

Fairfax Station
CONNECT
Clifton ♦ Lorton ♦ Lorton ♦ Crosspointe

Long Shot

SPORTS, PAGE 10

Mike Rice shoots a three-point shot during the Rams' 65-60 victory over West Springfield on Dec. 15.

Man Dies In County Jail

NEWS, PAGE 2

Laurel Hill Recommendations

NEWS, PAGE 2

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CONTRIBUTED

Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Program Diagram

A diagram of the most recently revised Master Plan for the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse site.

Committee Recommends ...

Laurel Hill Project Advisory Committee unveils final Master Plan recommendations.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

The Laurel Hill Project Advisory Committee unveiled its final recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Site Wednesday, Dec. 16, ending more than two years of discussions and debate on what to do with the former reformatory and penitentiary.

The committee, comprised of Planning Commissioner Tim Sargeant (At-Large), Doug Wrenn and Bob Cosgriff, presented the recommendations at a meeting at the South County Secondary School Media Center. The committee recommended that the Board accept the Master Plan in place with several conditions regarding everything from the number of residential units on the site to suggestions about the hotly debated ball field.

“Our assignment from the Board of Supervisors was to make recommendations on the project and we have been working on it for a while,” Sargeant said. “Compromise is a challenging thing, but we’ve done it and we think that this is the best plan moving forward.”

The current Master Plan in place, devel-

oped by the Alexander Company, calls for a mixed-use approach that would preserve the historical core of the site. The plan calls for 41,400 square feet of neighborhood retail stores, including a small grocery store, pharmacy, bank, restaurants, a daycare and more.

In addition, the plan calls for 50,000

“Compromise is a challenging thing, but we’ve done it and we think that this is the best plan moving forward.”

— Tim Sargeant, Planning Commissioner, At Large

square feet of office space and a 20,000 square foot chapel. Within the site, 171 residential rental units, composed of 127 market-rate units and 44 affordable units, and 181 resident-owned and occupied units are also slated for construction. A “community green” will also be created that will be an open, green space for a variety of uses.

The committee, according to Sargeant, examined all of the logistical and financial aspects of the current Master Plan, and based on their findings, made 15 official recommendations. The committee’s first recommendation was to limit the number

of residential units to the total already established within the Master Plan, as the county has explored the idea of increasing the number of housing units, specifically low-income housing, in order to gain tax credit. In addition, the committee recommended that the use of those tax credits be limited to \$5 million. Neal McBride, a resident of Newington Forest, expressed concern with this issue, saying that the residential units were originally proposed as magnet housing for employees of the companies that will move into the site but have instead turned into “standard low-income housing.”

“We seem to be seeing a bait and switch with the Laurel Hill magnet housing,” McBride said. “Unfortunately, it’s been emasculated into standard low-income housing.”

The committee also recommended that the financial analysis of the site done by the Alexander Company be updated to reflect the changes in the economy that have taken place since the figures were estimated. In addition, Sargeant said that the county stated that it wanted to own the land that the residential units were built on, and that the ability to transfer the units to buyers through the simple sale should be created. Sargeant said that if the county owned the land, the value

SEE LAUREL HILL, PAGE 5

Man Dies In Jail

Suspect arrested for videotaping in Fair Oaks Mall dressing room.

A 44-year-old inmate at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center died two days after being arrested at Fair Oaks Mall. Police say Paul Antonio Calvan of 4873 A South 28th St. in Arlington, was found unconscious, Monday, Dec. 14, with a bed sheet wrapped around his neck.

Around midnight, a deputy made a routine check and found the inmate fine and nothing amiss. But about 12 minutes later, Calvan was discovered with one end of the sheet around his neck and the other end tied to a metal grate in the cell door.

Authorities entered the cell, untied the sheet and immediately began CPR. Calvan was taken to Inova Fairfax Hospital where he was pronounced dead at approximately 9:56 p.m. Police say no foul play is suspected, but crime-scene technicians and detectives are investigating the death.

He came to the jail after police arrested him last Saturday, Dec. 12. Police say a 20-year-old woman reported a man videotaping her while she was in the dressing room of a specialty store at Fair Oaks Mall on Friday, Dec. 11, shortly after 7 p.m.

She heard a noise, looked down and noticed a bag with a hole in it under the door of her dressing room. When she realized there was a camera in the bag, she opened the door and saw a man carrying that bag while running from the dressing room area. She notified store management who called police, and his description was given to officers assigned specifically to the mall.

Then on Dec. 12, around 5 p.m., mall officers were alerted to a man matching that description in the same store. Officers assigned to the plain-clothes, Retail Anti-theft Team responded. They located and arrested the man, who was still in possession of the video camera.

They identified him as Calvan and transported him to jail, where he was charged with two counts of unlawful filming, videotaping or photographing another person.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Volunteers Build Bridge to Freedom

New outreach organization to help victims of human trafficking gain independence.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Each year, countless women and young children are sold or deceived into slavery — sexual, domestic, any kind of servitude against their will in which a human being is treated as little more than property. Northern Virginia is no exception, and Cassandra Clifford is hoping to help those victims find a way to discover their self-worth and independence again through her Bridge to Freedom Foundation.

She began the organization a year ago after spending a few years volunteering with other organizations.

“Slavery is everywhere — it’s in Virginia, it’s in D.C. There’s no way to escape it,” said Clifford, a Fairfax resident who got her start in human trafficking activism after traveling through Eastern Europe shortly after the fall of the Soviet Union.

She quickly learned the warning signs of human trafficking: a person appears to have

restricted movement; shows signs of physical or sexual abuse; is under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts; shows fear or depression; is unwilling to speak on his or her own behalf and does not have a passport or any other form of identification.

Her organization began a year ago, but her work will not be alone or done in a vacuum.

Right now, Clifford and her volunteer staff have been collecting clothes and personal care items to help provide personal and professional development to women and men,

in the hopes of helping them boost their self-esteem and become independent, employed citizens.

But the Bridge to Freedom Foundation will not provide shelter for victims — that is where Courtney’s House comes in.

Courtney’s House, located in Washington, D.C., is slated to open a shelter for girls between the ages of 11 and 17 next year. In the meantime, founder Tina Frundt and her volunteers conduct outreach every Friday and Saturday night, from midnight until 5

“Slavery is everywhere — it’s in Virginia, it’s in D.C. There’s no way to escape it.”

— Cassandra Clifford, founder, Bridge to Freedom Foundation



Tina Frundt, left, and Cassandra Clifford, at the Walk Against Child Trafficking earlier this year.

How To Help

For more information on the Bridge to Freedom Foundation and how to donate clothing or personal care items, go to www.bridgetofreedomfoundation.org.

a.m., talking to young men and women who might be victims of the human sex trade.

This is work that Frundt takes seriously. She was a victim herself, taken into a prostitution ring when she was just 14, held

against her will by a man who beat her as an example to the four other young women in his prostitution ring.

Now, she wants to help others who are in that position.

Clifford was one of her volunteers before starting the Bridge to Freedom Foundation, and Frundt said she sees the two groups working together for a long time.

“There’s a need for an organization that

SEE BRIDGE, PAGE 4

Local Churches Prepare for Christmas Worshipers

Area churches host myriad Christmas Eve and Day services for all of the community.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Area churches of all denominations are opening their doors to the community this Christmas Eve and Day for a variety of services and events. Many adhere to the long-established traditions of the holiday, while others are offering fun and unique ways to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

In Burke, several Churches are hosting events that are open to the public. At Burke United Methodist Church, located at 200 Burke Centre Parkway, four services will take place on Christmas Eve. According to Jean Williams, the services are at 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., with the first two services geared toward children. Williams said that at the first two services, children are invited to be a part of the proceedings by dressing up in costumes and creating a live nativity scene. The remaining two services, she said, are traditional

candlelight services where communion is served.

“The first two [services] are more oriented to families with young children,” Williams said. “They’re pageant-type services, and the children will be able to be a part of them. They can come early and dress in costumes as angels or different animals

“We pull out all the stops and include all of our musicians for the last service.”

— Rev. Beth Braxton, Burke Presbyterian Church

from the manger scene.”

The members of Burke Presbyterian, located at 5690 Oak Leather Drive, are hosting three services on Christmas Eve, according to Pastor Rev. Beth Braxton. At 5 p.m., a family service will be celebrated with the children’s and youth choirs singing and a

tableau of the Christmas story done in poetry form. At 7:30 p.m., the “Service of Lessons and Carols” will take place, continuing a long-standing tradition at the church. Scripture will be read, interspersed with Christmas carols and the chancel and bell choirs will perform. At 11 p.m., the church will host a candlelight service with communion. Braxton said that she will deliver a Christmas message and all of the church’s choirs will perform.

“We pull out all the stops and include all of our musicians for the last service,” Braxton said. “It’s very beautiful.”

St. Peter’s in the Woods Episcopal Church, 5911 Fairview Woods Drive, Fairfax Station, like so many others, is celebrating Christmas Eve with a children’s service, this one at 5 p.m. Parish Administrator Kristy Kowalski said that the 5 p.m. service is essentially a traditional Christmas Eve ceremony complete with communion, but will also have a portion where the children will all take part in a living nativity scene.

“We do a version of this service every year, but we change the stories that we tell,”

Kowalski said. “This year, we are trying to include any child that comes through the door whether they are regular members [of the church] or not.”

In Lorton, Pohick Church, based at 9301 Richmond Highway, is kicking off Christmas Eve with a service for the whole family, followed by two adult services. At 6 p.m., a full service geared toward children with music will take place. Later, at 10:30 p.m., a carol service is scheduled at which attendees can sing Christmas carols. The carol service will lead directly into an 11 p.m. Holy Eucharist service. The next day, a Christmas service will be offered at 10 a.m.

“The children’s service is a full service where the sermon will be on their level of understanding, and it is at a child-friendly time, too,” Troknya said. “The Christmas Day service will be a very quiet communion service for the whole family.”

Springfield-area churches are also hosting many Christmas Eve and Day services. St. Raymond of Penafort Roman Catholic Church, located at 8750 Pohick Road, is hosting a bevy of services over the two days for both children and adults. On Christmas

SEE CHRISTMAS, PAGE 7



W.T. Woodson High School DECA students hold up signs outside of the White House.

Raising Awareness of Homelessness, Illness

On Thursday Dec. 10, students from W.T. Woodson's DECA chapter joined in front of the White House at Lafayette Park in recognition of homeless struggling with disease. The students looked to raise awareness for those without a home who have been affected by different illnesses during this season, especially H1N1.

Colds and seasonal flu's are difficult for the homeless population because they do not have the knowledge or supplies to protect themselves. Lori McLean, nurse practitioner of the Fairfax County Health Department and the Katherine K. Hanley Shelter, spoke on how the homeless are affected by disease.

Due to the harsh conditions for the homeless, these students have worked with Katherine K. Hanley Shelter, and Shelter House Inc. to help provide needed medical supplies, and to spread awareness throughout the nation to help the homeless during this time.

Anne-Marie Twohie Named Office for Children Director

Anne-Marie Twohie was recently appointed director of the Office for Children by Fairfax County Department of Family Services Director Nannette Bowler. Twohie succeeds Office for Children founding director Judith Rosen, who retired in 2008. An employee of the Office for Children since 1999, Twohie was appointed acting director in 2008. She headed up the office's Child Care Assistance and Referral Program, which aids Fairfax County families find and pay for child care.

Twohie serves on the board of Fairfax Futures; co-chairs the Early Care and Education Goal Group for Virginia's Plan for Smart Beginnings. She is a past member of the Virginia Professional Development Steering Committee and of Gov. Tim Kaine's Start Strong Council Task Force on Professional Development. From 1993-2008, she was a board member/committee chair for the Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children.

Warm Up at Workhouse

The artists of Building 10 at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center are celebrating the chilly nights of January at a free reception on Saturday, Jan. 9, 6-9 p.m. Warm up with food and drinks at the reception and join the artists as they discuss the exhibit and demonstrate their mediums.

The artwork in Building Ten ranges from sculpture to glass mosaics, oils, acrylics, watercolors, and fabric creations.

The Workhouse Arts Center is located at 9601 Ox Road in Lorton and is open Wednesday-Saturday, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday, from 12-5 p.m.

Bridge to Freedom

FROM PAGE 3

focuses on collecting clothing, because when people come to us, they have nothing," Frundt said. "Right now, Cassandra's working on a big clothing drive for Christmas and our clients would be among the ones benefiting from that."

Another group that will work with Clifford is the Virginia chapter of Stop Modern Slavery, which was started just a few months ago by Jessica Johnson, who lives only a few blocks away from Clifford.

Johnson got her start in advocating for an end to human trafficking in a somewhat serendipitous way. She was between jobs but always had an interest in this kind of work. She decided it was time to get up and do something, and it just so happened there was a high profile meeting the next day, at which Ambassador Mark Lagon and Polaris Project director Brad Myles were speaking on the very subject. She attended the conference and was struck with a new dedication to this kind of activism.

So often, people assume women and children are sold into the sex trade overseas, or are brought to the U.S. for that purpose. But, both Clifford and Johnson said, this kind of slavery is happening frequently right here, and in different forms: massage parlors, domestic service, a form of indentured servitude in which a person is brought into the U.S. legally but is told that if he or she tries to leave the family for which they work, they will be deported.

PEOPLE IN these situations feel they have no choice but to remain in their existing situation and have little hope of breaking free, and many people don't even realize this kind of slavery still exists.

This is where Stop Modern Slavery comes in, Johnson said. Her group is geared more toward raising awareness, lobbying Congress and working to get legislation passed that would have human trafficking and modern slavery be the subject of its own laws and punishments. Currently, no law exists in Virginia that outright prohibits slavery or human trafficking, Johnson said, and if someone is brought up on charges related to those crimes, it is under abduction charges unless the FBI or other federal agency is called in.

Having a law specifically banning trafficking or

slavery would provide harsher penalties for offenders, Johnson said.

While her organization doesn't provide any direct services for victims, she thinks the Bridge to Freedom Foundation will do just that, and help those trying to gain their independence do so with confidence.

Clifford appreciates the assistance she's receiving, especially from her all-volunteer staff. They have spent many hours sorting and collecting clothing, currently stored in a number of locations until the organization has its own space, which should happen in 2010.

CLOTHING, MAKE-UP and other personal care needs aren't the only services the organization will provide, however. Clifford is looking for people who can provide in-kind donations of time and skills training. Ideally, that volunteer would help draft resumes and practice interviews, so when a person is ready to try and look for a job, they're prepared to do so with a wardrobe, professionally drafted resume and the belief that they deserve to be treated with respect.

One of Clifford's volunteers, Seda Nak, was first interested in the human trafficking trade following a visit to Cambodia. Nak, who started focusing on trafficking after college, is now an intern for the Bridge to Freedom Foundation.

When a person is a former victim, just having a new set of clothes is a huge step forward, Clifford said.

"It's unbelievable. When someone takes an interest in you and how you look and that you're a person, when you feel like an attractive person for the right reasons for the first time in your life. ... That's what we want to do, because that's such an important step," Clifford said.

Her group is quickly getting attention, with more than 700 "friends" and followers on Facebook.

She's learned that the group is already helping to build self-esteem in some victims.

One client was overheard saying she'd never been asked what she wanted to wear outside before, having always been dressed by her pimp.

"To have someone help create that sense of importance, or to help draft a resume so you can get a job and take care of yourself, that's awesome," Clifford said.

Garvey-Hodge Honored

Clifton resident Lynne Garvey-Hodge, center, was recently named to her high school's Wall of Achievement at Charles F. Brush High School, Lyndhurst, Ohio. The Wall of Achievement honors graduates of the school who have distinguished themselves in areas such as leadership, service to the community, creativity or humanitarianism. A 1971 graduate of Brush, Garvey-Hodge is shown here with recent inductees.



Laurel Hill Master Plan

FROM PAGE 2

of the property could be impaired and could discourage future buyers from coming to the site.

"We want [the Board] to consider your position as taxpayers and community residents," Sargeant said.

The rest of the bulk of the recommendations that the committee made dealt with keeping the budget gap in the project's financing as small as possible. According to the committee, the budget gap for the project is currently \$9 million-\$13 million, down from the original \$30 million that the Alexander Company estimated. Several methods exist to maintain the current deficit and even lower it, Sargeant said, and the Board should explore all of the available options.

The Alexander Company estimated that the site could be eligible for more than \$17 million in state and federal historic tax credits. However, Sargeant said that the Alexander Company was informed that an accurate estimate of historic tax credit eligibility could not be made until the project moves beyond the master planning process. So, the committee recommended that the Board of Supervisors engage in an ongoing dialogue with the National Park Service and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources regarding the tax credits and that elected officials regularly request tax credit updates from County staff.

"We want [the Board] to consider your position as taxpayers and community residents."

— Tim Sargeant, Planning Commissioner, At Large

"This is a way to help alleviate project costs," Sargeant said. "Alexander Company can garner \$17.2 million in federal and state historic tax credits, but the consultant firm said that we won't know how much until we go further."

Other recommendations covered traffic flow and the creation of a targeted workforce-housing program. The committee recom-

mended orienting as much traffic from the site as possible onto Lorton Road instead of Silverbrook Road, as Lorton Road is slated for improvements in the near future and would be better equipped to handle a heavy traffic flow. As for the workforce-housing program, the committee recommended that the creation of such a program would be beneficial not only to people relocating to the area, but also to current residents as it would reduce congestion as the area grows.

The final recommendation, regarding the ball field, was perhaps the only one that did not jell with the current Master Plan. Sargeant said that while the committee accepts the plans for the community green, it strongly recommends that a new ball field is established and identified before project construction begins.

"Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) won't support the plan until a new baseball field site is established and we agree with him," Sargeant said. "There has been a shortage of fields as the community has grown, and we cannot lose another one."

The committee concluded the meeting by conducting two separate votes that both passed unanimously — one to approve the recommendations and forward them to the Board of Supervisors, and one to dissolve the committee. The committee voted to dissolve itself, according to Sargeant, because the committee is not a signatory on the memorandum of agreement as other community groups.

"We've served our purpose and there are others that will be involved as the plan moves forward," Wrenn said.

While some minor discontent was expressed by those in attendance on some issues, namely the ball field and low-income housing, most of the audience agreed with the committee that the Master Plan is acceptable. Riley Jacobs, a member of the Lorton Arts Foundation and the former chairman of the Lorton Land Use Committee, said that concerns about the ball field, the need to update the financial analysis and transparency in the development process are valid, but that the plan appears to be solid, and that he looks forward to staying involved in the process until completion.

"A lot of hard work went into this and a lot of nights were spent to get to this point," Jacobs said. "I thought that the recommendations were balanced. This is a balanced approach, but there is a lot of work to be done still."

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OPINION

Happy Holidays

A time to reflect, a time to share.

For the observant of any faith, and even for the more secular among us, the close of the year brings ritual, magic, reflection and hope.

In events around the area, a sense of community has infused holiday parades, Christmas tree lightings, menorah lightings, choral performances, singing of carols, and other traditional events with warmth and joy.

In Great Falls, it was the 19th lighting of the Christmas tree, with holiday songs by the Langley Madrigals. In Reston, Santa arrived by boat across Lake Anne in a snow squall. In Alexandria, the Scottish Christmas Walk announced the beginning of the season despite the wet snow. In Clifton, the Christmas spirit was celebrated in a candlelight homes tour, among other events. In Fairfax, one congregation built a 7-foot-tall menorah out of Legos. And in every community, volunteers have come together to provide food, clothing and some holiday cheer for the needy.

2009 has been a challenging year for many families, businesses, schools, charitable organizations. As the year comes to an end, we can count our blessings. Here in the Washington suburbs most of us have been spared the intense difficulties of the economic downtown. We'll all likely to welcome 2010 with optimism

and relief.

Next week between Christmas and New Years, look for our annual Children's Connection, when we turn our entire paper over to the contributions of area students — artwork of many kinds, poetry and other writing. Our next regular edition will come out the week of Jan. 4, 2010.

From the all the staff here, we wish you a merry Christmas, a happy Hanukkah, joyful holidays and a wonderful beginning to the New Year.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Give Locally

Remember that more local families are in need right now than ever before; thankfully, most of us are in a position to help. It's not too late to brighten the holidays for a needy family as many organizations are reporting record demand for holiday meals and help with providing children at least one present. The need will continue into the New Year as well.

Where To Donate

- ♦ Food for Others
2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, 22031

703-207-9173.

- ♦ United Community Ministries, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306. UCM's Food Pantry is open weekdays 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., and 11 a.m.-2 p.m. the first Sunday of each month (except January, July and September, open on second Sunday). Enter through gates on right side of building, drive around to opposite side of building and ring bell at green door.
- ♦ Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160, www.echo-inc.org. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield weekdays from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7 - 9 p.m.
- ♦ Lorton Community Action Center, 9518 Richmond Highway, www.lortonaction.org. lcacvolunteer@msn.com, 703 339-5161,
- ♦ FACETS, 703-352-5090.
- ♦ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia. 703-541-3063, www.capitalareafoodbank.org. Food donations accepted Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fully equipped with refrigeration and freezers, so can accept non-perishable food items, plus produce, any kind of meat or dairy products and frozen food.
- ♦ Good Shepherd in the Route 1 area, 703-768-9404
- ♦ Our Daily Bread, Central Fairfax, 703-273-8829
- ♦ Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, 703-988-9656
- ♦ Lorton Community Action Center, 703-339-5161
- ♦ Koinonia Foundation, 703-971-1991
- ♦ Northern Virginia Family Service, Oakton, 703-385-3267
- ♦ Our Daily Bread, 10777 Main St. #320, Fairfax, 703-273-8829
- ♦ Shelter House, www.shelterhouse.org, operates two homeless shelters in Fairfax County, in Centreville and Seven Corners. 571-522-6800
- ♦ Fairfax City Area FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-222-0880.

Steve Hunt for State Senator

To The Editor:

As a former candidate in the 37th District, I wholeheartedly endorse Steve Hunt for State Senate. He is someone who has selflessly served our nation as naval flight officer and our community as an advocate in many realms. He served as a member of the Fairfax County School Board from 2004-07, managing budgets and fighting for the interests of our citizens. On School Board, he supported an open and transparent process. As a state senator, he will continue to support more accessible government and keep an

“open door” to all constituents.

Steve Hunt will be a strong ally of Gov.-Elect Bob McDonnell (R), fighting to keep taxes low, ensure our fair share of transportation dollars and maintaining our quality schools. Steve has managed squadrons, school systems (and their budgets) and has the proven leadership experience to tackle the Senate in Richmond.

As a small business owner, a mother, a wife, and a Fairfax County resident for nearly two decades, I know Steve will do the right thing for us in Richmond. Please vote for my friend Steve Hunt in this special election on Jan. 12.

Marianne Horinko
Chantilly

LETTERS

Peacekeepers

'Tis for our Freedom Christ hath set us free;
Prince of Peace: born to die upon a tree
Sacrificing self for all — even for me!
Brothers-in-arms — Peace-keepers all — full cups do toss;
And, hearing Freedom's call, take up their cross
Knowing — in His will — suffereth they no loss.
This Christmas we would be loath to forget
Their sacrifices made, the blood they shed,

POETRY

For Evil doth abide here with us yet!
The duty still is ours: for us to pray
For those whom He hath chose to lead the way
That they might not be moved to lead astray.
[In the world ye shall have trouble, Jesus spoke,
But in Me ye may have Peace and rest — and Hope !]

Sonja N. Bohm
Springfield

Look for Creative Budget Solutions

To the Editor:

With a median income of 126,910, Fairfax County is in a strong position to address the budget shortfall without cutting public schools, safety or health services. Times like these test the character of our community and our commitment to each other. I

urge the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to look creatively at our resources with an eye to developing solutions that build on and improve the integrity of our community. I urge my fellow citizens to get ready, roll up our sleeves and contribute.

Lucero Beebe-Giudice
Fairfax

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9416.

By e-mail: south@connectionnewspapers.com

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NEWS

Christmas

FROM PAGE 3

Eve, four services are slated for 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. According to Paul DeRosa, the first two masses are family-oriented, while the final two are Christmas vigil masses. The following day, traditional Christmas Day services are scheduled for 7 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 5 p.m.

"The masses at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. are for children," DeRosa said. "There will be a nativity play that the children will take part in."

Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, based at 8508 Hoes Road, according to Youth Pastor Barbara Ruffell, is conducting three services on Christmas Eve. At 5 p.m., a children's mass will take place which, Ruffell said, consists of a pageant with children in costume, followed by an 8 p.m. service that the church calls "Love Feast," where attendees will share cookies and spiced tea. The night concludes with an 11 p.m. traditional candlelight service.



Air Force Airman Sean P. Brandner has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base,

MILITARY NOTES

San Antonio, Texas. Brandner is the son of Sarah Brandner of Cavalier Woods Lane, Clifton, and a 2004 graduate of Centreville High School, Clifton.

COLLEGE NOTES

Diana Davis, of Clifton, is among the 107 Marymount University undergraduate students who have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders and are included in the 2009 edition of Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Davis is majoring in theology and in the Honors Program.

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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. 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.

SUNDAY/DEC. 27

Virginia Ballet Company: The Nutcracker. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at

NVCC Annandale Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike Annandale. Adults \$30; children, students and seniors \$20. Purchase online at www.virginiaballetcompany.org. 703-249-8227.

MONDAY/DEC. 28

Virginia Ballet Company: The Nutcracker. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at NVCC Annandale Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike Annandale. Adults \$30; children, students and seniors \$20. Purchase online at www.virginiaballetcompany.org. 703-249-8227.

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.

Virginia Ballet Company: The Nutcracker. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at NVCC Annandale Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike Annandale. Adults \$30; children, students and seniors \$20. www.virginiaballetcompany.org. 703-249-8227.

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.

Virginia Ballet Company: The Nutcracker. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at NVCC Annandale Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike Annandale. Adults \$30; children, students and seniors \$20. www.virginiaballetcompany.org. 703-249-8227.

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. All proceeds benefit nonprofit Capital Hospice. Reserve at 703-531-6209 or www.capitalhospice.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 2

Arts Education Night & Film Screening. 4-10 p.m. at the Warehouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Reception, 4-7 p.m., with information about classes and programs. Free. "Class Act" shown at 7 p.m. www.classactthemovie.com.

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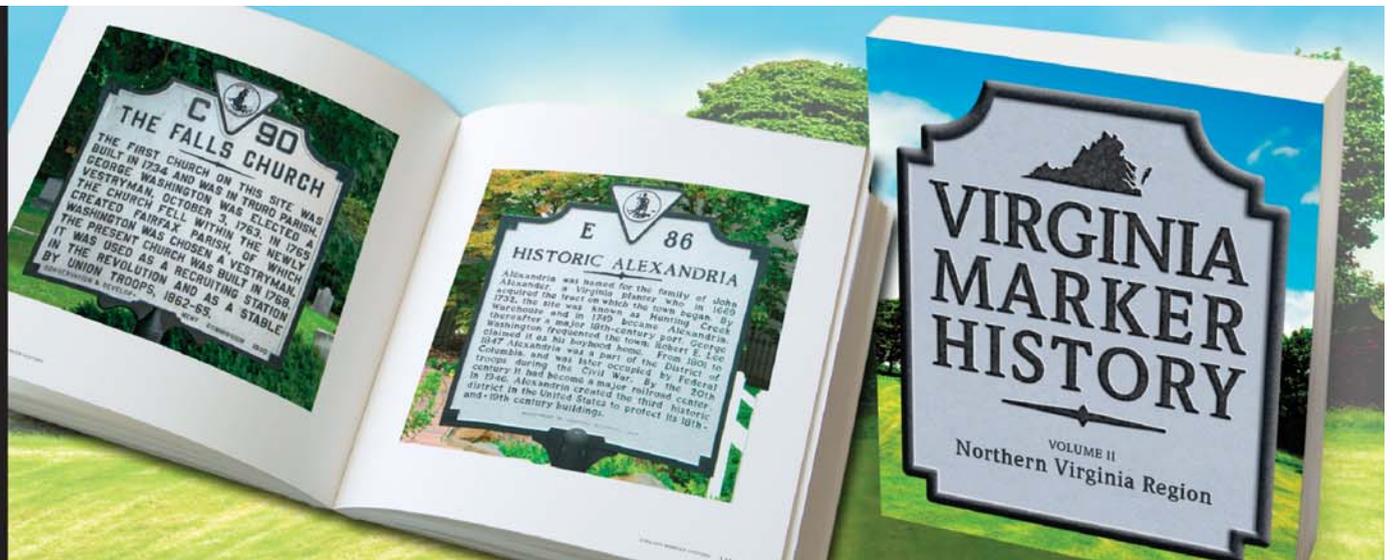
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Rams, Spartans Split Two

Robinson boys earn win, girls fall victim to West Springfield's press.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

The Robinson boys' basketball game with West Springfield on Dec. 15 was a bit too close for Robinson head coach Brian Nelson's liking.

After jetting out to a 36-21 lead at half-time, the Rams, who had dominated with their size and shooting, watched as the Spartans chipped away at the lead.

"In the first 10 to 12 minutes of the game, we showed what we are capable of," Nelson said. "But we got complacent and we showed our inexperience."

When the third quarter ended, West Springfield had cut the Rams' lead down to 11, turning what started as a blowout into closely contested game.

Robinson was able to hold on to the lead — leading by a point at one stage of the fourth quarter — and claim a road victory against the scrappy West Springfield squad.

The Rams' record improved to 2-3 with the 65-60 defeat of West Springfield (1-3).

Junior guard Mike Rice led the Rams with 18 points and Matt Zanelatto and C.J. Cleaves finished with 10 and 14 points respectively.

Rice's strong shooting from all around the court helped to keep the surging Spartans at bay during the fourth quarter.

His 18-point performance followed a season high 24-point game against Fairfax, earning a glowing endorsement from his coach.

"[Rice] is a natural scorer," Nelson said. "But he's not a traditional scorer. He scores on a lot of garbage baskets, he's a great guy on ball reversals and he gets to the foul line."

With 81 points on the season, Rice is becoming one of the Rams' top scoring threats and the junior is just warming up before Concorde District play ramps up next month.

"I'm playing well and the team's playing great," he said. "It's going to be great leading us to the playoffs and the district tournament."



Senior guard Diana Fontanez drives around a West Springfield defender, looking for a clear shot.

The Rams also showcased their physical style of defense that contained the Spartans for the first half.

When West Springfield entered the offensive zone, it wasn't long before two Rams surrounded the ball-carrier, trapped him and forced an awkward pass.

"We put five guys on the floor that bring a lot of intensity on defense," Nelson said. "When we [play as a team], we can defend a lot of teams."

With the Rams looking to even up their record at 3-3 on Dec. 18 against Lake Braddock, Nelson said the close call with West Springfield is just another block in building a winning team.

"We showed what we are capable of and what we look like when we don't compete."

— Brian Nelson

"This should make us hungry," he said. "We showed what we are capable of and what we look like when we don't compete."

Robinson forward Christie Michals might have a few bumps and bruises on her body after the Rams' (4-1) 55-24 loss to West Springfield (3-0) on Dec. 15.

The sophomore guard spent much of the game low in the paint, drawing hard fouls as she tried to convert lay-ups and short

WEEK IN SPORTS

Stallions To Play Holiday Tourney

The South County boys' and girls' basketball teams will face off against some of the area's best high schools over the holidays at the Pohanka Chantilly Basketball Classic on Dec. 28-30.

Tip-off starts on Dec. 28 at 10 a.m. and games will be played throughout the day. Specific game times can be found at www.chantillysports.org.

The tournament will be in the gymnasium at Chantilly High School. Tickets are \$5 for general admission.

The Stallions will face off against Chantilly, Annandale, Edison, Falls Church, George Mason, Hylton, Loudoun County, Mills Godwin, Mountain View, South County, Sewickley Academy, Thomas Jefferson and West Springfield.

Lady Stallions Roll

The South County girls' varsity basketball team improved their record to 3-1 with their 54-34 victory over West Potomac on Dec. 15.

Simone Antwi led the team in scoring with 14 points and 10 players contributed to the team's 54 points.

The Lady Stallions face Stonewall Jackson (3-1) on Dec. 17, followed by a pre-holiday break meeting with West Springfield (3-0) on Dec. 22.

Lake Braddock Breaks Slump

After three losing efforts, the talent of the Lake Braddock boys' basketball team is beginning to come out.

On Dec. 15, the Bruins defeated Westfield 50-43, improving the team's record to 1-3.

Garrett Trump led the Bruins in scoring with 15 points and Patch McLucas added another 14 to the team's total. Christian Collier rounded out the top performers with a 10-point effort in the game.

Lake Braddock's next game is on Dec. 18 against rival Robinson (2-4), followed by a match with West Potomac (2-2) on Dec. 22 before taking part in the Tournament of Champions.

Submit Youth Sports Items

To have youth sports items printed or posted on the Web, send the information in an e-mail to Sports Editor Reed S. Albers at ralbers@connectionnewspapers.com.

Photographs should be attached in an e-mail. Include both first and last names of each person in a photo.

Ram Standouts

- ❖ Mike Rice: 18 points, 7-for-10 from foul line.
- ❖ C.J. Cleaves: 14 points.
- ❖ Lauren Denham: 10 points.
- ❖ Christie Michals: 5 points, 5-for-8 from foul line, 4 rebounds, 2 steals.

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 14

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7316 CHARLESBOROUGH CT	3	3	1		LORTON		\$233,800	Townhouse	0.03		WORTHINGTON WOODS
8500 KOLUDER CT	2	2	1		LORTON		\$226,500	Townhouse	0.04		NEWINGTON HEIGHTS
8507 CHIPPEWA CT	2	2	0		LORTON		\$220,000	Townhouse	0.02		NEWINGTON HEIGHTS
8313 DUCK HAWK WAY #71	3	2	1		LORTON		\$215,000	Townhouse			GABLES AT GUNSTON
8230 CATBIRD CIR #101	2	2	0		LORTON		\$211,500	Garden 1-4 Floors			GUNSTON CORNER
8516 GOLDEN RIDGE CT	2	2	0		LORTON		\$205,000	Townhouse	0.04		NEWINGTON HEIGHTS
8228 CATBIRD CIR #101	2	2	0		LORTON		\$205,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			GUNSTON CORNER
7530 ASPENPARK RD	3	2	1		LORTON		\$200,000	Townhouse	0.03		POHICK VILLAGE
7301 WHERNSIDE CT	4	3	1		LORTON		\$190,000	Townhouse	0.05		WORTHINGTON WOODS
13569 RUDDY DUCK RD	3	3	0		CLIFTON		\$185,000	Townhouse	0.03		CENTREVILLE GREEN
5841 ORCHARD HILL LN#5841	2	2	0		CLIFTON		\$180,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			PONDS AT CENTREVILLE
8412 RED EAGLE CT	2	2	0		LORTON		\$170,000	Townhouse	0.02		NEWINGTON HEIGHTS
9646 HAGEL CIR #29/E	2	1	0		LORTON		\$80,000	Townhouse			TERRACE TOWNE HOMES OF G
9709 HAGEL CIR #42/C	2	1	0		LORTON		\$75,000	Patio Home			TERRACE TOWNE HOMES OF G
9558 HAGEL CIR #12/A	2	1	0		LORTON		\$71,000	Townhouse			TERRACE TOWNE HOMES OF G

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HEALTH NOTES

Health notes are for support groups, exercise classes, blood drives and similar events open to the public at no or minimal cost. 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.

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.

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Lucy Thorton and Neeka Ahmadiyar proudly wear their vests decorated with hand-sewn Native American symbols as they wait in line at the second grade pod feast.

Turkey Day for Clifton Students

Almost 500 meals were served as family members joined their children at Clifton Elementary's annual Thanksgiving luncheon. In addition to the holiday menu, colorful artwork covered the walls and diners were entertained by music performed by the Fifth and Sixth Grade Strings Group.

Third grader Braeden O'Quinn and his dad enjoy turkey.



PHOTO BY CHRIS WEBER

Red Ribbon Week

Clifton Elementary observed Red Ribbon Week Sept. 25-30 with a variety of activities to send the message 'Say No to Drugs.' Here, Margaret Batten's third grade class says 'Put a Cap on Drugs' with crazy hat day.



PHOTO BY CHRIS WEBER

On Jersey Day, Clifton Elementary fifth graders Andrew Chandler, Sara Goetzing and Aliya Zaman team up to say 'Stay in the Game — Be Drug Free.'

Jersey Day

Election Goodies

Appetites and temptations went hand-in-hand at the Clifton Elementary Student Council Association sponsored bake sale on Election Day. Melanie Lessard, school counselor, credited success to the great variety of donated baked goods and good voter turnout.



PHOTO BY MELANIE LESSARD

SCHOOL NOTES

The following Fairfax County Public Schools teachers earned national board certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) in 2009: **Danielle Powers (Frost Middle); Susan Clark Ashton (Gunston Elementary); Deborah Goldman (Halley Elementary); and Morgan Greenawalt (Sangster Elementary).** Also earning board certification was **Marietta Bradinova**, who formerly taught at South County Secondary.

Meilen B. Campana, a resident of Lorton, recently earned a bachelor of science in business from Excelsior College.

The American Youth Philharmonic Orchestra is seeking upright bass players at the elementary or middle school levels, and tuba players at the middle or high school level, to join the orchestra program. Contact Holly Hanneke at 703-642-8051, ext. 24 or hhanneke@aypo.org.

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Robinson head coach Brian Nelson talks strategy with the boys' basketball team during a fourth quarter timeout.

Hoops Doubleheader

FROM PAGE 10

jump shots to help her team chip away at the Spartans' large lead.

"It's the price you have to pay," she said. "You have to go up strong and expect contact. It's what you have to do to score."

While some players prefer to take clean shots from the outside or will shy away from body-contact, Michals said the Rams make it a point to learn how to draw fouls.

"During practice, we'll practice making contact and getting fouled," she said. "It helps us prepare for foul situations, so when they come up in the game we can use them."

Her play resulted in only five points against the Spartans, but her hard-nosed attack on the rim stood out among the Rams' top performers.

But Michals' five points and Lauren Denham's 10 simply weren't enough to overcome West Springfield's defense.

After two quarters, the Rams trailed the Spartans 21-16, one of the Patriot District's top teams, but a 22-2 third-quarter meltdown put the Rams in a hole they couldn't climb out of.

Robinson fell victim to West Springfield's aggressive full-court pressure defense, leading to numerous turnovers, breakaways and a fast paced tempo that was outside the Rams' comfort zone.

Head coach T.J. Dade said the game exposed some weaknesses in the team and showed the young players what they need to work on.

"We didn't handle their pressure well," he said. "It exposed our youth and we couldn't handle them in the second half."

One point of frustration for Dade was the team's inability to create an inside shooting game during the first half.



Megan Green takes off to shoot a lay-up during the Lady Rams' 55-24 loss to West Springfield.

"I don't know how many lay-ups we missed," he said. "We've got to get the ball inside and finish if we want to win."

Despite the lopsided loss, Dade said the game shed some light on how good the Rams can be this season. "I saw that for a half we could play with anybody," he said. "Hopefully, we learn from it."

Michals said she pinpointed ways her team could improve.

"We have to start playing all four quarters hard," she said. "We also need to think about our game, not what the other team is going to do."

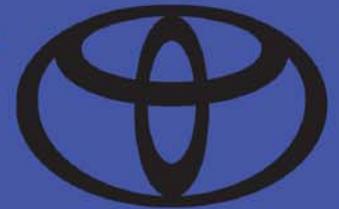
MILITARY NOTES

Marine Corps Pvt. Antonino M. Mautino Aguirre, son of Marco Mautino Tinoco of Burke, recently completed the Ma-

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