

On the Ball

SPORTS, PAGE 10

Lake Braddock guard Patch McLucas dribbles past a defender in the Bruins' Jan. 14 game against South County.

Military Family Perseveres

NEWS, PAGE 3

Some Sports Teams at Risk?

SPORTS, PAGE 10

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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION SPORTS, PAGE 10 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 14 ♦ HOME SALES, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

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Fashion for a Cause

Robinson DECA hosts fashion show in support of victims of domestic violence.

To spread awareness of the victims of domestic violence, the Robinson Secondary School DECA chapter put on its annual fashion show on Wednesday, Jan. 13. With the theme "Game Time is Anytime," the show included students modeling clothes showcasing eight scenes based on children's board games. DECA members picked Amelia Kakar's, one of Advanced Fashion Marketing students, concept as the theme for the Jan. 13 show.

Working with the Richmond-based charity Stuffed with Love, DECA members also collected toys to be donated to children in domestic abuse shelters in Northern Virginia.

The following businesses provided support and products for the show: Paul Mitchell School, DELiA*s, and Jessica McClintock in Tyson's Corner; Banana Republic in Potomac Mills; Papaya and Lord and Taylor in Fair Oaks Mall, The Men's Warehouse in Springfield, Clifton Saddlery, Fairfax Hudson Trail Outfitters, LAX World, Burke Sporting Goods and Alpha Industries Distribution Company.



Sophomore Katie Jones strikes a pose in a leopard print.



Robinson students model a variety of fashion styles.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



From left, Kaylan Cetestin, senior, and juniors Taryn Hayes and Valerie Agyeman were among the models in Jan. 13's DECA fashion show.

Miles Apart, Close at Heart

Capt. Joe Russell, family deal with naval officer's deployment to Bahrain.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Navy Capt. Joe Russell's work never stops. Stationed in Bahrain and tasked with supporting the Navy's amphibious battle groups deployed in the Persian Gulf, Russell must use the experience he has acquired over 20-plus years of service to ensure the safety and security of thousands of troops on the ground.

Thousands of miles to the West in Burke, however, Russell's wife LaShea and their three children have their

own work to get done, and though there is no proverbial "man of the house," they, like a myriad other military families, are finding a way to forge ahead.

"It's not much fun being away from the family," said Joe Russell. "When you have young children like I do, there are so many experiences in sports and school that you want to be a part of, but we've done it so much, that [my family] knows how it's done."

A Burke native and 22-year Navy veteran, Joe Russell is currently deployed to the 5th Fleet area of operations at Expeditionary Strike Group 5 in Bahrain. The group he leads is presently supporting ongoing op-



Capt. Joe Russell

CONTRIBUTED

erations in Afghanistan responsible for Navy amphibious planning functions and alignment with the Marines. Day to day, Joe Russell is in charge of overseeing regional logistics, information technology, public affairs and legal requirements for his unit and their mission.

SEE FAMILY, PAGE 8

"The real adjustment happened when you have kids and you have to move them, a home and all of your stuff."

— LaShea Russell

Dems Elect New Leader

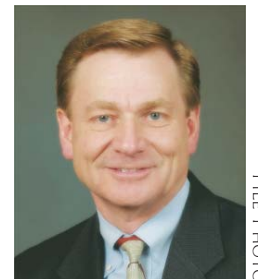
Rex Simmons new FCDC chairman.

BY STEPHANIE MARTINEZ
THE CONNECTION

Rex Simmons, the new chairman of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC), found an inter-

est in government as a young boy in his hometown in North Carolina. He knew he would follow in his father's path into the public service sector after helping him run for several positions including the Board of Education.

"I was standing outside in polling places handing out his literature and trying to con-



Rex Simmons

FILE PHOTO

SEE FCDC, PAGE 8



Sandwich Makers

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) joined Gov.-elect Bob McDonnell (R)

in the kitchen of the Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria during McDonnell's pre-inaugural tour of community services facilities across Virginia. Following meetings with shelter staff and clients, Connolly congratulated McDonnell, wished him luck as governor, and noted that 'Bob McDonnell makes a heck of a grilled cheese sandwich.'

Filler-Corn Enters 41st Race

Springfield resident Eileen Filler-Corn announced that she would file the required paperwork to be a candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates in the 41st District. Filler-Corn is seeking to be the Democratic nominee for the special election on March 2 to fill the seat left vacant by Sen. David Marsden (D-37), who was elected to the Virginia State Senate last week.

Filler-Corn served as senior advisor to the governor for state and federal relations under former Gov. Tim Kaine (D). Prior to that, she was the deputy director for the Virginia Liaison Office for former Gov. Mark Warner (D) for his entire term.

Filler-Corn has resided in the 41st District for 15 years and lives with her husband Bob and their children Jeremy and Alana.

Republican Kerry Bolognese announced his candidacy for the vacant 41st District Seat last week.

March for Life Jan. 21

Bishop Paul S. Loverde and representatives from local churches Church of the Nativity, Saint Leo the Great and Saint Mary of Sorrows will join thousands of other participants from across the nation to march in peaceful protest against the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision at 37th annual March for Life.

The 37th annual March for Life has a "Stand Up Now! Unite for the Life Principles — No Exception! No Compromise!" theme. A vigil mass will be offered Thursday, Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and an additional Mass on Jan. 22, at 10 a.m., at the Verizon Center.

'Electric Sundays' Kicks Off

The 2010 Electric Sunday recycling schedule will kickoff Sunday, Jan. 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Interstate 66 Transfer Station located at 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax. Residents will be able to recycle televisions, computers and peripheral devices, including keyboards, speakers, printers,

SEE NEWS, PAGE 17



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left, rescue squad officer Rodney Vaughan and hazmat specialist Mark Menton, who works the Alexandria-Lorton corridor, confer about the deployment.

Helping in a Time of Need

Fairfax County Search and Rescue Teams are in Haiti.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Following the 7.0 earthquake in Haiti, Fairfax County's Urban Search and Rescue Team (Virginia Task Force 1) was sent last week to look for and rescue victims.

Under the auspices of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), a 72-member team left Tuesday night, Jan. 12, arriving the next day and it quickly achieved success.

"We had a save Thursday morning [Jan. 14]," said county Fire and Rescue Department spokesman Dan Schmidt. "A U.N. security officer of Estonian descent was detected in a rubble pile and extricated in good condition by members of Virginia Task Force 1. And that's the essence of why firefighters do what they do — they want to save lives. So when they did, it was an incredible, adrenaline-booster for them."

But with the situation there still so dire, said Schmidt, "The USAID asked us to send a second team, and County Executive Anthony Griffin and Fire Chief Ron Mastin approved the request." So a 42-person contingent left Thursday, Jan. 14, arriving early Friday morning.

The team comprises two doctors, structural engineers, paramedics, specialists in search-and-rescue and hazardous materials, plus a search canine and handler. The structural engineers include rigging specialists who help shore up unsafe areas using block and tackle, plus other methods, so firefighters can continue to extricate people.

"The federal government funds all costs associated with training and deployment," said Schmidt. The team will be in Haiti, 10-14 days, while other firefighters fill in for them here. They flew on a chartered aircraft, with their bags of personal items, while a second plane carried their equipment, such as jackhammers, cameras, listening devices, concrete-cutting saws and medical supplies. Water and military MREs (meals, ready-to-eat) also went along.

"This team deployed to Haiti in November 2008 for a school collapse, and many of those same members are returning," said Schmidt. The team's first mission was in December 1988, when it responded to an Armenian earthquake with a small, technical-rescue team. Since then, the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team has been deployed all over the world, including to Kenya, Iran, Taiwan, Turkey, Oklahoma City and the Pentagon after 9/11. It also responded after Hurricanes Katrina and Isabel.

"I'm proud of the team. Everybody works together, and we all want to save some lives."

— Lt. Wes Rogers of Oak Hill

LAST THURSDAY, team members reported to the county's Fire and Rescue Academy throughout the day. Some were accompanied by family members; each brought one red and

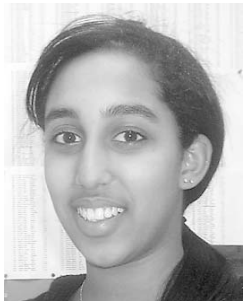
one yellow bag. Lt. Diron Powell, who works at the Franconia, Kingstowne, Springfield and West Springfield stations, helped them check in.

Each person's bags had to be less than 90 pounds total for the two, and Powell made sure they contained all the necessary gear. Filling the red bags were uniforms, toiletries and personal items. The yellow bags were stuffed with operating gear such as flashlights, batteries, gloves, safety glasses, hearing protectors, rain gear, insect repellent and hand cleaner.

SEE SEARCH AND RESCUE, PAGE 18

VIEWPOINTS

What are your thoughts about the earthquake in Haiti and its aftermath?



"I feel it's sad that it happened to a country that was already in poverty, and I'm glad that other countries and people are stepping up to help Haiti."

Senayt Alemu



"It's devastating when something like that takes lives, it's going to take a lot of effort and money for us to help them."

Emily Blake



"People want to help out, but since so many people want to help but it's actually causing a strain because the ports are full."

Angeli Mendoza

"I've been listening to the news, and I think it's wonderful what the U.S. is doing, but after the immediate crisis is over, Haiti is still going to need help, and nobody is going to help them, so I think that that's unfortunate."

Michael VanWambeke



"I feel like it's a tragic event, but America's response was better than the lack of response for Katrina."

Munirr Sesay



— TIFFANY DANIEL

In 40 seconds, his world changed.



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The Community Coalition for Haiti, a faith-based nonprofit relief organization, has set up a restricted fund for the Haitian relief effort. 100% of every donation is used to help the thousands in need. Every dollar is a treasure to those in desperate need of food, water, medicine and help. Please donate today. Make a donation online at www.cchaiti.org or mail your check to Community Coalition for Haiti, P.O. Box 1222, Vienna, VA 22183.



www.cchaiti.org

Partners with CCH in the Haiti relief effort include: MedAssets; Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children; Missionary Flights International; and MTS Services.



"In addition to our prayers, the people of Haiti are in great need of our compassion and assistance."

— Charles Mann, Inova Health System Board Member



"Luciana and I have worked with the Community Coalition for Haiti and we ask you to join us in supporting the humanitarian efforts that are under way."

— Robert & Luciana Duvall



"We all need to take swift action to make sure that relief reaches the people of Haiti as quickly as it can."

— Darrell Green, NFL Hall of Fame

Photo by © Cameron Davidson

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OPINION

Many Numbers Point to Needs

Challenging times as we mark Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision, inaugurate new governor.

Unemployed, uninsured, homeless, hungry. While on a percentage basis, Northern Virginia is better off than most of the rest of Virginia, in raw numbers, we have more people here who are unemployed, more people here who lack health insurance, more people who spend parts of most months without enough food on the table, more people who are homeless.

Some sobering numbers as we celebrate the day of hope and aspiration that is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Sobering statistics as we inaugurate a new governor who has many good ideas, but no plans for new revenue. Cuts in the state budget will affect everyone in Virginia, even those who are not needy.

In November, more than 68,000 unemployed people were looking for full time work here in Northern Virginia, according to the Virginia Employment Commission, up from just under 50,000 in November, 2008.

Later this month, officials and advocates will conduct the annual "point in time" census of homeless. Last January, there were 1,730 homeless people in Fairfax County at the "point in time" count, more than 1,000 of those are

members of families, most of the adults with jobs. In the City of Alexandria, there were 360 homeless people. In Arlington, 527 homeless, about 200 of those were people in families.

According to the latest U.S. Census numbers, from 2008, there were about 200,000 people (under 65) in Northern Virginia without health insurance. These are people who can't get preventative care, can't get routine care for minor illnesses.

In Arlington County 38,018 or 21.1 percent of the population lacked health insurance.

That number jumped to 62 percent of those living below 200 percent of poverty line.

In Fairfax County, 149,642 people or more than 16 percent of the population lacked health insurance. In the City of Alexandria, 22,399 people lack health insurance, or 18.2 percent of the population. In the City of Fairfax, 3,685 people lack health insurance, or 18.8 of the population.

Another measure of need, and a way of identifying concentrations of poverty, is to look at students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals in public schools.

In Alexandria more than 50 percent of stu-

dents are eligible for free or reduced meals.

In Arlington, more than one-third of students are eligible for free or reduced meals.

More than 37,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools are eligible for free and reduced meals, that's 22 percent of the student body. And the needy students also tend to be concentrated in particular schools. For example, some schools, like Wolf Trap Elementary, had no students qualifying for free or reduced meals. Then consider Graham Road Elementary, with more than 78 percent of its students qualifying for free and reduced meals, Lynbrook Elementary with more than 76 percent of its students qualifying; Mount Vernon Woods, more than 75 percent; Mount Eagle more than 74 percent. The uneven distribution showed dozens of schools with very high rates of poor students lumped together; dozens with poverty rates in the single digits.

Food for thought. These numbers don't indicate a tiny population of needy people, they indicate a region with ongoing problems of "haves" and "have-nots." Those 15-30 percent of our populations in local jurisdictions who "have not" are about to have quite a bit less as the state and local budget processes move forward.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Planning Review

To the Editor:

In response to the Connection's recent article on FCPS's Southwestern Study ["Five More Schools Added to FCPS Study," Connection, Jan. 14-20, 2010] I thought it important to clarify a few issues:

❖ The School Board's Comprehensive Planning Review Committee (CPRC) consists of three School Board Members from FCPS, the chair of the Fairfax City School Board and leadership staff from FCPS's Department of Facilities and the Department of Community Outreach.

* All meetings are open to the public and public input is sought during these meetings. Information on these meetings and all documents used can be found on the FCPS Web site.

❖ The CPRC has been meeting close to a year and is currently developing a Facility Planning Advisory Council. Already developed and active is the Ad Hoc Committee process to respond to the need for community engagement with regard to school enrollment, capacity, programming, additions, renovations and new construction.

❖ Community engagement is considered the utmost importance

and has been sought throughout the development of this process and during the current Ad Hoc Southwestern Study Committee.

❖ Schools involved in the current study are in the Springfield, Sully, Providence and Braddock districts. There are no schools from Lorton involved in this study.

❖ Clifton Elementary was built in 1954; the facility is not 100-years old as referred to in the article.

LETTERS * To avoid bias School Board members are not part of

the process, the process was designed to seek engagement from the community on specific study concerns and to assist the community to understand the complexities of enrollment, capacity, programming, bonding and construction in our school system. The end of the process requests two separate reports from the Committee and staff to the School Board stating possible options for consideration.

The School Board members have spent considerable time working on this process to foster improved community relations and community trust. Speaking as a parent who has gone through five boundary studies in a period of 10 years, it is time to establish a process that seeks value from those we serve. I

expect there will be some bumps in the road as we test out this new process, but none from which we can't learn from and improve upon.

Elizabeth T. Bradsher

School Board Chair of the Comprehensive Planning Review Committee
Springfield District School Board Representative

Opposed to 'Reform' Bill

To the Editor:

I am opposed to the Senate version of the Health Care "Reform" Bill as approved (60 For, 39 Against, 1 Abstention) by the U.S. Senate this past Christmas Eve morning. The Senate Leadership, and others, acted inappropriately, and perhaps illegally, when Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, along with certain other individuals, negotiated with Sen. Nelson of Nebraska to obtain Nelson's vote in exchange for an "exclusion;" a "favor" that exempts Nebraskans from paying for certain services [i.e. Medicaid] that residents living in every other state must pay for, including Virginians. Perhaps even more disconcerting is the fact that Virginians will be required to

"foot the Bill" for the services that Nebraskans will become entitled to receive, free of charge, compliments of both of Virginia's U.S. senators, Mark Warner (D) and Jim Webb (D), who voted 'For' passage of the Bill.

Perhaps of greater concern to the community at large is the fact that this "deal" was negotiated "off" the Senate floor, out of public view, and in a private room. When Reid and Nelson finally emerged, Reid indicated that Nelson had agreed to become the 60th vote Reid needed to assure procedural cloture of the bill, thereby ending any substantive debate on the issue, in exchange for Reid's promise to insert a provision in the bill that benefited Nelson's constituents. The problem with such an arrangement is that Reid acted beyond the scope of his constitutional authority when he negotiated this agreement, because Reid was not elected by Virginians, or any other state, except Nevada. Reid cannot possibly argue that he secured the authority to negotiate on behalf of all 50 states (100 U.S. senators) on whose behalf he in-fact negotiated, because not one Republican senator agreed with Reid. So what were Sens. Warner and Webb

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

thinking when they agreed to “give” our votes, Virginia’s votes, to Harry Reid?

The larger question now becomes whether U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) will vote against the Healthcare Bill, as he should, or will he vote for passage? While no one knows for sure, and since final passage of the Bill rests with the U.S. House of Representatives, it is incumbent upon each one of us to contact Connolly and demand that Congress correct the constitutional misgivings inherent within the current version of the Healthcare Bill.

On Dec. 20, I wrote to Connolly and voiced my protestations. My letter to Connolly, and Connolly’s “templated” e-mail response of Jan. 12, 2010, may be read in their entirety at www.JoeBury.com. Based upon Connolly’s reply, it appears that Connolly, like Sens. Warner and Webb before him, is not interested in passing legislation which adheres to the constitutional principles upon which our great nation was founded. Perhaps even worse, you and I get to pay for the mess, and the mess isn’t even in Virginia.

Joe Bury
Springfield



MILITARY NOTES

Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Douglas M. Trude graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Deborah Trude of Cove Landing Road, Burke.

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

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Family Perseveres through Deployment

FROM PAGE 3

Joe Russell, a Lake Braddock Secondary School alumnus, entered the Navy after his graduation from the University of Florida in 1988 with the intention of following in his father's footsteps. His father retired as a captain, and since Joe Russell had grown up following his father from assignment to assignment, he had a clear picture of military life and it enthralled him. So, after his graduation, he enlisted in the Navy and was selected for officer candidate school.

"My dad was career Navy," Joe Russell said. "It was always something I thought about and I was lucky enough to get picked up by the [Officer Candidate School.]"

After four months in officer candidate school, Joe Russell was selected into the Navy Supply Corps and was sent to Athens, Ga. to train in specific job capacities, both on shore and at sea. After six months, Joe Russell completed training and began his career in the Supply Corps, where he still works today.

WHILE STATIONED in Coronado, Calif. In the mid-1990s, he met LaShea, and by 1996, they were married. Within a year, the couple had to move to Monterey, Calif. for another assignment, but at that time, LaShea Russell said, the moving was not an issue for her or her husband.

"I was a flight attendant at the time, so I was used to traveling and being on the move," LaShea Russell said. "The real adjustment happened when you have kids and you have to move them, a home and all of your stuff."

That adjustment period began in 1998,

when their first son, Walker, was born. Soon after his birth, Joe Russell was reassigned to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, and instead of having to move to a different town in the same state, they were faced with a move not only halfway around the world, but a move with an infant as well. Nonetheless, they packed up all of their belongings and set off to the Middle East and within months, the welcomed their second son, Bradley, into the world. The family remained in Dubai for approximately 22 months until Joe Russell was reassigned to Patuxent River, Md.

"The boys don't remember much about Dubai, but it was good," LaShea Russell said. "We were exposed to different cultures, foods and ways of life. I have to say, though, giving birth in a Middle Eastern country during the Y2K scare was very interesting. But they definitely remember our next stop."

While living in Maryland, LaShea Russell became pregnant again, and soon gave birth to another boy, William, who is 7 now. Though their stay there was mostly uneventful, it ended up being the calm before the literal storm. Joe Russell was assigned to Ocean Springs, Miss. in 2005, shortly after their arrival in Maryland, and they happened to arrive just in time for Hurricane Katrina.

Ocean Springs, LaShea Russell said, is

right on the Gulf of Mexico coast, so when the Hurricane came through the region, their adopted hometown was devastated. All of the boys' schools were destroyed, and as a result, the family had to move back to Burke for four months while their town was rebuilt. After it was rebuilt, the Russells moved back to Ocean Springs so that the boys could finish out the school year.

"Prior to Katrina coming, we had been evacuated twice, so by the time it came around, we were ready and knew what to gather," LaShea Russell said.

"But all three of

their schools were completely demolished, so we had to move back up here [to Burke] for a few months."

FOLLOWING THE Mississippi deployment, JOE Russell was assigned to Guam, and as usual, the family went with him. Though her husband was able to do his job during the day and return home at night, LaShea Russell said that it was this period of time that prepared the family so well for his time in Bahrain. Joe Russell said that in Guam, he would be either on a ship or behind a desk all day and would return only about an hour before the children would go to bed. Whenever he had any free time, however, the family would travel throughout Asia, which served to bring them to-

gether, if only for a few days.

"We turned the negative of being so far away [from home] into a positive by traveling so far away," said Walker, 11.

Though, as LaShea Russell said, the family obtained ample practice in living their lives without their husband and father around full time, the family was never totally separated until this recent deployment. Joe Russell was deployed to Bahrain in December, where he will remain for a year without his family. While he misses out on a lot of sporting events and school pageants, he said that technology helps to bridge the gap.

"When I first got in [the Navy,] you could write a letter once a month or you got to make a phone call home when you were in port," Joe Russell said. "Now, with the Internet and [Internet phone service] Skype, the connectivity is awesome. I get to e-mail my family daily and we use Skype a couple times a week."

BACK AT home, LaShea Russell and the three children said that there has not been much of a change yet in their day-to-day lives. She said that being in Burke, a place that they are familiar with and having family living close by, has made the transition much easier and that the children feel very comfortable and are having no problems.

"The day-to-day activities haven't really changed," LaShea Russell said. "Being in Guam on a ship for 20 months with Joe being gone for 16 of those months really prepared me and my boys for this experience, and it really hasn't impacted them so far. But it's only been two months, so check back with me in 10."

"When I first got in [the Navy,] you could write a letter once a month or you got to make a phone call home when you were in port."

— Capt. Joe Russell

FCDC Elects Simmons as New Chair

FROM PAGE 3

vince voters to vote for him," said Simmons, "I've had this public notion in my blood for a long time."

In 2007, Simmons ran unsuccessfully as the Democratic candidate for the House of Delegates against Del. Tim Hugo (R-40). It was after that race that he was first offered the position as FCDC chair. Feeling that he had not been involved with the committee process enough to go on board, he turned down the offer. However, he did accept a position as chairman of the State Affairs Committee.

By increasing his involvement in the community and being co-host for "The Road to Richmond" brunch, Simmons had the opportunity to learn more about the people in the community. Last year, he was again asked to run for FCDC chair. "Thought long and hard about it," said Simmons. At this point, with 32 years of experience in the federal government, Simmons decided to pursue the position. He was elected as new chair at the 2010-11 Biennial Reorganization Meeting that took place on Jan. 5.

"I think it's terrific," said Del. Scott

Surovell (D-44), the former FCDC chair. "It's good to have people to run as candidates before because they can make the candidate's job easier. Rex has always been one of the hardest working people."

IT WAS evident for Surovell that as new chair, Simmons would face many challenges in his new position. "It's a lot bigger than when I took over, and with all that increase in budget and staff, comes increase in responsibility," said Surovell.

Simmons pursued a bachelor's in political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It was there, 32 years ago, that he met his wife Nancy. In 1973, he moved to the Washington, D.C. area to pursue a master's degree in public administration at American University.

Simmons worked in the Government Accountability Office during the first 16 years of his professional career. Soon after, he was an assistant inspector general for two bank regulatory agencies. At that stage, his priority was the creation of the Department of Defense's Office of the Inspector General. "It's been a sticking point because there were a lot of objections," said Simmons. He

made creativity and innovation part of his career which ultimately helped him with what he thought was the biggest challenge in his governmental career — trying to get things done with fewer resources. He retired in Jan. 3, 2007 after running for the House of Delegates.

Former President John F. Kennedy, Simmons' first inspirational figure, began making an impact on him as a young boy. The famous phrase "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country" has always resonated with him. "You see this man with a great amount of wisdom and you just wonder the potential of this country had he had not been assassinated," said Simmons.

As the new chair of FCDC, Simmons' main goals include overseeing elections and promoting the stability of the FCDC. "As an organization, I believe that we are the premier Democratic grassroots organization in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We want to maintain that," he said. "I want to see an FCDC that looks more like the population of the Fairfax County that it is today. That means the inclusion of more minorities and younger people."



MILITARY NOTES

Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Douglas M. Trude graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Deborah Trude of Cove Landing Road, Burke.

FAITH

Burke Presbyterian Church is participating in the Church World Service (CWS) humanitarian relief efforts to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The public can help CWS in its urgent disaster response by assembling and donating a hygiene kit or a baby kit. BPC is a collection point for the kits. To create a kit, visit either www.BurkePresChurch.org and click on "Haiti Relief" or visit www.ChurchWorldService.org and click on "Hygiene Kit" or "Baby Kit." Both of these sites provide specific instructions on how to assemble a kit. Drop off kits at Burke Presbyterian Church, located at 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Phone the church office with any questions at 703-764-0456.

United Methodist Men Breakfast is on Saturday Jan. 23, at 8 a.m., at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The men of Franconia UMM (United Methodist Men) will begin another year in ministry to the men of the congregation with their annual kickoff breakfast to plan out the entire year of 2010. All men are welcome. 703-971-5151 or www.franconiaumc.org.

Grace Presbyterian Church Weekday Preschool Open House. Friday, Jan. 22, at 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Pizza, drinks and dessert will be served at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; pre-orders only, \$10 per large one topping pizza. Classrooms will be open from 7-8 p.m., with hands-on activities to explore with children. Music and movement will be available with our music teacher, 7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Appropriate for age 2-5. 703-451-3314.

An Evening with Dr. Hugh Ross. Sunday, Jan. 24, 6 p.m., at New Hope Church, 8905 Ox Road, Lorton. In partnership with Reasons to Believe and the C.S. Lewis Institute. Ross is an astronomer and speaker who makes a case for believing that the universe is the work of a Creator and not chance. Free and open to the public. 703-971-4673 or www.newhope.org.

The National Christian Choir of Washington, D.C., will present a free concert at on Sunday, Jan. 24, at 6 p.m., at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. NCC has 24 recordings, including hymns, spirituals, inspirational, Christmas songs, patriotic and more over the past 25 years. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

Praise Service at Springfield United Methodist Church, 7047 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, on Sunday, Feb. 14, at 9:15 a.m. All are welcome. Come sing, enjoy coffee and donuts and praise God. 703-451-2375 or www.springfieldvaumc.org.

One God Ministry Church, 4280/4282 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, has launched a new Web site with news, events, training, conferences, fellowship programs and more. Sunday School is at 10 a.m., Sunday Worship Service at 11 a.m., and Wednesday Prayer Service at 7 p.m. Women's, Men's, and Youth Bible Studies are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. A Spiritual Gifts Service is the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. One God Ministry has ministries for youth, men, women, couples, music and singles. 703-591-6161 or www.onegodministry.org.

New Women's Bible Study meets at Jubilee Christian Center on Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m.-12 p.m. The study will focus on "Spirit, Soul, and Body" by Andrew Wommack. \$10 per person. Nursery provided for registered children. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

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Cuts Threaten Some High School Sports

Proposal slashes freshman sports, indoor track, winter cheerleading.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

At a freshman basketball game between South County and Lake Braddock on Jan. 14, South County parent John Butler watched as his son Jacob took the court with the Stallions.

For Jacob the transition from club-level basketball to high school has been eased through a year of play on the freshman squad.

“There weren’t really any other options.”

— Bill Curran

“You can’t just jump into varsity sports,” Butler said. “You have to prepare for it. That’s what makes freshman basketball good for younger kids. It helps them prepare.”

Butler said Jacob is considering playing in college, but for now his son will work his way up the South County basketball hierarchy.

In 2011, however, incoming freshmen may not get the same chance.

On Jan. 7, Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) Superintendent Jack Dale proposed \$104.8 million in program cuts for Fairfax County schools.

On the chopping block are all freshman sports, winter cheerleading and indoor track.

Under the proposal, swim and dive teams also would have their practice time cut in half and all athletes would pay a \$100 per

SEE FRESHMAN, PAGE 11



FILE PHOTO

Members of the Lake Braddock, South County and West Springfield indoor track teams participate in a relay. For the second year in a row, indoor track is on the county’s planned budget cuts.

Bruins Seek Consistency

Tough play helps Lake Braddock keep games close as team looks for stronger starts.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock senior Patch McLucas wasn’t about to let his team’s 62-60 loss to South County on Jan. 14 sour his season.

After rallying back from an early deficit, the Bruins were unable to complete the comeback and earn an important Patriot District victory.

But it was a standout game for McLucas as he tallied 18 points from three-point shots and left the gymnasium with an idea of where his 6-7 team stands in the Northern Region basketball picture.

“I honestly like where we are,” he said. “We’re in close games and we’re in it with every good team in the area.”

It didn’t start that way for Lake Braddock.

The Bruins dropped their first three games of the season, but charged back with four consecutive wins

Senior guard Patch McLucas runs up against a South County defender in the Bruins 62-60 loss on Jan. 14.

to salvage the poor start.

Since then, Lake Braddock has been battling it out in the Patriot District with a 2-4 district record.

The reason for the turnaround from three straight losses?

“The team has started to run the offense better,” McLucas said. “And our defense is starting to win us games.”

Even with the team’s growing grasp of the offense, the Bruins have still struggled to build a consistent winning streak.

Since early January, the team hasn’t been able to put together back-to-back wins, but has fought hard against teams such as T.C. Williams.

“We lost to Lee at the buzzer and we lost to South County at the buzzer,” head coach Brian Metress said. “But we were tough with T.C. Williams and we got a nice victory over West Potomac.”

Metress also attributed the strong showings against top teams to the squad’s grit and determination.

“We’re pretty gritty,” he said. “It’s a good

“We’re pretty gritty. It’s a good quality to have.”

— Brian Metress,
Lake Braddock coach

SEE BRUINS, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Freshman Sports, Indoor Track At Risk

FROM PAGE 10

sport fee to participate in a Virginia High School League sport. The money would go to the county's general fund.

Bill Curran, FCPS director of student activities, said the drastic cuts represent how the lagging economy has forced the county to scale back its spending in 2011.

"The cuts are more for preserving what we can for the students," Curran said. "Not what we could take away."

Curran said the proposed athletic budget cuts would save the county \$1.8 million, but would also displace 2,200 freshmen athletes and 300 coaches, roughly 12 coaches per school.

"There weren't really any other options," Curran said of cutting the freshman programs.

The \$100 athletic fee is estimated to bring in \$900,000, half of what is being cut from the activities' budget.

Students who cannot afford the \$100 VHSL fee would be covered similar to those who receive free and reduced lunches, Curran said.

THE PROPOSED cuts also affect sophomore and junior athletes who would have to compete with incoming freshmen for limited spots on junior varsity teams.

"Coaches are going to have to make player evaluations," Curran said. "They'll have to make cuts at the junior varsity level."

Not surprisingly, the budget cuts aren't that popular with local parents.

"It's placing kids in a bad situation because you're taking opportunity away from them," Butler said. "[Freshman] sports help



The South County freshmen basketball team huddles up before their game against Lake Braddock. In 2011, freshman sports such as basketball may cease to exist due to proposed budget cuts.

PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

students transition from middle school to high school. It's not just about sports."

On the opposite side of the court during the recent South County-Lake Braddock freshman basketball game, Lake Braddock parent Tonna Roberts also expressed displeasure with the proposed cuts.

"It doesn't surprise me because the county has thrown us out before," she said. "I don't think they think freshman sports are important."

Like Butler, Rogers' also focused on how

future students would deal with the leap from middle school to high school.

"It's hurting the opportunity to get fully acclimated with the school," she said. "It's huge to become part of the school. To not allow [freshmen] to have activity with each other in the school is criminal."

For the second straight year, indoor track is also at risk, a move that Lake Braddock indoor track coach Mike Mangan said could displace as many as 2,700 athletes.

"It's amazing that we're re-fighting the

same battle we did last year," he said. "But as a group, we're ready to show that we provide a lot of opportunity for the kids."

He pointed out that indoor track serves a diverse group of students who benefit from the sport's existence.

"We're the largest female sport, we're one of the largest minority and low-income sports, and there's virtually no money barrier to enter our sport," he said. "You just have to have a pair of shoes. You don't have to have prior training and there's no cuts."

The sport also has launched some of the area's top athletes, including nationally ranked runner Liana Epstein of Lake Braddock.

"If there isn't indoor track, [Epstein] never runs," he said. "She started out with indoor track and moved to cross-country from there."

Mangan also questioned if the county really had explored alternatives to removing freshman sports, winter cheer and indoor track.

"It's hard for me to believe that we can't find a way to take care of these kids," he said. "Instead of having one group taking a hit for everyone, we should look at other ways to [save sports] by cutting our costs."

Community members will have a chance to speak on the proposed budget cuts at public hearings taking place Monday, Jan. 25 and Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 6 p.m., at Luther Jackson Middle School in Falls Church.

An online petition opposing the cuts was started on Jan. 11 with a goal of gaining 1,000 signatures. It is available at www.thepetitionsite.com. As of Tuesday night, Jan. 20, the petition had 758 virtual signatures.

Bruins Get Gritty

FROM PAGE 10

quality to have. We're small, but we're tough and we're not afraid to [play hard]."

Metress said the grit comes from his team's smaller stature and practices where players are encouraged to be physical.

"It's how we have to play," he said. "We're not overly blessed with top talent so we have to play with grit."

McLucas has an idea of what needs to change if the team wants to get a win-streak going.

"For some reason, we come out cold," he said. "If we could come out [hard] early on, we could win more games."

The Bruins will have chances to even out their record against W.T. Woodson on Jan. 22 and West Springfield on Jan. 26.

5Qs: 5 Qs with Lake Braddock guard Patch McLucas



CRAIG STERBUTZE

Senior Patch McLucas is one of the Bruins' top players and best outside shooters.

Q: What's the pump-up song you've got to hear before a game?

A: I'm not sure. Anything with DMX or Lil' Wayne is fine with me.

Q: If you could play with any athlete, who would you play with?

A: [Cleveland Cavaliers superstar] LeBron James. He's just a monster.

Q: Any sporting goals you'd like to accomplish?

A: [Lake Braddock] has never won a Patriot District basketball championship. I'd like to take the district this year.

Q: Who inspires you on the basketball court?

A: My dad. He got me into basketball and taught me it's all about the effort you put out on the court.

Q: What's your favorite sports moment you've watched or been a part of?

A: The Robinson game [on Dec. 18, a 53-52 Lake Braddock victory] when I beat them at the buzzer.

— REED S. ALBERS

WEEK IN SPORTS

Umpires Needed

Northern Virginia Baseball Umpires Association (NVBUA) is in need of officials for baseball and volleyball. Umpires are needed for colleges, men's leagues, high schools and youth recreational leagues. Experience is helpful but not required. Formal classroom and on-the-job training will be provided. Classes will begin in mid-February. Umpires are needed for all communities in the greater Washington D.C. Metro area. Support your local community's sports leagues by signing up. Call Ken Williams at 703-400-3232 for more information or go to umpires.org to fill out a "New Ump" form.

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5963 OAKLAND PARK DR	4	3	1	BURKE	\$550,000	Detached	0.27	BURKE CENTRE		
5424 POINT LONGSTREET WAY	5	4	0	BURKE	\$549,000	Detached	0.20	MEADOWS OF NARNIA		
9308 WINBOURNE RD	4	2	2	BURKE	\$545,000	Detached	0.23	LAKE BRADDOCK		
9107 BLUE JUG LNDG	4	2	1	BURKE	\$540,000	Detached	0.20	SIGNAL HILL		
9453 ONION PATCH DR	4	2	1	BURKE	\$530,000	Detached	0.20	LONGWOOD KNOLLS		
5811 OAKLAND PARK DR	5	2	1	BURKE	\$525,000	Detached	0.18	BURKE CENTRE		
6219 GARRETSON ST	4	2	1	BURKE	\$490,000	Detached	0.34	SHANNON STATION		
6321 SANCTUARY WOODS CT	3	3	1	BURKE	\$480,000	Townhouse	0.06	LEE CHAPEL RIDGE		
5707 WATERS EDGE LANDING CT	4	3	1	BURKE	\$435,000	Townhouse	0.04	BURKE CENTRE		
6403 GLENBARD RD	4	2	1	BURKE	\$430,000	Detached	0.23	ROLLING VALLEY WEST		
5665 MT BURNSIDE WAY	3	2	1	BURKE	\$397,000	Detached	0.30	FOX LAIR		
9684 WOODHENGE CT	4	3	1	BURKE	\$390,000	Townhouse	0.04	BRITFORD		
5629 MOUNT BURNSIDE WAY	5	3	0	BURKE	\$383,000	Detached	0.21	SIGNAL HILL		
6709 SUNSET WOODS CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$381,500	Townhouse	0.04	WOODED GLEN		
10617 ALISON DR	3	3	1	BURKE	\$375,000	Townhouse	0.04	BURKE CENTRE		
9432 GOSHEN LN	3	2	1	BURKE	\$369,888	Townhouse	0.05	LAKE BRADDOCK		
9523 ASHBRIDGE CT	4	2	1	BURKE	\$365,000	Townhouse	0.06	CARDINAL GLEN		
9120 HUBER CT	4	2	1	BURKE	\$360,000	Detached	0.30	SHANNON STATION		
9348 PETER ROY CT	2	2	2	BURKE	\$350,000	Townhouse	0.04	CAROLINE OAKS		
6703 SUNSET WOODS CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$350,000	Townhouse	0.04	WOODED GLEN		
5805 FITZHUGH ST	3	2	0	BURKE	\$349,000	Detached	0.52	HOMEWOOD		
5609 CASTLEBURY CT	3	2	2	BURKE	\$348,000	Townhouse	0.04	CROWNLEIGH		
5604 RAPID RUN CT	3	2	2	BURKE	\$340,000	Townhouse	0.03	LAKEPOINTE		
5701 EDGEWATER OAK CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$327,000	Townhouse	0.05	BURKE CENTRE		
6113 POND LILY CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$325,000	Townhouse	0.03	BURKE CENTRE		
9206 BURKE RD	3	2	0	BURKE	\$325,000	Detached	0.25	CARDINAL ESTATES		
9891 BURKE POND CT	4	2	1	BURKE	\$324,900	Townhouse	0.06	BURKE CENTRE		
9516 DRAYCOTT CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$321,000	Townhouse	0.04	CARDINAL GLEN		
5510 SWIFT CURRENT CT	3	2	2	BURKE	\$320,000	Townhouse	0.03	LAKEPOINTE		
10119 SASSAFRAS WOODS CT	3	3	1	BURKE	\$294,500	Townhouse	0.04	BURKE CENTRE		
6375 BUFFIE CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$276,000	Townhouse	0.04	OLD MILL COMMUNITY		
9630 PIERRPONT ST	3	2	1	BURKE	\$270,000	Townhouse	0.03	HILLSDALE		
5926 ANNABERG PL	2	3	0	BURKE	\$255,000	Townhouse	0.04	OAKWOOD COMMONS AT BURKE		
5882 KARA PL	3	2	1	BURKE	\$250,000	Townhouse	0.04	BURKE STATION SQUARE		
9546 CHERRY OAK CT	3	3	1	BURKE	\$230,000	Townhouse	0.03	OLD MILL COMMUNITY		
5534 PEPPERCORN DR	3	3	1	BURKE	\$225,000	Townhouse	0.04	GREENFIELD FARM		
5552 KENDRICK LN	3	1	2	BURKE	\$204,000	Townhouse	0.03	LAKE BRADDOCK		
5837 COVE LANDING RD #204	2	2	0	BURKE	\$199,900	Garden 1-4 Floors		BURKE COVE		
5403 CROSSRAIL DR	3	2	1	BURKE	\$185,000	Townhouse	0.03	GREENFIELD FARM		
5814 FIRST LANDING WAY #129	2	1	0	BURKE	\$180,000	Other		WOODWALK		

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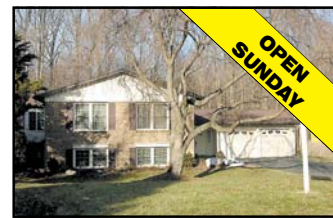
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Burke \$589,950

Longwood Knolls Community

3000+ sq ft Col renovated top to bottom w/ remodeled eat-in kit w/ maple cabs & SS appl, all baths remodeled, fenced yard, library, fin bsmt w/ recrm & den/5thBR, replaced roof, siding, HVAC, windows & Drs, MBR w/ 2 walk-in closets & more.



Springfield \$484,950

Lakefront Community

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Fairfax Station \$839,950

South Run Community

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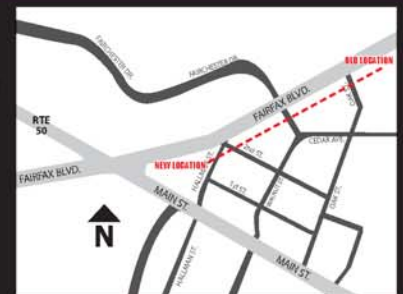
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CALENDAR



Join Us for an Evening of Romance and Passion
The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra
 invites you to attend the
 2010 Valentine Pops Gala and Silent Auction

Amore!

Friday, February 5, 2010
 Hilton McLean Tysons Corner

6:30 pm – Silent Auction and Cocktail Reception

8:00 pm – Dinner

9:30 pm – Fairfax Symphony Orchestra in concert,
 featuring Robert Petillo, tenor, and Jeanine Thames, soprano

Tables of 10 available for \$3,000, \$5,000 and \$7,500.

Individual tickets available for \$300 each.

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The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors
 and the 2010 Valentine Pops Gala Committee

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

THURSDAY/JAN. 21

Windy Weather Story Time. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Story time about winter weather. Ages 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Genealogy Databases. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Search the library's genealogy databases and other free Internet databases. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Evening Book Discussion. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. "The Devil in the White City" by Erik Larsen. Adults. 703-293-6227.

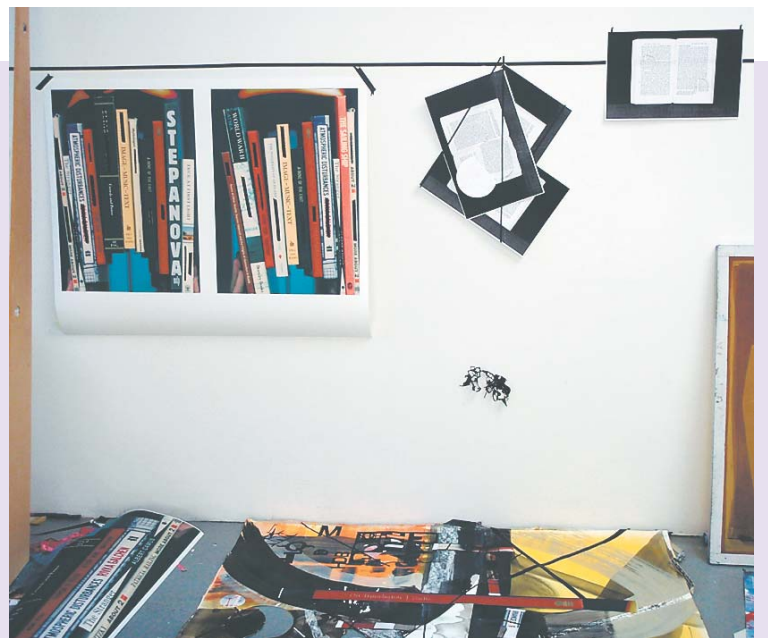
Bundle Up. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Afternoon Reading Group. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. "March" by Geraldine Brooks. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Peter Mulvey and Jeffrey Foucault. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. www.jamminjava.com.

Age 50 or Better Lunch N' Life. 12-2 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Phyllis Verhalen performs as Abigail Adams in period costume. \$8. www.fairfax-burkesc.org.

Sully Historic Site historian Tammy Loxton. 10:15 a.m. Fairfax Antique Arts Association, Green Acres Senior Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. "From the Past to the Future



'Tattoos of Ships' George Mason University's School of Art brings Maggie Michael's exhibition, 'Tattoos of Ships,' to the Fine Art Gallery in the Art and Design Building on Mason's Fairfax campus through Feb. 13. The gallery is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., unless otherwise noted, and by appointment.

... and Back Again." Learn how Richard Bland Lee's family and others changed the house to suit their needs and adjusted to having an army camp on their front lawn. 703-359-2487. **'Guys and Dolls.'** 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are

\$12. ppir930702@aol.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 22

Enter the Haggis and Adam Ezra Group. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12.
www.jamminjava.com.

Springfield Community Theatre presents 'Heros.' 8 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$18 general admission, \$15 seniors and students. 703-866-6238 or www.sctonline.org.

"Guys and Dolls." 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$12. ppir930702@aol.com.

Neil Foley and Jeff Walthall. 7-9:30 p.m., at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." 7 p.m., at Robinson Secondary School. Information and tickets are available online at www.RobinsonDrama.org. Tickets are \$7 online or at the door, or \$5 in advance by mail. Robinson Secondary School is located at 5035 Sideburn Road in Fairfax.

SATURDAY/JAN. 23

Violinist Augustin Hadelich and the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. 7 p.m. pre-concert lecture free to ticketed patrons. Tickets \$25-\$55, available at 1-888-945-2468 or Tickets.com.

Microsoft Powerpoint. 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Learn to put together a Powerpoint presentation. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Chip Bok, Children's Illustrator and Political Cartoonist. 10:30 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Chip Bok will demonstrate his artwork and discuss his new children's book, "The Great White House Breakout," co-authored with Helen Thomas. 703-978-5600.

So You Think You Can Dance Fairfax County Final Competition. 4-7 p.m. at the Annandale High School in the Gymnasium, 4700 Medford Drive, Annandale. \$3 per person. Sponsored by the Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services' Teen Services Division. 703-324-TEEN (8336), TTY 711.

Springfield Community Theatre presents 'Heros.' 8 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$18 general admission, \$15 seniors and students. 703-866-6238

CAMPS & SCHOOLS

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.

Several Burke area schools received the Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award for meeting all state and federal benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and for making progress toward goals set by Gov. Tim Kaine (D) and the board. Burke area award winners are **Fairview Elementary, Kings Glen Elementary, Kings Park Elementary and West Springfield High.**

Gov. Tim Kaine (D) recognized three Burke-area public schools with the 2010 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence. This award is the highest honor bestowed by the Virginia Board of Education under the Virginia Index of Performance incentive program. The schools are: **Cherry Run Elementary, Frost Middle and West Springfield Elementary.**



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

'Guys and Dolls'

Liz Cole lets Scott Koven know who's in charge, during a rehearsal of Lake Braddock Secondary's production of 'Guys and Dolls,' which premieres this weekend. For showtimes, view listings.

or www.sctonline.org.
"Guys and Dolls." 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$12. ppir930702@aol.com.

Neil Foley and Jeff Walthall. 7-9:30 p.m., at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., at Robinson Secondary School. Information and tickets are available online at www.RobinsonDrama.org. Tickets are \$7 online or at the door, or \$5 in advance by mail. Robinson Secondary School is located at 5035 Sideburn Road in Fairfax.

SUNDAY/JAN 24

The Band of the Irish Guards and the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The U. S. debut of the Band of the Irish Guards, with marches, sailor ballads and Celtic folk songs. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier. \$24-\$48. Youth through grade 12 half price when accompanied by an adult. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Mid-Atlantic Song Contest Awards

Gala. 5 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. www.jamminjava.com.

Springfield Community Theatre presents 'Heros.' 2 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$18 general admission, \$15 seniors and students. 703-866-6238 or www.sctonline.org.

Organ Recital. 7 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Jane Moore Kaye will perform works by Buxtehude, J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Franck and Alain. \$20 in advance, \$25 at door; seniors and students \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Tickets at www.providencechurch.org/music_arts or 703-978-3934.

National Christian Choir Concert at Jubilee Christian Center. 6 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 25

Game Night. 6 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Have fun on the Nintendo Wii, or get together with friends for a board game. Ages 12-18. 703-249-1520.

Matt Hires, Jason Castro and Caitlin Crosby. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. For more, see www.jamminjava.com.

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FROM PAGE 4

external drives and other such materials and fluorescent light bulbs and tubes.

The Electric Sunday recycling program is a free service to Fairfax County residents made possible in partnership with Covanta Fairfax, Inc. This year's Electric Sunday events are scheduled monthly through November 2010. Last year, 500,000 pounds of electronic equipment were recycled.

Complete details on this event and other recycling opportunities planned for 2010 can be found on the Solid Waste Management Program's Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling or by calling the Recycling InfoLine at 703-324-5052, TTY 711.

Petersen Joins Courts Of Justice Committee

Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) filled one of the two vacancies in the Courts of Justice Committee in the Virginia State Senate. Petersen's assignment was announced Monday, Jan. 18, by Sen. Richard L. Saslaw (D-35), the Senate majority leader, on the Senate floor.

Licensed in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, Petersen has been in private practice as a trial attorney since 1994 and is a law partner at Surovell Markle Isaacs & Levy, PLC in downtown Fairfax.

"I've had a chance to see what works and what doesn't in the administration of justice. So I'm excited to use that first-hand knowledge as a committee member in the State Senate," Petersen said, in a press release.

Burke Centre Station Opens to Amtrak

The Burke Centre VRE Station is now an Amtrak station and has begun weekend stops as of Monday, Jan. 18.

Fairfax County residents can now get on or off the new Boston/Springfield Mass. Lynchburg Train at Burke Centre, which runs weekdays at 10:36 a.m. northbound and 5:29 p.m. southbound, Saturdays at 1 p.m. northbound and 4:30 p.m. southbound and Sundays, going southbound at 5 p.m.

Summer Camp Positions Available

The Fairfax County Park Authority is looking for creative, high-energy candidates to work part-time as camp leaders and site directors. Open hires take place March 5, May 7 and May 21, from 12-5 p.m. on at the first floor office of the Park Authority in the Herry Building located at 12055 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. Open hires will also take place on March 12 at Hutchison Elementary School and on April 22 at Fort Hunt Elementary School, from 4:30-8:30 p.m. on both days. The Park Authority will also be hiring staff for summer camps at several other locations. For additional information and requirements visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or e-mail RecPAC@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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The following store will be holding a public auction on 02-10-10 starting at 9 am

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Search and Rescue Teams Head to Haiti

FROM PAGE 4

Team members went through several check-in stations. They started with medical and passport checks and turned in their cell phones, keys and pagers. Deputy Fire Chief Mike Reilly, of Centreville's Virginia Run community, worked as the mobilization manager, in charge of sign-in reception, food, equipment and getting everything to the departure point.

"I coordinate with the Family Support Services Team (FSST), making sure people get a checklist of everything required of them," he said. "If something's missing, such as their shot card, ID or equipment, they'd be non-deployable. So they come to me and I see that their issue is handled." Reilly also had a canteen unit bring the members hot and cold beverages and ordered dinner for them from Firehouse Subs.

Teresa MacPherson of Catlett is the canine search specialist. She's not a member of the fire department, but has been on the team since 1993. Her partner's a 5-year-old black Labrador named Banks.

"We were in Haiti in '08 for the school collapse," she said. Before Banks begins a search, MacPherson unclips his leash so he's unencumbered. "We don't want any snagging," she said. "He can go places we can't. I say, 'Go find,' and he starts looking for live, human scent in the rubble. He covers a lot of area in a short amount of time. Where he finds the strongest scent, he starts bark-



From left, Deputy Mobilization Manager Paul Torpey and USAR team program manager Keith Morrison discuss the logistics of the team's impending departure for Haiti.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

ing; then someone will start searching."

MacPherson was eager to leave and get busy. "We train hard for this," she said. "We want to go and help."

Lt. Rodney Vaughan is a rescue squad officer on the team. Formerly of Centre Ridge, in Centreville, he now lives in Gainesville and has been a team member since 1998. He responded to numerous hurricanes, including Katrina, plus Taiwan in 1999 and Iran in 2003. In Haiti, eight to 10 people will be assigned to him.

"When Technical Search locates victims, through listening devices, dogs or hearing them yell out, we'll confirm how deeply they're embedded," said Vaughan. "For example, they could have been on the first floor of a six-story building that collapsed, so we coordinate the rescue effort."

"If we need heavier equipment than we have, we'll work with heavy riggers, delayering [debris] 'til we get to them," he continued. "We're not going to stop 'til we get to them."

The Fairfax rescuers will probably work in 24-hour shifts, to start, with downtime, here and there. Normally, half the team would work days, and the other half, nights. But, said Vaughan, "Due to the amount of work, it's round the clock now."

He, too, helped with the mobilization, "pushing paperwork, getting everything

in order," and looked forward to "getting down there and doing what we train relentlessly to do — rescue people. It's a lot like a soldier trains for a war — not that you want one — but when that time comes, you want to be able to put it to good use."

Vaughan said they'd all "done this enough" so that they can quickly assess whatever situation they encounter and proceed accordingly. Hardest, he said, was wanting to get there as fast as they could, but understanding that it takes six to 14 hours to assemble all the gear, get the plane ready and the equipment on board.

"It's a huge undertaking and we'd like it done in 30 minutes," he said. "Then, once we're on the ground, the physical work and sleep deprivation will eventually take a toll on us. But when we're working, we don't let it bother us."

Vaughan will miss his two daughters and wife Erica, though. But, said Erica Vaughan, "I'm so proud of what he's doing. He's been training to do this and I hope he'll save some lives." She said she never gets used to his deployments and worries about him while he's gone. But, she added, "I know he's in the Big Man's hands and [the fire department] does a good job of keeping us updated."

Technician Kevin Dabney of Vienna has been on the team more than 10 years. A rescue specialist, he helps with team organization and works under the Task Force leaders, Fire Chiefs Jim Strickland and Robert Zoldos.

"I'll command others to do search and

rescue, and we'll help in any way we can," said Dabney. "We're 100-percent self-sufficient and don't need anything from the local government."

After receiving a geographical location to search, the Command and General Staff Team that Dabney's on determines which people should go where and sees that they're properly equipped. It also handles safety, logistics, medical, planning and operations matters.

We ask, "Is there medical transport? Where do we send survivors?" said Dabney. "What about security issues — are there roadblocks?" So behind the scenes, there's a whole lot of work."

When they hear of possible survivors needing rescue, first a small reconnaissance team assesses whether it's a workable location. Then, if it's a go, six to 80 people — including medical personnel, technical search specialists, dogs and structural engineers — would respond. The size of the response depends on the size of the site and the suspected number of victims needing rescue.

Since firefighters communicate by radio, Lt. Wes Rogers' specialty is also crucial. Rogers, of Oak Hill, works in communications in the Massey Building in Fairfax and also on the USAR team.

"I set up repeaters, enabling the radios to talk further than line of sight," he said. "Depending on the terrain, we could have a 4-mile range. I'll also set up satellite communications to talk to our Operations Center at the

Fire and Rescue Academy and will establish communications with our USAR team already in Haiti."

Typically, team managers receive radio updates about the victims, plus the status of the search teams, where they are, if they're all right and if they need anything.

Last Thursday, Rogers could hardly wait to get there already and start helping. "Everybody here has that attitude," he said. "I'm proud of the team. Everybody works together, and we all want to save some lives."

Squad officer Richard McKinney of Fair Oaks is captain of the Frying Pan Station. He's a 30-year member of the fire department and has been on Task Force 1 since its inception.

"We'll search buildings, going in void spaces and looking for trapped people," he said. "USAID will tell us which buildings and areas to check." What makes it so dangerous, said McKinney, is the unknown.

But he's glad to do what he can and he likes the camaraderie among the people on the team. "Most of them I've known, my whole career, so they're just like a second family," he said. He's been with them to Oklahoma City, Taiwan and the Pentagon after 9/11.

"We're 100-percent self-sufficient and don't need anything from the local government."

— Technician Kevin Dabney of Vienna



The team members' red and yellow bags are piled on the floor at the Fire and Rescue Academy prior to being loaded on a truck for transport to the airport.



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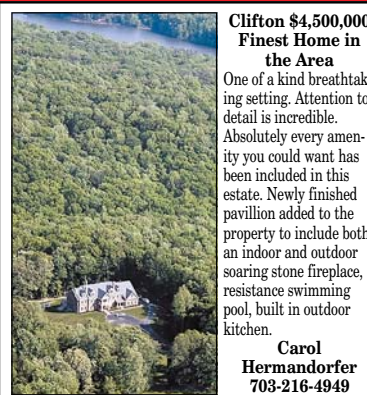
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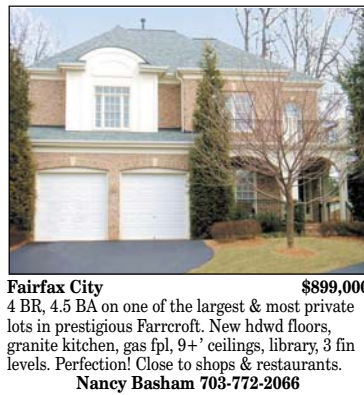
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Fairfax Station **\$685,000**

Coming Soon!
Charming wonderfully priced 3 level Cape Cod on peaceful 1+ acre lot, Walking distance to Fountainhead

Park. Quality built, mostly brick, 5BR, 3BA, Fin walk-out LL, Hdwd floors, scrnd Porch, updated Kitchen & Baths. Walk-in Attic, storage galore! Deck overlooks woodland, beautifully landscaped.



Fort Belvoir **\$2750/mo. Rental**

Immaculate 4-level brick townhome in Inlet Cove, close to Lorton VRE, Metro, and minutes to Fort Belvoir. Gorgeous open floor plan w/hardwood floors, 9 ft+ ceilings, huge kitchen w/island. MBR w/tray ceiling, walk-in closet, soaking tub w/separate shower. Finished walkout level w/gas fireplace, patio, deck plus 2-car garage. Must see this beautiful 1st time rental.
Call Judy McGuire 703-581-7679



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Woodbridge **\$449,900**

Picture Perfect
Lovely 4 Bedroom, 3 1/2 Bath
Colonial, sited on a perfect lot, Large Gourmet Kitchen w/Centre Island, Breakfast Room w/ Glass

Slider views
Gorgeous Deck w/built-in Hot Tub, Manicured yard completely fenced with Privacy Fence, Lower Level offers theater Room, exercise Room, 5th Bedroom & full Bath.
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Alexandria **\$450,000**

Coming Soon
Very spacious 5 BR, 4 BA, 3 level house in Hayfield Farms. In need of a little TLC to make it home and value priced to sell. Sunroom off kitchen, hardwood floors on upper 2 levels. Finished lower level with walkout to fenced back yard. Convenient to Ft. Belvoir, schools, shopping, restaurants & transportation.

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