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Too Many,
Not Enough

NEWS, PAGE 3

From left,
Chloe Gilfoil (Annie)
and Zoe Diamond-
Tapper (Molly) re-
hearse a scene from
Robinson Middle
School's 'Annie.'

Orphan Annie

NEWS, PAGE 4

Keeping It
In the Family

SPORTS, PAGE 12

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION
SPORTS, PAGE 12 ❖ CALENDAR, PAGE 10 ❖ HOME SALES, PAGE 15 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 17

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Finding Solutions

Community group to offer alternatives for coping with elementary school overcrowding.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

A 56-person committee set up to advise the School Board on elementary school overcrowding in western Fairfax County has started to look at options for addressing the student boom that has pushed several existing schools over their capacity limits during.

School Board members expect the committee to suggest and explore several alternatives for fixing the overcrowding problem during a work session in May or June. The citizens committee will also run a larger community outreach process about school overcrowding and potential solutions for the problem near the end of the school year.

The School Board will not vote on any permanent solution to the overcrowding predicament until the next academic year, meaning that affected communities would not be asked to make changes until September 2011 at the earliest.

School staff and the committee have identified 28 elementary schools that draw students from Oakton, Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Burke and Springfield that could be affected by the School Board's response to overcrowding in the western county schools.

Only one school, Clifton Elementary, has been put on the table for closure. Staff has also asked the citizen advisory committee to look at benefits and problems associated with building a brand new elementary school in western Fairfax.

Eventually, the School Board plan for addressing overcrowding could include several other changes for communities.

Some special academic programs, like a Gifted and Talented Center, language immersion or Autism classes, could relocate from one school to another to make room for more students. It is also likely that the board will look at changing existing school boundaries and might propose additions to current school buildings.

The committee report is expected to have a great influence on what the school board eventually does to mitigate overcrowding in western Fairfax. But the citizen advisory group is not supposed to pass judgment or make a final recommendation about which solution might produce the best outcome for the public, said Kelly Hutter, the com-

mittee co-chair and a Greenbriar East Elementary School representative.

"Keep in mind that our final report is going to be full of pros and cons for all solutions. We have to look at all sides and both the pros and the cons of [of all proposals]," said Hutter during a committee meeting at Liberty Middle School Jan. 28.

The committee will be able to list how many of its members are supportive of a certain solution. Still, Hutter said all viable solutions will be explored and included in the committee report to the school board, even those that don't have widespread support among committee members.

At least one issue that could sharply divide committee members has already emerged. The advisory group has devoted an entire subcommittee to the closing of Clifton Elementary School.

School staff had argued that closing Clifton should be explored for several reasons.

Clifton Elementary serves a smaller student population than most of the other local elementary schools in the study. Yet the school system estimates it would be far more ex-

pensive to renovate Clifton, which sits high on a bluff overlooking the town, than the average Fairfax elementary school because the school's site is hard for construction equipment to access.

Currently, the school system is also spending money to bring bottled water to Clifton students and staff every day because the school's drinking water is contaminated.

But Clifton residents, including those that sit on the committee, feel passionately that the school, which has existed in some form for over 100 years, is the heart of their community and should not be closed.

Nearly every elected official who represents Clifton, including Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), has come out strongly against closing the school.

Still, a few committee members from other school communities asked for reassurance that the advisory group will offer both the benefits and drawbacks of closing Clifton in their final report, regardless of the strong feelings some members might have.

"Is the [Clifton] subcommittee still looking at all the possibilities?" said Cassie Eatmon, a representative from Virginia Run Elementary School.



Jennifer Broderick represents Oak View Elementary School.

PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

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Many Schools Outdated, Overcrowded

Increasing enrollment puts pressure on limited school facilities funding.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County School Board has set a goal of renovating school buildings every 25 to 30 years, but in reality, most schools are waiting approximately 40 years before their physical plants receive an upgrade.

School Board members unanimously approved a capital improvement plan Jan. 21 that included many school renovation projects several years overdue.

When Franklin-Sherman Elementary's renovation project gets underway this year, it will be the McLean school's first total facilities overhaul since it was built in 1952. Freedom Hill Elementary, which opened in Vienna in 1949, is scheduled to undergo its first "full renovation" in 2010 as well.

It is not clear yet when a building like West Springfield High School, originally

built in the 1960s and approximately 100 students over capacity, would see an upgrade to its physical plant, though a renovation is unlikely to get underway any time during the next decade.

WITH LITTLE HELP from the Commonwealth of Virginia, the school system relies almost entirely on the Fairfax County government for money to complete new school construction, building additions and renovations.

Both school staff and county government officials agree that the county has been generous when it comes to school building funding. But

what the county can afford to do is simply not enough to keep up with the demand for renovations.

Currently, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors issues bonds annually for \$155 million worth of school capital projects. The system's staff said it would need approximately \$225 million per year to ensure an

"We have a limited opportunity to get a bunch of renovations done."

— Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Schools plans to start the renovation of Longfellow Middle School this year.

overhaul of each facility every three decades.

By contrast, School Board member Dan Storck (Mount Vernon) has said that Montgomery County, Md. spends approximately \$100 million more per year on school construction than Fairfax, even though the suburban Maryland school system has 30,000 fewer students.

An increase in student enrollment has also put extra pressure on Fairfax's limited school construction funding pool.

The school system has seen enrollment grow by 8,500 students since the beginning of the 2006-07 school year, gaining 3,300 students from September 2008 to September 2009 alone. The boom in the student

population is expected to continue, with an estimated 11,500 more students in the school system in the fall of 2014 than were enrolled in this past fall.

An increase in students means that Fairfax schools must use more of its construction funding to build new schools and to add extra wings onto older school buildings.

In the construction plan passed last month, the school system included a new South County Middle School for the Lorton area and 11 "capacity enhancement" projects for older elementary and middle schools around the county.

Some elected officials are looking at ways

SEE OVERCROWDING, PAGE 14

School Construction

Fairfax County Public Schools will start construction on one facility in the Fairfax Station and Lorton area.

School	Type of Project	Cost	Completion Date
South County M.S.	New Construction	\$40.1 million	2012-13 school year

Gov. McDonnell Still Weighs School Funding Freeze

With frozen Local Composite Index, Fairfax County stands to lose \$61 million.

BY VERONICA GARABELLI
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Under pressure from politicians in Northern Virginia, Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) appears to be backing away from a staff comment that he would continue using a school funding formula that takes money from more affluent localities and gives it to less affluent ones.

Last week, McDonnell's press secretary, Stacey Johnson, told Capital News Service that the governor planned to uphold the funding-formula freeze proposed in December by then-Gov. Tim Kaine (D).

"The governor plans to keep the current freeze," Johnson said in an e-mail on Fri-

day (Jan. 22). "We will put out more specific direction to agency heads next week."

However, on Tuesday, Johnson backed away from that statement. In a statement sent to Capital News Service she said, "We are evaluating all of the components of the current budget and will be working with House and Senate budget conferees to gather their input on existing spending reductions as well as potential new cost savings strategies."

"No final decisions have been made regarding the composite index freeze by the legislators or the governor's finance team."

AT ISSUE is the Local Composite Index, a formula that determines how much school

funding a county or city would get from the state government.

The LCI assigns each school division a score, such as ".75" or ".51," based on the locality's adjusted gross income, taxable retail sales and property tax base. The lower its score, the more money the locality gets from the state government for basic education and vice versa.

The LCI scores for Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties were about to drop, meaning those school divisions would get more state funding. However, Kaine decided to freeze the LCI scores at last year's levels.

The result: Fairfax County stands to lose \$61 million; Prince William County, \$22

million; and Loudoun County, \$34 million.

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said the sooner school districts know the fate of the school funding formula, the better because they will be able to plan their budgets.

McKay said he wants to educate Fairfax County citizens about the LCI freeze. He said that the issue originally was seen as "inside baseball" and that the anger coming out of Northern Virginia was underestimated.

"Clearly, what we're doing is starting to work," McKay said. "Every taxpayer in this county has to keep the pressure on this."

Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), has spoken

SEE FUNDING, PAGE 5

Spa Raises Money for Haiti

Unique U Day Spa is hosting a two-day fund-raising event in which 100 percent of the spa's daily earnings will go to the Clinton Bush Haiti Relief Foundation. The event takes place Sunday, Feb. 7 and Monday, Feb. 8 at Unique U Day Spa at 8961 Ox Road, Suite 120 in Lorton. To learn more about Unique U's spa services visit www.uniqueudayspa.com. To schedule an appointment or to make a monetary donation, call 703-690-6300.

Scholarship Honors Singh

Roopa Singh, a 57-year-old mother, wife and recent graduate of University of Phoenix, realized her dream of earning her bachelor of science in health administration, human services management. Unfortunately, she never got to put her knowledge and skills to practice as she died unexpectedly last year. To honor Singh's memory, her family has partnered with University of Phoenix-Northern Virginia to offer The Roopa V. Singh Family Memorial Scholarship Program.

The program will award five \$1,000 scholarships to prospective students enrolling in the human services management bachelor's degree program to cover the cost of tuition and other educational expenses. Additionally, the university has matched the scholarship funds donated by Singh's family, so that each of the five recipients will now receive \$2,000.

Singh was a longtime volunteer for The United Way in her Williamsburg hometown and served as a court-appointed special advocate for CASA, counseling and assisting children in custody and family disputes.

Additional scholarship information and application requirements may be obtained by e-mailing scholarships@phoenix.edu. The deadline is Feb. 17. Scholarship award recipients will be announced on March 10.

Raising Funds for Haiti

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Sydenstricker United Methodist, Silver Brook United Methodist, St. John's Lutheran, Church of the Nativity Catholic Church, Hope Lutheran, Christ Church in Fairfax Station and many other local churches have joined together to host a Stop Hunger Now (SHN) meal packaging event. The goal is to pack 100,000 meals high protein, dehydrated meals for Haiti and raise \$25,000 to purchase the supplies for the meals.

The public has several ways to participate. Meals will be packed on Feb. 19 and 20, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield to help prepare meals, register at <http://www.poplc.org/>.

To raise money, all day on Feb. 10 and 11 Uno's Chicago Grill, 5935 Kingstowne Towne Center, Kingstowne, will donate up to 20 percent of a customer's bill for Stop Hunger Now – Food For Haiti when customers present a DoughRaiser coupon, which are available in the lobby of Prince of Peace. For additional information contact Susan Herbert, 703-922-5836 or susanherbert54@yahoo.com. Donations can also be made to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Write "Stop Hunger Now" in the memo line.

AT&T's 3G in Fairfax County

AT&T recently activated 12 new 3G cell sites throughout Fairfax County, offering customers enhanced voice and data quality and boosting wireless coverage for area residents and businesses.

"As part of the Fairfax County community, we're always looking for new opportunities to provide enhanced coverage and our investment in the local wireless network is just one way to accomplish this," said J. Michael Schweder, president, AT&T Mid-Atlantic Region.

The new 3G sites will affect the communities of Vienna, Clifton, Great Falls, Oakton, Fairfax, Centreville, Kingstowne and McLean.

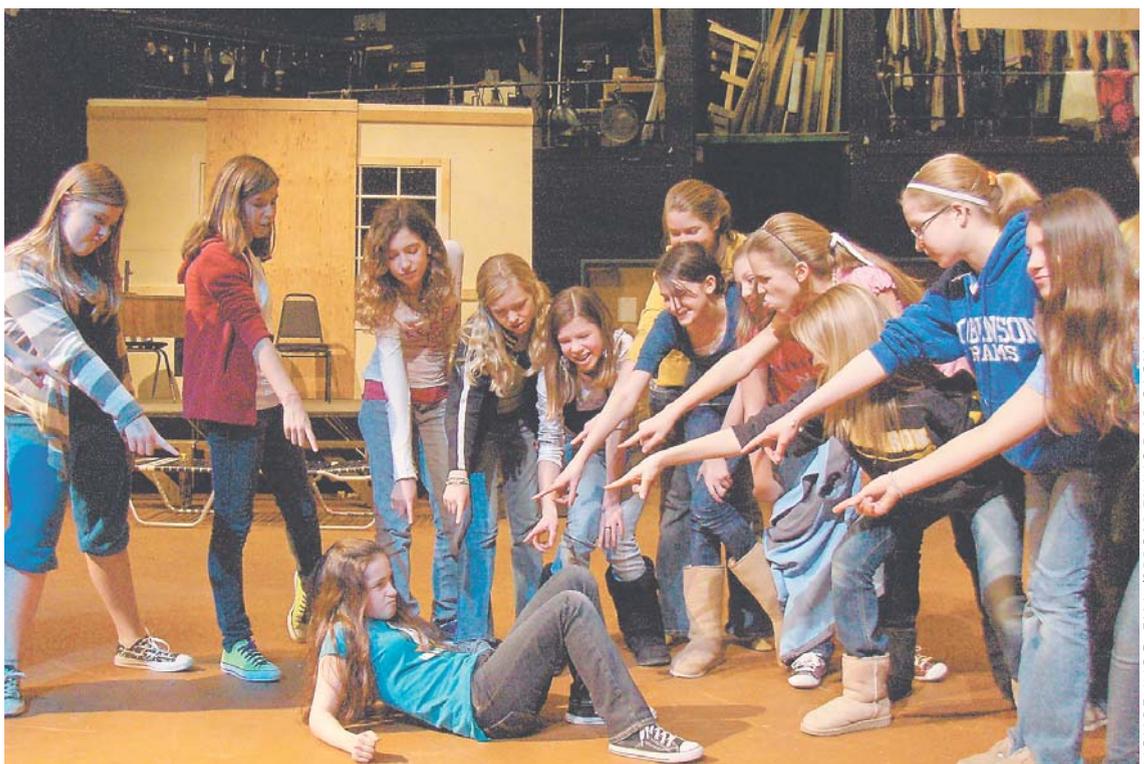


PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

As Molly, student Zoe Diamond-Tapper, on the floor, pretends to be the mean Miss Hannigan while the other orphans taunt her during the song, 'It's a Hard-Knock Life.'

'Hard-Knock' Theater

Robinson Middle School brings 'Annie' to stage.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of more than 100, Robinson Middle School is presenting "Annie." And it won't be an abridged version.

"We set the bar really high," said Amy Hard, co-directing with Diane Burokow. "No junior shows We do only full-length, Broadway productions."

Show times are Thursday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 13, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 14, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 online and at the door, but they go quickly, so purchases at www.robinsondrama.org are recommended.

Accompanying the cast on piano will be Robinson Secondary students Madison Auch and Michael Lamar. Choreographers were Hard and sophomore Josh Israel. Musical director is Lee High Choir Director Kristin Sheppard.

"We've set it strongly in the Great Depression, so the environment becomes a character," said Hard. "It's the first time we've done 'Annie' here, and we picked the show before we knew we had a perfect Annie."

Playing that title role is seventh-grader Chloe Gilfoil, with a powerful voice that belies her petite stature. Describing 11-year-old Annie as "energetic and spunky," Chloe said her character looks on the bright side. "She's friendly and not afraid to say anything," said Chloe. "She's an orphan, befriended by the rich Mr. Warbucks, but she hopes her parents

will find her."

Chloe enjoys acting and making new friends among the cast. "It's hard memorizing all the lines, but I get to work with a dog, ride on things and get lifted up," she said. "I think the show will be touching and really enjoyable."

Eighth-grader James Lynch portrays Daddy Warbucks. "He's a wealthy, regal and composed businessman and one of few people untouched by the Depression," said James. "He feels he's better than everyone else and that what he does is right. So [initially], he has little respect for most of the other characters. But Annie unlocks the part of him that's soft and caring."

James loves playing such a powerful, important person. "I stand straight and keep my head high," he said. "And it's fun to show how Warbucks changes from coldhearted to loving." He said the audience will like the play's serious and funny moments, plus energetic songs and choreography.

HIS FAVORITE number is "The New Deal for Christmas." "Everything's coming together and it's all good. It's the happy ending in

song form," said James. "Annie brings sunshine to poor people who don't have much to look forward to. The play's message is that people should keep a positive attitude."

However, not all the characters share Annie's outlook, and eighth-grader Hannah Sikora portrays Miss Hannigan, who runs the orphanage. "She's mean and an alcoholic," said Hannah. "She can't find a man and no one likes her. She's frustrated that none of these 'rotten orphans' listen to her and she wants to get rich fast."

A longtime fan of "Annie," Hannah is enjoying her

"It's hard memorizing all the lines, but I get to work with a dog, ride on things and get lifted up."

— Chloe Gilfoil

SEE 'ANNIE,' PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Funding

FROM PAGE 3

in the General Assembly about the school funding formula. He said he doesn't think McDonnell's administration is focused on the issue.

"I'm not quite sure if they understand it," Petersen said. "I don't think they've made a commitment one way or the other."

Corey A. Stewart, chairman of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors, and Scott K. York, chairman of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, said they are also working to spread the word about the LCI freeze.

"I really am not prone to making exaggerations," Stewart said "But it would seriously damage the educational systems in Northern Virginia."

Kaine proposed freezing the LCI to protect 97 school divisions that would lose money if the formula were re-calculated.

COLLEGE NOTES

Travis Ross of Clifton was named to the University at Albany's fall 2009 dean's list for outstanding academic achievement.

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THINGS TO DO

A Star Comes Home

West Springfield grad Jeri Sager returns to area for a 'homecoming' show at Wolf Trap.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Jeri Sager's family didn't know she could sing until she was in high school. "We were sitting around the dinner table one night and Jeri said she was going to be doing a solo during church the next Sunday," said her sister, Jo Gilley, who now lives in Chicago.

The puzzled faces turned to slack-jawed astonishment when Sager, then in her early teens, belted out a song Barbara Streisand sang in the movie "Funny Girl."

"We were just stunned," Gilley said. "My dad forgot he was in church for a second and said 'Damn. She can really sing,' she laughed.

Now Sager is preparing for a one-night only show at The Barns at Wolf Trap Saturday night, where she'll perform songs from her career on Broadway. Currently, Sager is performing both on land — a concert in Dallas this week before her return to Fairfax County — and at sea — on cruise ships, including a recent stint in the Panama Canal. When she's not on the road, she makes

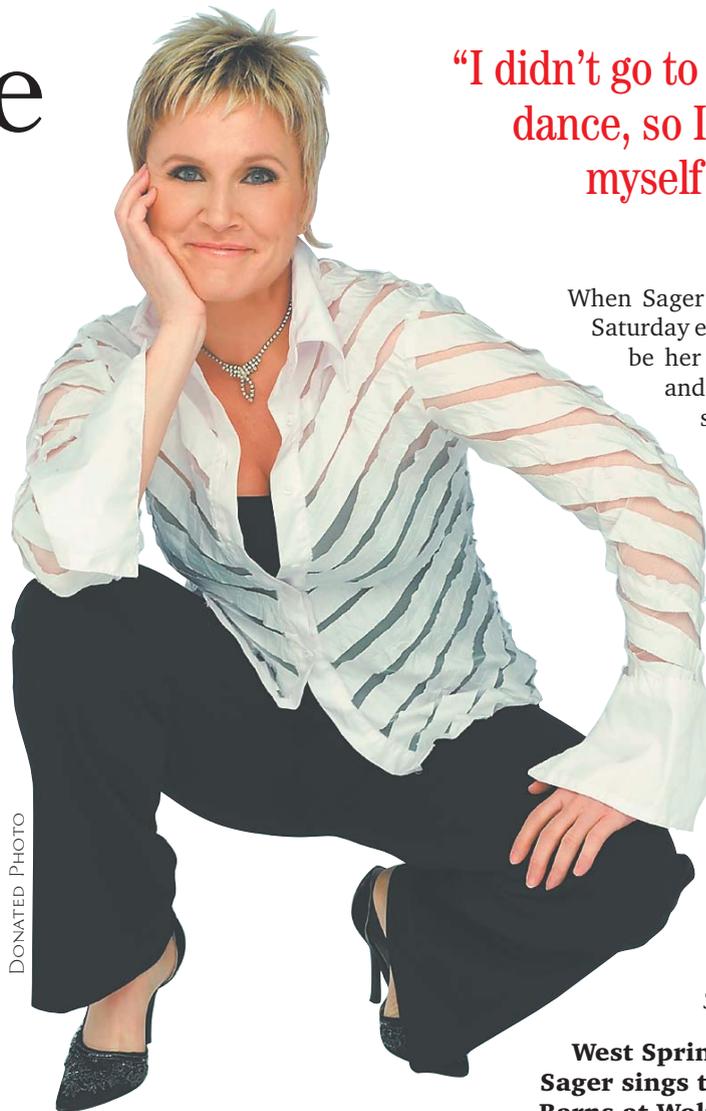
her home in Nashville with her husband, Randy Rickel, who is currently on tour as a coach driver for comedians.

Growing up, Sager's performances were, for the most part, "alone in my room, singing into my hairbrush" in the early days, she said. She would come home from West Springfield High School and emulate the singers she loved to listen to, learning from and imitating them.

Sager was in the band, playing percussion in seventh and eighth grade, but joined chorus in 10th grade. She tried out for the all-state choir that year and was one of two girls to make the performing group from her school that year.

"Nobody knew who I was," Sager said. "I came out of nowhere."

She never did shows for her family, like most aspiring singers do, Sager admitted. But her stage presence is equally credited to her mother "a wonderful actress" and her father, "who had a great voice. I got my voice from my father but the soul of an actress comes from my mom."



DONATED PHOTO

"I didn't go to my homecoming dance, so I'm kind of giving myself a homecoming."

— Jeri Sager

When Sager performs at Wolf Trap on Saturday evening, in the audience will be her sister, Gilley, her husband and their two sons, along with some friends from her days at the now-defunct Harlequin Theater in Maryland.

"I didn't go to my homecoming dance, so I'm kind of giving myself a homecoming," Sager said, laughing.

Earlier in the week, Sager did a show in Dallas, where her brother Jim lives with his family. "This is like Old Home Week," Sager said, sounding thrilled to be performing in front of people she loves.

SEE JERI SAGER, PAGE 18

West Springfield native Jeri Sager sings this Saturday at the Barns at Wolf Trap.

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

Chris Monette Appleton is the featured artist in Studio 4 at Lorton's Workhouse Arts Center. Her show "Recent Drawings" is comprised of figure drawings from life and will be unveiled at the Second Saturday Art Walk on Feb. 13, from 6-9 p.m. and exhibited through March 10. The art walks promise an interesting evening for art lovers and families and anyone wanting a few hours of fun. Snacks, hors d'oeuvre, warm beverages, music, new work and artists guarantee a great evening.

AT THE WORKHOUSE

The Artists of Building 10 at the Workhouse Art Center at Lorton will be steaming up February with the theme of love and salsa on Feb. 13, from 6-9 p.m. Influenced by a recent trip to Cuba by artist, Susan Tilt who returned with the new salsa music. Tilt was part of a group from the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in D.C. that visits Cuba yearly as a friendship and reconciliation between Americans and Cubans. She also had an opportunity to see artwork from Cuban artists being gathered for an art auction to benefit Cuban children with cancer.

ArtNotes presents The U.S. Army Band Chorus on Saturday, Feb. 6, at 6:30 p.m., in Gallery W-16, second floor. Join in this free evening of music including pop, Broadway, folk, traditional patriotic music and classical music.

Valentine's Day Date Night. Come share creative side with a partner and join the Workhouse ceramics, glass

and dance instructors for a fun evening on Friday, Feb. 12 or Saturday, Feb. 13 from 6-11 p.m. Choose from a Glass Workshop in Building W-7 or a Ceramics Workshop in Building W-8 from 7-9:30 p.m. Learn to create Hand-built or Wheel-thrown objects with a friend or partner. Before, during and after the workshops, a reception featuring ballroom dancing, complimentary hors d'ouvres and cash bar will take place in Gallery W-16 from 6-11pm. Ballroom dancing

will be hosted by a professional ballroom instructor. \$75 couple or singles with friend, includes workshop and dancing. \$20 couple or singles with friend, dancing only.

"The Working Artist - Principles and Practice for Success." Glass artist Milon Townsend [<http://www.milontownsend.com/>] returns to the Workhouse to address many of the issues facing you as a working artist today on Saturday, Feb. 13 and Sunday, Feb. 14, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Lecturing throughout the country on art business topics, Milon's presentations are drawn from his nearly 40 years experience as a successful full time artist. Handouts and worksheets provide detailed information to take home, and his interactive style is designed to draw out specific issues and problems. \$100 for both days, Workhouse artists and mem-

bers \$80. For more information and to register, visit www.WorkhouseArts.org. Milon will be giving a free flameworking demonstration Feb. 13 at 7 p.m., showing his sculptural techniques.

Gallery After Hours presents Word Beat. Saturday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m., Gallery W-16, second floor. Enjoy an evening of percussion and spoken word poetry from Word Beat [<http://www.word-beat.com>]. Global jazz per-

cussionist Tom Teasley and acclaimed singer/actor Charles Williams pair inspirational words with inventive percussive sounds. Their performances feature mystic poetry, African proverbs, Harlem Renaissance poetry and the words of Martin Luther King Jr. and Gandhi in musical layers of voice, hand drums, shakers and electronics. Tickets \$15-\$25. Cash bar and light fare available.

The Workhouse Film Institute

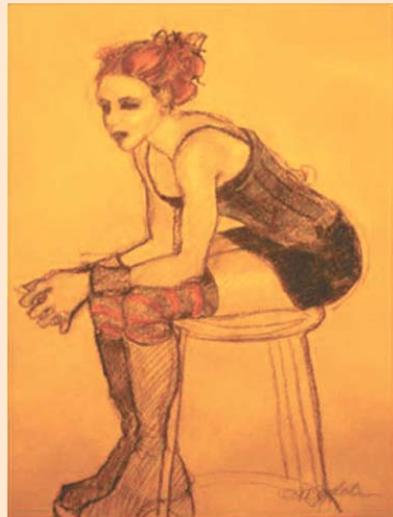
presents "A Man Named Pearl." Friday, Feb. 26 and Sat. Feb. 27, Gallery W-16, second floor. Join the Workhouse for film weekend, including an artist workshop/lecture with Pearl Fryar and a screening of the film "A Man Named Pearl." This film is about a self-taught topiary artist Fryar. Cash bar and light fare available. Tickets: \$5-10 for tickets to film and workshop. Film screening on Friday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m. On Saturday, Feb. 27, artist workshop/lecture with Fryar, 3 p.m.; youth workshop/lecture with Fryar, 5:30 p.m.; film screening, 7 p.m.

Paul Reisler Duo performs Saturday, March 6, 6:30 p.m., Gallery W-16, second floor. This group is rooted in folk music combined with world music eclecticism and performed with classical precision. Cash bar and light fare available. Tickets: \$15-25.

Black History Month Exhibition. The Workhouse will honor Black History Month with an exhibit of works by several well-known African American artists including: Margo Humphrey, Michael B. Platt, Preston Sampson, Stanley Squirewell, Thermon Statom and others. The exhibit runs Feb. 3-27, in Gallery W-16, second floor, with an opening reception to meet the artists Sunday, Feb. 7 from 2-4 p.m.

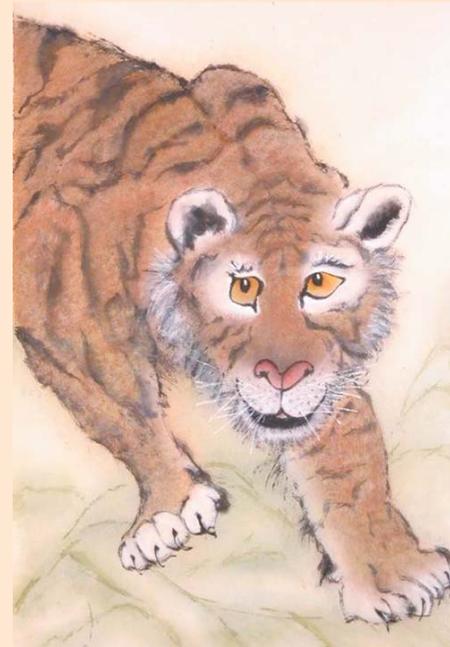
As part of the Workhouse Art Center's Art for a Change! program, advanced art students will have the opportunity to be considered for a

SEE WORKHOUSE, PAGE 11



Chris Monette Appleton recent drawings
February 13 through March 10
Studio 4, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, VA

Work by Chris Monette Appleton will be unveiled at the Feb. 13 Second Saturday Art Walk on Feb. 13.



"Tiger" by Irene Tsai, Chinese watercolor

'Annie' on Ram Stage

FROM PAGE 4

role — the complete opposite of her, in real life — so more of a stretch to play. She says the audience will love the show's classic and familiar storyline. "The directors made it not like a typical, middle-school performance, but more like a professional show," she said.

Playing President Franklin D. Roosevelt is eighth-grader Eli Downs. "Annie gave him the inspiration and optimism to create the New Deal," said Eli. "She really wanted to meet the president of the United States and went with Warbucks for a quick visit. FDR let her stay [so he could] have a child's perspective on the government."

Eli has done many plays, but it's the first time he's played a real person. "FDR was someone everyone knew and cherished, and knowing that is almost a burden, but also fun," said Eli. "I've done research and seen many movies about him so I can play him realistically." His favorite number is "You Won't Be an Orphan for Long" because "it's a happy song and a showstopper. Everyone's in it, all reassuring Annie."

Seventh-grader Zoe Diamond-Tapper portrays another orphan, Annie's good friend Molly. "She's upset with her life, but tries making the best of it," said Zoe. "It feels free playing someone half my age. My favorite song is 'It's a Hark-Knock Life' because it's high energy and I make fun of Miss Hannigan." As for the show, she said, "The audience will see all the hard work and effort we put into it. And Chloe has an amazing voice the audience will really like."

The stage manager is senior Cody Clarke and, said Hard, "He's helped since seventh grade and made this program work." For this play, he's in charge of the high-school, tech-crew chiefs doing sets, lights, sound, makeup and costumes. He also runs scenes and numbers with the young thespians. "I thrive on chaos," he said. "This is a timeless show and we've got a really talented group of actors."

"The dynamic between the cast members really charges the theater with electricity," said Hard. "These students know how to put on a production entirely by themselves, and we love that."

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



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OPINION

Adding More Painful Cuts

With talk of cutting programs that make it bearable to go to school for students, pay cuts should also be on the table.

Some of the cuts proposed by Fairfax County Public Schools might sound like they would not affect learning very much.

Freshman sports, for instance, involves 2,200 students across the county who are engaged in the delicate transition from middle school to high school. Why would it matter? How about the 5,000 students who participate in indoor track?

Or the thousands of students who find their love of learning through music.

Or the students getting a second chance on success at Pimmit Hills Alternative School.

Succeeding in school is all about finding a niche, a reason to go, particularly in high school. For some students, this is band. For others it is the chance to run track. For some, it's an art class. For others it might be a con-

nection to friends made through freshman sports.

Education succeeds for many different reasons. It is a huge mistake to cut off the very things that help students engage.

Nevertheless, schools across the area will have less money per student this year, and they will have to make cuts. Before they cut the life out of the school day for so many children, parents and the rest of local taxpayers deserve to see administration and staff over a certain level willing to share the pain.

No doubt many administrative cuts are not receiving as much publicity as cuts that impact students. But what administrative departments will face cuts similar to those proposed for music or some sports programs?

EDITORIAL

Sorting Out Conflicting Advice on Mammograms

BY DR. KIRSTEN EDMISTON
MEDICAL DIRECTOR, INOVA CANCER SERVICES

Women can be apprehensive about going for their annual mammogram. The stress of waiting for results, or even the test itself, can be something many would gladly avoid.

In November, the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSF) may have added to this stress by announcing revised screening mammography guidelines. The new recommendations left many women uncertain about what to do about their breast health. The USPSF recommended against routine screening mammography in women aged 40 to 49 and recommended that women aged 50 to 74 have a mammogram every two years rather than every year, unless there is a high-risk for breast cancer because of family history or gene mutations.

The new guidelines conflict with those of the American Cancer Society and the American College of Radiology, which both remain committed to advising annual mammograms starting at age 40, as well as the National Cancer Institute, which recommends that women age 40 and older have mammograms every one to two years.

The Inova Breast Care Institute, which has entry points throughout Northern Virginia for patients with any type of breast health issues, continues to support routine annual screening mammograms from qualified breast imaging centers for women over the age of 40 as long as they are in good health.

In the United States, breast cancer is the

most common cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths in women according to the American Cancer Society. More than 192,000 new cases and 40,000 deaths from the disease are expected in the U.S. this year.

THE BEST approach to maintaining a women's breast health is to maintain a healthy lifestyle, have appropriate screening based on risk and to encourage women to discuss their specific family history and circumstances with their physician.

Women who have found breast cancer after having an annual mammogram agree that it is important to be diligent about having regular breast exams. Early detection leads to the best chance for a successful outcome.

The Inova Breast Care Institute at Inova Alexandria, Inova Fairfax, Inova Fair Oaks, Inova Loudoun and Inova Mount Vernon hospitals are some of the first programs in the Washington, D.C., metro area to receive three-year accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers, which awards accreditation only to programs that embrace a multidisciplinary approach and can meet or exceed 27 strict standards for excellence in breast care.

When there are questions about breast care, experts at the Inova Breast Care Institute are available to answer those questions, alleviate any concerns and offer our commitment to supporting women's breast health. For more information about breast health visit inova.org/ibci.

COMMENTARY

Pay cuts for staff with salaries more than \$75,000 should also be on the table, holding classroom teachers harmless.

More moderate than many of the cuts in many private companies with revenue short-fall in the past two years, schools could consider a 5 percent or smaller for employees who make \$75,000-\$90,000, ranging up to a 20 percent cut for those who make \$140,000-\$200,000 and possibly more for anyone who makes more than \$200,000.

These are people who have served in the school system for a long time, and they deserve respect for the excellent job they have done. But right now, everything needs to be on the table.

This budget crisis is different than in the past. Right now for the first time, taxpayers are looking at drastically lower home values, and many are underwater. Tens of thousands of taxpayers in Northern Virginia are unemployed. For the public to press for more money for schools, schools will have to demonstrate that they "get it."

— MARY KIMM

Rolling Up Sleeves

To the Editor:

As the General Assembly begins rolling up its sleeves and dealing with a \$4 billion budget shortfall, we are frequently reminded that there will be substantial cuts across all important government services, be it our schools, public safety or our long-awaited transportation fix. We are assured by politicians that they will find efficiency in government before they cut our schools or further delay road fixes.

A bill was proposed and heard in the House of Delegates on Jan. 22 that would have done just that. Del. Ward Armstrong's (D-11) House Bill 1053 combines various legislative agencies under the Division of Legislative Services and saves more than \$2.5 million. Yes it eliminated some government jobs, but it streamlined state government at a time when many are losing their jobs due to a sour economy.

I was disappointed to hear that Del. Dave Albo (R-42), who ran on a platform of making government more efficient, opposed this common sense measure. This is simply another example of why average people don't take politicians seriously anymore. How many jobs for teachers or police officers could that \$2.5 million have saved?

Republicans and Democrats alike overwhelmingly supported the bill. I hope Del. Albo knows that his constituents expect leadership in these difficult times.

Kris Breaux
Springfield

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CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Thirteen Fairfax County Public Schools student publications have been awarded the highest ranking of Trophy Class by the Virginia High School League (VHSL), the equivalent of a state championship in scholastic publications.

The following awards were presented to local student journalists in the Magazine Division:

❖ First Place: Wingspan, Hayfield Secondary School, **Mary Prunchak**, adviser; and Page, Woodson High School, **Ron Shapiro and Drew Marvin**, advisers.

❖ Second Place: Erudite, Edison High School; **Alison Douglass**, adviser; The Matrix, Fairfax High School, **Bryan Pahl**, adviser; and Carousel, Robinson Secondary School, **Tim Harris**, adviser.

The following awards were presented to FCPS student journalists in the Newsmagazine Division:

❖ First Place: Rebel Roar, Fairfax High School, **Lauren Millette**, adviser.

The following awards were presented to FCPS student journalists in the Newspaper Division:

❖ Trophy Class: tj Today, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, **Jennifer Seavey**, adviser.

❖ First Place: The Bear Facts, Lake Braddock Secondary School, **Kathryn Helmke**, adviser; the Lance, Lee High School, **Bob Soule**, adviser; Valor Dictus, Robinson Secondary School, **Stephanie Axelrod**, adviser; the Oracle, West Springfield High School, **Brooke Ramey Nelson**, adviser; and the Cavalcade, Woodson High School, **Andrew Springer**, adviser.

The following awards were presented to FCPS student journalists in

the Yearbook Division:

❖ Trophy Class: The Lair, Lake Braddock Secondary School, **Ashley Yuckenberg**, adviser; Lock & Key, South County Secondary School, **Leana Jensen**, adviser; and The Cavalier, Woodson High School, **Jacqueline Godwin**, adviser.

❖ First Place: The Shield, Lee High School, **Sarah Altenhaus**, adviser; and Above & Beyond, Robinson Secondary School, **Linda Hughes**, adviser.

❖ Second Place: The Olympian, West Springfield High School, **Brooke Ramey Nelson**, adviser.

Student journalists from six Fairfax County Public Schools were recognized recently with awards from the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) at the 2009 Journalism Education Association (JEA)/NSPA Fall National High School Journalism Convention in Washington, D.C. tjToday, the student newspaper of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST), was named a 2009 NSPA Newspaper Pacemaker Winner for newspapers of 16 or fewer pages, the highest honor bestowed by NSPA. **Teresa Ventura** is the editor, and **Jennifer Seavey** serves as tjToday adviser.

Other local winners of Best of Show awards were:

Junior High Yearbook: Sentry, Robinson Secondary School's middle school yearbook; **Madison Benfield** is editor, and **Pat Hinman** is adviser.

Literary Magazine: Threshold, TJHSST; **Liz Lagerfeld** is editor and **Emily Orser** is the adviser.

Hannah Blechman of Fairfax Station received dean's list honors for fall 2009 semester at Wittenberg University.



Haitian Relief Effort

Students **Brooke Engelbrektsson**, right, and **Paige Henderson** collected money at Lorton Station Elementary School for Haitian relief. As part of the school's Project Road Runner community service program, Brooke and Paige collected coins for Haiti. The money will be sent to the American Red Cross. Lorton Station Elementary also recently participated in a food drive, collecting items for Food for the Poor.

Hayley Berger, daughter of Rich and Sally Berger of Clifton, was named the recipient of the Gray-Lafferty endowed scholarship for student athletes at George Mason University for 2009-

10. This scholarship is made possible by the Fair Oaks Rotary Club of Fairfax County and is awarded to a student athlete from Fairfax County.

Berger is a junior at George Mason

majoring in communications with a minor in business. She is a third year starting player on the women's lacrosse team and graduated from Centreville High School in 2007.

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THURSDAY/FEB. 4

Blue Sky Puppet Theater and Open House. 10:15-11:30 a.m. at St. Christopher's Preschool, 6320 Hanover Ave., Springfield. Preschoolers free. Reservations required at 703-451-1845 or preschool@saintchristophers.net.

Owl Tales. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories about owls. Age 13-23. Months with adult. 703-249-1520.

Daytime Book Discussion Group. 12:15 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. "Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout. Adults. 703-339-4610.

Reading and Rocking Preschool Class. 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Early literacy storytime. Ages 2-4 with an adult. 703-339-7385.

The 2010 W.E.B. DuBois Lecture and Film 'Black and Queer in America.' Lecture at 1:30 p.m., film screening and discussion begins 4 p.m. at Research I, Room 163, George Mason University, Fairfax campus. This program is part of George Mason University's programs in African and African American Studies, and Women and Gender Studies. Speakers include Patrik-Ian Polk, creator, director, and producer of Logo Channel's Noah's Arc, and Marlon Ross, University of Virginia professor of African American Literature and Gender & Queer Theory. Free admission. 703-993-4080 or <http://aaas.gmu.edu>.

FRIDAY/FEB. 5

Fairfax Symphony Valentine Pops Gala: Amore! An Evening of Italian Love Songs. At the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. 6:30 p.m. silent auction and cocktail reception, 8 p.m. dinner, 9 p.m. FSO in concert with tenor Robert Petillo and soprano Jeanine Thames. \$300 per person or \$3,000 per table, available by credit card at 703-563-1990, or by check to Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, 3905 Railroad Ave., Suite 202N, Fairfax, VA 22030. www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

Jewish Scout Shabbat. Congregation Adat Reyim invites all Jewish Scouts, Scouters and their families to the annual Scout Shabbat service at 8 p.m. Those wishing to present a Jewish Religious Emblem Award to a Scout or to participate in services may contact CAR at 703-569-7577. Congregation Adat Reyim is located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield. Scouts are asked to wear their uniform.

Cardinal Forest PTA Third Annual Fun Fair and Silent Auction. 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Cardinal Forest Elementary School, 8600 Forrester Blvd., Springfield. Moon bounce, cake walk, food and more. Tickets for games are 50 cents each, available at the door. 703-569-7518.

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

'The Vagina Monologues.' 8 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$25. Part of the Vday campaign to end violence against women and girls. sas.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/FEB. 6

Jeri Sager. 7:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. West Springfield High School alumnus and Broadway star Sager debuts at the Barns of Wolf Trap with her solo cabaret show, "Broadway by Jeri." Accompanied by a four-piece band, Sager will re-create her roles in "Cats," "Les Misérables" and "Evita." \$25. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 10-11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to use a computer, navigate the Internet, and work with common software applications. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-249-1520.

VITA Tax Assistance. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. For more information, call 703-339-4610.

Birds in Your Backyard Science Class. 2 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Assist the researchers at Cornell University in monitoring bird populations. 703-339-7385.

Drummers and Drillers. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Variety of woodpeckers on the suet feeders. \$6/adult. 703-768-2525.

'The Vagina Monologues.' 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$25. Part of the Vday campaign to end violence against women and girls. sas.gmu.edu.

SEE CALENDAR. PAGE 11

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The Options Program is now accepting applications for the academic year 2010/2011. Space is limited, so apply now!

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

MONDAY/FEB. 8

Little Valentines. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Stories, songs and fun for Valentine's Day. Age 24 months to 5 years with adult. 703-339-4610.

Early Reader Book Discussion. 3:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Titles: "Library Lil" by Suzanne Williams and "Paul Bunyan" by Steven Kellogg. Ages 6-8 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Nature Quest: Rotting Logs. 10-11 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd. Springfield. Explore the habitat of decomposing logs. For children ages 3-6. \$4/person. 703-451-9588.

Monday Bird Walk. 7:30-9:30 a.m. at Eakin Community Park. Discover resident birds of the Accotink Stream Valley. Boardwalk is for all ages. Meet at the Prosperity Avenue parking lot. Activity is free. 703-941-1065.

TUESDAY/FEB. 9

Outerloop Presents: For the Fallen Dreams, The Ghost Inside, Your Demise, Suffokate, An Obscure Signal, This Time Never, Calvin Broadus, TBA. All ages. \$10 advance, \$12 door. Doors open at 5 p.m., show at 5:15 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road Springfield. 703-569-5940.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18

AT THE WORKHOUSE

FROM PAGE 6

juried exhibition in a professional gallery. Advanced art students from West Springfield and Woodbridge Senior high schools will be featured in this exhibit from Feb. 9-28. An opening reception to meet the artists will be Sunday, Feb. 14, from 2-4 p.m. in Gallery W-16.

Join artist Irene Tsai in celebrating the Chinese New Year in Building W-6. Growing up in Taiwan, Tsai has always admired the beauty and the mystery of the mountains and landscapes. She applies techniques from both eastern and western watercolor on her paintings and creates her own poetic and tranquil world on rice papers.

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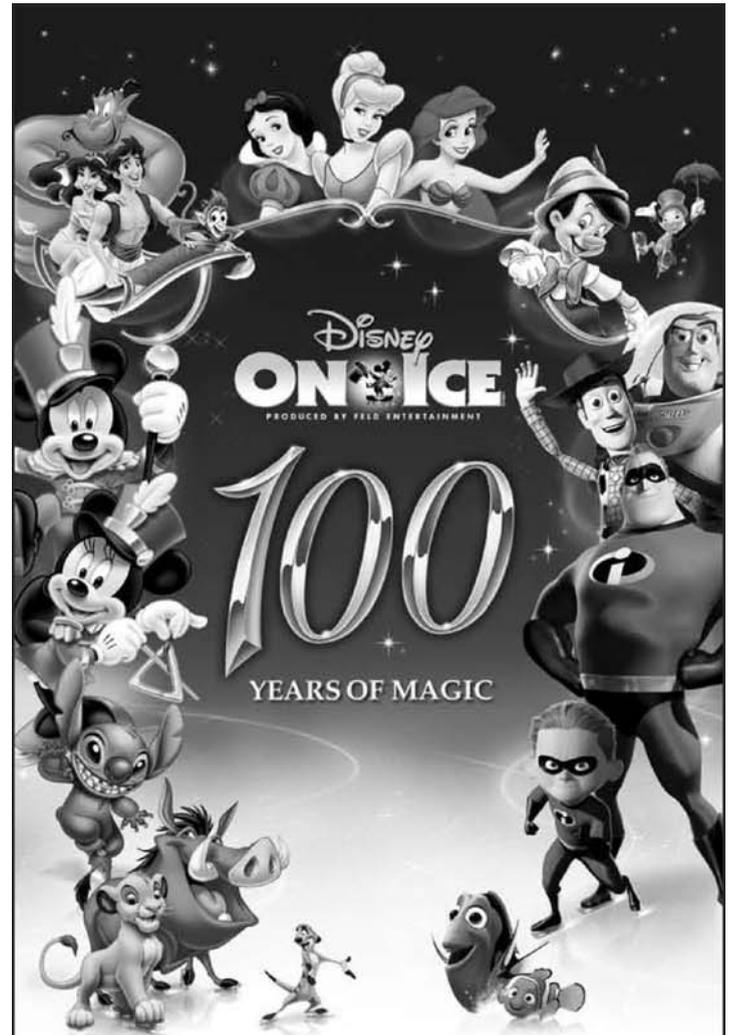
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Renzi Hands Off Wrestling Tradition

With guidance from older brother Ross, Rory Renzi leads young Bruins team.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

The problem with high school sports is that superstar players eventually graduate. Finding a replacement can take a generation of students. Some coaches never discover that elusive next big thing.

At Lake Braddock, wrestling head coach Scott Matheny and football head coach Jim Poythress can attempt to replace senior star Ross Renzi with his younger brother Rory.

Speeding up the process for both coaches is a commitment by Ross, a three-time Patriot District wrestling champion and starting defensive back, to take Rory, also a defensive back and wrestler, under his wing.

"I think about how I was when I was younger," Ross Renzi said. "I just want to see him develop and become better than me."

On Feb. 6, Rory Renzi will compete in his first Patriot District finals wrestling match at the 112-pound weight. His brother captured his first Patriot District title in the same weight class.

Rory Renzi said he's optimistic he'll be ready for the match despite the possibility

of facing seasoned wrestlers.

"At 112 pounds, I'm undefeated," Rory Renzi said. "So I'm pretty confident going into the tournament."

Like any good brother, Ross Renzi quickly boasts about his own accomplishments, chiding Rory to match his success.

"In my freshman year, I beat a senior in the finals," Ross Renzi said.

The sibling smacktalk doesn't stop there. Ross Renzi said he sometimes singles out his brother during practice to work harder.

"Yeah, just a little bit harder," Ross Renzi said. "I yell at him, get him ready and make sure he's not messing around."

Rory Renzi rolls his head back as if his brother isn't telling the whole truth, but he admits he appreciates the guidance.

"He's making sure I don't make the same mistakes

he did," Rory Renzi said. "He's just trying to make me better, so I listen to him."

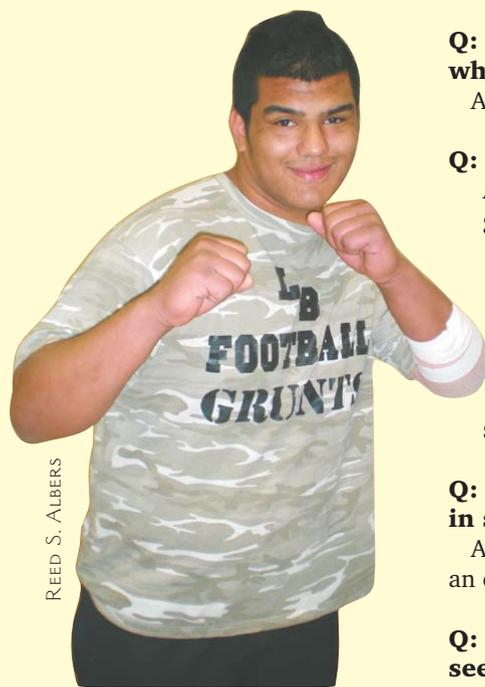
While the Renzi brothers might share a bond on and off the wrestling mat, the significance of Rory Renzi's rise and Ross Renzi's exit tells the story of the Lake Braddock wrestling team.

"We're young, but we have a lot of talent," Rory Renzi said. "We're going to be

"I yell at him, get him ready and make sure he's not messing around."

— Ross Renzi

5 Qs with Lake Braddock wrestler, football player Wasim Abbasi



REED S. ALBERS

Wasim Abbasi

Q: Before you step onto the mat, what's the song you have to hear?

A: "O Let's Do It" by Waka Flocka Flame.

Q: Who inspires you?

A: My dad. He came from nothing and gained so much.

Q: If you could trade places with any athlete, who would you want to be?

A: I'd have to say [Cleveland Cavalier] LeBron James. He's the best, he's sick.

Q: Do you have a favorite subject in school?

A: Psychology. It's an easy class and has an easy teacher.

Q: Favorite movies you've recently seen?

A: Probably "Avatar." It was just a good movie.

— REED S. ALBERS



Three-time Patriot District wrestling champ Ross Renzi, right, is helping prepare his brother Rory for future seasons with the Lake Braddock wrestling team.



PHOTOS BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Rory Renzi prepares to grapple his partner during practice. Rory will be competing in his first Patriot District finals at 112-pounds on Feb. 6.

good in a few years."

The Bruins will graduate eight seniors this season, leaving behind a team composed of mostly sophomores and freshman. The junior varsity team, which will likely help fill holes in the roster next season, features only one junior.

Rory Renzi's assessment echoes his coach's feelings toward such a young team.

"[The young wrestlers] are coming along in their first year on varsity," Matheny said. "We're just building their confidence right now."

Matheny also said the team has adopted a "blue-collar" philosophy, seeking victory from hard work.

"We're young, but the group we have is the hardest-working group we've had in a long time," he said. "They don't mind doing extra work to get better."

Despite a standout season for individual wrestlers, the Bruins greatest weakness has come at dual meets where the team has

been forced to forfeit some matches due to a lack of athletes.

"We have a few holes in our line-up," junior Cory Smith said. "But we also have a lot of guys who can be district champions. The younger guys also can help us score points."

Smith said he's already beginning to take on a leadership role for the team and hopes his recent success can inspire his younger teammates.

"In my first two years, I wasn't the most successful wrestler," said Smith, who wrestles at 171 pounds and has a 26-7 record this season. The younger guys can look at that and see that hard work pays off."

While Matheny knows he has top caliber wrestlers in the Renzi brothers, Smith and senior Wasim Abbasi, his optimism for future seasons stems from one important character trait.

"We have a lot of tough kids here," he said.

SPORTS

Ram Grapplers Prep for District Finals

Wrestlers look to improve upon successful season.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

The Robinson wrestling team is accustomed to being one of the best on the Northern Virginia wrestling scene, but according to head coach Bryan Hazard, his team's performance at the Battlefield Duals on Jan. 8 and 9 at Colonial Forge in Stafford, Va., really showcased his team's potential.

"At the Battlefield Duals, we got to wrestle some of the nation's best teams, including Connellsville, [from Pennsylvania,]" he said. "We won eight matches against [Connellsville] out of 14. We lost to them, but it showed us we were ready [for the post-season]."

Robinson won six of its seven meets at the Battlefield Duals, including a key victory over Concorde District opponent Westfield.

Despite finishing the season undefeated in the Concorde District, the Rams are putting their season behind them and focusing on what Hazard considers the "real season."

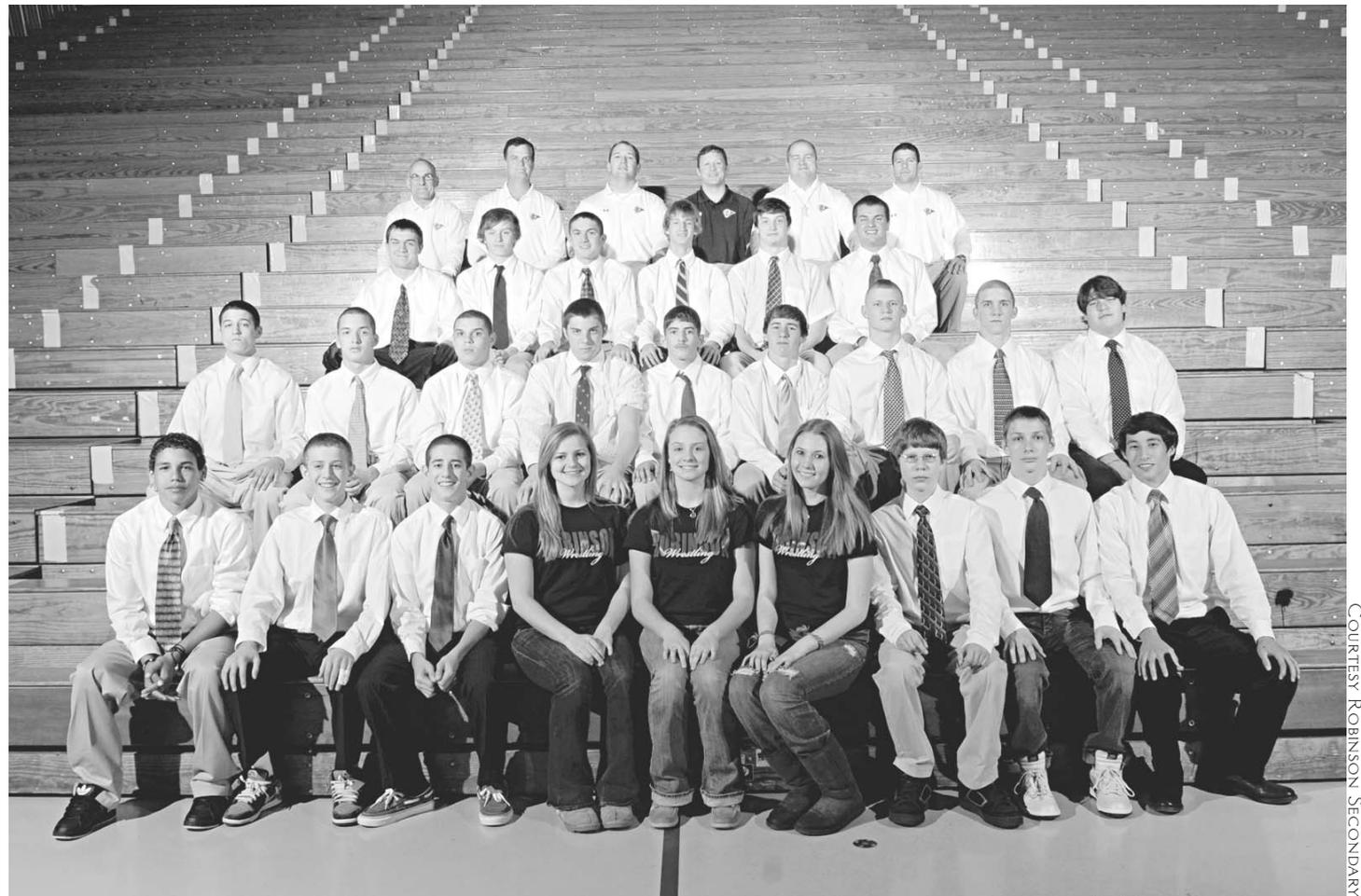
"Everything up to this point was just practice," he said. "All that work is to get here."

On Feb. 6, the Rams will compete for the Concorde District championship and a chance to advance their wrestlers to regional and state competitions.

Hazard rattled off a list of his top performers who he said are looking to build on their success.

One of those wrestlers is Tim Fitzpatrick, whose return to the Robinson wrestling team has been a welcome one.

"The sky is the limit for him," Hazard said. "He took two years off and he's finally beginning to buy back in. He came back ex-



COURTESY ROBINSON SECONDARY

The Robinson wrestling team went undefeated in Concorde District meets this season.

"Everything up to this point was just practice."

— Bryan Hazard

cited to wrestle."

Jacob Crawford is another wrestler Hazard singled out as a top performer. He noted his regular season losses came against exceptional opponents.

"He's just a great kid," Hazard said.

"He lost a handful of matches to nationally ranked opponents. Otherwise, he's been very good."

Hazard is particularly optimistic about his lightweights, Dallas Smith and Jake Smith.

"Our lightweights are very tough," Hazard said. "They've wrestled very well this

year and they could go far."

Although Hazard singled out some of his best wrestlers, he was quick to add that his entire team has been strong this season and attributes their success to a hard-work mentality.

"The kids here are experienced and hard working," he said. "They're kind of stubborn in training and they're just tough. It's been a great group."

DESPITE HIS optimism about the Rams' chances at the Concorde District finals, Hazard knows the formidable competition could upset his team's title bid.

"Everything changes come tournament time," he said. "You have to be prepared

for anything."

Preparing for the unknown during tournament season doesn't just apply to wrestling.

One unanticipated change for Hazard and his team is that the upcoming district finals will take place all in one day, instead of a normal two-day schedule, because of a potential snowstorm.

"I'm not sure what we're going to do [because of the change]," he said. "But we'll figure it out."

Even with a one-day finals meet, Hazard is confident his team will be ready to defend the school's wrestling legacy.

"[The kids] have high expectations for themselves and we do, too," he said.

WEEK IN SPORTS

Stallions Roll Over West Springfield

With a 73-34 victory over West Springfield on Jan. 29, the South County boys' basketball team continued to improve on an already historic season for the team.

The Stallions were led by Nik Biberaj's 17 points as well as 15 points from Antonio Butler. Garrett Taylor rounded out the top scorers with 10 additional points to the Stallions' total.

Sitting at 13-5, the Stallions have

guaranteed that the 2009-10 season will be the first winning boys' basketball season in South County's five-year history.

South County's remaining schedule includes matches with Woodson on Feb. 2, T.C. Williams on Feb. 5, Lake Braddock on Feb. 9 and Lee on Feb. 12.

Four Commit On Signing Day

On Feb. 3, four Lake Braddock athletes signed their National Letter of Intent to play sports at the collegiate level.

Football player Khamrone Kolb will be

attending Penn State University. Soccer player Rachel Nichols will be attending Cornell University. Baseball player Ryan Lindemuth will be attending Washington and Lee University. Track and cross-country runner Liana Epstein will be attending Yale University.

Win One, Lose One

The Lake Braddock boys' basketball team went 1-1 this past weekend, earning a 69-37 victory over West Springfield on Jan. 26, but losing to West Potomac 48-43 on Jan. 29.

The team's record is now 7-10, with a 3-

7 record against Patriot District teams.

Robinson Claims District Swim Title

The Robinson girls' swim team won their fourth straight Concorde District swim title on Jan. 30, scoring 515 points, besting Oakton's 443 and Westfield's 316. The boys' team was unable to continue add a 13th straight title to their Concorde District winning streak as Oakton upset the swimming powerhouse with 492 points to Robinson's 404.

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Perseverance is failing 19 times and succeeding the 20th.

—J. Andrews

CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Overcrowding at Local Schools

FROM PAGE 3

to address the school system's capital needs. The school system's capital funding is supposed to fall from \$155 million to \$130 million annually in 2012, but Supervisor Patrick Herry (R-Springfield) has proposed keeping the school construction and renovation dollars at their current level.

"Right now, there is a big school construction and renovation need," said Herry, who said other supervisors would also likely support the additional funding.

But keeping the school facilities' funding elevated means that other county facilities would have to go without renovations and some other government buildings are also in dire need of repairs, according to Fairfax County executive Tony Griffin.

HERRY has also suggested the school system try to "fast track" some of its construction and renovation projects during the current down swing in the economy, when the price of building material is lower and construction companies are hungry for work.

"We can use techniques like design-build to get these schools renovated quickly. I think we have to take advantage of this 25-to-30 percent reduction in operating costs. We have a limited opportunity to get a bunch of renovations done," said Herry.

The schools' chief operating officer Dean Tistadt said it could be difficult for Fairfax schools to take advantage of a strategy like design-build contracts.

Few companies exist that would be able to do a "phased renovation," in which construction takes place while students remain in a building, along with a design-build contract and the project bidding process would ultimately be less competitive, he said.

But the school system may be able to get through more renovations in this competitive construction market if the county sped up its permitting process, said Tistadt.

According to Tistadt, acquiring permits from Fairfax County that allows the school system to open a construction project up for bidding can take between 12 and 18 months.

"I am much more comfortable with a project going to bid three to four months from now than I am seeing the project bid 12 months from now," said Tistadt.

Proposed budget cuts to school programs could also end up saving the school system money on some facility projects, particularly capacity enhancements.

If elementary schools lose their music programs and full-day kindergarten, many school facilities would suddenly have more open classrooms than the school system originally thought it would.

An increase in class size of one student per teacher would make space for 146 more students at Oakton High School and 139 more students at Robinson Secondary School for example.

This means that the school system may possibly be able to spend fewer dollars on projects like building additions and more money on existing school renovations.

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Congregation Adat Reyim Havdallah, Pasta Dinner and Bingo Night, on Saturday, Feb. 6 at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court, Springfield. 6 p.m. Havdallah service followed by pasta dinner at 6:30 p.m. and games at 7:30 p.m. Bring non-perishable food donations and gently-used clothing to be donated to ECHO. \$4 for individuals, \$10 for families. Mail checks and registration to CAR or register online at www.adatreym.org/news-a-events/269-pasta-bingo or 703-569-7577.

Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax, will have a free Big Game Football Party, showing the football game on a large screen Sunday, Feb. 7, at 6 p.m.. Free refreshments and a silent auction to benefit the Wounded Warriors Project to help wounded military service personnel re-

cover. 703-383-1170 or see www.jccag.org.

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, will have a sermon series through Feb. 21 at the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services, based on Bishop Robert Schnase's book "The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations." Each of the five practices has a biblical underpinning and is structured to provide practical ideas. 703 971-5151 or admin@franconiaumc.org.

Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hoopes Road Springfield, has scheduled several community events for February. Contact www.sumcdisciples.org or 703-451-8223.

♦ **Haitian Relief Sock Hop**. on Saturday, Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m., with games, snacks and more, sponsored by the Family and Children's Committee at the church. Donations accepted to support Haitian Relief.

♦ **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**. on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 5:30 p.m.,

served by the church youth to mark the beginning of Lent.

♦ **Sweetheart Dinner**. Saturday, Feb. 20, 6 p.m., including dinner and entertainment. Reservations requested.

♦ **Blood Drive**. on Sunday, Feb. 28, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., will be in the church's Hottle Hall. Call to reserve, walk-ins also welcome.

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.

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Jeri Sager at Wolf Trap

FROM PAGE 6

While onstage, she's performing songs she loves as well, from the laundry list of shows she's starred in over nearly 20 years.

Among her favorites is a rendition of "Memory" from the musical "Cats."

Each performer selected for the legendary musical is told the story of the dancing felines by their musical director at the beginning of rehearsals, Sager said. On her first day, Patrick Vaccariello, her musical director, and production director David Taylor gave her their version of the story and gave her a little insight behind the song.

At first, she admitted she wasn't thrilled to sing a song known and loved by so many.

"I'll be honest, I hated that song," she said. But when she heard the story and got a little bit of a backstory on what her character, Grizabella, was going through before singing that well-known song, everything changed.

"Now I love it," she said. "I now tell audiences the story they told me before I sing it and it's a different take on the song, I think it has a new dimension."

ALSO INCLUDED in the two-hour-long show will be songs from other Andrew Lloyd Weber hits like "Evita" and "Phantom of the Opera" and some other well-known Broadway staples like "A Chorus Line" and "Fiddler on the Roof." Sager said she changes the roster all the time, so she wasn't fully certain of what her set list would look like for the concert at Wolf Trap.

Sager will be backed by a three-piece ensemble, including pianist Scot Woolley, who is also her musical director, along with bass player Doug Largent, percussionist Mitch Perrins and Bryan Crook, on alto and tenor sax, clarinet and flute.

Her performance is a family-friendly show, and she's hoping many families will come out, so chil-

dren realize that real live singing isn't what can be seen on shows like "American Idol."

"There's so much out there that's lip-synched and fixed. Kids need to be exposed to live performances so they know the difference," Sager said. "The difference with Broadway is that if I can't sing a song on pitch eight times a week, I don't get that job."

Sager might get her wish of a full house, according to Graham Binder, assistant director for public relations at Wolf Trap, who says the performance is "heading toward a sell-out."

The team at Wolf Trap is excited for this performance, Binder said, because Sager is a "name" among people who love Broadway tunes.

Trying to secure a performance at Wolf Trap was "a no-brainer," he said. "She's a NOVA native and has a brand new cabaret show that our patrons have yet to see, plus she's obviously a name given her accomplishments on Broadway."

The Barnes of Wolf Trap is a 382-seat venue, Binder said, with "the best acoustics in the NOVA region," making Sager's show "an extremely hot ticket."

With some of her family in the audience, the show may take on a very emotional atmosphere.

"I think it makes for a very special time when family and friends are present at any endeavor, especially a live show," he said. "The energy is just that much more palpable for the performer and the crowd."

Sager has to keep in mind that "when I'm telling stories about my past, there will be people in the audience who will remember what I'm talking about," she said. "For the first time in my life, I'll be telling a story to an audience of people who were there with me."

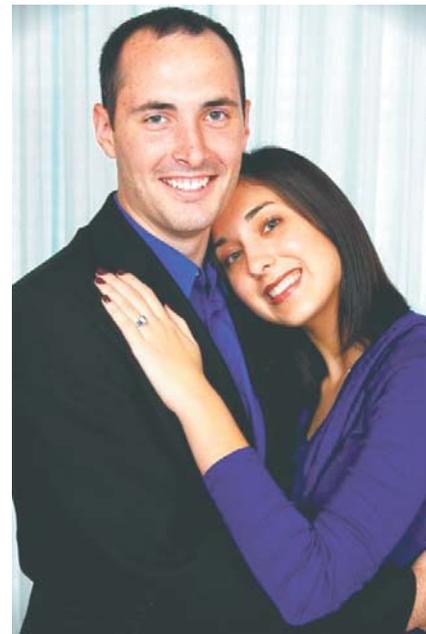
The audience is always an integral part of the show, Sager said, because it is because of the people in the seats that she has a job.

"I'm so lucky to do what I love, but I know that if they didn't want to hear me sing, I couldn't do that,"

WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

Ford, Puleo To Wed

Mr. and **Mrs.** David M. Ford of Fairfax Station are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Christina Anne Ford to Carl Frank Puleo III, son of Charlene Puleo and the late Carl Frank Puleo Jr. of Westminster, Md.



Christina Anne Ford and Carl Frank Puleo III

Both Christina Ford and Frank Puleo are graduates of the University of Mary Washington. She is employed at Stuart Weitzman in the Tysons Galleria and he is the campaign manager for a local congressional candidate.

A November 2010 wedding is planned in Vienna.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

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.

Looking for a Boy Scout troop to join? Boy Scout Troop 1849 invites boys interested in being a scout to visit the troop at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Contact Scoutmaster Sandy Rothberg at 703-541-3060 or sandy@baddmanors.com for more information.

For those interested in growing professionally, join **Fairfax Toastmasters Club**. The club meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, visit www.toastmasters.org; or contact Amir Jamil at 703-677-4161 or majamil99@yahoo.com.

The Springfield-Franconia Host Lions Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at the Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Lions Clubs are comprised of men and women who identify needs within the community and work together to fulfill those needs. Visiting Lions and prospective members are welcome to attend. For more information, e-mail, cad123@verizon.net

The Bennie Bough Toastmasters Club meets the first and third Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m., in Meeting Room 27 of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. To learn more about Toastmasters Internation, visit www.toastmasters.org.

Preceptor Gamma Phi chapter of Beta Sigma Phi is recruiting new members. The sorority has more than 16 chapters in the Northern Virginia area ranging in age from late teens to women in their 80s. Beta Sigma Phi was

founded for the social, cultural and civic enrichment of its members. The Greek letters of its name represent 'Life, Learning and Friendship,' which is the organization's motto.

The chapter will be conducting several food drives at local grocery stores during November and December to help stock some of the local food banks. In addition, the sorority has an ongoing service project with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater D.C. and Northern Virginia. preceptorgammaphi@yahoo.com or www.betasigmaphi.org.

Toastmasters International Clubs are celebrating the organization's 85th anniversary with special meetings. Locally, Virginia Advanced Speakers Toastmasters, which meets on the first and third Mondays of each month, from 7-9 p.m., at Kena Shrine Building, 9001 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, will offer special presentations. The general public is invited to visit a meeting and learn more about what Toastmasters has to offer. Contact Vivian at evo2006@cox.net for more information.

Novamommies.com, a free local online group in the Northern Virginia area includes message board, support groups, local area groups, recipe database, chats and photo gallery. Events include mom's night out, play dates, family events, picnics, community service, weekly coffee, park outings, book clubs, zoo trips and more. www.novamommies.com.

New Neighbors League Club of DC Metro is a non-profit organization, is looking for those new to the area or newly retired and looking for new activities and friends. The club offers bridge, bunco, bowling, hiking, quilting, book clubs, an investment club, an antique group, a gourmet group, couples dining, couples bridge and many other activities. Monthly luncheons take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Come meet the members. Call Judy Schulenberg at 703-476-9322.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

Fun With Twos and Threes. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Stories and activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-971-0010.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 10

Open Irish Song Session. 8:30-11:30 p.m., at Hard Times Cafe, 6362 Springfield Plaza, Springfield. This song session is open to anyone who would like to sing or listen to Irish songs. Songbooks provided, but singers may bring their own songs as well. All kinds of Irish/Scottish songs are welcome. wvordan@aol.com or 703-913-5600.

Friends of Fairfax Station Quarterly Forum. 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Local author Charles Mauro will discuss his book about a friendship between Confederate Brig. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart and Laura Ratcliffe of Centreville. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Free admission, donations accepted. 703-425-9225.

Nonfiction Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road,

Burke. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

One-on-One Genealogical Research Assistance. 6-7:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Get started on genealogical research with the assistance of our experienced volunteers. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Older Adults Book Group. 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. "Tortilla Curtain" by T.C. Boyle. Meet next door at Kingstowne Center for Active Adults. Adults. 703-339-4610. 703-339-4610.

Practice Your English. 10:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English.

Springfield/Alexandria Women's Connection Valentine Luncheon. on 11:30 a.m. at the Springfield Gold & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. \$17 includes luncheon and free childcare. Reserve at 703-569-4670 or SpringWmConn@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 11

MOMS Club of Springfield: Pamper Yourself. 7:30 p.m. at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. An evening of pampering, shopping and

food. Proceeds benefit the children of Fairfax Hospital. \$5. momsclubofspringfield@hotmail.com.

Afternoon Book Discussion Group. 1 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Reading and Rocking Preschool Class. 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Early literacy storytime. Ages 2-4 with an adult. 703-339-7385.

Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.' 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Black Box Theater in the Performing Arts Building, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$6, \$3 for students and seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by phone at 703-993-8888.

FRIDAY/FEB. 12

Ponderings: Calls of the Wild. 4:30- 6:30 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Children 6-10. \$6/person. 703-451-9588.

Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.' 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Black Box Theater in the Performing Arts Building, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$6, \$3 for students and seniors. 703-993-8888.

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Brick Rambler with 3 Bedrooms and 1 1/2 Bathrooms. Home sits on a 1/4 acre lot. Fenced in backyard. Hardwood floors in Kitchen and Living Room. Finished family room. Two-side fireplace. Spacious deck off the Living Room. Call today to schedule an appointment.



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Fairfax Station

\$849,900

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\$499,000

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DATES IN 2010: TIME: 7:00-9:00 PM

February 3
March 3
March 31
April 28

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From the Beltway (495), take Rte. 66 West to the Nutley St. South Exit (exit 62) towards Fairfax. Go through the intersection of Lee Highway and Nutley Street. The training center is located in the Pan Am Shopping Center on the left.

TO REGISTER: Please contact Mary Ann Plonka at 703-503-1898 or maryann.plonka@longandfoster.com



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Fairfax Station

\$685,000

New Listing!

Charming wonderfully priced 3 level Cape Cod on peaceful 1+ acre lot, walking distance to Fountainhead Park. Quality built, mostly brick, 5BR, 3BA, Fin walkout LL, Hdwd floors, scrnd Porch, updated Kitchen & Baths. Walk-in Attic, storage galore! Deck overlooks woodland, beautifully landscaped.



Sterling

\$315,000

Countryside Charm
Well maintained 3 BR, 2 BA split level home on a level lot. Recently renovated with new carpet and fresh paint. Special touches abound. Traditional sale! Move in ready!



Woodbridge

\$212,500

Nothing has been spared to update this lovely 3 Bedroom/2.5 Bath town home. Gleaming hardwood floors thru-out the main level, extra cabinets in kitchen, 1 car garage. Just steps from all of Lake Terrapin's fabulous amenities, like the clubhouse, pool, tennis courts & tot lots.

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