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Lesson in Giving

NEWS, PAGE 3

Michael Hardy, Martin Rendon, Middle School Director Glenn Reinhardt and Paul Johnson at Accotink Alternative Learning.

Mall Loan in 'Imminent Default'

NEWS, PAGE 3

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Mall Redevelopment Marches Forward

Loan used to cover project's costs reported to be in 'imminent default.'

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Vornado Realty Trust is seeking to restructure the two \$80 million loans it has used to finance the redevelopment of the 79-acre Springfield Mall site near the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station.

According to an article that appeared in the Washington Business Journal Dec. 4, Vornado's loan was transferred to a special servicer, C.W. Capital, because it was in "imminent default."

The company, which owns retail centers in Arlington County and throughout the country, bought the Springfield Mall in 2006 and currently manages the property itself. Vornado has plans to transform the Springfield Mall from a traditional shopping center to a transit-oriented hub offering office, residential and retail space in one pedestrian-friendly location.

Vornado officials have sometimes cited the area surrounding the Pentagon City Mall, which includes a bustling town cen-



"The sky is not falling and doomsday is not here."

— Nancy-jo Manney, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

The owners of the Springfield Mall have already started work on the shopping center's renovation.

ter, as an example of what they hope to achieve on the mall site.

The Connection Newspapers could not reach Vornado for a comment on the loan restructuring, though other interested parties said they did not expect the redevelopment's financial machinations to heavily impact the overall redevelopment.

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said the company has given his office no indication that the project's timeline has changed or that Vornado would be scaling back its construction plans as a result of the financial situation.

The company planned to add approximately 175,000 square feet of new retail

space, 1 million square feet of office space and a 225-room hotel to the site. After the redevelopment, the Springfield location is expected to have outdoor and indoor retail, dining and entertainment options, similar to those seen in other local town cen-

SEE MALL, PAGE 16

Local Students Begin Lifetime of Giving

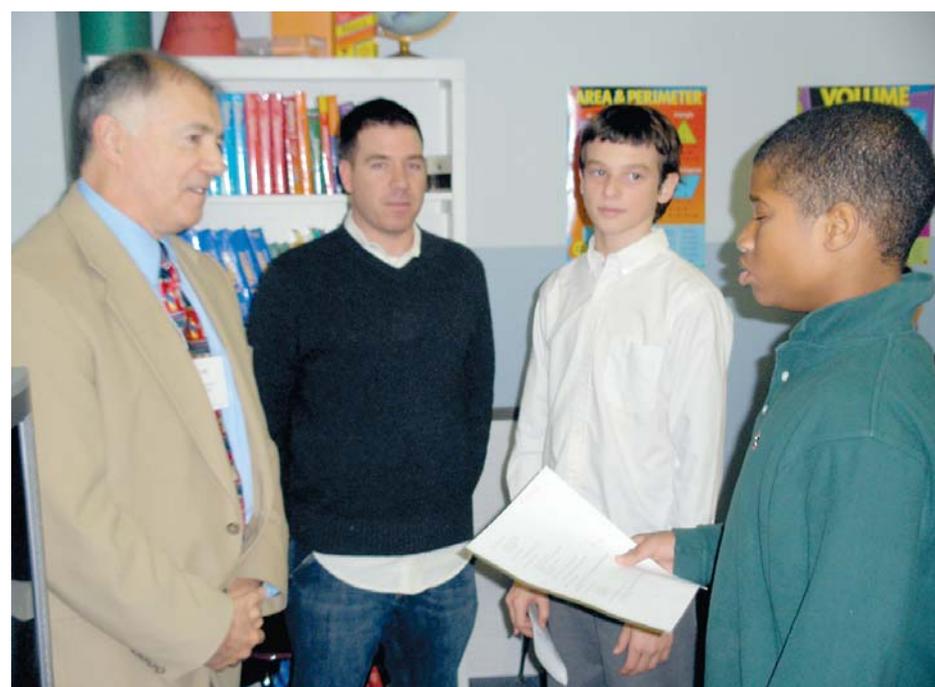
UNICEF thanks Accotink Alternative students for donation.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Accotink Alternative Learning Center has an on-going mission to be involved in its community and to give back to those in need within it. Last month, however, its students brought their efforts to another level, reaching out to their community to help make a difference across the world.

The school's middle school team, composed of seven students, organized and hosted a bowling charity event on Nov. 14 to raise money for UNICEF, raising nearly \$1,000 for the children's organization. UNICEF, impressed by their actions, sent a representative to the school on Monday, Dec 14 to not only pick up the check, but to deliver a special "thank you" in person.

"That amount of money from so few people is unusual," said Martin Rendon,



UNICEF representative Martin Rendon accepts the check from Middle School Director Glenn Reinhardt, Paul Johnson and Michael Hardy.

UNICEF vice president of public policy and advocacy, during his visit to the school. "It goes a long way and will really help chil-

dren in need, children your age, just like you."

The idea for the fund-raiser, as well as

"It's not just about doing fun things to raise the money, it's about helping people, too."

— Will Ashton, eighth grade

the execution of the events, according to Middle School Director Glenn Reinhardt, were the result of the students themselves. Reinhardt said that each of the school's three teams, lower, middle and upper, are required to do a community service project each year that they must create and carry out on their own. This year, after participating in UNICEF's Trick-or-Treat fundraiser in October, the children had a desire to continue assisting the charity, but in a way that did not involve any traditional fund-raising methods.

"We wanted something fun as opposed to just walking around," said eighth-grader Paul Johnson, 13. "Things like that get old after the first mile."

SEE CHARITY, PAGE 5



Former Congressman Honored

Former Congressman Herb Harris received the Northern Virginia Service Award from the 11th Congressional District Committee at its annual awards ceremony Saturday, Dec. 12. U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) presented Harris with the award 'for distinguished and honorable service to our communities, our commonwealth and our nation.' Harris was elected to Congress from Virginia's 8th District in 1974. He served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Child Sexually Assaulted At Lee District Park

A 7-year-old boy was sexually assaulted at Lee District Park on Saturday, Dec. 12, according to a Fairfax County Police report.

The boy went into a bathroom in the park, located at 6601 Telegraph Road, at approximately 11:15 a.m., the report said. While inside, the boy was allegedly confronted by a man who then sexually assaulted him. After leaving the bathroom, the boy told his mother what happened and she summoned police. Several citizens kept the suspect, Michael Darden, 22, of the 8900 block of Yellow Daisy Place, in sight until police arrived and took him into custody. The victim was not injured.

Darden was taken to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with aggravated sexual battery and abduction with the intent to defile.

Detectives are asking parents who are concerned that Darden may have engaged in inappropriate sexual conduct with their children, or those who may have been a victim themselves, to call police. The investigation continues and additional charges are possible.

"Our detectives are looking at the man's history to see if there are any prior cases [of this nature]," said Officer Bud Walker.

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.

Chamber Honors Kroll, Lusk

For more than 30 years, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce has been honoring citizens from the community for their work above and beyond the call of duty.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 18



Students shop for gifts at Toys 'R' Us.

Giving Is Better than Receiving

Kenwood students learn about spirit of giving.

For the second year, Kenwood School in Annandale has been an official drop-off location for the Toys for Tots program. On Tuesday, Dec. 8, Kenwood students went on a field trip to Toys "R" Us in order to buy toys that they then donated to the program. Forty-two students were each given a set amount of money toward the purchase of toys they thought the needy children would like the most. Not only was it an enjoyable field trip, but a practical math lesson as well.

"It's good to help other kids, especially those in families who can't afford toys," said Joel Castilleja,

a sixth grader. "I wanted to find the perfect gift that whoever got it would love."

"I wanted to help other kids whose parents aren't able to buy them toys, said third-grader Katie Clark. "It's not fair for them to miss out, so I'm glad I was able to help."

"I had a fun time shopping for toys for other kids," said Rebecca Glick, a fifth grader.

They all knew that the toys they were picking out would be donated to less fortunate children close to their age. As hard as you could imagine it being, these students did so with full hearts in the spirit of giving.

— TEXT AND PHOTO BY JENNIFER JARVIS

Board Asks for Policy Review

Cook concerned over bus stops near sex offenders.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has asked public school officials to review its policy concerning the placement of public school bus stops near the homes of registered sex offenders.

Fairfax County Public Schools currently has a policy not to move bus stops or change walking routes based on information about perpetrators' homes found in the Virginia Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors registry.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) asked that the county board to urge the school system to change this policy. One of Cook's constituents complained that her kindergarten student's bus stop was in front of a house listed as a sex offender's residence in the database, wrote the supervisor in a information piece to the other board members.

In response to Cook's request, Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) has sent a letter to School Board President Kathy Smith (Sully) requesting the School Board review the policy.

The Fairfax County School Board made the decision not to move student bus stop locations based on information the statewide sex offender database after consulting with the Fairfax County Police Department on the matter in 2005.

At that time, the police indicated that moving bus stops away from sex offender homes would not improve the safety of children, said the school system's chief operating officer Dean Tistadt.

"This was a very thoughtful, deliberate policy. ... It is not like we are being cavalier or insensitive about this. This policy was developed with consultation with experts in the police department," said Tistadt.

Both school officials and police remained more concerned about students' exposure to traffic than sex offenders while standing at bus stops. The school system and public safety officials agreed that high-speed vehicles posed a bigger threat to the wellbeing of students waiting for the school bus than sexual abusers, said Tistadt.

The school official said he did not want to see a situation arise where a bus stop was relocated away from a house listed as a sex offender's residence and into an area with heavier traffic.

"The greatest risk to students are vehicles. Vehicles are what we have to be consumed by when we choosing the location of a bus stop. If the police department told us it would make people safer to move children away from sex offenders, we would do it. But they, like we, understand that the real danger is vehicles," said Tistadt.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

NEWS Charity

FROM PAGE 3

So, the seven students brainstormed ideas for a fun activity that they would not only all enjoy, but would also be effective in raising money. They settled on bowling. Then, the students developed a system for donations, giving donors the option to either donate a fixed amount or to donate a certain amount of money for each pin knocked down. The students then set out to find donors, stopping at each business in the West Springfield Shopping Center, where the school is located. After securing donation pledges, the next step was to hit the bowling allies at AMF Annandale, where pin totals were tabulated, resulting in \$875 raised.

"I got a \$50 donation from the dentist near our school because I spoke clearly and asked nicely," said seventh-grader Michael Hardy, 12. "It felt good to get that money because the kids we are helping are mostly unfortunate and I just wanted to help them."

AFTER THE EVENT, the school informed UNICEF that they had organized the event and raised the money, and immediately, Rendon said, the story caught the organization's attention. Rendon said that raising \$875 was an impressive feat for any group raising money, let alone a group of seven middle school students. So, Rendon and the school scheduled a visit, and Rendon thanked the students personally and encouraged their further support.

During the visit, Rendon told the students how money donated to UNICEF is used and what things it buys for children around the world, and then showed a short video to further explain the organization's history and its mission. He concluded the visit by accepting the check from Johnson and Hardy, while each described the Bowl-a-thon and why they created it. Before he left, Rendon told the students that while their efforts were appreciated, this should only be the first step in a life of charitable giving. He implored them to give what ever the could to not only UNICEF, but all children in need. The message was certainly not lost on this motivated group.

"It's not just about doing fun things to raise the money, it's about helping people, too," said eighth-grader Will Ashton, 13.



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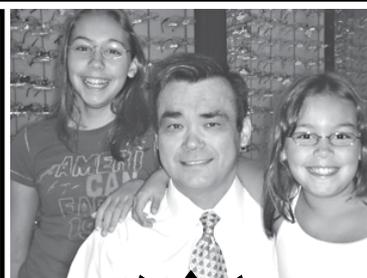
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OPINION

Clearing the Air

Non-smokers and families looking to eliminate exposure to second-hand smoke got an early and unlikely Christmas present from Gov. Tim Kaine and Virginia General Assembly on Dec. 1, when substantial restrictions on smoking in restaurants and bars went into effect.

Restaurants and bars in the Commonwealth are required to go smoke free. But many establishments will still be able to offer a smoking area.

If the business has the space and the financial ability, it is allowed to construct a separate smoking area, if it is completely walled off and has its own ventilation system.

This exception is unfortunate for several reasons.

First it is unfair to the businesses that do not

have the space or wherewithal to add smoking rooms.

Other jurisdictions, like the District or Montgomery County, Md. have passed true smoking bans, leaving a level playing field for businesses. And overall, in Montgomery County and many other places, receipts at restaurants increased after the smoking ban went into effect.

EDITORIAL

Second, such restrictions fail to protect workers from the serious detrimental health effects of second-hand smoke, one of the key objectives of smoking restrictions. Especially in the current job market, restaurant workers are more likely to feel compelled to continue to work in conditions that are hazardous to their health. A full ban on smoking in restaurants and bars would pro-

New rules on smoking are flawed and fail to protect many workers, but still great step in right direction.

tect more workers.

Third, even with a separate ventilation system, many smoking rooms will continue to leach smoke into non-smoking areas every time the door is opened and closed. Those who want a truly smoke-free dining environment will still have to do a little research.

But even with all its flaws, the successful implementation of smoking restrictions in Virginia remains a bit of a miracle, and a blessing.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Upbeat Look at 2009

Economic Development Authority has worked with firms to add 4,000 jobs to local economy.

BY GERALD L. GORDON PH.D.

As 2009 draws to a close, it will be remembered as an especially significant year for Fairfax County's economy and for those who live and work here. And, the successes achieved this year will position the county and its residents well during the economic recovery and beyond.

The national unemployment rate topped 10 percent this year, and in many communities it is much higher. Job creation in many locations is non-existent. Meanwhile, in Fairfax County, we will end the year with about a 4.5 percent unemployment rate. My office has worked with dozens of companies that have added or will add more than 4,000 jobs to the economy. Decisions by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), Hilton Worldwide and The Ignite Institute to locate their corporate headquarters in Fairfax County are especially noteworthy.

Individually, each of these new headquarters operations would be leaders in any business community. Adding another Fortune 500 headquarters — SAIC is the county's seventh — is a tremendous achievement. Hilton, perhaps the world's best-known hotel brand, and Ignite, a non-profit that is pioneering the field of personalized medicine, bring important new diversity to our economic base and business community. The same can be said of the 2007 addition of the headquarters operation of Volkswagen Group of America to Fairfax County.

Neither should we overlook the growth of the small and mid-sized firms that are the backbone of this and every economy. Of the more than 100 companies that the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority worked with this year, a vast majority of them are small busi-

nesses with fewer than 100 employees.

The successes of 2009 have important implications for Fairfax County taxpayers in 2010 and beyond. First, there will be more job opportunities, particularly compared to many other parts of the nation. Second,

a larger commercial tax base means residents bear less of the cost of providing the range of high-quality services funded by the county Board of Supervisors.

COMMENTARY

Third, new workers in our community buy homes, dine in restaurants and shop in local stores. Fourth, the broader the base of companies that are here, the greater the likelihood that our economy and commercial tax base will be stable and grow. And, finally, the quality of life for which Fairfax County is known will be improved by economic stability and growth.

The mission of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority is to build the commercial tax base by promoting the county as one of the world's best business locations — attracting companies here and working with them to stay and create jobs here and fill office space.

The FCEDA is proud of its success in 2009 to broaden the economic diversity of Fairfax County. It will help ensure that Fairfax County remains one of the best of the best places to work and live for decades to come.

Gerald L. Gordon Ph.D. is president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.



Gerald L. Gordon

No Public Option

To the Editor:

I am extremely concerned about the bill that the House recently passed and the one that the Senate is currently debating regarding health care reform. The fact that the bills require that everyone be covered by health insurance and that a public option be provided will either bankrupt the country or destroy our health care system, which many people from other countries currently flock to because their own government-run programs provide such poor care.

The following are the main points of my argument:

1. The funding discussed in the current bills is nowhere close to what will be required to provide a public option for the millions of people who will flock to it. The taxes and debt that will have to be incurred to make it workable will be enormous and bankrupt the country.

2. There is a severe shortage of doctors and nurses now. Where in the world are all the additional doctors and nurses going to come from when 94 percent of Americans are required to have health insurance?

3. In order to try to deal with this shortage and to make the public option workable, the logical next step will be to force everyone into the public option and to ration health care. In that case, it would become illegal for individuals to pay out of their own pockets for health care, which is the current system in Canada and causes thousands of Canadians to seek health care in the U.S. each year.

4. Rationing would ruin health care in this country as we know it because

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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Michael O'Connell
Editor / 703-778-9416

Justin Fanizzi
Community Reporter
703-224-3032
jfanizzi@connectionnewspapers.com

Julia O'Donoghue
Education & Politics
703-778-9436
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Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
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Managing Editors
Steve Hibbard, Michael O'Connell,
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Robbie Hammer, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong,
John Heinly, Wayne Shipp,
John Smith
Production Manager:
Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver

**CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS,
L.L.C.**
Peter Labovitz
President/CEO
Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Executive Vice President
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

COLLEGE

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.

Erin Yanovich of Springfield was honored at Virginia Tech's spring commencement ceremony on May 15, in Lane Stadium. Yanovich received a Master of Arts in Education degree in curriculum and instruction from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Jessica Lok, a senior from Springfield, made the dean's list at the University of Mary Washington.

Mark Compel, a senior from Springfield, made the dean's list at the University of Mary Washington.

Michelle Wenz, a senior from Springfield, made the dean's list at the University of Mary Washington.

Kerry Carfagno, a senior from Springfield, made the dean's list at the University of Mary Washington.

Emily Forsyth Queen, a senior from Springfield, made the dean's list at the University of Mary Washington.

Katie Palmer, a senior from Alexandria, made the dean's list at the University of Mary Washington.

Sarah Harpine, a senior from Springfield, made the dean's list at the University of Mary Washington.

Raquela Carlson, a senior from Springfield, made the dean's list at the University of Mary Washington.

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COMMUNITY

Band Shares Culture Through Music

Lake Braddock Band is traveling to China in March as part of cultural exchange program.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

For more than 30 years, the Lake Braddock Secondary School Band has shared its music with not only the community, but their country as well. Now, in recognition for those decades of sustained success, the band is being given the opportunity to bring its music to an even bigger audience: The People's Republic of China.

The band is going on a 10-day excursion to China, from March 23 to April 1,

as part of a program sponsored by the U.S.-China Cultural and Educational Exchange Foundation. During the trip, the band will play seven shows at seven different venues and take part in cultural immersion sessions that includes spending a day with a Chinese family.

"This is a great chance for us to see, first-hand, that part of the world," said junior tuba player Reid Hartman. "We get the chance to soak in their culture and way of doing things and be able to come home with a greater understanding and appreciation of their culture."

The opportunity for the trip arose more than a year ago, through Band Director Roy Holder's connections to the foundation. According to Holder, a group of Chinese students from Children's Palace in Beijing

came to the area last year to play a series of shows in Washington, D.C. While they were in town, they reached out to a friend of Holder's for equipment, who in turn asked Holder if he could spare anything. Holder agreed, and through that favor, the foundation's vice chairman, Dr. Song Yang, became aware of the reputation and history of Lake Braddock's band. Impressed with what he saw and heard, Yang sent a formal invitation to the school for the band to participate in the program.

Though the opportunity to play to such a vast audi-

ence excited Holder, due to financial concerns, the school was not able to commit to the trip for nearly a year and a half after receiving the invitation. According to Yang, the cost of the trip per student is \$2,500, with a \$500 contribution from the foundation, leaving the school a cost of \$2,000 per student for all 140 members of the band. In addition, Holder said that the school wanted to investigate all of the details of the trip to ensure that if they were to commit the time and money, it was for the right reasons.

"We spent more than six months deciding if it was viable to do with high school students," Holder said. "We asked a lot of questions about finances, the trip's management, the venues and more because we wanted to make sure it would be a musical

"This is a great chance for us to see, first-hand, that part of the world."

— Reid Hartman, junior



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Lake Braddock Secondary School Band

Help Band Get to China

Go to www.lbband.org to for information on tickets for the Jan. 10 performance at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria and for other ways to donate money toward the band's trip.

experience, not just a bunch of students roaming around China."

Once the school decided the trip would be a worthwhile experience, the itinerary was quickly fleshed out. According to percussionist Brian Hess, a 17-year-old senior, the school will be sending two different performance groups from its three bands, the Symphonic Band and the Concert I and II bands. For two to three performances, Hess said, the Symphonic Band will be play-

ing a 1 1/2 hour show by themselves, and for the remaining five or six, the three bands will combine into the "China Band" to play as one larger outfit.

THE SYMPHONIC BAND will be playing the more formal indoor venues while the larger band will be playing outdoor venues. Because of the differing audiences, Holder said, the two groups will be playing different set lists. The China Band will play popular American songs by composers like Henry Fillmore and John Philip Sousa, and will even incorporate a rock and roll medley along with a few jazz numbers. The Symphonic Band, on the other hand, will play standard orchestral songs from composers

SEE ON THE ROAD. PAGE 9



Education Is Fun

Two students in Reagan McHugh's Family and Early Childhood Education class at Springfield Estates Elementary greet the new class hamster. Students also enjoy the Tiny Tots concert at Lee High School.



COMMUNITY

On the Road to China

FROM PAGE 8

like George Gershwin and Aaron Copeland.

Between performances, all of the students will visit cultural and historical landmarks throughout the country to expand the cultural and education benefits of the program. Hess said that the students would be visiting Beijing High School, tour the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Olympic Park and the Great Wall among other activities. In addition, on March 28, the students will be divided into groups of four and will be sent to the homes of Chinese families around Beijing to get a sense of how life is day-to-day in China for a deeper cultural experience.

"We're playing all American music," Holder said. "We've taken a wide swath of American music like jazz, rock and roll and others, but we split them up into what [songs] would work based on the venues we are playing. It's an overwhelming amount of material."

THAT LARGE amount of material has the Lake Braddock Band students rehearsing at every opportunity. Hess said that preparations have been moving at a fast pace, as the Symphonic Band must learn 12 songs, and the China Band is learning 14. In addition, the members of the Symphonic Band have to learn all 26 pieces, as they will be a part of the China Band as well. Hess said that the band members came into school and rehearsed for four hours on the school's teacher work day, and that the Symphonic Band has been practicing in their regular class peri-

ods and after school.

"[The preparations] have been pretty intense," Hess said. "We have a lot of after-school rehearsals, and during teacher work day, we came in for four hours. Mr. Holder is relying on us to know our parts."

While the students are busy learning all of the new songs, they are also tasked with raising money to help ease the financial burden on the band's members and their families. The fund-raising efforts began in late August, with Glory Days Restaurant donating portions of receipts on certain days to the band program. The band also conducted 50/50 raffles at all home football games and on Dec. 10 had a large item raffle. The final fund-raising effort will come on Jan. 10, as more than 50 Lake Braddock Band alumni are giving a performance at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria, from which proceeds will be donated to the trip.

Though a great deal of work needs to be done before they depart, many of the students cannot help but look forward to being immersed in a culture that is so different from their own. The experience, they said, is one that they already know they will never forget.

"Learning about their culture and seeing the differences compared to our culture will help me see things in a different light," said senior Sara Dergham, who plays the French horn. "Though learning from them is only half the experience, being able to expose them to our music and also sharing our passion for music will definitely be fulfilling."



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THINGS TO DO

The following events and exhibits are open at the Workhouse Arts Center, which is located at 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. For more information, call 703-495-0001 or visit www.workhousearts.org.

Holiday Hours. Special Gift Shop Hours for those last minute gifts: Monday, Dec. 21, 12-5 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 22, 12-5 p.m.

Free gift-wrapping offered. Stop by Gallery W-16 from Dec. 21-24 and receive complimentary gift-wrapping on any purchase from the Workhouse Works show. Workhouse Studio Buildings, Gallery W-16 and Gift Shop hours: Wednesday, Dec. 23, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 25, closed; Thursday, Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 1, closed. Gallery W-16 will be closed from Dec. 25-Jan 6 for renovations. Studio Buildings are open regular hours, except those noted above.

Holiday Workshops: Thinking of taking a class at the Workhouse? Free "Art of Movement" Holiday Classes are offered Monday, Dec. 28-Saturday, Jan. 2. For full schedule, go to www.workhousearts.org.

Gallery After Hours: Point Blank. Saturday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. Come to the Workhouse and get into the holiday spirit with an evening of great cover songs, fun and dance, with Washington D.C.'s favorite party band, Point Blank. Advance tickets are \$10 member/\$8 non-member and can be purchased at www.workhousearts.org.

Give the gift of watercolor classes with instructor Catherine Hillis at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. The class, Make Your Watercolors Glow, is suitable for young adults through adults, who are beginners or intermediates. The eight-week class will meet Saturday mornings, beginning Jan. 16, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.. Information about the instructor is available at www.catherinehillis.com or at Studio #1006, Building Ten at The Workhouse. To register, call 703-584-2900 or go to www.workhousearts.org.

Arts Education Night & Film Screening. Saturday, Jan. 2. Reception featuring information about Workhouse classes and programs with a focus on the Winter 2010 quarter runs from 4-7 p.m. Instructors and students are invited to learn more about our education and outreach offerings, participate in an interactive game, win door prizes and more. Light fare and soft drinks, cash bar available. Free tickets, reservations recommended. Film Screening of "Class



'Winter,' encaustic by Julie Dzikiewicz

Act" begins at 7 p.m. Free, reservations recommended, cash bar available. For more, visit <http://www.classactthemovie.com>

Second Saturday Art Walks. Saturday, Jan. 9, 6-9 p.m. The Workhouse Studio Artists will keep their doors open after hours. The Association of Interior Design Professionals (AIDP) will host a reception in conjunction with the Art Walks in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. to bring together artists, interior design professionals and the public to highlight the creative incorporation of original art into interior design settings. All are invited to talk art and design with these creative design professionals. Don't forget to pick up your Workhouse Passport to chronicle your adventures and experiences and to enter to win special prizes.

Stars on Sunday: Le Hotclub de Biglick. Sunday, Jan. 10, 5:30 p.m. In the 1930s, a style of music known as gypsy jazz was made famous by the legendary Django Reinhardt. Today, this music is kept alive by a group known as Le Hotclub de Biglick. Cash bar and light fare available. For more information, visit www.lehotclub.com. Tickets \$15-\$25 and can be purchased at www.workhousearts.org.

Ongoing Exhibit — Best of the Collector's Showcase runs through Dec. 24. The exhibition presents pieces of art from the top 13 artists chosen at the Third Annual Collector's Showcase. These diverse pieces of artwork are suitable for both the novice and the experienced collector. The exhibition will be shown on the second floor of



'El Vino Blanco de la Casa,' watercolor by Catherine Hillis

Gallery W-16.

New Works: Faculty, Student, Staff Exhibition. All Workhouse Arts Center 2009 instructors and their students have been invited along with LAF staff to exhibit New Works in Gallery W-16 from Jan. 6-30. An artist's reception is Sunday, Jan. 17, from 2-4 p.m.

New Exhibition: "Winter Solstice." Jan. 6-31. Come in from the cold and celebrate the return of longer days with new works by the Building 5 artists, who are welcoming new artists Allen Levy and Songmi Park. The artists work in a variety of mediums to include encaustic, woodcut, chinese brush, colored pencil, scratchboard, collage, mixed media, porcelain, glass, oil, acrylic and watercolor. Opening reception is Jan. 9, 6-9 p.m., during the



'Oaks VI,' woodcut by Norma Pfaff

Second Saturday Art Walks at the Workhouse. Gallery and Studio Hours: Wednesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, 12-5 p.m.

Northern Virginia Bead Society Designer Challenge Exhibition. Jan. 9-31. With help of the Northern Virginia Bead Society (NVBS), the Workhouse will offer a series of events. The NVBS has encouraged members of the community to appreciate and participate in the visual arts through beads since 1992. On Jan. 10, a day of bead demos will be featured in Building W-7 from 12-4 p.m. A "Bead Boot Camp" is offered Sunday, Jan. 24 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., where a variety of demos and mini-workshops will be taking place. A small fee may apply for workshop kits. The opening reception is Saturday, Jan. 9, from 7-9 p.m., in building W-16.

AT THE WORKHOUSE

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/DEC. 17

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.

FRIDAY/DEC. 18

Natalie MacMaster: Christmas in Cape Breton. 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Celtic melodies and classic Christmas carols. Tickets are \$23-\$46. Youth through grade 12, half price when accompanied by an adult. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

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

Naturalist Boot Camp. Send Children ages 6 to 10 to a naturalist boot camp on at Hidden Pond Nature Center. Help them burn off that holiday excitement and focus on the adventure of learning about natural world from 6:30-10:30 p.m. They will hike, go critter watching, meet, feed and hold live animals. They will make a craft with natural items. The boot camp will conclude around a campfire with snacks, holiday songs, and ghost stories. The cost is \$30 per child per day. Reservations are required. To reserve a child's spot, call 703-451-9588. Hidden Pond Nature Center is located at 8511 Greeley Blvd. in Springfield.

SATURDAY/DEC. 19

Gallery After Hours: Point Blank. 7:30 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Cover songs and dancing with Point Blank. Advance tickets \$10 member, \$8 non-member. www.workhousearts.org

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

703-584-2900.

PAWS To Read. 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Read to Chance the therapy dog for a 10-minute session. Call to register. Arrive early to check in. 703-339-7385.

Santa at Lake Accotink. Santa wants to take pictures with visitors' pets from 1-2 p.m. Take a photo of a dog, cat or other pet with Santa. Bring own camera and get the shot you want. The registration fee is \$5 per pet. Santa offers hayrides from 3-8 p.m. Call early to get your preferred hayride time. The fee is \$8 per person and babies on laps are free. Registrations must be made in advance. Call 703-569-0285 to make a reservation or for more information. Visa and MasterCard are accepted. For more information about Lake Accotink Park, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/>.

Naturalist Boot Camp. Send Children ages 6 to 10 to a naturalist boot camp on at Hidden Pond Nature Center. Help them burn off that holiday excitement and focus on the adventure of learning about natural world from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. They will hike, go critter watching, meet, feed and hold live animals. They will make a craft with natural items. The boot camp will conclude around a campfire with snacks, holiday songs, and ghost stories. The cost is \$30 per child per day. Reservations are required. To reserve a child's spot, call 703-451-9588. Hidden Pond Nature Center is located at 8511 Greeley Blvd. in Springfield.

Cocoa and Crafts at Lake Accotink Park. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. For children ages

6-10. \$23 per child. Crafts, hot chocolate and a movie. Reserve at 703-569-0285.

SUNDAY/DEC. 20

A Festival of Music. 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hoes Road, Springfield. Combined choirs, band and orchestra. Reception between the performances. 703-451-8221 or www.sumcdisciples.org.

Naturalist Boot Camp. Send Children ages 6 to 10 to a naturalist boot camp on at Hidden Pond Nature Center. Help them burn off that holiday excitement and focus on the adventure of learning about natural world from 1-5 p.m. They will hike, go critter watching, meet, feed and hold live animals. They will make a craft with natural items. The boot camp will conclude around a campfire with snacks, holiday songs, and ghost stories. The cost is \$30 per child per day. Reservations are required. To reserve a child's spot, call 703-451-9588. Hidden Pond Nature Center is located at 8511 Greeley Blvd. in Springfield.

MONDAY/DEC. 21

LifeLine Screening. 9 a.m. at American Legion Post #162, 8210 Legion Drive, Lorton. Five screenings available, for cardiovascular conditions, osteoporosis and more. Packages start at \$139. 1-877-237-1287 or www.lifelinescreening.com.

Read to the Dog. 3:30-4:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Call or sign up online for a 15-minute session. Age 6-12. To learn more about this program, call 703-971-0010.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 23

Practice Your English. 6:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

Travel Club. 1 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield. Bring lunch for a lively discussion. Adults. 703-451-8055.

THURSDAY/DEC. 24

Living Nativity and Holy Eucharist Service. 5 p.m. at St. Peter's in the Woods, 5911 Fairview Woods Drive, Fairfax Station. Childcare available. 703-503-9210.

TUESDAY/DEC. 29

Harlem Globetrotters. 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center. Tickets are \$22-\$26.50, available through all Ticketmaster outlets including the venue box offices, online at www.ticketmaster.com and via Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. www.patriotcenter.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 30

Practice Your English. 6:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

THURSDAY/DEC. 31

New Year's Eve Capital Hospice Benefit. 8:30 p.m. at The Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Food, open bar, live entertainment and a silent auction. \$110 per person. Reserve at 703-531-6209 or www.capitalhospice.org.



Air Force Airman Karl G. Bockting graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Rhonda Bockting of Lois Drive, Springfield. Bockting is a 2009 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School, Springfield.



Air Force Airman Stefan R. Raguindin graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Raymond Raguindin of Jurel Court, Waldorf, Md., and Margaret Reed of Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Raguindin is a 2004 graduate of Westlake High School, Waldorf.

MILITARY NOTES

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

caps would have to be placed on the salaries of doctors and nurses, leading to even bigger shortages and causing the best and the brightest, who are the lynchpin of our top-notch care, to seek other careers. Under rationing, it will take months or years to get expensive tests such as MRIs. People will die in droves as their cancer or other illnesses kill them while they wait for tests or treatment. Isn't it better to go bankrupt paying for health care that is available than to die waiting for rationed care?

5. The stage is already being set for rationing with the recent government panel recommendations for obtaining mammograms and PAP smears. Breast cancer is a big killer of women at ages younger than 50, and cervical cancer can hit at any time. Who in her right mind would begin mammograms at age 50 or have a PAP smear every other year, unless she was forced to due to the rationing of medical care?

6. With the current health care bills, the elderly and disabled in particular will be left behind. It is appalling that both bills

will raid Medicare as partial payment for health care reform. The elderly and disabled paid into Medicare during their entire working lives, and now a significant portion of that money will be diverted to a system that in itself will be detrimental to the elderly due to rationing. Under rationing, the elderly will be considered "too old" for expensive tests that in limited supply will be reserved for the young. Even if they have the money to pay for the tests themselves, it will do no good because it will be illegal for them to pay out of their own pockets.

In my opinion, health care reform should

be limited to changing the regulation of the health insurance industry to make the system more fair and to keep costs down. I urge everyone to ask his or her congressmen to vote against any bill that includes a public option or to ensure that the public option is not forced upon anyone. One can read the current health care bills and find contact information for senators and representatives on the Thomas Web site: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.html>.

Kristina E. Paquette
Springfield

Happy Holidays & Warm Wishes from Burke & Herbert Bank!



Congratulations to Mark A. Seamon, age 10, of Herndon, VA, winner of our Kids' Holiday Art Contest! Mark wins a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

Thank you to all the young artists who submitted over 150 wonderful and fun holiday drawings. Many of them are on display at our Main Office at 100 S. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Special thanks to The Art League for judging the entries!

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Tax for War

To the Editor:

I understand there is a proposal being floated in the United States Congress to enact a surtax to pay for the war in Afghanistan. It is my opinion and belief that such a tax is a good idea. Our nation would then stop putting the cost of the war on its credit card, primarily with China and Japan. We should stop the irresponsible practice of putting a huge financial burden on our children and grandchildren.

The only ones now being asked to sacrifice are the men and women of our armed services who are being deployed multiple times into harms way and their loved ones back in the United States. Most of the citizens of our country are not being asked to sacrifice at all — they hardly know a war is going on. If the wars we are fighting are important to the security of our country, then all of us should help carry the burden in some fashion. Since we do not have a draft, then surely all citizens should be willing to pay surtax as their share of the burden of fighting these wars. And, why not apply the same concept to the Iraq War?

Many elected officials publicly proclaim they are against any kind of new tax. If these same officials also claim they support our troops, then let them step up to be counted and vote for or against the surtax to pay for the Afghanistan war. To use an old cliché, "Put their money where their mouth is."

Alonza L. Caldwell
Springfield

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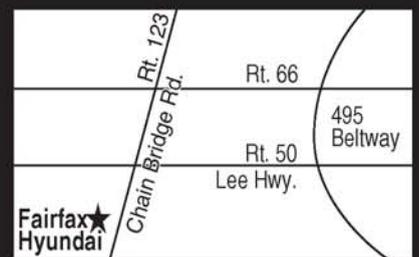
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Exhausted Bruins Fall in State Finals

Lake Braddock loses 35-21 in first finals appearance in school history.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock head coach Jim Poythress knew his team wanted to fight. As he looked into his players' eyes at halftime of the Virginia Division 6 AAA state finals on Dec. 12, he saw a team still spent from a week of short rest.

"One thing I've been able to do all year is look in my guys' eyes and know where we were," he said. "I felt like...they were drained at the half. They were trying to do everything they could to come back and win the game, but they were just drained."

The Bruins had only four days to prepare for the school's first appearance in a state finals at The University of Virginia's Scott Stadium in Charlottesville. Lake Braddock's state semi-final game was originally scheduled for Dec. 5, but due to weather and field conditions, the game with Battlefield was postponed to Dec. 7.

The Thomas Dale Knights from Chester, who played their state semi-final game on Dec. 5 against Oscar Smith, had a full week to prepare for Lake Braddock's high-flying offense.

Poythress said the short week of preparation may have played a role in the Bruins' slow start in the state finals.

Thomas Dale got an early jump on the Bruins with two touchdown drives in the first half and never looked back, defeating the Bruins 35-21.

"I didn't feel like going into the game we would give up the rushing yards we did," Poythress said of Thomas Dale's 249 rushing yards.

THE SECOND HALF didn't start any better for the Bruins as the Knights put together another touchdown drive and intercepted



Thomas Stickford hauls down a Thomas Dale receiver short of the goal line.

a Michael Nebrich pass for a touchdown.

"I knew that we had to score offensively," Nebrich said. "I forced the interception a little bit."

Nebrich was picked off three times in the game, ending a strong stretch of passing where the junior had been intercepted just five times in the past nine games.

Despite the turnovers, the junior quarterback was able to put together three touchdown drives in the game, but the spread offense that had dazzled Northern Region opponents looked anemic against Thomas Dale's 3-4 defense.

"We tried to do everything we could," Poythress said. "We changed our blocking scheme, our slants, nothing got us going. It just wasn't our night."

Further adding to the frustration was a

controversial missed fumble call. During a 73-yard touchdown drive, Bruins' defender Nate Fleming forced a fumble that would have stopped a Thomas Dale scoring drive.

Instead of giving possession to the Bruins, referees called the Thomas Dale runner down and placed the ball at the 1-yard line.

A video replay of the play brought out boos from the Lake Braddock fans, but Poythress said the fumble wasn't the reason for the loss.

"We could've had the break and maybe it would have made a difference," Poythress said. "Maybe we would have gotten some momentum and maybe things would have changed, but let's not forget they drove it right down there."

The game ends a season that saw the Bru-

"We tried to do everything we could."

— Jim Poythress

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

ins transform into state title contenders thanks to an infusion of life into the offensive, courtesy of assistant head coach Bill Renner's spread offense.

THE BRUINS also were able to avenge their two losses to Woodson and Robinson during the regular season in the regional playoffs.

"I'm very proud of our kids," Poythress said. "We had a heck of a run, but it seemed like we ran out of steam."

For Nebrich, the disappointing loss will serve as a motivator for his upcoming senior season.

"I'm going to take what I did this year and implant it into next year's team," Nebrich said. "We're going to be back next year, I promise you that."

WEEK IN SPORTS

Milestone Win For Spartans

Westfield had all but finished the West Springfield boys' basketball team in their match on Dec. 8

With a 15-point lead, it looked as if the Spartans would fall to 0-3 on the season.

But a late fourth-quarter surge and a game-winning free throw from Lawrence Rouse helped the Spartan boys upset the Bulldogs 43-42.

"[Rouse] closed it out for us," West

Springfield head coach Dick Wickline said. "We really played hard until the end to get the victory and Westfield made some key mistakes."

The win wasn't just a confidence booster for the Spartans, but it was also a milestone for the program. The West Springfield boys' basketball team now has 500 wins in its history.

"The team didn't even know we were approaching it," Wickline said. "I knew because I like to keep stats on that sort of stuff."

The good vibes from beating a Concorde District opponent and reaching a milestone

didn't help the boys' when they faced fellow Patriot District powerhouse T.C. Williams on Dec. 11.

T.C. Williams overpowered the Spartans en route to a 64-35 victory.

"We found out we have a lot to work on [against T.C. Williams]," Wickline said. "We played against your typical T.C. Williams team. Good size, great ball-handling. Just a good team."

But the loss to T.C. Williams wasn't all sour grapes and Wickline believes the team is improving.

"Our goal is to get better everyday, I think we can do it," he said. "This team works

very hard and they're coachable."

West Springfield plays Robinson on Dec. 15, Chantilly on Dec. 18 and South County on Dec. 22 before heading to the Pohanka Holiday Classic Tournament at Chantilly High School from Dec. 28 to Dec. 30.

Stewart, Michetti Shine for Lee

Lee varsity gymnasts Katie Stewart

SEE WEEK IN SPORTS, PAGE 15

SPORTS



COURTESY PHOTO

The Aggressive Penguins are, front row, from left, Bridgett Ross, Katie Harrison, Allie Hudgins, Caroline Perez and Jolie Wood; and, back row, Shannon Campbell, Hannah Chester, Emily Friday, Nicole Judd, Sydney Mendes, Olivia Foster and Casey Yenyo.

FROM PAGE 14

and Leah Michetti were the high points of the Lancers' meet against Lake Braddock on Dec. 10.

Stewart placed third on the balance beam out of 38 participants and third on the vault out of a field of 40 gymnasts.

Michetti rounded out the Lancers' strong performances with a fifth place finish in the Women's All-Around competition.

WEEK IN SPORTS

Aggressive Penguins Capture Herndon Cup

On Nov. 22, the Springfield Youth Club U9 girls' soccer team known as the Aggressive Penguins won the Ninth Annual Herndon All-Star Cup.

The team rallied from a sixth-seeded position to claim the championship.

Lee Wrestles Way to Sixth

The Lee varsity wrestling team fought its way to sixth place in the Prince William County Invitational wrestling tournament on Dec. 12.

The tournament featured 16 local teams four Lancers finished the weekend with medals.

Heavyweight Cheven Okanoboh finished second in his division, while Steven Lucynksi (215-pound) and Konbeh Koroma (152-pound) also finished second in their divisions.

Alex Moore, a 112-pound wrestler, rounded out

the top finishers from Lee by earning fourth place.

Little League Registration

Registration for the 2010 Central Springfield Little League baseball season will take place Jan. 9 and 16 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Franconia Moose Family Center at 7701 Beulah St., near Island Creek Elementary.

Boys and girls ages 5-16 are eligible to play in the league. Parents must bring proof of age (e.g., birth certificate) and three proofs of residency. Visit www.csll.org for registration forms and required information.

Nebrich Nominated for Player of the Year

Lake Braddock quarterback Michael Nebrich was nominated as an Old Spice Player of the Year on Dec. 13.

Nebrich is among a select group of players who are eligible to be selected as the national player of the year and will be honored in a full-page feature in a national print publication.

He is also eligible to be named one of the top 50 players nationwide.

The junior helped lead the Bruins to their first state title appearance and a 13-3 record in the 2009 season. He also threw for over 3,000 yards and scored 22 passing touchdowns and 24 rushing touchdowns.

HEALTH NOTES

Haven of Northern Virginia, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, will be offering a free Widow/Widower's support group. Haven also offers one-on-one support. A volunteer will meet with a person grieving the death of a loved one, as needed, to provide individual support. Volunteers will be selected to

match individual need. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or e-mail havenofnova@verizon.net

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

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

Learning is either a continuing thing or it is nothing.
—Frank Tyger

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COMMUNITY Mall Loan

FROM PAGE 3

ters.
“They are still moving forward with acquiring permits from the county. Normally, when a project like this is in trouble, that type of activity will come to a stop,” said McKay.

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce said companies like Vornado engage in this type of “reorganization” on a regular basis and the public should not be concerned about the overall state of the project.

“This is a corporation who is making a known business maneuver. Restructuring is going on, but the sky is not falling and doomsday is not here. We do not want people to be concerned,” said Nancy-jo Manney, the chamber’s executive director.

McKay and Manney both added that Vornado seemed unlikely to walk away from a project in which the company was already so heavily involved.

“They are so invested in the Springfield Mall already,” said McKay.

BUT VORNADO is not the only one invested in the outcome of the Springfield Mall overhaul.

McKay, Manney and others hope that the redevelopment project would spur a revitalization of the larger commercial district in central Springfield, which has lagged behind other parts of the county when it comes to high-end retail options.

In addition to a lack of attractive shopping options, a string of high-profile crimes — notably the abduction of a middle-aged woman from the Springfield Mall parking lot in the middle of the day — has left some local residents uncomfortable with going to the area at all in recent years.

Local elected officials and members of the business community are hoping the refurbished mall site would bring citizens, and their pocket books, back to central Springfield shop. They also hope to attract new employers to the area.

Springfield could be particularly attractive to defense contractors, who will want to be in close proximity to the Pentagon and government offices that are being moved from Crystal City to the Fort Belvoir Army Base, said Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield).

“I think it is a good project and it is going to end up being a good project regardless [of the status of the loan],” said Herrity.

COLLEGE NOTES

Erin Yanovich of Springfield was honored at Virginia Tech’s spring commencement ceremony on May 15, in Lane Stadium. Yanovich received a Master of Arts in Education degree in curriculum and instruction from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Jessica Lok, a senior from Springfield, made the dean’s list at the University of Mary Washington.

Mark Compel, a senior from Springfield, made the dean’s list at the University of Mary Washington.

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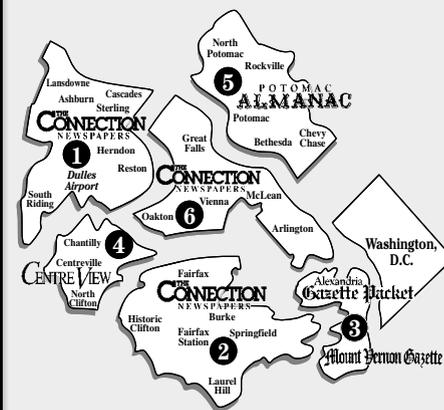
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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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Sports Field Day On Sept. 11, more than 20 volunteers from the Fairfax region of BB&T visited the Annandale campus of Phillips Programs for Children and Families. BB&T was host to a Sports Field Day for more than 55 students. Together, they took part in various activities including obstacle courses, relay races and basketball drills. BB&T donated \$3,000 worth of new sporting goods equipment and other items, which were used during the event.

FROM PAGE 4

At its Dec. 10 Annual Dinner, the Chamber recognized the efforts of two local individuals — Pfc. David Kroll of the Franconia District Police Station and Lee District Planning Commissioner Rodney Lusk of Kingstowne.

Kroll was honored for his efforts as a public servant to improve the quality of life for citizens of the Greater Springfield area.

Kroll is a member of the Special Enforcement Team (SET), which is responsible for attacking and solving problems in the Springfield, Lorton and Kingstowne areas. In 2009, Kroll has led the way in arrests with 48 local warrants served, 23 criminal arrests and more than 225 traffic arrests. In addition, he initiated cases that led to the apprehension of thieves and the location of large

quantities of drugs in area homes, resulting in federal prosecution.

Lusk received the Chamber's highest honor — the 2009 Herbert C. Hunter Citizen of the Year award, which recognized his volunteer work in the Greater Springfield area.

A planning commissioner since 2004, Lusk is active in many community organizations. From 2002-03, he was the at-large representative on the Fairfax County Park Authority. Currently, he is the co-chair of the Grubstake Breakfast Presenter Coaching Committee for the George Mason University Century Club. He is also vice-chairman of the Business Curriculum Advisory Committee for Northern Virginia Community College. Lusk's passion is seeing to the funding and completion of the Accessible Treehouse at Lee District Park.

NEWS BRIEFS

MILITARY NOTES

Tory K. Hoyt 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. He is the son of Nina A. Latteral of Solomon Seal Court, Springfield.

Thomas R. Harrison 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. He is the son of Robert L. and Kim J. Harrison of Greeley Blvd., Springfield.

John D. Steger 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 Thomas E. and Linda R. Steger of Spelman Drive, Springfield. The cadet

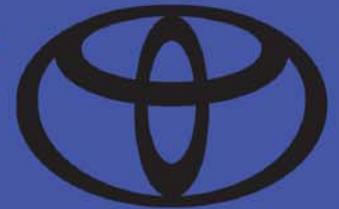
is a 2006 graduate of West Springfield High School.

Jason Nguyen 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 Kim Anh Nguyen, and nephew of Hai Nguyen, both of Olde Lantern Way, Springfield. Nguyen is a 2006 graduate of West Springfield High School.

Daniel J. Elbe 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 James S. Elbe and Diane B. Elbe of Quincy Hall Court, both of Springfield. Daniel Elbe is a 2006 graduate of Lee High School.

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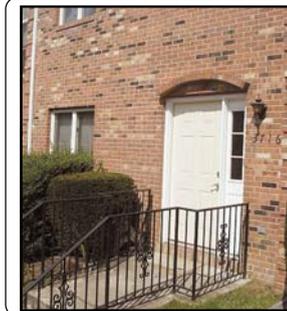


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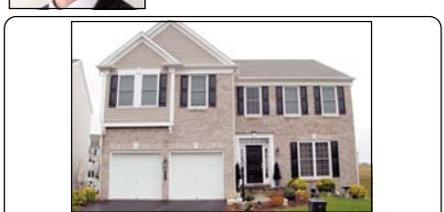
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