

# Springfield CONNECTION

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## Christmas Tradition

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TOT Preschool Director Shirley Edwards looks on while her students sing at the school's annual Christmas Program.

Collecting Bikes  
For Africa

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Man Dies in  
County Jail

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## Preschool Christmas Pageant

TOT Preschool students perform annual Christmas Program.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

Students of TOT Preschool have a more hands-on approach to their activities than many other preschoolers their age do, and this year's Christmas festivities were no exception.

TOT Preschool, based out of Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, hosted its annual Christmas Program Thursday, Dec. 18, singing a mix of original and traditional Christmas and religious songs. The program, which featured all of the students in homemade costumes, was only 15 minutes long but provided more than its fair share of smiles.

**"It was a lot of fun to sing for everybody."**

— Sydney McFadden

"With 3- and 4-year-olds, we tend not to do 30 to 40 minute shows, but they sing their hearts out and they understand the Christmas story, and that's what it is all about," said Shirley Edwards, TOT preschool director

Edwards led the program, reading verses from the Children's Bible about the birth of Jesus, while the students donned costumes and sang four different songs. Traditional songs such as "Jesus Loves Me" and "Jesus Christ is Born Today" were performed, as well as original compositions

penned by Edwards to the tunes of popular children's songs like "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star."

The costumes, which were composed of a hat and T-shirt, were partially made by the students, according to Edwards. She said that she purchased the hats at Michael's Craft Store over the summer and wrote the program based on the hats. Since the hats were animal-themed, Edwards wrote the program with the children starring as animals from the nativity scene. The T-shirts, which were painted in the colors of their respective animals, were made by the children during class.

"The play was a lot of fun," said Adam Coffey, 5. "My favorite thing was dressing up as a tiger."



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

The students of TOT Preschool perform in their annual Christmas Program.

While making and wearing the costumes was cited by many of the children as their favorite part of the program, the play appealed to the inner-thespian of many more. Several students said that singing in front of the crowd of parents and teachers was the most enjoyable aspect of the play, and those sentiments were validated by the mugging for camera and audience members during the show.

"It was a lot of fun to sing for everybody," said Sydney McFadden, 4. "I really like to sing."

## Small Deeds, Big Difference

Sixth-grader Dalton Roeber is collecting new and used bikes for charity.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

Most 11-year-old boys spend their free time playing video games, watching television or deciding whether to shoot hoops or toss the football. Dalton Roeber, on the other hand, is always looking to make a difference.

Roeber, a sixth-grader at West Springfield Elementary School, has started his own community service project as a school requirement. Instead of viewing it as just another homework assignment to complete, however, he is seeking to bring his project to the next level and is thinking globally

and acting locally.

"I wanted to do a good deed for people who don't have as much as we do," Roeber said. "There are people out there who are less fortunate than we are, and they need help."

Roeber's community service project, supporting the Bikes for Africa Initiative, had its roots in West Springfield Elementary's Community of Caring outreach program. According to School Counselor Jenny Barajas, the program, which has been in place for years, is a school-wide effort to get its students and their families involved in their communities. The program has many outreach efforts, which includes a

### How To Help

To donate a bicycle to Dalton's community service project, e-mail Deb Roeber at [flygirlsgems@gmail.com](mailto:flygirlsgems@gmail.com).

community service requirement of six hours for every sixth-grader.

So, this fall, as in years past, Roeber and the other sixth graders were tasked with creating their own community service project. Each student was told to think of a way to help other people, create a plan and then spend six hours carrying that plan out.

"We try to engage the community and the school [through the program] and we emphasize the character traits that make for a

SEE SIXTH-GRADER, PAGE 6

## 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 a 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](http://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



## Toys for Tots

**Long & Foster real estate agent Becky Berning and her assistant Katey Runge collected items for the**

**Marine Corps 2009 Toys For Tots campaign. Springfield residents from the Winter Forest and Somerset at South Run communities donated toys for the Marines to distribute. Additional contributions can be dropped off at the Long & Foster Realtors office at 7202 Old Keene Mill Road in the Springfield Plaza Shopping Center.**

## Police Charge Owners Of Injured Chihuahua

Animal Control Officers charged a Franconia couple with animal cruelty Thursday, Dec. 17 following a month-long investigation into the circumstances of the couple's severely injured Chihuahua.

According to Fairfax County Police, an investigation began after Crystal Stanislaus, 26, and her husband Jerry Stanislaus, 33, of the 6400 block of Franconia Road, surrendered the 1-year-old dog named Justice to the Alexandria Animal Shelter on Nov. 6. Following a routine medical exam, veterinarians found that the dog had suffered numerous injuries and broken bones, which were in various stages of healing.

Doctors determined that the dog was in severe pain and a decision was made to euthanize it. Fairfax County Animal Control Officers ordered a necropsy to be performed at the Virginia Department of Agricultural Services laboratory in Warrenton and continued with their follow-up investigation. They worked closely with several area veterinarians and the Alexandria Animal Welfare League throughout their investigation leading to the couple's arrest.

"The animal control officer ordered the necropsy to rule out other underlying medical issues or traumatic injuries, and the necropsy did that," Police Spokesman Lucy Caldwell said. "It's rare to order a necropsy. We thoroughly investigated the case before pressing charges."

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# 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.

## Man Shot During Burglary

### Police arrest two suspects.

A 56-year-old West Springfield man defending his home was shot by a burglar Wednesday, Dec. 16 in the 6100 block of Hillside Road.

According to Fairfax County Police, around 11 p.m., the victim encountered an armed man breaking into his residence. The victim and suspect exchanged gunfire and the victim was struck once in the chest. The suspect, Jonathan E. Anderson, 21, of the 8900 block of Arley Drive in Springfield, fled on foot but was intercepted by responding patrol officers.

On Friday, Dec. 18, police charged a second suspect, Anthony Box-Johnson, 21, of the



**Anthony Box-Johnson**

POLICE PHOTO

8800 block of Winding Hollow Way in Springfield, with burglary while armed. Detectives believe that Anderson and Box-Johnson are the only two suspects involved in this incident.

The victim was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital with serious but non life-threatening injuries. Anderson was charged with malicious wounding and burglary while armed.

— JUSTIN FANIZZI

# NEWS

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The couple turned themselves into police and were charged with a Class IV felony, which is punishable by 12 months to 5 years imprisonment and/or up to a \$2,500 fine.

Anyone with information on cases of animal cruelty is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

## Shoulder Tap Nets One Arrest

A "Shoulder Tap" operation carried out by members of the West Springfield Police District and a member of the Traffic Safety Services unit in the Burke and Springfield areas Tuesday, Dec. 17 resulted in one arrest.

A "Shoulder Tap" is an undercover operation that is part of the ongoing Youth Alcohol/Business Compliance enforcement campaign. Fairfax County Police cadets dressed in plain clothes attempted to have adults purchase alcohol for them in parking lots of businesses that possess state ABC licenses to sell alcoholic beverages. The cadets were advised to approach adults in the parking lots and ask them to purchase alcohol for them. If asked by the adult if they were 21, the cadets were told to respond with their

true age. If the illegal purchase of alcohol took place, a plainclothes officer watching the transaction would intervene and appropriate charges would then be placed.

As part of the operation, 59 adults were approached, and one arrest was made for illegal purchase of alcohol at the 7-Eleven Store located at 8319 Old Keene Mill Road in Springfield.

## Twohie Heads Office For Children

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 and led the office's Child Care Assistance and Referral Program, which aids 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.

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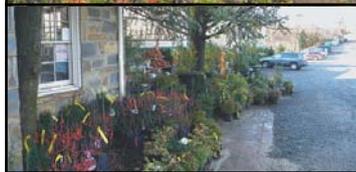
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Photo By Beach Productions

# New Set of 'Heroes' Take the Stage

'Heroes' is Springfield Community Theatre's next production.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

Putting together any play production, as Springfield Community Theatre member Donald Neal knows, is always a daunting task. Roles have to be assigned, a myriad of dialogue has to be memorized and sets needs to be constructed. When the play features only three actors and is all back-and-forth dialogue, the task becomes even more difficult. When there are only three weeks to put it all together, it can be nearly impossible.

Neal and fellow Springfield Community Theatre members Fred Lash and John T. Adams III are pulling off the impossible, however, with their latest production, "Heroes." The play, written by French playwright Gerald Sibleyras and translated into English by Tom Stoppard, tells the story of three World War I veterans living in an Old Soldier's Home in France who are planning an escape.

"It's wonderfully nostalgic," Neal said. "It takes place 40 years after World War I ended and that was our characters' war, and we are still proud of our service. Even in modern times, it is appealing. It will strike a chord with our audience."

Neal had his eye on the play for months after seeing a production of it at MetroStage



Lash, Adams and Neal rehearsing at the Nannie Lee Center in Alexandria.

in Alexandria. Neal loved the play and suggested to the Theatre Board that they produce it, but the rights to the play were not yet available. The board put it on the production schedule tentatively, Neal said, and as luck would have it, the rights were released about a month ago. Neal immediately applied for the rights and received them, becoming one of the first community theater groups in the country to have a copy of the script.

Within a day of receiving the script, Neal set out to cast the play and schedule rehearsals as soon as possible. He first contacted Lash to play the part of Philippe, a veteran dealing with an old head injury that

## 'Heroes'

'Heroes' will be performed Friday, Jan. 22 and 29 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 16, 23 and 30 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 17, 24 and 31 at 2 p.m., at the John Swayze Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students. Call 703-866-6238 or go to [www.sctonline.org](http://www.sctonline.org) to purchase tickets.

causes him to pass out at inopportune times, which Lash accepted. The next step was to cast Adams in the role of Gustave, the newcomer to the home whom Adams described

"[The play] will strike a chord with our audience."

— Don Neal

as a "cantankerous curmudgeon." With Neal and the others in place, rehearsals started only days later.

"I got a call from Don at 11 o'clock at night asking me if I wanted to be in a play that is opening in three weeks," Adams said. "When I saw the script, I loved the play and he couldn't have talked me out of it at that point if he wanted to."

The three actors have been rehearsing three nights a week at the Nannie J. Lee Recreational Center in Alexandria. Director Dan Stapula was brought in, in his own words, to "be an extra set of eyes" on the script.

The rehearsals are still filled with requests for lines, though the cast has an impressive amount of memorization completed considering they have only had three weeks to study the script. Each character has around 300 lines in the play, as the entire play revolves around the three characters that sit on their balcony for the duration of the show. Other characters are mentioned, but none appear on stage.

"It's very rare that you get a chance to do a play with three people in it," Lash said. "You get a lot of interaction. It calls for a lot of energy and concentration. It's one of the most challenging, yet fun, plays I've ever

SEE 'HEROES', PAGE 12

# Sixth-Grader Collects Bikes for Africa

FROM PAGE 2

responsible person," Barajas said. "Some of the students collect blankets for shelters, some do book drives."

Dalton's plan to support the Bikes for Africa Initiative arose from his love of riding bikes, he said. At first, Roeber said, he was not sure what he wanted to do for his project until his mother, Deb, discovered the charity program on her employer's Web site. His mother read him a description of the program, he said, and he immediately knew that this would be his project.

The Bikes for Africa Initiative, which was created by Former President Bill Clinton's Clinton Global Initiative, collects new or used bicycles from around the country and sends them to people in need. The recipients, according to Deb Roeber, are children

and adults in Africa who need bicycles to get to school or work and obese children in the U.S. who do have the means to purchase bicycles. The idea, Dalton said, is to help people in Africa deal with limited transportation options and for obese children to get healthier.

"There are people out there who are less fortunate than we are, and they need help."

— Dalton Roeber

"In Africa, they don't have enough transportation, so if we gave them bikes, it would be better for them because they wouldn't have to walk long distances to work or school," Dalton said. "If

they keep walking, there's no telling what they could step on or they can try to take shortcuts and get lost."

After deciding to get involved with the initiative, Dalton set out to spread the word about his efforts. He first called and e-mailed his family and family friends to see if they had any bicycles they were not us-



Dalton Roeber

ing. He then turned to his school. Dalton said that he, his brother Mason and two classmates designed a flier advertising the project and got the teachers in his school to put the fliers in their "Tuesday Folders,"

which are folders that teachers put homework, graded assignments and other communications in and send to parents. Then, the group put fliers on walls and windows throughout the school.

"We are also hoping that Santa will bring new bikes to some kids so that they will be able to recycle a bike," Deb Roeber said. "Nobody knows what to do with a bike when they are done with it, so we are hoping that we can use those to make a difference in the life of adults and children."

Dalton has collected 15-20 bicycles and said that he would like to collect 300 before the end of January. Though the total may seem optimistic, with the support of the West Springfield community and many generous friends, the goal appears to be attainable.

"Everyone here at the school is pretty excited about Dalton's project," Barajas said. "His commitment to such a big project is admirable. Some sixth graders do their six hours and are done with it, but his will obviously take more than that. It's very exciting."

# Churches Prep for 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 Hooes 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.

## MILITARY NOTES

**Air Force Airman Bassey A. Edim** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Afiong Edim of Chancellor Way, Springfield, and Emmanuel Edim of Kenmore Avenue, Alexandria. Edim is a 2007 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School in Fairfax.



Edim



Wojcik



Teresi

**Air Force Airman Eric S. Wojcik** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Richard Wojcik of Janphil Lane, Springfield. Wojcik is a 2006 graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School in Burke.

**Air Force Airman Matthew A. Teresi** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Jonji Zur of Hubbardton Way, Springfield, and Clara Aleman of Milwaukee, Wis. Teresi is a 2009 graduate of St. Thomas More High School, Bay View, Wis.

**Navy Reserve Seaman Apprentice Katherine J. Bon**, daughter of Margaret J. and Carl K. Bon of Franconia, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Katherine Bon is a 2004 graduate of Thomas A. Edison High School.

**Erica Gaughan** has received an Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) four-year college scholarship Mary Baldwin College, Staunton. She is the daughter of William L. and Ae Chae Gaughan of Mulberry Bottom Court, Springfield. Erica Gaughan is a 2008 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School.

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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. lca volunteer@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

### 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,  
 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

### POETRY

### 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: springfield@connectionnewspapers.com

## THE CONNECTION

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# CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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



**Artists' Showcase**  
**The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia showcases artwork by local artists Sarah D. Samuels and Janine Bland from Dec. 22-Feb. 16, in the Bodzin Art Gallery, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. For more information, call 703-323-0880; e-mail [IreneG@jccnv.org](mailto:IreneG@jccnv.org); or visit [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org). Gallery hours are Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Saturday, 12:30-6 p.m. At left is an example of Samuels' artwork.**

outlets including the venue box offices, online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) and via Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. [www.patriotcenter.com](http://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](http://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. Purchase online at [www.virginiaballetcompany.org](http://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](http://www.capitalhospice.org).

## Summer Recollections

The Artists' Undertaking Gallery in Historic Occoquan presents "Summer Recollections," an exhibit that features turned wood by Bob Horowitz of Falls Church and photography and digital paintings by David and Jane Ernst of Springfield. An artists' reception in Saturday, Jan. 9, from 1-4 p.m.. The exhibit runs Jan. 5-Feb. 1. The gallery is open daily, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and is located at 309 Mill St. in Historic Occoquan. For more information contact the gallery at 703-494-0584 or at [www.theartistsundertaking.com](http://www.theartistsundertaking.com).



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# Spartans Split Double-header with Rams

**April Robinson's 18 points put girls over Rams, boys fall short in comeback bid.**

BY REED S. ALBERS  
THE CONNECTION

Sometimes when a team has a bad practice, a poor effort follows in the next game. At West Springfield, a bad practice led the Lady Spartans to a 55-24 victory over Robinson Secondary.

"We didn't have a good practice yesterday," senior forward Mel Todd said. "So we came out hard to make up for that and scored 55 points."

While tanking in practice probably isn't the formula head coach Bill Gibson is looking for, his team's play showcased how dominating the Spartans can be this season.

In the third quarter, the Spartans used their aggressive full-court press defense to take advantage of Robinson.

The result was a one-sided third quarter where the Spartans scored 22 points and allowed only two points to the Rams.

"With certain lines, we can be a good pressure team," Gibson said. "Sometimes it plays into us and what we want."

A benefactor of the up-tempo style of defense was sophomore April Robinson who netted a team high 18 points and five steals.

"They were reading our eyes," she said. "So it made it easy to pass around them, steal and get points."

While the up-tempo style of defense may not be a nightly occurrence, the team's point



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**April Robinson dribbles the ball down the court, looking to pass to a teammate. April Robinson's 18 were a team high in the Spartans' 55-24 victory over the Rams.**

production has been a constant force.

West Springfield entered the Dec. 15 match-up with Robinson Secondary fresh off a 79-45 victory over Patriot District foe T.C. Williams on Dec. 16. Their season opener was a 61-50 victory against Westfield on Dec. 8.

"We've got a lot of great shooters who can work together," April Robinson said. "I know a lot of players can score so no one has to carry the team."

The girls aren't the only ones aware of the entire team's ability to score.

"We're versatile and we have a lot of kids we can go to," Gibson said. "It's a major plus for us right now."

West Springfield's roster is also filled with a healthy mix of experienced senior players and up and coming juniors and sophomores.

"We're pretty deep," Todd said. "We can relieve the starters and it doesn't matter who it is that comes in."

But Gibson said that se-

**Lawrence Rouse makes a flashy lay-up look easy against Robinson. Rouse finished the game with 27 points.**

niority doesn't necessarily mean playing time on the team.

"Whoever is playing well plays," he said. "We don't pick our line-up based on age, but that's the best part of this team. The seniors help the younger players and don't fight for time."

Gibson said that if the team wants to continue its strong play, it needs everyone to step up.

Todd is one player he's counting on.

"She's just turning a corner as a player," he said. "She's gotten better with finishing, she's very athletic and she's playing into herself now."

Todd finished the Robinson Secondary game with eight points and drained both of her free throw attempts.

Gibson said Todd showed some great things last year, "but she's finishing now and it adds a whole new dimension to her game."

With a game with Chantilly looming on Dec. 18 and Patriot District rival South County on Dec. 22, Gibson said he's still tinkering with his line-ups, trying to find the right fit for the team.

"Right now, we're figuring out the best line-ups for the best situations," he said. "It's our job to determine that and make adjustments offensively and defensively."

Perhaps the West Springfield boys took a hint from the girls team when they chose

to adopt a scrappy, full-court press defense in their match with Robinson Secondary.

After falling behind 36-21 at the half, the West Springfield team that was frustrated by Robinson's swarming defense almost completed a comeback.

"The coaches said we were only good when we were running around scrapping," junior guard Divya Goel said. "So we called more presses and we played harder."

The change from a half-court defense in the first

half to a full-court press in the second half paid off as the boys chipped away slowly at Robinson Secondary's lead.

"We came out slow and you can't expect to win if you're down by 25 points," Goel said. "We had to get it going in the second half [with our defense]."

Lawrence Rouse took over the game in the fourth quarter, ending his night with a team high 27 points; Goel followed with 16 points.

"I'm very proud of how we came back in the second half," head coach Dick Wickline said. "I just wish we had played like that all game."

West Springfield's record drops to 1-3 this season. The Spartans next game is against Chantilly on Dec. 18, followed a Dec. 22 meeting with Patriot District foe South County before the holidays.



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7702 WILBUR CT	5	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$640,000	Detached	0.27		LAKEWOOD HILLS
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8988 SCOTT ST	5	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$615,000	Detached	0.40		SOUTH RUN FOREST
9115 NORTHEdge DR	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$598,000	Detached	0.32		SOUTH RUN FOREST
7924 GREELEY BLVD	5	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$589,500	Detached	0.34		WEST SPRINGFIELD
8467 CATIA LN	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$575,000	Detached	0.18		THE FOREST@SOUTH RUN
6486 SUTCLIFFE DR	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$555,000	Townhouse	0.05		KINGSTOWNE
6722 CANEEL CT	5	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$548,500	Detached	0.37		WEST SPRINGFIELD
8546 BAUER CIR	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$535,000	Detached	0.12		BAUER
7709 MIDDLE VALLEY DR	5	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$535,000	Detached	0.22		MIDDLE VALLEY
8659 MORNING STAR CT	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$524,900	Detached	0.26		NEWINGTON FOREST
6746 ANDERS TER	3	3	1		NORTH SPRINGFIELD	\$500,000	Detached	0.21		SEQUOIA PARK
7707 MARTIN ALLEN CT	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$495,000	Townhouse	0.04		ISLAND CREEK
6702 PERCETHONY CT	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$490,000	Townhouse	0.04		ISLAND CREEK
7017 ASHLEIGH MANOR CT	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$480,000	Townhouse	0.04		KINGSTOWNE
6637 THURLTON DR	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$480,000	Townhouse	0.04		KINGSTOWNE
7507 ORIOLE AVE	4	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$470,000	Detached	1.42		SPRINGVALE
7122 HADLOW CT	5	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$465,000	Detached	0.20		ROLLING VALLEY
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7903 MARYSIA CT	4	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$435,000	Detached	0.21		SARATOGA
5608 HEREFORD CT	4	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$434,500	Detached	0.30		HAYFIELD FARM
7605 JERVIS ST	5	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$430,000	Detached	0.26		NORTH SPRINGFIELD
7651 LONG PINE DR	5	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$430,000	Detached	0.68		NORTH SPRINGFIELD
5610 HELMSDALE LN	5	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$425,000	Detached	0.25		HAYFIELD FARM
6109 CLOUD DR	5	5	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$420,000	Detached	0.26		YORK MANOR
5505 HINTON ST	4	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$420,000	Detached	0.27		NORTH SPRINGFIELD
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## COMMUNITY

# Rockettes Land in Fairfax

Famed dance troupe visits GMU Patriot Center for holiday show.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

The world-famous Rockettes travel the country each year to bring their larger-than-life “Radio City Christmas Show Spectacular” to the tens of thousands of fans that flock to see the storied leg kicks and ornate costumes.

This year, however, in an effort to reach out to a larger audience, the group has expanded its tour, embarking on

trips to Canada and many other U.S. cities. For the first time, George Mason University’s Patriot Center hosted the Rockettes Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 15 and 16.

“I’ve never been here [in the Fairfax area], and when you go to a place for the first time, it’s always an adventure,” said Rockette Lindsay

Howe. “I always love to see new cities and new cultures.”

The shows at the Patriot Center were unusual for the group, according to Rockette Melinda Farrell, a Herndon native, as it provided a larger venue than they are accustomed. Farrell said that at the Radio City Music Hall, the seating capacity is 6,000, while the Patriot Center can seat nearly 10,000. Fresh off of playing the biggest show of their careers in Philadelphia on Dec. 2 with 9,800 in attendance, Farrell and Howe both were ready to perform in front of a crowd that could potentially have a larger audience.

“We’ve had a lot of fun on the road so far,” Farrell said. “We had a great show in Philadelphia, which was the biggest we’ve ever done. It was an awesome feeling.”

While they love performing in front of such massive crowds, they said, the intricacy of the shows keeps their mind focused. The Rockettes wear a total of 1,300 costumes during the course of the 90-minute show, with each of the women changing wardrobes eight times. At one point in the show, Howe said, they have less than 80 seconds to change their costumes, which can weigh 30 to 60 pounds.

In addition, Howe said, the show is slightly different each year, forcing the dancers to learn new steps for each tour. Howe said that while the general numbers are the same, a few new dancers join the troupe every year. As a result, the lines need to be rearranged to keep them symmetrical based on height.



Rockettes Melinda Farrell and Lindsay Howe

“Depending on the line and the height of the girls, the choreography may be changed,” Howe said. “So every year, you come in and learn a new show.”

This year’s Christmas Spectacular features 13 different scenes, with each telling a different story about the holiday. Each scene has its own costumes and stage props, while the 25-foot by 65-foot LED screen behind the dancers plays a different video. They have already played 22 cities before coming to Fairfax, and with 12 performances in seven cities remaining, the tour is coming to a close.

After playing the Patriot Center, the Rockettes moved onto Baltimore and then back to Washington D.C. for a three-day slate at the Verizon Center Dec. 18-20. Though Farrell and Howe are both sad to see the tour ending, they know that less than a year from now, they will be back not only performing for thousands once again, but will be reunited with what has become a second family.

“We come together for the Christmas Spectacular every year, but we can do other things [while not touring] and live our lives,” Howe said. “But we know that we always end up coming back to our Radio City family.”



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Don Neal plays Henri.

## ‘Heroes’

FROM PAGE 6

done.”

In addition to its comedic nature, the play is significant to Neal and Lash, as the two were both veterans of the armed forces. Neal served in the Vietnam War as a member of the U.S. Army, and Lash served in Beirut and Vietnam as a U.S. Marine. The undercurrent of the play, Neal said, reflects the negative receptions that veterans returning home from every war since World War II have faced. Neal said that a main message of the play is that all veterans, no matter when or where they served, deserve respect and honor for their tremendous sacrifices.

“After World War II, the soldiers returning home were treated as heroes,” Neal said. “We haven’t treated them like that since then, from Vietnam all the way through today. They are not getting the respect they deserve.”

**THOUGH THE** play’s dates have been pushed back to the second week of January because of scheduling conflicts, Neal, Lash, Adams and Stapula are not taking the extra time for granted. The actors all have jobs, families or both, which makes memorizing all the dialogue in the month or so of preparation even harder. The cast will also lose rehearsal time due to the holiday season. Nonetheless, the actors will push through to provide a night of fun and laughs for their community.

“This is a real stretch for me in a lot of ways because it is such a challenge [to put together],” Adams said. “But I’m looking forward to working with these three guys. We will be joined at the hip for the next month and a half.”

## COLLEGE NOTES

**Tina Brehm**, a sophomore from Springfield, made the dean’s list at the University of Mary Washington.

**Zein Al-Atrache**, a sophomore from Springfield, made the dean’s list at the University of Mary Washington.

**Lindsay Cutler**, a junior, from Springfield, made the dean’s list at the University of Mary Washington.

**Brandi Rollins**, a senior, from Springfield, made the dean’s list at the University of Mary Washington.

**Ellen Beste**, a junior, from Springfield, made the dean’s list at the University of

Mary Washington.

**Allison Campo**, a junior, from Springfield, made the dean’s list at the University of Mary Washington.

**Bryant Matera**, a sophomore, from Springfield, made the dean’s list at the University of Mary Washington.

**Keara Hoonan**, a junior, from Springfield, made the dean’s list at the University of Mary Washington.

**Karin Christenson** of Springfield was named to the spring 2009 dean’s list for Olaf College.

**Kenneth J. Rubenstein**, son of Ellen and

Steve Rubenstein, has been named to the dean’s list for the spring 2009 semester at the Pennsylvania State University, University Park campus. He is a 2006 graduate of West Springfield High School.

Springfield residents **Rochelle Jenkinson**, **Taina Jausurawong**, **Kenneth Lee**, **Marianne Lindsay**, **Ariel Miller** and **Kaytlyn Schmitt** have joined the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. Virginia Tech’s marching band is celebrating their 35 anniversary this year. Under the direction of David McKee and Tony Marinello, the band will present music by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Chicago, the Four Seasons, and other artists during the 2009 season.

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**21 Announcements**

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**117 Adoption**

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**21 Announcements**

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**\$2,500 Donation** The Food Lion Charitable Foundation recently presented the Phillips Programs for Children and Families a \$2,500 gift to support its Food for Thought lunch program. A nonprofit, private organization, Phillips serves the needs of children and youth with emotional and behavioral disabilities and their families through education, family support services, community education and advocacy. Phillips operates two special education day schools located in Annandale and Laurel, Md. and two community-service programs, Phillips Family Partners and Phillips Teaching Homes. The lunch program offers a healthy and nutritious meal for students each school day.

WEEK IN SPORTS

**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.csl.org](http://www.csl.org) for registration forms and required information.

**Spartans, Eagles In Holiday Tourney**

The West Springfield and Edison boys' and girls' basketball teams will face off against some of the area's best high schools over the holiday break 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](http://www.chantillysports.org).

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

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

**Annual Tournament Of Champions**

Lake Braddock will be hosting its annual basketball tournament from Dec. 28-30 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

The Tournament of Champions will feature Lake Braddock, Osbourn, Edison, Colonial Forge, Cosby and Kima Public Charter School.

Games start at 2:15 p.m. on Dec. 28 and 29, with the championship game played Dec. 30, at 7:30 p.m.

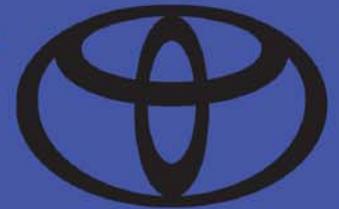
**Submit Youth Sports Items**

To have youth sports items printed or posted on the Web, send the information to Sports Editor Reed S. Albers at [ralbers@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:ralbers@connectionnewspapers.com).

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

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