by my side, even at other parks than the one here at Greenspring," Madden said. "Joan's a great teacher. We're all having a really good time."

MacKenzie is also hoping some of her students will progress to the level of being eligible for a Canine Good Citizenship certification, a recognition established by the American Kettle Club to reward dogs who are good citizens and well-behaved in their community and around other dogs.

The classes don't have a set agenda, and there's no set length of time the dogs will need to learn certain commands. Just like people, each dog learns on his or her own schedule.

MacKenzie, who has an assistant, Abbie Hubbard, helping her during the sessions at Greenspring, is hoping to start a second training session in a few weeks and has recently started working on a flyer to get the word out in her community.

Jason Connors, communications manager for Greenspring, said this is the first time a dog training program has been offered to residents, many of whom were eager to sign up as soon as MacKenzie posted her first flyer.



COURTESY OF GREENSPRING VILLAGE

Jan Madden practices the down command with Joan MacKenzie's dog, Sandy.

The community's management didn't have to approve the class, as residents are allowed to start their own activities.

"I've heard compliments from each person who is currently taking his or her dog to the training sessions," Connors said, and the program is considered a huge success. He stopped by one session to see how the class was progressing and was pleasantly surprised.

"I saw dogs doing what was expected of them because of positive reinforcement," Connors said. "One dog practically crawled under a stick, like the limbo, to get a treat. Every dog looked happy. They were showered with treats and praise for doing the right things."

High School Productions

FROM PAGE 8

came to me. Some of the songs have 16 different layers of instruments, so it was pretty intense [composing it]."

At Lee High School, drama teacher and play director Andrea Berting is facing a tall order of her own, not only putting a play together in limited time, but having it be her first production ever as a teacher, as well. Berting is currently in her first year at Lee, and since the previous drama teacher had already chosen "Godspell" as the fall production, she decided to stick with it.

"The teacher here before me was planning on 'Godspell,' and since I got hired two weeks before school started, I figured it'd be easier to stick with it," Berting said. "The previous teacher thought it was a good idea, and it clearly was."

Berting conducted auditions for the play in early October, and like West Springfield, was only able to start rehearsals later that

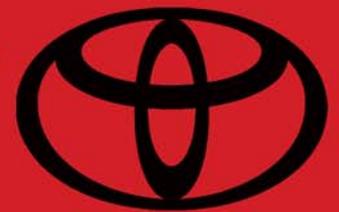
month. Since the play is a musical portraying parables from the Gospel of Matthew, it has required more preparation than a typical production because in addition to memorizing lines and stage movements, choreography and songs had to be learned as well. Due to Berting's experience in musical theater, though, she said that the students have been able to pick things up quickly and stay on schedule.

"Rehearsals have been going very well," Berting said. "You always wish you had more time, but the kids have really stepped it up. It's great that they have the dedication to do that."

Though both schools have been forced to operate under less than ideal time constraints, Levesque and Berting are both confident that the effort and enthusiasm that their students put into their respective productions will result in resounding successes, and their students feed off of that confidence.

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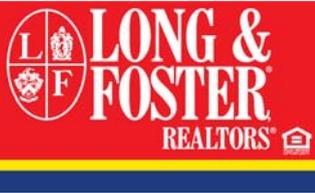


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