

Burke **CONNECTION**



On to States

SPORTS, PAGE 12

Lake Braddock quarterback Michael Nebrich rushes during the Bruins 27-24 overtime victory against Battlefield on Dec. 7. With the win, the Bruins are headed to their first-ever state finals appearance.

LEGO Team In First Place

News, PAGE 3

Giving And Getting

News, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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Dr. Pamela Marzban

*Experience how subtle changes can transform
your health, your confidence, and your life*

Teeth Whitening...What You Should Know.



With the holidays around the corner, everyone seems to be coming in to whiten their teeth for their picture perfect moments. So before you start using whitening products that you may be completely unfamiliar with, you may want to read this article.

If you want to whiten your teeth, the best place to start is with a healthy mouth. Tooth decay, sensitive or cracked teeth, infections or periodontal (gum) problems should be diagnosed and treated before any teeth whitening procedure. Otherwise, you could experience discomfort. If using the right products, the whitening process is safe; however, it can aggravate existing problems.

Rather than heading to the local cosmetic counter or shopping mall in search of teeth whiteners, start with a dental check up. This way, we can diagnose the cause of discoloration—*injury, stains from food or tobacco, antibiotic treatment and so on.*

Whitening products only work on natural tooth enamel, not on crowns, veneers, bonding materials or tooth colored fillings. Does this mean if you have any of the above mentioned conditions you are stuck with yellow teeth? Absolutely not! The diagnosis is important; from there, we can determine whether whitening will work for you and which product will suit you best; otherwise you could be wasting time and money!

Studies have shown the first thing a person notices when they meet you is your smile. Being a cosmetic dentist, I am aware of how desirable it is to have white, bright teeth and how it impacts your confidence, well being, and your entire life. By seeing a trained cosmetic dentist, you can achieve not only a whiter, more attractive smile, but one that is healthy and contributes to your overall health. For more information about whitening and to check out our holiday whitening gift ideas and specials, I encourage you to visit our website or set up a complimentary whitening consultation with our well trained and knowledgeable team. Happy Holidays!

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How To Give While Getting

St. Stephens United Methodist hosts second 'Gifts that Give Holiday Market.'

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

All too often, the true message of the holidays gets lost in the consumerism that seems as much a part of the season as candy canes or nativity scenes. However, the members of St. Stephen's United Methodist Church in Burke are turning that consumerism against itself in an attempt to bring the holidays back to their roots.

The church, located at 9203 Braddock Road, hosted the "Gifts that Give Holiday Market" in their fellowship hall Sunday, Dec. 6. In its second year, the event gives patrons the chance to purchase gifts that would benefit the consumer just as much as it would the producer. The only difference is that these producers actually need the help.

"We have a new social justice effort going on in the church to be involved in things that give back to the community and this is one of them," said Cathy Liverman, chair of the church's Ministry Council. "It's a lot



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Most of the market's patrons are St. Stephen's members coming in after Sunday morning services.

of fun. People not only get to do their Christmas shopping, they get to feel like they're making a difference."

The market was comprised of items that are produced by artisans and crafters in third-world countries, all of which were obtained through the non-profit group SERRV. According to Liverman, SERRV

works with artisans in developing countries in an effort to promote free trade, giving them an opportunity to produce and sell goods in the world market. In the first year of the market, Liverman said that they sold out of all the items they ordered, leading

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE 8

School Team Builds Its Way to Success

Cherry Run Lego League team wins first place.

Cherry Run 09 Lego Masters team competed in the Virginia state regional tournament at Thomas Jefferson High school in Alexandria on Nov. 15.

This year's Smart Moves challenge was related to transportation. The team spent the day competing in four areas of the Lego League program. The mission's robot game, the robot design, team building and research presentation. The team, made up of fourth and fifth grade boys, presented research on improving the carpool line at Cherry Run Elementary.

The team collected and analyzed data from both Cherry Run and Sangster elementary schools, wrote a script, made the presentation materials, wrote a rap and presented the materials to a panel of judges. The team won first place in the division 1 research presentation portion of the tournament for their Scan-A-Car idea. The idea of a Scan-A-Car is that parents would have a bar code at the bottom of their car. The carpool line would have scanners in six



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIZABETH REID

The team members in the picture are, from left, Elizabeth Reid coach, Will Reid, Josh Demboski, Matthew Green, Sam Lever, Dakota Do, Coach Brittany Drenkow. The team is holding the first place award for the research presentation.

places on the ground and when the car drives over the scanner, the barcode is read. This is similar to the scanners used in a grocery store. The student's name would then appear in the window at school, like a departure/arrival board at the airport, so the

student knows his mom or dad is waiting in the carpool line on a certain number.

This year's Lego Masters team members are Josh Demboski, Dakota Do, Matthew Green, Matt Jenkins, Sam Lever, Will Reid and Alex Serote.

Board Rejects Meals Tax

Hyland floats proposal to offset potential hike in real estate tax.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors killed a proposal for a special election to ask the voters if they would approve a new tax on restaurant meals in 2010.

Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) put forward the suggestion at a Dec. 7 board meeting. He wanted to conduct the special election March 16, so that a meals tax could be incorporated into the upcoming 2010 budget planning if voters approved the measure.

The supervisors said a meal tax could result in an extra \$80 million in revenue for the county. Hyland argued it would also bring tax diversification to Fairfax and government, which relied on local real estate taxes to fund more than 60 percent of its budget last year.

According to recent county documents, approximately 1 cent per \$100 of assessed value in the real estate tax rate produces \$18 million in revenue for the county. By implementing a meals tax, the county could have potentially offset an increase in the residential real estate tax rate by about 4 cents, said supporters.

Hyland wanted to use money generated by the meals tax to fund Fairfax County Public Schools. Hyland's motion only garnered two other votes of support, from Supervisors Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and John Foust (D-Dranesville).

THE THREE REPUBLICANS on the board — Supervisors Patrick Herrity (Springfield), Michael Frey (Sully) and John Cook (Braddock) — said they opposed the meals tax for philosophical reasons.

"This is really nothing but a different way to increase the tax burden on our citizens," said Herrity, during the board meeting.

Herrity and Frey said they were also concerned about the expense associated with holding a

SEE MEALS TAX, PAGE 5

NEWS BRIEFS

Board To Honor Young Hero

The Board of Supervisors will recognize 7-year-old Brianna Hussein at their Tuesday, Jan. 26 meeting for saving her mother's life by alerting authorities.

The motion, proposed by Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), recognizes Hussein for contacting authorities after her mother had a seizure in the early morning hours of Nov. 17. According to Cook, Hussein found her mother on the floor shaking, and called 911 to report it. Hussein's mother taught her what it looks like when she is having a seizure, so Hussein was able to explain the situation and direct officers to the correct location.

"To correctly diagnose the situation, call 911, let them know what is going on, and ask for help requires a level of wherewithal not common to such a young child," Cook said.

Commercial Vehicles Banned From Residential Streets

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to ban most commercial vehicles, trailers, trucks and vans from parking on residential streets at the group's meeting Dec. 7. Only one board member, Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), dissented.

"This is something that we hear about in our offices all the time," said Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

Among the handful of witnesses that testified, not one person opposed the measure and most spoke enthusiastically in favor of it.

"We want you to prohibit the parking of certain vehicles in residential areas," said Margie Wheedleton, vice president of the Brookfield Civic Association in Chantilly.

William Coleman, who lives in the Lee District, said approximately nine D.C. taxi cabs park on one of his neighborhood streets, which is only one-third of a mile long, every night.

"They leak oil and destroy the professional character of our neighborhood," said Coleman, who added that the cabs do not seem to belong to any nearby residents.

Barb Branham of the Lake Braddock Homeowners Association said that 20 to 30 vehicles park on one stretch of street with only about 12 homes on it. None of the residents in those homes typically know who owns the vehicles.

"The ladder vans lined up really impair the site line of people trying to get in and out of their driveways.... There are also property value issues," said Branham.

Previously, Fairfax County prohibited vehicles of a certain weight to park in residential neighborhoods. Now, the ban has been expanded to include vehicles that are more than 21 feet long, more than 8 feet high, and at a width of 102 inches or more. Vehicles carrying commercial freight as well as many trailers or semi-trailers are prohibited.

Residents will also not be able to park any vehicle with three or more axles on the street, according to county documents.

A few exceptions exist where commercial vehicles are permitted. One resident of each single-family dwelling unit is allowed to park one taxi cab or limousine on the street, but the vehicle has to be registered in Virginia.

Virginia law also exempts commercial vehicles of a public service company, school buses, vehicles used to transport people with disabilities, vehicles for cable television and vehicles for propane gas service from being prohibited. Additionally, moving vans or trucks are allowed to park on a residential street for up to 48 hours, according to Fairfax documents.

Residents are also allowed to keep boats, campers and

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NEWS

Toot-Toot, Chugga-Chugga

Railroad museum hosts 20th annual Model Train Display last weekend.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Dropping temperatures, falling snow and even a brief power outage could not stop the engines from pumping and the wheels from turning at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum last weekend.

The museum hosted its 20th annual Holiday Model Train Show Saturday, Dec. 5 and, despite the difficulties, drew a large crowd of train enthusiasts of all ages. Once again, the museum welcomed back familiar faces from model train groups from across the region to display their locomotives.

"We look forward to this event every year," said Bob Minnis of the HO Potomac Module Crew. "We like the people who come to it and it kicks off the Christmas season. We look for any reason to run trains, too."

The HO Potomac Module Crew was just one of several groups displaying trains off all sizes, or gauges. Ell Geib, brought the smallest trains of the show, the Z-Scale models, which are 1/220 of the size of an actual locomotive. Rodney Bohlmann and Mitch Mitchell represented Northern Virginia NTRAK, which runs N-Scale Trains that are 1:148 scale. Minnis' HO Potomac Module Crew ran half-O gauge trains, which are 1:87 scale, and the National Capital Trackers ran 1:48 scale O-gauge trains.

In addition, the Washington, Virginia and Maryland Garden Railway Society and Monty's Lego Trains also had displays at the show that got chil-

"The kids love watching the trains. They could stay here all day."

— Twila Lytle

"We've been here when it is 70 degrees out, raining and now this year, it's snowing so we have a plow

SEE TRAINS, PAGE 18



Hope Danielson has this standard-gauge train display set up at the museum year-round.



Thom McKinney of National Capital Trackers with his group's O-Scale trains.

PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION



The caboose housed Monty Smith's Lego Trains and NTRAK's N-Scale display.

dren especially excited. Jeff Mitulla, of the Garden Railway Society and a member of the Friends of Fairfax Station, Inc. Board of Directors, continued a nearly decade-long tradition of running a G-Scale train around the perimeter of the museum. Most years, running a train outside is no problem, Mitulla said, but this year, due to the snow, a small "plow train" had to run in front of the engine to push snow off of the tracks.

"We've been here when it is 70 degrees out, raining and now this year, it's snowing so we have a plow

NEWS

Meals Tax Nixed

FROM PAGE 3

countywide special election. Given that Hyland has known about the county budget forecast for months, they also questioned why the Democrat had not recommended putting a meals tax on the November general election ballot.

"I will not support doing this as a special election. It is just too costly," said Frey.

A few of the four remaining Democrats who voted against Hyland's proposal wanted to have more discussion on the matter of a meals tax referendum before voting on the proposal.

Given that there was no chance for a more in-depth discussion, some board members felt uncomfortable voting for Hyland's proposal, even though they might have supported a meals tax referendum overall.

"I think this has been brought up too abruptly. ... I want to make sure we have a package that could be presented that the restaurant and business community would believe is fair," said Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

But Hudgins said the board had discussed the possibility of a meals tax at several times already, including during the supervisors' group retreat and through a board matter Hyland brought to a few months ago.

"Each time we have raised this, there has been some reason not to discuss it," said Hudgins.

UNDER VIRGINIA LAW, most counties must conduct a voter referendum on the issue of a meals tax in order to implementing it. But governing bodies in towns, cities and some urban counties have the ability to implement a meals tax without a specific vote of approval from the public.

The result is that Fairfax, where a meals tax overwhelmingly failed in 1993, has fewer revenue options than some surrounding jurisdictions. Elected officials in the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Manassas and Manassas Park have all passed meal taxes as well as those in Arlington County and the towns of Herndon, Leesburg and Vienna have all passed taxes on restaurant meals without the hurdle of a referendum.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 4

motor homes on a residential street until a "community parking district" restricting such vehicles from public property is implemented. Currently, both the Mount Vernon and Lee districts have such a ban in place.

The supervisors said they would allow a "grace period" of 30 days before they start enforcing the new regulation, so that commercial vehicle owners can figure out an alternative parking situation.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Unemployment Continues To Rise

Fairfax County's unemployment rate reached 4.7 percent in September, approximately 1.8 percent higher than it was during the same month a year earlier.

During August, the number of jobs in Northern Virginia declined by 13,000, approximately 1 percent, overall. It was the region's 10th straight month of job losses, though Northern Virginia still has the lowest jobless rate in the commonwealth, at 4.9 percent overall. In September, Virginia, with the fifth lowest unemployment rate in the county, was 6.6 percent.

While Fairfax's economy remains strong when compared to other parts of the country, the county's jobless rate never exceeded four percent during its previous two economic downturns, according to budget documents.

Fairfax County unemployment insurance claims also increased 116 percent from July 2008 to July 2009.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

How would you like state of the art LASER dentistry without drills or needles?

What would you say if you could have your fillings placed painlessly without drills or needles, with laser precision and comfort? You'd probably say, "Where do I sign up?" Well, now you can with a revolutionary new laser we call the Water Laser. You may have seen it on TV lately.

This new Waterlase® is a breakthrough in comfortable dentistry. The laser sprays a computer-controlled spray of air, water and laser energy at the decay in the tooth. The laser energy is absorbed by the water and the energized microscopic water droplets are what actually remove the tooth decay. Rarely is a shot necessary to numb the patient. Since no heat is generated from the laser the Waterlase® is very safe to use on everyone.

What are the benefits of Waterlase® dentistry?

■ Patient Comfort

Heat, vibration and pressure are the primary causes of pain associated with the use of the traditional dental drill. Since cutting both hard and soft tissues (teeth and gums) with the Waterlase® does not generate heat, vibration or pressure, many dental procedures can be performed with fewer shots, less need for anesthesia, less use of the drill and fewer numb lips!

The Waterlase® allows us to prepare teeth with less trauma which results in significantly less tooth sensitivity after new fillings.

Additionally, using the Waterlase® for gum procedures reduces bleeding, post-operative pain, swelling and the need for pain medication in many cases. That means a new level of comfort and satisfaction for your entire family.

■ Sterilization

The laser sterilizes the tooth as it removes decay. This is very important. Because of bacterial contamination, many of you have had old fillings replaced with either new fillings, or in many cases, with crowns--and sometimes even root canals!! The reoccurrence of decay under fillings is a primary reason so many root canals are needed. Since this new laser sterilizes the tooth as it removes decay, and since many dentists now use 'bonded' filling materials enriched with fluoride, the chances of ever having recurrent decay under that new filling are much lower.

■ Great for Teenagers

The Waterlase® is especially great for teenagers. Sure, if the dentist is very good, shots should not really be painful. But **KNOWING** you're getting a shot is psychologically painful even if you can't feel the needle--especially for teenagers. By not getting a shot, not feeling the vibration of the drill, and by not hearing the loud drill, kids never become **afraid of the dentist**, so they don't grow up to be adults afraid of the dentist.

By incorporating laser technology into our dental practice, we are changing dentistry. It is no longer yesterday's world of painful shots, large silver mercury fillings, and fearful patients. Lasers have improved the lives of patients and their dentists.

Technology is something that makes life better. Better in this case is better clinical results, improved patient comfort, less use of anesthesia and antibiotics.

We are proud to be one of the first dentists in Fairfax County to offer this revolutionary technology. Since August 2003, Dr. Fox has completed over 3,000 laser fillings with no needle/no pain/no numbness. If you've been putting off going to the dentist because you were nervous about the drill and needle, you don't have to put it off any longer!

For more information about our dental practice please visit our website at
www.larryfoxdds.com



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OPINION

Choose Responsibly

Many families have paid dearly for mistakes of others; SoberRide offers a safety net.

The season for holiday parties is upon us, and with it the increased incidence of driving under the influence.

The possible consequences of driving drunk and underage drinking are often hard to comprehend. But the stories and grief of local families who have lost loved ones to such accidents should provide a chilling cautionary tale.

William Cameron Schlfike, born in Fairfax and a graduate of Robinson Secondary School, died Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, less than three days after his Volkswagen Jetta was rear-ended in Newport News. He was 22.

Schlifke was serving as designated driver for friends in his fraternity at Christopher Newport University. The driver who crashed into him, Eric Fowler, 20 at the time and also a student at CNU, was arrested at the scene and charged with DUI refusal, reckless driving and underage possession of alcohol, and later with involuntary manslaughter.

Last week on Nov. 30, 2009, just after the one-year anniversary of Schlifke's death, Fowler was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in Newport News, according to court

records. Fowler's bail was revoked and he will be in jail over the holidays awaiting sentencing in March.

Unfortunately, such tragedy is not rare. In fall 2008, a different young man from Fairfax was sentenced to three years in jail for involuntary manslaughter because of a drunk-driving accident on Dec. 3, 2007 that resulted in unspeakable tragedy for three families. One family lost a beloved daughter after she clung to life for five brutal days; one family has seen their active son reduced to 70 pounds and "unresponsive" and living in a nursing home; the family of the defendant has also seen life as they knew it change.

Don't take the risk. Plan ahead, arrange for a designated driver, or choose to abstain if a designated driver isn't available.

But if you find yourself in the unfortunate position of drinking without a safe way home on your own, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has provided you with a safety net called SoberRide. Take their number with you when you head out, and be sure any young

EDITORIAL

Free Ride Home

WRAP's 2009 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly from Friday, Dec. 11, 2009 through Friday, Jan. 1, 2010. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$50 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. For more, see www.wrap.org.

adults in your family are similarly armed.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is a public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area.

Parents are well advised to talk to their teens and let them know that if they find themselves without a safe ride home, that they can call their parents to be picked up. There are consequences of binge drinking for teens that go beyond driving under the influence. But it is also important for parents to let their teens know that whatever happens, it is not OK to drink and drive or to get into a car driven by someone who has been drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP has provided over 41,010 safe rides home. Call 800-200-8294. For more information, see www.wrap.org

WRAP's 2009 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly, from Friday, Dec. 11, 2009 through Friday, Jan. 1, 2010. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$50.00 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service.

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Increasing Taxes Easy Way Out

County should address its spending problem.

BY SUPERVISOR PAT HERRITY
R-SPRINGFIELD

There has been a lot of talk about the return of the automobile decal fee or a new meals tax in Fairfax County as an answer to the county's budget shortfall. These proposals are being pushed as "revenue diversification" initiatives. "Revenue diversification" may sound good but the reality is someone has to pay these taxes. I see them as nothing more than different ways to increase the tax burden on our citizens in these tough economic times.

Simply put Fairfax County has a spending problem not a revenue problem. This spending problem can be seen in the massive growth of the county budget over the past 10 years, which was fueled by a doubling of the real estate tax bills over the same time period. We began to fix our spending problem last year when we cut the county budget for the first time in recent memory. The roughly \$100 million in reductions made last year have had no significant impact on county services and have resulted in no major increase in complaints about county services.

Even as we talk of cutting the county budget to deal with our shortfall, some on the Board of Supervisors are simultaneously proposing increasing the size and role of our county government. Last year, we added a county version of a "czar" with the creation of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. While I certainly feel that the county has a role in helping those most in need, this office,

which was created with a budget of \$500,000 for a director, staff and administrative costs, is nothing more than a new layer of bureaucracy. It provides no direct benefits or support to our homeless population. Also last year, the board passed 127 pages of regulations on trees without looking at the efficiency or fiscal impact of implementing and enforcing these regulations.

This year, the board is moving forward with a plan to add public art proffers to the county's Comprehensive Plan. This plan is moving forward despite the fact there has been no effort to determine the cost impact to the county or our citizens of processing, reviewing and approving the additional requirements. Developers would now be pushed to provide proffers for public art, which will directly compete with the other proffers that developers already contribute — including those for transportation,

education, affordable housing and environmental projects — all of which are county priorities. While I support public art, and there are some great examples in the Springfield District, I do not believe county staff should have a role in pushing public art over transportation or education projects.

These are just a few examples of the county attempting to do good things for its citizens while failing to look at the cost of implementing them. In doing so, the board has blindly increased the size and cost of the county bureaucracy. It is long overdue for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to focus on the priorities of our citizens as well as ways to make our county government more efficient and effective in addressing those priorities.

Clearly, this is not the time for the county to be increasing the tax burden on our citizens. Revenue diversification and increasing the tax burden on our citizens is the easy way out. But as we have seen over the past decade taking the easy way out has drastically increased the size of our county government while doubling the tax burden on our citizens. It is long overdue for this Board to take the more difficult route of focusing county spending on our priorities while working to increase the efficiency of our existing government programs.

SCHOOLS

Local Schools Earn Energy Star

Two Burke-area schools were among the 10 county public schools that received the Energy Star label from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Energy Star label is earned by a school system benchmarking a school's energy performance and physical characteristics against other K-12 schools in the EPA's National Energy Performance Rating System and demonstrating superior energy performance for at least 12 months. The two Burke-area schools that received the Energy Star label were Bonnie Brae and Terra Centre elementary schools.

SCHOOL NOTES

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.

The Interact Club at West Springfield High is collecting donations for Kristi's Christmas, a local charity that helps needy children all year long. Kristi's Christmas was founded in 1987 in memory of West Springfield alumna Kristi Brown, who was killed in an automobile crash. In December, Interact Club members will be teamed up with needy elementary school children from Fairfax County. They will have breakfast with their buddies, then take a shopping trip to select basic clothing items. The children will be treated to lunch and surprises after the trip. All of donations to Kristi's Christmas are used to help needy children and funds stay in Fairfax County. The organization is sponsored by the West Springfield Rotary Foundation. Contact club sponsor Barbara May at 703-913-3800 or bamay@fcps.edu.

When Fairfax County Public Schools close for the winter break, **RECQuest kicks into full gear**. RECQuest is an affordable all-day program for children in first-sixth grades. Jammed-packed with fun activities, games, and arts and crafts, RECQuest offers kids the opportunity to make friends and have fun in a safe, supervised environment. RECQuest runs Dec. 28-30 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. No program Dec. 31 or Jan. 1. Register on-site on Dec. 28. Registration forms will be available at the centers, online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec/pdf/recq09/rqwintr09r1.pdf, or by calling 703-324-5555, TTY 711. The cost is \$56 per child. A payment scale is available for families who meet eligibility requirements. Participants must bring a bag lunch daily and wear comfortable clothing. Transportation to and from the center is the responsibility of the parent.

Inclusion opportunities are available. For more information, please contact Inclusion Specialist Ashley Haddow at 703-324-5214, TTY 711.

The following is a list of the RECQuest locations:

Fairfax

- ❖ David R. Pinn Community Center
10225 Zion Drive
703-250-9181
- ❖ Mott Community Center
12111 Braddock Road
703-278-8605

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COMMUNITY

Holiday Market Offers Way To Help Others

FROM PAGE 3

them to double their order this year. The increased order allowed the church to offer a wide variety of items for the whole family. At the Toys and Games table, Teddy Bears, wooden flutes, hacky sacks and even a "Lil Chef" kit, complete with chef's hat, apron, wooden spoon and child-friendly recipes, were available. At another table, a large selection of candles and candle holders were on sale, and next to it, at the Coffee and Food Items table, there was coffee from "Just Coffee," tea, olive oil and chocolate bars. The jewelry table had necklaces, earrings, cuffs and more, all from India, and another table had handmade baskets and bowls. A donation table that allowed patrons to donate to specific charities including the Lamb Center in Fairfax and the Heifer Project; Grace Ministries, among others, was also setup.

"There's a lot of talk about consumerism during the holidays; pressure to get things for others," said Sarah Alexander, member of the church's outreach committee. "This is a great way to give not only to charity, but also to give to people who need it. It's a good balance of the two."

Though the concept is only in its second year, and according to Liverman, still de-



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Coffee and Food table has 'Just Coffee,' tea, olive oil and chocolate bars.

veloping, the market is receiving great reviews from its customers. Most of the customers this year, like last year, are St. Stephen's members and came to shop after the Sunday morning service. Not only were

they pleased with the prices and selection, they were impressed with the idea as well.

"The market is great," Wendy Baird said. "My kids were going Christmas shopping anyway, but it's better to do it this way and

give back to somebody. Plus, they were able to find things to buy for their grandparents."

Church member Susan Baker said that the message of the event struck her as an advocate for free trade. While living abroad, she was exposed to how popular free trade is and was pleased that any organization, let alone her own church, is making an effort to expand the concept.

"When we were stationed in Europe, in England, free trade was much more well-known than it is here," Baker said. "So, I'm really pleased that the church can partner with an organization [like SERRV]."

No matter what personal reasons brought people to the market, all of its patrons agreed that giving while getting is a great way to approach holiday shopping. The concept is so well-received by the congregation, Liverman said, that the church hopes to expand the market to include more items from different areas of the world, all in the hopes that more people would buy into the message the church is trying to send.

"It's a way for us to be sensitive to opportunities to help people in developing nations," Senior Pastor Jeff Mickle said. "This is a hands-on way to help, and at the same time, we're getting great gifts to give to our family and friends. Jesus calls on us to help the poor, and this is one way to do that."

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VALUABLE 

COMMUNITY

Sound of Music Spreads Holiday Cheer

Trans-Siberian Orchestra performs for patients at Inova Fairfax Children's Hospital.

By JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

With a stage full of pyrotechnics and laser lights, the 30-member Trans-Siberian Orchestra is used to playing in front in 20,000 people. However, the musicians proved that even at a smaller venue, their show can be just as powerful.

A stripped-down version of the internationally-famous orchestra played a set at Inova Fairfax Hospital Tuesday, Dec. 8 for the patients of the Children's Hospital and its physicians. The show, which

was also broadcast to every room in the hospital, treated the audience to the orchestra's take on Christmas favorites.

"It's always a really good feeling to do a show like this because we know what it means to [the patients]."

— Chris Caffery, orchestra member

show like this because we know what it means to [the patients]," orchestra member Chris Caffery said. "If there's something we can do to make them feel better, we'll do it."

ACCORDING TO Inova Fairfax Children's Hospital Administrator David Goldberg, concert promotion company Live Nation, the sponsor of the orchestra's current tour, was responsible for bringing the show to the hospital. Goldberg said that a former hospital employee that works at Live Nation reached out to the hospital as part of the company's commitment to community outreach, offering a chance to see the orchestra.

Initially, Goldberg said that only a few members of the orchestra had signed on to



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

The stripped-down orchestra has four backing vocalists.

play. The group had played a show the previous night in Tampa, Fla. and Tuesday was their scheduled day off. Once word spread through their troupe about the show, however, more quickly joined the lineup and 11 members, comprised of two guitarists, two keyboardists and seven vocalists performed.

"We, in our society, aren't as generous as

we can be," Goldberg said. "To make time to do something great for our children on their day off shows that they are not only great people, but great citizens as well."

After a five-song set that included "This Christmas Day," the bluesy "Good King Joy"

SEE TRANS-SIBERIAN, PAGE 16

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PEOPLE

Hall of Fame for Phan Li

Master Q. V. Phan Le, master instructor of the Phan University of Martial Arts in Burke, was named Master Instructor of the Year and inducted into the Martial Arts World Hall of Fame on Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Martial Arts Expo in Las Vegas, Nevada. The award was presented by Dr. Un Yong Kim, former vice-chairman of the International Olympic Committee and founder of the World Taekwondo Federation.

Phan Le is considered one of the top Taekwondo coaches in the U.S., and his school is ranked number one for female Taekwondo athletes by the national governing body (USA Taekwondo). Trophies and medals line the walls of the PU.M.A. dojang (school).

Phan Le is a former International Muay Thai Kickboxing Association international cruiserweight (86 Kg) champion, national Ju Jitsu champion and gold and silver medalist at the Taekwondo Pan Am Open Championship.

Born in Saigon, South Vietnam, Phan Le is the seventh son of Grandmaster Vinh Phan and was raised in Vietnam for a brief time. Escaping the war before the fall of Saigon and settling in the U.S., he was raised in a martial arts tradition by his father, one of Vietnam's pioneers in judo and ju jitsu. Phan Le founded his own school, the Phan University of Martial Arts, in 2000 in Burke. Phan University offers classes in taekwondo, judo, ju jitsu, Muay Thai kickboxing, hapkido, taiho jutsu, and aiki-ju jutsu, as well as in CPR and rape prevention techniques.

Phan Le is a certified instructor in Taekwondo (WTF/Kukkiwon), a certified instructor in judo (Judo de Saigonaise Recog. by USA Judo Inc.), a certified instructor in ju jitsu (USJJF & JJIF), a certified instructor in taiho jutsu (USTJF & ITJF), a certified instructor in aiki-jujitsu/hapkido/hiepkhidao (US KIDO Association & US Aiki Ju Jitsu Federation), and



DONATED PHOTO

Master Q. V. Phan Le, standing, with Dr. Un Yong Kim

recognized by the U.S. Muay Thai Association. He has conducted seminars for the Department of Justice, Northern Virginia Community College, Department of Interior, Department of Defense, Virginia Military Institute, various colleges and security companies, as well as law enforcement agencies, both local and federal.

MILITARY NOTES

Navy Lt. j. g. Kenneth J. Prindle, son of Kathy M. Prindle and Brian C. Prindle of Burke, and fellow sailors of Patrol Squadron 10 "Red Lancers" (VP-10), Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla., recently reached the mid-way point in their six-month deployment to the Navy's Central Command operating from bases in Qatar, Djibouti and Japan. While deployed, the Lancers have conducted operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom to include maritime security operations; anti-submarine warfare; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; routine maritime patrol and anti-piracy missions in the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Billy E. Rosales, son of Tomasa and Bernabe O. Rosales of Burke, recently reported for duty with Marine Aviation Logistic Squadron 29, Marine Corps Air Station New River, Jacksonville, N.C. Rosales is a 2006 graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School and joined the Marine Corps in August 2006.

Joseph H. Grable Jr. 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 the University of California, Los Angeles. He is the son of Joseph H. and Karen F. Grable of Dunleath Lane, Burke. Joseph Grable Jr. is a 2006 graduate of Robinson Secondary School.

Garrett M. Patrick has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader's Training Course at Fort Knox, Ky. The cadet is a student at Virginia

Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg. He is the son of Mike G. and Leslie A. Patrick of Kenilworth Drive, Burke.

Oakley K. Watkins IV 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 the University of Richmond. He is the son of Oakley K. and Selena R. Watkins of Renaissance Court, Burke. The cadet is a 2006 graduate of W. T. Woodson High School.

Justin G. Houle 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 the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg. He is the son of Ronald G. and Elizabeth G. Houle of Natick Road, Burke. Houle is a 2005 graduate of Robinson Secondary School.

Jeffrey L. Hafkemeyer 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. He is the son of George L. and Patricia G. Hafkemeyer of Burnside Landing Drive, Burke.

Air Force 2nd Lt. Cassandra L. Craig has entered into the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) in Bethesda, Md., as a first-year medical student of a four-year program. Craig is the son of Michael S. and Jeri A. Craig of Claychin Court, Burke. She graduated in 2003 from Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Office Vacancies Reach 16-year High

BY JULIA O'DONOCHUE
THE CONNECTION

Fifty-one commercial office buildings with approximately 4 million square feet stand completely empty in Fairfax County today. Overall, the amount of office space available to rent is more 13.4 million square feet countywide, an amount equal to more than half of the total office space for rent in Tysons Corner, according to county documents.

The commercial office vacancy rate in Fairfax County reached 12.7 percent by the middle of 2009, its highest level since 1993, reports Fairfax's Department of Management and Budget.

Fairfax's vacancy rate has been climbing steadily since the end of 2006, when it was just 7.7 percent. The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority predicts the final vacancy figure for the end of 2009 to be slightly higher

than the current rate since a few new buildings were still planning to open in the second half of the year.

Increased vacancy rates led to a general decline in commercial land value, which spells bad news for a county that relies on real estate taxes to generate 64 percent of the revenue.

"Our commercial property always lags behind the economy by about a year."

— Tony Griffin, Fairfax County executive

Fairfax County executive Tony Griffin said his staff is preparing for an 18 percent drop off in "nonresidential" real estate property values from last year, the largest single-year decline in Fairfax's commercial property values over the last two decades. The only other double-digit decline in that time frame came in 1993, when the "nonresidential"

property values dropped 13.22 percent.

Last year, taxes on commercial property accounted for over 11 percent of the revenue Fairfax collected in total and the relative health of the commercial real estate market has been compensating for declines in residential property values in the county for the past three years.

In 2007 and 2008, when residential property values leveled off in Fairfax, the nonresidential property values continued to climb, by 13.6 percent and seven percent respectively, leaving the county a cushion of tax revenue.

Even last year, when all real estate tanked, Fairfax's residential properties lost approximately 12.5 percent of its value countywide but its commercial property values only declined 4.5 percent.

"We are now feeling the full impact of a bad economy. Our commercial property always lags behind the economy by about a year," said Griffin, about the sharp decline

in local commercial real estate value.

In addition to a bad economy, a recent commercial property building boom has exacerbated the market surplus in Fairfax.

Approximately 4 million square feet of Fairfax office space came online in 2008 and was followed up by about 341,000 square feet of new commercial space in the first half of 2009, according to county documents.

Of the 13 new commercial buildings under construction in Fairfax at the end of 2008, seven were 100 percent speculative, with no tenants lined up in advance to rent the space, according to county documents.

Two office buildings have been foreclosed on in the county and Griffin expects more will follow in the coming months.

County staff also predicts that the commercial real estate values will continue to decline, by about 10 percent in 2011 and 5 in 2012, before stabilizing in 2013.

CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/DEC. 10

JP McDermott and Western Bop.

\$10. 8-10 p.m., at The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. \$10. Beginner lessons at 7:30 p.m. www.headoverheelsdance.com or 703-424-1745.

Issa and Leslie Alexander. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

GMU Graduate Student

Conductors Concert. 8 p.m. George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 703-993-8794.

GMU Players Mainstage #2: Room Service. 8 p.m. George Mason University TheaterSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$12 adult, \$8 students and seniors. 703-993-8794.

Chess Club. 3:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn the rules and strategy, play the game. Age 6-14. 703-644-7333.

FRIDAY/DEC. 11

Navy Band Brass Quintet. 8 p.m. Fairfax Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 202-433-2525 or www.navyband.navy.mil.

Pianist George Winston's "The Winter Show." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Adults \$21-\$42. Youth through grade 12, half price when accompanied by an adult. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa. www.georgewinston.com.

The Sounds of Simon & Garfunkel, by Aztec Two-Step at 7 p.m. An Evening with Pat McGee and Colby James at 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Mason Dance Company December Concert. 8 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$15 adult, \$10 students and senior. 703-993-8794.

GMU Players Mainstage #2: Room Service. 2 p.m. George Mason University TheaterSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$12 adult, \$8 students and seniors. 703-993-8794.

SATURDAY/DEC. 12

Our Daily Bread Holiday Food Drive. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. next to

Leinz Dances as Nutcracker's Clara

Lake Braddock Secondary School freshman Kailey Leinz, 14, will dance the role of Clara in the Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax's (BAE) performance of "Nutcracker in a Nutshell" on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall at Northern Virginia Community College's Alexandria campus at 3001 N. Beauregard St. Tickets for the holiday classic are \$20 and are available in advance by calling 703-273-5344. Tickets will also be available at the door.

For more information on "Nutcracker in a Nutshell," The Center for Ballet Arts or The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax, visit www.thecenterforballetarts.com or call 703-273-5344.

Safeway at Courthouse Plaza, 10376 Willard Way, Fairfax City. Proceeds to benefit Annandale Christian Community in Action (ACCA)/Fairfax Presbyterian Church www.our-daily-bread.org.

The WB&A Chapter of the TCA Annual Christmas Toy Train Show.

9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Shriners Kena Temple, 9001 Arlington Blvd. Train doctor, all scales, parts, new and collectables, and Santa on site. Admission \$5 adults, children under 12 and military free. www.wbachapter.org or contact Pete Jackson at 703-455-6154 or Kenameat@wbachapter.org

Christmas Cantata: Unto a Child is Born.

6 p.m. at Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, 10185 Zion Drive, Fairfax. Traditional and contemporary music, interpretive dance and readings. Fellowship reception to follow. 703-764-9111.

Breakfast with St. Nick. 9-11 a.m. Includes continental breakfast, seasonal craft making, carol singing, a photo session with St. Nick,



Lake Braddock student Kailey Leinz as Clara

storytelling and a visit to the Little Shoppe. This event is free of charge and open to the community but RSVP to SaintNick@BurkePresChurch.org or phone our office at 703-764-0456. Hosted by Burke Presbyterian Church at 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. www.BurkePresChurch.org.

Lopez Studios, Inc. Annual Christmas Concert with Recording Artist Victor at 2 p.m. The Hint at 6 p.m. Bob, Almost Kings, OurAfter, Screaming at the Silence and Uncrowned at 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

A 1940s Christmas Homecoming.

6 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. A drama about a WWII soldier who is attempting to be home in time for Christmas to surprise his family. Refreshments will be served. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax

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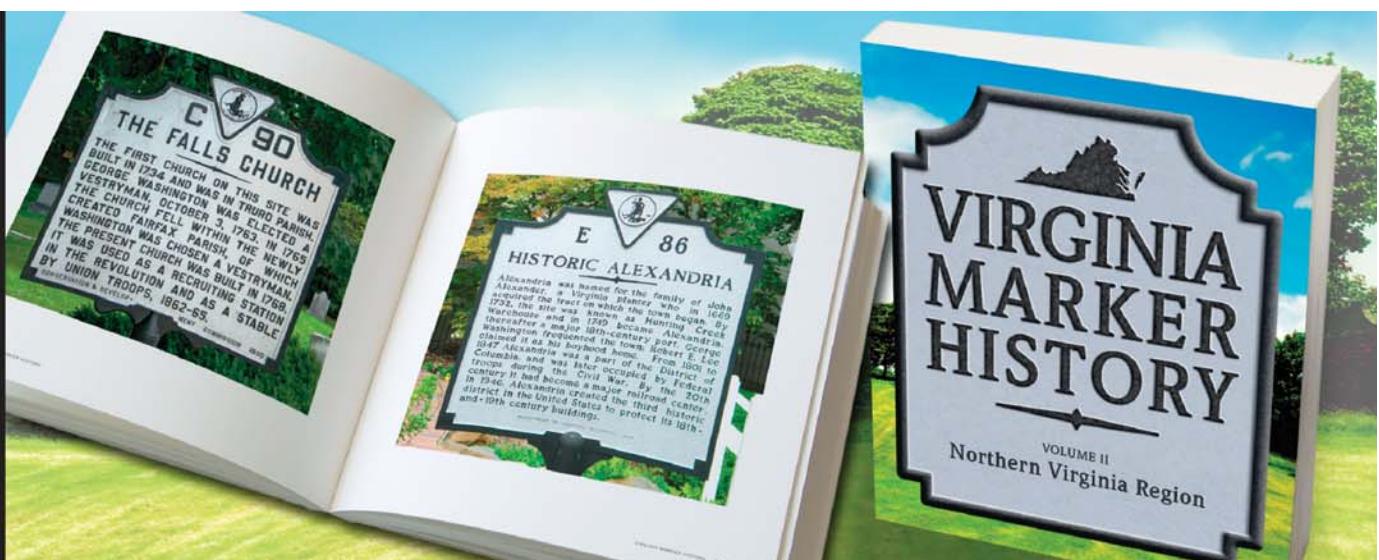
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Overtime Catch Lifts Bruins to Victory

Bruins advance to Virginia Division 6 AAA State Finals after nail-biting overtime.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Chris Williams sure picked an opportune time to catch his first touchdown pass of the season. After 13 weeks without a touchdown, Williams worried that even if he did manage to catch one, it would probably get taken away due to a penalty.

"I joked about it not counting," he said. "It just seemed that's how it would go this season."

Fast forward to Monday night, Dec. 7, in overtime in the state semi-finals, Lake Braddock trails Battlefield 24-21, facing a dire third and 15 situation. Quarterback Michael Nebrich needs someone to catch a pass to end the game.

Down, set, hike.

Williams cuts a slant route across the end-zone and the set play degrades into a scramble to find an open receiver.

Nebrich rolls out of the pocket toward the Lake Braddock sideline before zeroing in on Williams deep in the end zone.

"I ran the route, turned around and looked for the ball," Williams said. "I wasn't expecting it all. It went right up over the

"It's just unreal. I've been dreaming of this since I was in third grade."

— Brandon Johnson

Charlottesville, marring Battlefield's perfect 12-0 record.

"I've been waiting for a touchdown catch," Williams said. "Me and Nebrich are really good friends, and I knew it was nothing

defensive backs and I had to put my hands up to get it."

Williams makes an acrobatic jump, clasps both hands around the ball and touches his feet in the end zone before falling backward to the ground.

Game over.

Lake Braddock wins 27-24 and advances to the Virginia State Division 6 AAA final in

against me. I just needed to get open."

The catch was Williams' first and most important of the season. It also came from Nebrich, Williams' neighbor and best friend.

"[The catch is] huge for him and will give him a lot of confidence for the title game," said Nebrich. "[The touchdown] was just like playing in the backyard [with Williams]."

For Nebrich, the game was just another platform to showcase the junior's strong grasp of the spread offense.

Nebrich threw for 305 yards, connected with wide receiver Brandon Johnson for two passing touchdowns and rushed for 102 yards, including a four-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter.

"He's on his way to being the best in the area. Senior year, there won't be anyone



PHOTO BY CRAIG STEERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Chris Williams hauls in the game winning touchdown reception during Lake Braddock's 27-24 overtime victory over Battlefield. The catch was Williams' first touchdown reception of the season.

In Overtime

High school football overtime is akin to NCAA overtime rules, but teams are given the ball at the 10-yard line and have four downs to score. If the score remains tied after each team's possession, overtime is played back-and-forth until there is a winner.

BATTLEFIELD

- ❖ **First and 10:** Cedric Agyeman rushes for three yards.
- ❖ **Second and seven:** Agyeman rushes for five yards.
- ❖ **Third and two:** Nagee Jackson rushes for no gain.
- ❖ **Four and two:** Jason Hoepker kicks a 20-yard field goal. Battlefield leads 24-21.

LAKE BRADDOCK

- ❖ **First and 10:** Michael Nebrich's pass intended for Brandon Johnson is incomplete.
- ❖ **Second and 10:** False start called on the offense, five-yard penalty.
- ❖ **Second and 15:** Nebrich's pass to Ali Banihashemi is incomplete.
- ❖ **Third and 15:** Nebrich's pass to Chris Williams is caught. Lake Braddock wins 27-24.

better," said assistant head coach Bill Renner.

Nebrich's top receiving target, Brandon Johnson, finished with 130 yards receiving which includes his 29- and 49-yard touchdown receptions.

Johnson fought back tears of joy as reality hit — his team was going to the Virginia state finals.

"I'm speechless," he said. "It's just unreal."

SEE FIRST, PAGE 15

Robinson Tries Blue Collar Basketball

Opting for hard work over flashy plays, Rams hope hustle can lead the team to success.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

The Robinson boys' basketball team isn't looking to beat its opponents with slick outside shooting or flashy playmaking in the 2009-10 season, instead its players plan to take a more blue-collar approach to the game.

"We're not going to win games by shooting three-point shots all night or running complex offenses," said junior forward Matt Zanelatto. "We're going to do the dirty work. Dive on the floor for rebounds, steal the ball and stuff like that."

Through two games this season, the Rams are off to a 0-4 start, not exactly what head

coach Brian Nelson had in mind, but the tough style of play is starting to reap some rewards.

After opening the season on Dec. 2 with a 61-45 loss to Yorktown, the Rams posted a stronger effort in a Dec. 5, 87-67 loss to South County.

"Our effort level in the second game was better [than the first game] and we played together," said junior forward C.J. Cleaves. "We shared the ball and no one person was really leading in scoring. We had multiple guys in double figures for points and rebounds."

The Rams other two losses came courtesy of Mountain View on Dec. 4 (56-83), and Langley on Dec. 8 (47-63).

Nelson said the losses can also be chalked up to inexperience on the varsity team.

"We're a young team," Nelson said. "We don't have seniors starting. Both of our senior players are out with injuries."

The roster features three sophomores and eight juniors, many of whom are just getting acclimated to varsity-level play.

"We're relying on a lot of guys who don't have a lot of varsity experience," Nelson said. "We showed a lot of signs of positive things [against South County] ... but we have to learn how to win games."

Senior Mike Creighton, who is currently

sidelined with an injury he received during the football season, said he's liked what he's seen from his younger teammates.

"When we started the season, there wasn't a lot of enthusiasm," Creighton said. "But after the past three games, the young players have stepped up."

Creighton also noted that it is crucial that the senior class returns to the team and plays an active role in helping to sustain any chemistry the team is creating.

"I know a lot of the guys on the team are

"We're going to do the dirty work. Dive on the floor for rebounds, steal the ball and stuff like that."

— Matt Zanelatto

active role in helping to sustain any chemistry the team is creating.

SEE BLUE COLLAR, PAGE 15

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SPORTS

A Less Than Ideal Start

Lake Braddock cagers fall to Centreville, but show glimpses of promise.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

The first 16 minutes of the Lake Braddock boys' basketball season started with frustration, tough luck and a few glimpses of better games to come as Centreville soured the Bruins' season road-opener 54-41 on Dec. 4.

An 18-0 run by Centreville overpowered the Bruins and put up a lead that proved too large to overcome.

"[Centreville] just came out and blitzed us early," said head coach Brian Metress. "That really just shook us."

Metress said the atmosphere of playing in Centreville's home-opener also played a role in the Bruins' defeat.

"We were playing out of our comfort level," he said. "The [opening rush] and the atmosphere of our first game, a lot of our guys haven't been in that situation before."

In the first half, shots that drained through the bas-

"We were playing out of our comfort level."

— Brian Metress,
Lake Braddock head coach

ket for the Wildcats swirled out of the hoop for the Bruins.

"I told the guys at half-time we had to re-evaluate the shots we took," he said. "I thought we took 12 really good shots in the first half and none of them went in."

Despite the lackluster first half, the Bruins fought back. Patrick McLucas' 12 points, nine of which came in the fourth quarter, helped pull the team within 10 near the end of the game. The defense, however, couldn't hold on for a late comeback attempt.

Despite the disappointing start to the season, Metress said he's not convinced the first half foreshadows the Bruins' chances when Patriot District play rolls around in January.

"You're never as bad as you look," he said. "We looked bad in the first half, but we looked better in the second half. If we play like we did in the second half, we'll be a lot better off this season."

FOR THE LADY BRUINS, the game against Centreville proved to be somewhat of an inverse of the boys' game.

While the girls charged to a 16-14 lead in the first half and a 10 point lead early in the third quarter, the Lady Bruins were unable to battle back against

SEE FRUSTRATING, PAGE 15

Popcorn, soda and basketball

Students looking for a cheap date or a fun event to enjoy on Friday, Dec. 18 should look no further than a doubleheader basketball match between rivals Lake Braddock and Robinson.

At the upcoming Lake Braddock

a n d

Robinson Varsity Basketball Challenge,

students wearing a Burke basketball shirt will be admitted inside the game free and receive a coupon for a free soda and box of popcorn.

The T-shirt admission is good for both the boys' and girls' varsity basketball game.

Tip-off is set for 5:45 p.m. for the girls and 7:30 p.m. for the boys. Both games will be played in the main gym at Robinson Secondary School.

Robinson Girls Basketball Starts Season Hot

The Robinson girls' basketball team charged out to a 3-0 start in the 2009-10 basketball season this

SEE WEEK, PAGE 15

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

MONDAY/DEC. 14

Rory Block. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.
PAL Reading Visits. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Read to a trained therapy dog. Call to reserve a time slot. Call for title. 703-249-1520.

TUESDAY/DEC. 15

Lake Braddock Combined Choirs and Symphony. 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke.

1566 or jamminjava.com.
GMU Center for Consciousness and Transformation: The Science of Happiness. 6:30 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Psychology professor Dr. Todd Kashdan on what causes and what can increase happiness. Light supper included. \$20 per person. cct.gmu.edu/events.
Needlework Group. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Bring a project to work on in the company of

A Canadian Brass Christmas. 8 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$15 adult, \$10 students and senior. 703-993-8794

FOHA Charity Dog Wash. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Bark 'N Bubbles Dog Wash of Fairfax, 11725 Lee Hwy, #A-17A, Fairfax. Half of every wash goes to support Friends of Homeless Animals. 703-352-WASH or www.barknbubbles.com fairfax.

GMU Players Mainstage #2: Room Service. 8 p.m. George Mason University TheaterSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$12 adult, \$8 students and seniors. 703-993-8794.

A Celtic Christmas with Siúr-Óg and Friends. 8 p.m. at theSPACE, on the plaza in Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts. Free admittance. Free parking available in the Plaza's garage. 703-963-5979 or jormesher@fairfaxva.gov.

A Visit to Santa's Workshop. 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Kaydee Puppets presents a family holiday program. All ages. 703-293-6227.

Gifts That Give Hope Alternative Gift Fair. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. at Truro Church, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. Free admission. Find meaningful gifts from nonprofit organizations that give hope and help to needy people. Sponsored by the Giving Circle of HOPE. To learn more, call 703-608-2231 or visit www.giftsthatgivehope.org/fairfax.

SUNDAY/DEC. 13

Dan Bern. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$18. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

A 1940s Christmas Homecoming. 6 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

GMU Symphony Orchestra and Chorus Holiday Concert. 7 p.m. George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$20 adult, \$15 students and seniors. 703-993-8794.

GMU Players Mainstage #2: Room Service. 2 p.m. George Mason University TheaterSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$12 adult, \$8 students and seniors. 703-993-8794.

The Click Five. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15 advance/ \$18 day of show. 703-255-



BAE dancers in 'Nut-cracker in a Nutshell.' See page 11 for details.

fellow needlecrafters.
Adults. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Hidden Ponds Nature Program. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Includes dissection of a rotting log; be aware in case of mold allergies. Ages 6-12 with parent. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

One-on-One Genealogical Research Assistance. 6-7:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Adults. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

What Do Animals Do in the Winter. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories & activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

One-Man Band Holiday Show. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox" by Maggie O'Farrell. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Tales for Twos: Baby, It's Cold Outside.

10:30 a.m.

Pohick

Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories, fingerplays and activities about winter weather. Age 24-35 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

7

Writers' Roundtable. 6 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Discuss your work with other writers. Adults. 703-644-7333.

7

THURSDAY/DEC. 17
1-2-3 Imagine! with Elmo & Friends. 7 p.m. At the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

Starlight, Starbright. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Sparkly stories, songs and activities. Ages 2-5 with adult. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 16

Radio City Rockettes Christmas Spectacular. 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center. www.ticketmaster.com.

The Click Five. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15 advance/ \$18 day of show. 703-255-

SPORTS

Blue Collar Philosophy

FROM PAGE 12

younger, but they have a lot of chemistry," Creighton said. "I've got to get ready to join that chemistry."

While blue collar might describe Robinson's style of play, big is a better word for the team's make-up.

Of the 13-man roster, only four players are under 6-feet tall and five are taller than 6-feet 3-inches.

The Rams' hope is that by combining their size with an immense amount of hustle and heart, the team can muscle through the tough Concorde District to a state tournament appearance.

Nelson also mentioned that team captains

Zanelatto and Cleaves need to step up their game in order for the Rams to be successful.

"They both exhibit leadership for us," Nelson said. "We're counting on them to show the younger guys the way."

Leadership also will fall on Cleaves' shoulders because of the important role he will play for the team next season when he is a senior.

"[Zanelatto and Cleaves] need to start acting as if they are our seniors," Nelson said. "They've shown their experience [against South County] and other juniors will step in to that role with them as the season goes on." Robinson's next game is against on Dec. 11 against Fairfax followed by a Dec. 15 bout with West Springfield.

First Time in State Tournament

FROM PAGE 12

I've been dreaming of this since I was in third grade."

Despite the dramatic outcome, the game wasn't as simple as Nebrich tossing touchdown passes to receivers all night. On Lake Braddock's first drive, an errant snap forced Nebrich to take a safety giving Battlefield a 2-0 lead.

The troubles didn't end there. After assuming control with a 14-8 lead after the first half, Nebrich fumbled twice, giving way to a Battlefield touchdown drive. Fortunately for the Bruins, Battlefield kicker Jason Hoepker missed the extra point attempt.

With the score even at 14-14 and just over a minute left on the clock, Nebrich hit Johnson with a deep pass for 30 yards, setting up Nebrich's four-yard touchdown run to take the lead with 14 seconds left in regulation.

With such a minuscule amount of time left in the game, the Lake Braddock sidelines prepared its celebratory rush to the field, but Battlefield defen-

sive back Blaine Mason hushed the Bruins with a miraculous kickoff return.

As Battlefield's Bobo Beathard was being tackled, Mason caught a pitch from Beathard and ran the ball 75 yards for the game-tying touchdown with only .9 seconds left in regulation.

"I looked up to the sky and said, 'God, what did I do?'" Lake Braddock head coach Jim Poythress said. "There had to have been something I did wrong in a past life to deserve this."

Poythress was overjoyed with the win, but he wasn't afraid to point out the mistakes that he said can't happen in the State finals.

"We gave Battlefield nine points on special teams," he said. "We let them hang around. They hung around and almost broke our backs. That can't happen next week."

Lake Braddock's first appearance in a state title game also signals the first time in 15 years a Patriot District team is contending for a state title.

Annandale is the last Patriot District school to win a state championship, taking the 1993 and 1994 state titles.

Frustrating Start for Bruins

FROM PAGE 12

the Wildcats in the fourth quarter.

Head coach Carl Harris knew exactly what felled his team in the game's late stages.

"Rebounding was the difference," he said. "We didn't hustle on the boards."

But in sports, some losses are bad and others are good and for the young Bruins team, which lacks a single senior on the roster, a close loss might help to spur future victories. "We have a lot of young girls, a lot of freshman who play a lot," Harris said. "We got nervous. We'll get better as the season progresses."

WEEK IN SPORTS

FROM PAGE 13

past week.

The Rams recorded wins over Yorktown (58-37) and Battlefield (63-23) and Langley (42-34), with Samantha Partonen leading the scoring with 14 points in the Yorktown game.

The Rams next three games are against Fairfax on Dec. 11, West Springfield on Dec. 15 and Lake Braddock on Dec. 18. past week.

Another bright spot in the game was the even distribution of scoring on the girls' team. Seven players recorded points for the Bruins and junior guard Maggie Collins led the team with eight points.

"We can spread the ball around because we know everyone can score," Harris said. "We don't have to rely on one person to score for us."

The younger players also pitched in with freshman Jenny Castillo tallying six points and freshman center Kasey Curtis adding another six.

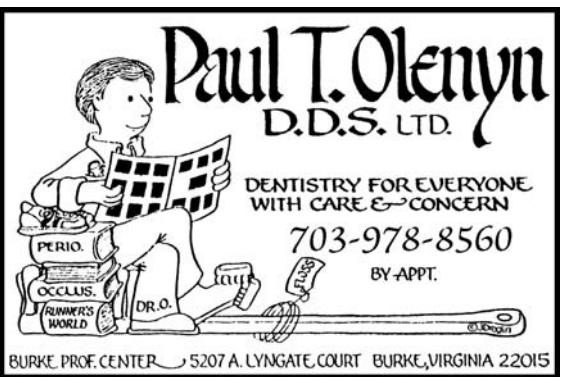
"Our coach tells us that basketball is a family," Castillo said. "No matter the age of the player, we have to work together [scoring points]."

Holiday Sports Camp

Parents seeking a high energy camp for children during the holiday break might be interested in the Fit Kids Sports Mania Holiday Camp.

The Camp is for children ages 5 to 9 and will be at the Claude Moore Community center from Dec. 28 to Dec. 30. Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and will feature a variety of sports including soccer, hockey, T-ball and more. To learn more, visit <http://webtrac.loudoun.gov> or call 571-258-3500.

People generally quarrel because they cannot argue.
—G. K. Chesterton



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COMMUNITY



Trans-Siberian at Inova

FROM PAGE 9

and a holiday-season take on Pachelbel's "Canon," all of the group's members stayed to meet the children and sign autographs. The band handed out tour books, jackets, T-shirts and guitar picks and posed for pictures. One child even gave an impromptu a cappella performance at the urging of one of the members. The entire experience, the children said, was one to remember.

"I thought it was great," said Kadejah Hebb, 15. "The girls we met, the guitarists and other singers were great. Everybody just did a great job. I'd love to see them play again."

THE ORCHESTRA continued its generosity the following day, inviting former Children's Hospital patients and their families to their show at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C. for free. The children were transported to the show in the hospital's "Bus of Dreams," and at the show, were brought on stage to help introduce the band with Goldberg.



"They really do give back," Goldberg said.

FAITH NOTES

Chanukah Happening. Sunday, Dec. 13, 2-5 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Latkes and sufganiyot, Little Latke Lounge for ages 2 and under, olive oil press, arts and crafts, Chanukah story time and song room, moon bounce, face painting, balloon artist and more. Bring a bag of nonperishable items for the local food bank and/or a new toy to be donated to those in need. \$10 member families, \$18 non-member families. www.jccnv.org.

A Celtic Christmas. Sunday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m., at Springfield Christian Church, 5407 Backlick Road, Springfield. With the Springfield Christian and Burke United Methodist combined choirs, assisted by Celtic ensemble Mystic Harmony on Celtic harp, flute, keyboard, percussion and vocals. 703-354-4994.

Burke Presbyterian Church events

are open to everyone, at 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. All events are free. Contact 703-764-0456 or www.BurkePresChurch.org.

♦ **Breakfast with St. Nick.** 9 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12. Pictures with St. Nick, craft making and more. Reserve at SaintNick@BurkePresChurch.org.

♦ **Christmas Eve Services** on Thursday, Dec. 24, 5 p.m. Children's Pageant with children's and youth choirs; 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service with chancel and bell choirs; 11 p.m. Candlelight and Communion Service with folk group and flute choir.

Come see the Christmas Cantata, "Morning Star," Dec. 13, 11 a.m., at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall are handicapped accessible. 703-971-5151 or www.franconiaumc.org.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Food Lion, LLC trading as Bloom #2778, 7002 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer/Wine off premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Richard A James Treasurer

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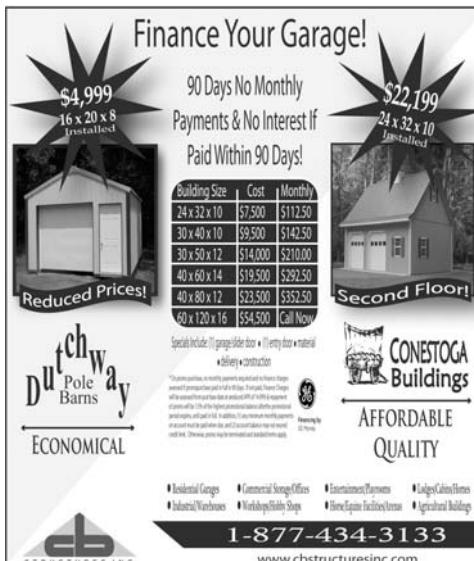
21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
On December 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifton Community Hall, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia, the Town Council of the Town of Clifton will hold a public hearing on a lease of Town-owned property located at 7137 Main Street, Clifton Virginia, known as the "Pink House" property. The public hearing will be held pursuant Virginia Code Section 15.2-1800 (disposal of public property). The public hearing was authorized at a special meeting of the Town Council on November 22, 2009. Copies of the rental criteria are available for public inspection at 7150 Main Street, Clifton Virginia.

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COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Monty Smith with his Lego Train display.

Trains Roll at Museum

FROM PAGE 4

pushing the snow off the track," Mitulla said. "The kids love these trains because they can run with them, but the parents love them even more because the kids are so tired out, they fall asleep in the car ride home."

Monty Smith, 19, has been displaying the other fan favorite, Monty's Lego Trains, at the show since he was 11. Smith uses Lego sets to build the trains, tracks and the display's scenery, a practice that has become more difficult in recent years as Lego has stopped making train sets. So Smith said he must scour eBay for sets in order to keep the children satisfied each year with fresh setups. Though it is an added inconvenience, Smith said it is worth it to see the children excited.

"I've been coming to this show since I was born, and I wanted to show off my creations, so I started displaying," Smith said. "I'm always getting new track pieces, trains and motors so I come with something new every time, and the children seem to figure

it out before the parents."

While the train operators admittedly have the most fun at the displays they attend, the show's patrons were every bit as excited for the trains. Most of the attendees were families with young children and, according to those parents, the event was worth the price of admission.

"WE'VE COME [to this event] several times," said Christine Cardwell, who brought her son Zachary, 3, along with her husband Howard. "Our son really loves trains, and it's nice that something like this is here for the little kids. Boys just love trains. You can't get around it."

Twila Lytle brought her twin 4-year-old boys, Ryan and Connor, to the show for the first time. Like Cardwell, she found that it is nearly impossible to separate boys from trains.

"We've been here for what feels like hours," Lytle said. "The kids got into trains when they were two and we haven't been able to get them away. The kids love watching the trains. They could stay here all day."

BULLETIN BOARD

THURSDAY/DEC. 10

You and Your Aging Parents Support Group.

7 p.m. at the Jewish Social Services Agency, 3018 Javier Road, Fairfax. Explore the aging process and share experiences as a caregiver. Discussion topics can include coping with illness, balancing multiple demands, managing difficult emotions, identifying appropriate resources and developing a care plan. Group meets on the second Thursday of every month. Register at 703-896-7910.

The Office of Special Education Instruction Applied Behavior Analysis Parent Workshop on Curriculum Foundations.

9 a.m. and 7 p.m. at Dunn Loring Center, Room 1, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Understanding the basics of curriculum programs for

students with autism, for parents of Fairfax County students receiving special education services using applied behavior analysis. www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/ABA/index.htm

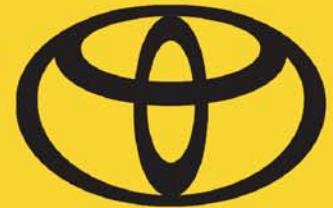
TUESDAY/DEC. 15

Providence District Council Annual Holiday Party.

7-8:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Dunn Loring Admin Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Enter through door #1, go up the stairs/elevator and turn right. All Providence local and state elected officials have been invited to join us. Finger food and desserts will be served. Free and handicapped accessible. ProvidenceDistrictCouncil@yahoo.com

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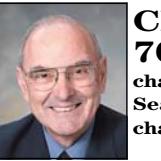
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