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CONNECTION

'Wonderful' Show

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10

Nicole Owens,
Helena
Spadacene and
David White-
head star in the
Providence
Players' produc-
tion of 'It's a
Wonderful Life.'

SPORTS, PAGE 13 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 17

PHOTO BY CHIP GERTZOG

City Changes Zoning Proposal

NEWS, PAGE 3

Local Districts May Expand

NEWS, PAGE 4

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Teeth Whitening...What You Should Know.



With the holidays around the corner, everyone seems to be coming in to whiten their teeth for their picture perfect moments. So before you start using whitening products that you may be completely unfamiliar with, you may want to read this article.

If you want to whiten your teeth, the best place to start is with a healthy mouth. Tooth decay, sensitive or cracked teeth, infections or periodontal (gum) problems should be diagnosed and treated before any teeth whitening procedure. Otherwise, you could experience discomfort. If using the right products, the whitening process is safe; however, it can aggravate existing problems.

Rather than heading to the local cosmetic counter or shopping mall in search of teeth whiteners, start with a dental check up. This way, we can diagnose the cause of discoloration—injury, stains from food or tobacco, antibiotic treatment and so on. Whitening products only work on natural tooth enamel, not on crowns, veneers, bonding materials or tooth colored fillings. Does this mean if you have any of the above mentioned conditions you are stuck with yellow teeth? Absolutely not! The diagnosis is important; from there, we can determine whether whitening will work for you and which product will suit you best; otherwise you could be wasting time and money!

Studies have shown the first thing a person notices when they meet you is your smile. Being a cosmetic dentist, I am aware of how desirable it is to have white, bright teeth and how it impacts your confidence, well being, and your entire life. By seeing a trained cosmetic dentist, you can achieve not only a whiter, more attractive smile, but one that is healthy and contributes to your overall health. For more information about whitening and to check out our holiday whitening gift ideas and specials, I encourage you to visit our website or set up a complimentary whitening consultation with our well trained and knowledgeable team. Happy Holidays!

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Holiday 5K Run Honors Recent Robinson Grad

In death, Adam Seymour raises funds for heart-defects research.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Bright, athletic and artistic, Adam Patrick Seymour had his whole future ahead of him. Just 18, he'd graduated from Robinson Secondary School in June and was about to start his freshman year at Lynchburg College.

But in August, he had a heart attack during a preseason training run with the college's soccer team and died, three days later. Now, a New Year's Eve race in Centreville will take place in his honor to raise money for scholarships for others and to help fund research into congenital heart defects (CHD).

"Doctors think Adam had a cardiac arrhythmia, exacerbated by an asthma attack," said his mother, Beverly Seymour, a second-grade teacher at Bull Run Elementary. "Through the money raised, we hope we can help prevent this from happening to someone else."

Bull Run Runners will host its Fifth Annual 5K Run on Friday, Dec. 31, at 3 p.m., in Centreville's Bull Run Regional Park. As part of the Festival of Lights there, the race will begin at the large pavilion, with 75



Adam Seymour has fun in the water with younger brother, Nick.

percent of the proceeds going to the CMG Heart Foundation/Adam's scholarship and 25 percent to the park.

REGISTRATION is \$27 at www.bullrunrunners.com and will close Dec. 30. Awards go to the overall men's and women's winners and the top two finishers in various age categories. After the race, fruit and water will be available and a drawing will take place for gifts. See the website for more information, to donate or to sponsor this event.

The Seymours' neighbors, Terri and Travis Grabb, lost their toddler son, Corbin Marc

Grabb, to CHD in 2006 and started the non-profit CMG Heart Foundation in his name. So while the Adam P. Seymour Foundation awaits tax exempt status, Adam Seymour's friends and family partnered with CMG. It increases awareness of CHD, raises funds for research and supports children and families fighting it. See <http://cmgheartfoundation.net/> and <http://adamseymourfoundation.org>.

Adam Seymour's brother Nick, 14, an eighth-grader at Robinson Middle School, worked with Heather Ripley, the mother of one of Adam's soccer teammates at Robinson, to design the T-shirts Adam's

"Adam was a wonderful boy and a great son and brother."

— Beverly Seymour

friends and relatives will wear at the race. The shirts are in Adam Seymour's favorite color, blue, with the words, "Adam's Angels," in white, with a halo over Adam's name.

"They're selling them over Facebook," said Beverly Seymour. "It's Nick's way of raising money for the foundation."

NOW CLIFTON residents, the family lived in Centreville when Adam Seymour was younger. He began playing SYA soccer at age 6; later, at Robinson Middle, he captained the JV team and played defender for Robinson Secondary's varsity, all four years.

"Adam was a wonderful boy and a great son and brother," said Beverly Seymour. "He was kind, caring and easygoing, and always athletic — soccer was his passion." At 12, he won SYA's "Character Counts" award, given by the coaches for good sportsmanship. In his teens, he spent three years teaching skills to younger soccer players.

While taking a ceramics class in his senior year, he also discovered a talent for pottery. His ceramics teacher, Joe Dailey, mentored him, and Adam Seymour sold his vases, bowls and cups at the Robinson art

SEE CHARITY, PAGE 18

City Seeks More Say Over Homeless Outreach Locale

Fairfax would have more leverage over social service providers under proposed zoning.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax City Council has included more flexibility in a second draft of new zoning ordinances that could have a dramatic impact on one of the few daytime outreach centers for homeless people in Northern Virginia.

The City Council had come under fire for proposing a set of strict land use regulations last month that would have made it difficult, if not impossible, for the Lamb Center to move to a new location within the city limits. This week, the City Council agreed to relax some of the more stringent requirements laid out in the initial draft of the zoning changes.

"This was never intended to be punitive to the Lamb Center. We are not trying to be punitive at all," said Councilmember Dan Drummond, who said he has conducted fund raisers to benefit the Lamb Center.

Located on Lee Highway near Fairfax Circle, the Lamb Center offers a range of

services to people who are homeless, including free showers, laundry, hair cuts, hot meals, job training and counseling. The organization is privately funded through a network of 35 local churches and is one of the only charities in the area to provide such an extensive menu of onsite help and services, particularly on a drop-in basis.

FAIRFAX CITY drafted the new rules to ensure that it had some say in where the Lamb Center — or any other social service provider like it — would move in the city.

"I don't believe we want to have an ordinance that would make it impossible for charities to provide social services in the city. ... But the delivery of social services does have an impact on the larger community. We want to have a seat at the table and be part of that discussion," said Councilmember Steve Stombres.

Mayor Robert Lederer said all of the other localities in Northern Virginia, including Fairfax County, have already passed rules and regulations like the ones currently be-

ing considered by the city. If the council doesn't adopt similar measures, it puts city residents at a disadvantage to people living elsewhere, he said.

"My goal is simply to ensure that everybody has a say in the process. Currently, that doesn't exist in Fairfax," said Councilmember Jeffrey Greenfield.

Even if the city passes new zoning regulations, the restrictions would not apply to the Lamb Center's current building and operations. The City of Fairfax has agreed to "grandfather in" the charity at its current site.

Still, the Lamb Center's executive director John McPherson said the organization has outgrown its current space and has been actively looking to move to another location for a few years. He said finding appropriate space for a homeless outreach organization is already difficult, even without the added layer of new zoning restrictions in the city.

"We are beyond NIMBY [Not in My Back Yard]. We are BANANA. People like the idea of an organization like this as long as we don't have to 'Be Anywhere, Near Anything or Next to Anyone,'" said McPherson.

If the Lamb Center's current landlord decided not to renew its lease or tear down its building, the outreach center would be in serious danger of closing. Finding new space on short notice is problematic and new stringent zoning regulations from the city would only make a scenario like that

worse, he said.

UNDER DRUMMOND'S leadership, the council has dropped some of the land-use restrictions supporters of the Lamb Center considered to be the most onerous in the first draft of the bill.

The new proposal no longer requires that

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 15

Local Political Districts Likely To Expand

Preliminary data suggests most local seats fall short of population target.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

A number of local seats in the Virginia General Assembly appear likely to grow in terms of geographic size and reach following the 2010 political redistricting process.

Over the last 10 years, Fairfax County's residential population appears to have increased at about half the rate of Virginia's population overall. As a result, Fairfax's share of representation in the General Assembly is expected to shrink relative to that of other localities, according to the Virginia Public Access Project, a nonpartisan organization that studies Virginia government.

Some state legislators said Fairfax could lose up to one seat in the House of Delegates and one-half of a seat in the State Senate, reported the Virginia Public Access Project on its website in early November.

That organization and others have based their predictions on population estimates from 2009 provided by the Virginia Department of Legislative Services. The official 2010 census numbers, which are the figures used for political redistricting, will not be released until February.

"Now, it looks like all Fairfax seats [in the House of Delegates] are going to have to grow in population but that could all change when the real numbers come in. Hopefully, Fairfax will do a little bit better relative to the rest of the state when the real numbers come in," said Del. Mark Sickles (D-43), who represents Franconia.

IF EARLY ESTIMATES hold, several of the delegate and senate seats in the central, southern and southwestern portion of the Fairfax could shift outward toward Prince William County to account for tremendous growth in Northern Virginia's outer suburbs.

"You cannot change one district without having a ripple affect on many others. I can't imagine that every single district won't be impacted," said Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), who represents northern Fairfax and leads the committee that oversees redistricting in the Senate.

Unlike Fairfax representatives, many General Assembly members representing Loudoun and Prince William counties must lose constituents during this redistricting cycle.

For example, Del. Bob Marshall (R-13), who represents a district that includes parts of Prince William and Loudoun at Fairfax County's border, holds a seat that is estimated be 186 percent the size of a delegate district's target population. In the next redistricting, he could shed as many as 68,000 constituents, according to the Virginia Public Access Project.

FAIRFAX DELEGATES with districts closest to Loudoun and Prince William would

Preliminary data from the Virginia Department of Legislative Services shows that many Fairfax County seats in the House of Delegates probably need to grow to reach their target population. These percentages reflect how much the current delegate districts are either under-populated or over-populated. The Virginia General Assembly is scheduled to take up political redistricting during their 2011 legislative session.

not be able to absorb the excess population from Marshall's seat and others that are too large by themselves. Many of Fairfax's outer ring seats also contain growing communities and have less of a need to pick up new constituents.

For example, Del. Dave Albo (R-42), who represents Springfield and Lorton at the Prince William border, needs only 4,000 new constituents — one or two precincts — to reach the target delegate population in the next census.

Sen. George Barker (D-37), whose district stretches from Clifton to Springfield, needs his district to grow by only 3 percent overall, about two precincts, to reach the ideal Senate seat size.

But Barker and Albo's seats could shift so that other districts in Fairfax's core can take pick up some of the excess population in

Prince William and Loudoun.

House of Delegates District 41, represented by Eileen Filler-Corn (D), is located north of Albo's and is the most under-populated of any in Fairfax, according to the estimates. Filler-Corn's seat, which includes West Springfield and Burke, needs to grow by more than 10 percent, or 9,000 residents.

Senate District 35, represented by Chap Petersen (D) needs to increase by about 8 percent, the most of any senate seat in Fairfax. Petersen represents the City of Fairfax and Vienna.

"I need to pick up the equivalent of a couple of precincts. There would be no huge change if everything else were static. But most of the other districts around me also need to pick up precincts and the cumulative affect of that could be rather large,"

said Del. David Bulova (D-37), who represents the City of Fairfax and surrounding parts of the county.

If Fairfax County's seats have to push out, it is likely that more of the local General Assembly seats would straddle two localities.

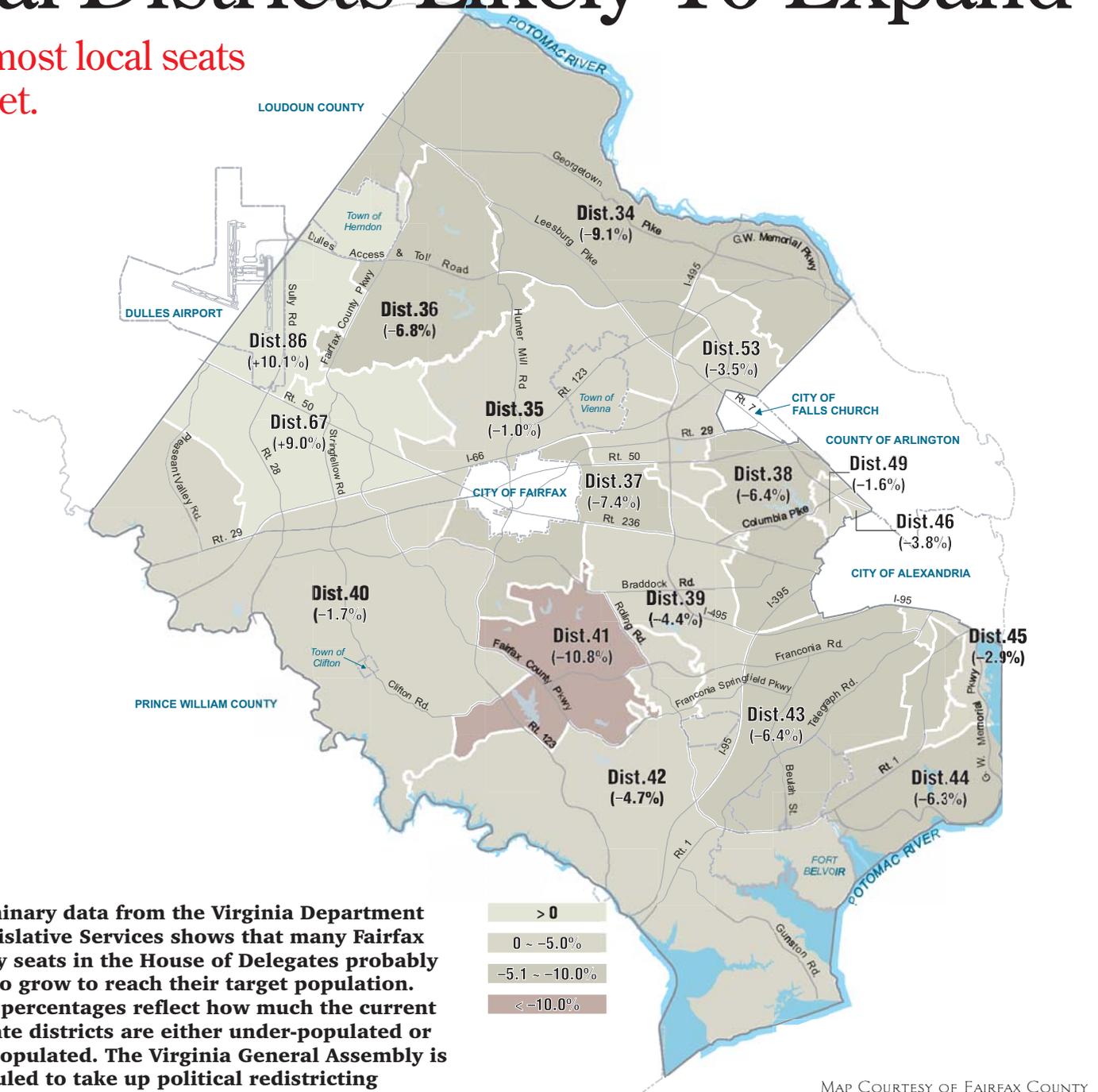
Currently only six of the 17 delegates in Fairfax County also represent another city or county. Seven of the Fairfax's 10 state seats are also split between two localities.

"We might have more districts with half of their precincts in Loudoun and half of their precincts in Fairfax," said Sickles.

Sickles added that some Republicans might be pleased about having to absorb part of Prince William and Loudoun, which tend to be more conservative.

"I know there are some members who would probably welcome some Prince William and Loudoun precincts, and they are probably going to get them," he said.

There is the possibility that the Republican leadership would just remove a house



MAP COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

CALENDAR

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/DEC. 16

Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. www.sesamestreetlive.com.

Decembersongs with Dan Navarro, Amy Speace, Sally Barris and Jon Vezner. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

"Merry, Happy.... What?" 7:30 p.m. at the Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. When Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa roll around Molly always feels left out. No one else celebrates the same holiday that she does. A light-hearted story for the whole family. \$10. www.thehubtheatre.org or 703-674-3177.

Hedgie Visits. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Bring a camera for photos, stories and activities with Jan Brett's character Hedgie the Hedgehog. Age 3-6 with adult. 703-644-7333.

Fairfax High School Winter Concert. 7 p.m. Fairfax High School Auditorium, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Join the Fairfax Choirs, Advanced Orchestra and Symphonic Band, caroling in the hallway and

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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Holidays in the City of Fairfax

12/10 7:30 PM City of Fairfax Theatre Company presents "Little Women" at the Fairfax Baptist Church	12/17 7:30 PM City of Fairfax Theatre Company presents "Little Women" at the Fairfax Baptist Church
12/10 7:30 PM "Home for Christmas" with the Voce Chamber Singers at the Fairfax Christian Church	12/17 8:00 PM A Celtic Christmas with Sior-Og and Friends at Old Town Hall
12/10 8:00 PM Bonita Lestina Performance Series at Old Town Hall: Columbia Flute Choir "Celebrating the Season"	12/18 7:00 PM City of Fairfax Band & Fairfax Choral Society: Christmas in Fairfax at Fairfax High School
12/12 2:00 PM Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center Second Sunday Series: Holiday & Popular Tunes at Old Town Hall	12/20 10:30 AM Children's Performance Series at theSPACE at Old Town Plaza: Bob Brown Puppets Holiday Show
12/12 7:30 PM The Brethren Christmas Concert at Truro Church	12/29 2:00 PM Wintertime Fun with Kaydee Puppets (all ages) at the City of Fairfax Regional Library
12/15 2:00 PM Tales of Winter (ages 3-5) at the City of Fairfax Regional Library	12/31 6:30 PM Fairfax Four Miler—see www.runpacers.com for information
12/17 6:00 PM Holiday Reception at the Adam Lister Gallery at theSPACE at Old Town Plaza	12/31 See in the New Year with an Ice-cream Social at Woody's

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COMMUNITY

Salvation Army Needs Local Residents' Help

Annual red-kettle campaign underway.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Year after year, the Salvation Army provides help for people in need in the local area. This year, though, more than ever, it needs the public's help.

That's because three factors are converging on it at the same time: More families are in need, fewer contributions are coming in and Giant Foods has drastically cut the group's red-kettle, solicitation hours.

"Right now, we're concentrating on our Christmas and winter-relief efforts," said Maj. Earl Fitzgerald, commanding officer of the Salvation Army's Fairfax Corps. "Our red-kettle program helps fund that."

Since 1960, the Salvation Army has served Fairfax County residents with utility and rent assistance, food, clothing and furniture on an emergency basis, all year long.

During the Christmas holidays, it also gives them toys and bicycles.

Potential recipients apply for aid in October and November, then the organization screens them to verify the need. Last year at this time, the Salvation Army brightened the holidays for 1,100 local families with 1,500 children. "This year, we're assisting 2,590 children in 1,250 families," said Fitzgerald. "Because of the economy, people

are out of work and struggling financially."

"We're also getting less donations because of the economy," he continued. "So we're putting an appeal out to the public for assistance."

"Funds raised [now] help support families in January and February."

— Maj. Earl Fitzgerald, commanding officer, Salvation Army's Fairfax Corps

LAST HOLIDAY SEASON, said Fitzgerald, Salvation Army bell ringers stood outside 21 Giant Foods stores in Fairfax County, at least seven hours a day, Monday through Saturday. "It was a major source of fund raising for us," he said.

The Salvation Army is more visible dur-



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Salvation Army employee Melvin Bruce Gomer of Centreville rings the bell, Saturday morning, outside the Fair Lakes Wal-Mart, for the red-kettle campaign.

ing the holiday season and people donated generously at the kettles outside Giant, explained Fitzgerald, because "people are in the spirit of giving in the holiday season and they respect the work of the Salvation

Army."

Now, though, Giant has reduced the number of hours the organization can solicit there. "They've only given us one week in November and one week in December, four hours at a time," said Fitzgerald. "Because of the Giant decision, between Nov. 12 and Dec. 24, we'll lose \$150,000 in fund raising."

He's not faulting the decision, however, just stating a fact. "Giant's new, company policy regarding soliciting is so that more organizations can raise funds there, too — also on a limited basis," he said. "And we do appreciate the time they've given us."

But, added Fitzgerald, the change was announced "two weeks before we began our Christmas fund-raising campaign, so we weren't prepared for it. And it's affecting our fund raising in both the Fairfax County and Washington Metropolitan areas.

"D.C. Metropolitan-wise, we're projecting we'll lose \$700,000," he said. "That's a lot of money and help."

So, with nearly 1,100 more children to provide for, this year, Fitzgerald hopes the public's holiday spirit of giving will continue as Christmas draws closer. Meanwhile, he said, "We're scrambling with our fund-raising."

SEE RINGING, PAGE 12

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Political Boundaries

FROM PAGE 4

seat from Fairfax County altogether, and move it either to Prince William or Loudoun.

"I am hoping that we don't lose a seat, but that could happen," said Sickles.

Even districts that have not undergone wild population shifts could be subjected to dramatic population shifts

Approximately 40 percent of Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) district changed after the 2000 political redistricting, even though her seat needed relatively few adjustments on paper.

"They moved 30,000 new people into my district and took 27,000 of my old constituents away. I had not represented any of the Springfield area before that and they took most of Annandale away from me," said Watts.

According to Watts, the Republican-controlled House of Delegates moved the more liberal part of her district into another seat in order to make her next election more

competitive for Republicans.

"They made two other districts less competitive and gave me as many new voters as they could," she said.

What happened to Watts' seat is typical during a partisan redistricting process, said Michael McDonald, a George Mason University political scientist and expert on redrawing political districts.

"There is an approach where you change up the district a lot on the incumbent so they have new constitu-

ents. I expect that type of technique to be used if there is a partisan gerrymander," said McDonald.

A few legislators said they are going to refrain from making predictions or speculating what might happen with redistricting until the official census data is released.

"It really too early to tell. ... We don't have the numbers yet. And you never know, somebody could decide to retire and that changes everything," said Del. Tim Hugo (R-40)

"There is an approach where you change up the district a lot on the incumbent so they have new constituents."

— Michael McDonald, GMU political scientist

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OPINION

Counting Blessings? Don't Forget Nature

Free gifts to all in Northern Virginia from nature include drinking water from the Potomac River.

The holiday season offers many opportunities to count our blessings and give something back to those who enrich our lives. In the process, we may realize that we've been taking for granted something, or someone, very dear to us. I suspect nature often falls into that category.

From rivers winding through forests to oyster reefs rising from coastal bays, our ecosystems provide us with clean water, fertile soils, food, fuel, beauty, flood control, storm protection and many other benefits. So this year, I encourage you to join me in showing your appreciation for all that nature does to enhance and sustain our lives.

In the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region, whether a faucet runs in the White House or in your house, that water almost certainly comes from the Potomac River. When you fill your coffeepot before breakfast or your children wash their hands before dinner, you are among more than 4 million other people in our area who depend on the Potomac River for water.

In addition to household water, the Potomac provides many other natural services. It creates habitat for fish and wildlife, offers opportunities for recreation and tourism, supplies water for irrigation, absorbs wastewater generated by communities, and supports industry and economic development.

And if we extend our view to take in the whole Potomac watershed, including tributary streams such as Turkey Run and Cabin John Creek, then we see the critical roles that forests play. While some forest benefits are obvious — wildlife habitat, recreation, wood products and forestry jobs — services such as preventing erosion and filtering runoff often go unnoticed.

Now here's the clincher. Nature's services are absolutely free.

But perhaps that fact has been part of their undoing. Many natural systems around the world, from tropical coral reefs to our own Chesapeake Bay, are seriously degraded. This reality begs a question: If humans can't put a

price tag on it, do we really value it?

Even professional conservationists sometimes struggle to describe all the benefits we derive from nature, much less determine an economic value. But scientists from The Nature Conservancy are working with conservation and university partners to do both through our Natural Capital Project. In the near future, we will offer practical tools for factoring natural systems into decisions about how humans interact with our world.

This we already know for certain: Nature is the life-support system for every animal, plant and person on Earth. So for all that nature has given to you in 2010, I hope you'll consider giving something back. One way you can show your appreciation is to be a good neighbor to the Potomac River. To find practical tips for protecting water quality, visit our website and download our guide to river-friendly living, the Good Neighbor Handbook: www.nature.org or www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/maryland/files/goodneighborhdbk_web.pdf

— MICHAEL L. LIPFORD

Michael Lipford is Virginia executive director of The Nature Conservancy

GUEST EDITORIAL

Those with Intellectual Disabilities Threatened

Excerpts from a letter from the Arc of Virginia to Gov. Bob McDonnell:

Despite our being 8th in per capita income, Virginia is ranked 46th for its fiscal effort towards community-based services for Virginians with developmental disabilities. In addition to its lengthy waiting lists and continued practice of institutionalization, Virginia's existing community services are chronically underfunded. Virginia's reimbursement rates for home and community-based waiver programs have not kept pace with inflation, and as a result, our service system is behind the rest of the country.

To put it simply, Virginia cannot sustain the cuts and policies contained in the current budget.

The Arc of Virginia is the Commonwealth's oldest and largest advocacy organization for people with developmental disabilities and their families. It was The Arc families who, 55 years ago, established the first education programs for children with developmental disabilities. It was The Arc families, who for decades, fought for access to community-based supports so their sons and daughters would not be forced to live in state operated institutions. Today, we ask you to protect the core state services and supports that people with developmental disabilities and their families have fought so hard for, and improve access to the services that are still lacking.

Virginia has not fulfilled the promise of community integration for Virginians with

developmental disabilities. More than 1,100 Virginians with developmental disabilities continue to be institutionalized in outdated and segregated state facilities. More than 6,400 Virginians with intellectual and related developmental disabilities continue to languish on waiting lists for community-based supports. Nearly 3,000 of these individuals are identified as being in "urgent need" for reasons such

GUEST EDITORIAL

as living with an aging caregiver, aging out foster care, or imminent risk of homelessness. In the face of this crisis, the current budget provides no help to any waiting list families through June 30, 2012.

The Arc of Virginia urges you to protect existing HCBS Waiver services and supports, which are scheduled to be cut on July 1, 2011, by taking the following actions in the 2010-2012 Introduced Budget:

- ❖ Elimination of the 5 percent cut in reimbursement rates for HCBS Waiver programs
- ❖ Elimination of the 2/3 reduction in respite hours for families receiving HCBS Waiver services
- ❖ Elimination of the reductions in assistive technology and environmental modification

Furthermore, The Arc of Virginia requests that you to take action to end the ID and IFDDS Waiver waiting list crisis, beginning with the following actions:

- ❖ Removal of budget language that eliminates 400 new ID Waivers and 67 new IFDDS Waivers in FY12, honoring the promise made to people with developmental disabilities and

their families in § 32.1-323.2

- ❖ Inclusion of funding for 800 new ID Waivers and 165 new IFDDS Waivers to further aid waiting list families

- ❖ Provision of \$5 million in support services for 1,000 people who are also waiting because they have been denied access due to level of functioning

Finally, The Arc of Virginia joins countless other local, state and national organizations in calling for an end to Virginia's antiquated practice of institutionalizing people with developmental disabilities. We request that you establish a comprehensive plan to transition to a community-based system of support and reinvest cost savings to assure successful transitions, maintain existing services and provide support to those who are waiting.

If action is not taken to sustain and strengthen the community-based safety net, thousands of Virginians may be at risk of losing their homes, jobs and lives in the community. Please prevent Virginia from taking a huge step backwards in the civil rights movement for Virginians with developmental disabilities. It is time to fulfill the promise of community and end the segregation of people with developmental disabilities. Virginia has waited long enough.

Howard Cullum
President
Jamie Liban
Executive Director
ARC of Virginia

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 5

Hallelujah Chorus. Free. 703-219-2200.

FRIDAY/DEC. 17

Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes. 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. www.sesamestreetlive.com.

Bill Kirchen's Honky Tonk Holiday Show. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

A Celtic Christmas with Sior-Og and Friends. 8 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Christmas music, songs, poems, stories and dance. joannaormesher@mac.com.

"Merry, Happy.... What?" 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. When Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa roll around Molly always feels left out. No one else celebrates the same holiday that she does. A light-hearted story for the whole family. \$10. www.thehubtheatre.org or 703-674-3177.

2010 Graduating Artist Showcase. 6-9 p.m. George Mason University Art and Design Building, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Fall 2010 Senior Exhibition Reception. Exhibits of over 60 graduating artists including paintings, sculpture, animation, graphic design, drawing and more. Live music and



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SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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ENTERTAINMENT



The cast of 'It's a Wonderful Life' fills the stage at the James Lee Community Center.

Holiday Classic Takes Stage

Providence Players presents 'It's a Wonderful Life.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Yearning for inspirational family entertainment is timeless. During the Holidays well-known classics light up the cold nights. The Providence Players of Fairfax are performing a stage adaptation of a beloved Christmas movie classic recreating a mythical time and place, Christmas Eve 1946. Deep within the mind's eye, the journey of a man grappling to find a reason to live may well appear as "It's a Wonderful Life: A Radio Play" unfolds.

"This is not the movie, but a stage adaptation with a brand new life of its own," said Director Brian O'Connor. A fundamental difference is that the Providence Players perform a "play within a play" as adapted by Joe Landry from the Jimmy Stewart/Donna Reed movie. The show even includes a commercial break resplendent with a spoof of 1940s musical ads.

At a recent rehearsal, the details surrounding the production were coming together under the watchful eye of O'Connor. He emphasized the "energy, playfulness and good humor" he expected. As he guided his acting troupe, no detail was too small to be overlooked for the ultimate enjoyment of the audience. Even the tiniest of amusing sound effects had to be on cue. Nothing was left to chance.

David Whitehead, a fixture of the Providence Players, plays George Bailey, a virtuous man who helps others yet does not know his own value. It takes a



Patrick David, Mike Khatcheressian and Laurie Hinnners star in the Providence Players' production of 'It's a Wonderful Life.'

kindly guardian angel played by Joseph Le Blanc to show how nasty the world would be without George around. For Whitehead, the show is not so much a fantasy but "a genuine experience, a rare kind of story leading to a man's ultimate redemption."

Newcomer Helena Spadacene stars as Bailey's love interest and then wife. Possessing an infectious spirit, she transported the production skyward when she walked on stage during the rehearsal.

The crusty money-grubbing, bad-guy banker Mr. Potter, who cares not a fig for the less fortunate is the physically vigorous, powerfully voiced Fred O. Lash. He intones his words with the cold blood of authority. Michael Khatcheressian aims to supply hustle and liveliness as he plays several key roles including a radio announcer.

The James Lee Community Center stage has been decked out in shades of gray and hues of muted silver tones. Performances are continuing through Dec. 18-19. Go to www.providenceplayers.org for details.

PHOTOS BY CHIP GERTZOG

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

refreshments available. Free admission. 703-993-8898 or hmiller@gmu.edu.

Holiday Celebration Art Show. 6 p.m. the SPACE Performing Arts Center, Old Town Plaza, 3950 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. www.visitfairfax.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 18

Community Christmas Contata. 6:30 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" and the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes. 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. www.sesamestreetlive.com.

Fourth Annual Rocknocoeros Holiday Singalong with The Barbershop Quartet. 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Vienna Boys Choir. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Holiday music from Gregorian chant to favorite Christmas carols. \$24-\$48, youth through grade 12 half price. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Encore Theatrical Arts Project: "Santa Got Frostbite." 8 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Christmas chaos and fun for the whole family in a Broadway-style, song and dance holiday spectacular. Tickets \$18-\$21.

"Merry, Happy.... What?" 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at the Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. When Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa roll around Molly always feels left out. No one else celebrates the same holiday that she does. A light-hearted story for the whole family. \$10. www.thehubtheatre.org or 703-674-3177.

Christmas in Fairfax. 7 p.m. Fairfax High School Auditorium, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The City of Fairfax Band with the Fairfax Choral Society in a selection of seasonal favorites. John Lyon retells the classic poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. Santa Claus will make a special appearance for the children. Bring a non-perishable food item to support the food drive to benefit Food for Others. Free. www.fairfaxband.org or 703-757-0220.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. At the Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Line dance lessons begin at 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance at 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m., including two step, waltz, line, swing, cha cha and more. Couples and singles welcome. Admission \$5-\$12. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

SUNDAY/DEC. 19

Community Christmas Contata. 11 a.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" and the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes. 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. www.sesamestreetlive.com.

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Osher Actors Bring 'Lost World' to Local Cable TV

Theater troupe stages radio play based on classic adventure novel.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Break through the mist to a time when the earth trembled, the primeval jungle murmured and dinosaurs spit fire. A tall order indeed, but you are in good hands. All the tumult will come vividly alive as the Readers Theatre acting troupe from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University brings forth Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Lost World."

A high-spirited cast of 17 brought together by producer Sharon Donovan and director Kathie West recreate a distant past in "The Lost World." It is a fully staged show giving life to classic 1950s radio drama with sound effects galore and sharp period costumes to transport the audience deep into the imagination.

With the collaboration of Fairfax County Public Access Television, viewers will be able to tune-in to see and hear the suspense and excitement unfold when the show is aired in December.

Arthur Conan Doyle is famous for his



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute cast members, from left, Karen Hauser, Gordon Canyock, Bob Greenspan and Allan Wenberg, rehearse a scene from Arthur Conan Doyle's 'The Lost World.'

Sherlock Holmes, but less well known for "The Lost World" published in 1912. "The Lost World" is a harrowing trek through remote South American jungles to uncover a mysterious place where dinosaurs roam side-by-side with early mankind. Add to this the dangers of a budding romance, jealousy and quarreling scientists.

The large cast is composed of acting vet-

erans and newcomers. Recently sitting around a large table with some of the cast at OLLI's Tallwood home off Roberts Road in Fairfax, the excitement of the upcoming production was palpable.

Manual Pablo delighted in retelling his role as the leader of a long missing clan of early humans mimicking an invented language with silly words that brought an im-

mediate sly grin. Thelma Weiner, an actress with screen credits for the movie "Avalon" and work with Helen Hayes charmed with snippets of "Only a Bird in a Gilded Cage" a song delivered in a sweet soprano.

The role of Dr. Challenger, the scientist leading the expedition was cast with Allan Wenberg, a local musician who had the resonate voice to play the gruff scientist who believes that dinosaurs do exist. Gordon Canyock will bring to life Edward Malone a man on the journey to impress the woman he loves while Bob Greenspan is John Roxton an adventurer who knows no fear.

The script called for oodles of sound effects. This was entrusted to the creative talents of David and Mo Mason. They weaved together the sound design "assuming anything was possible." Venturing deep into found objects and the Internet, they recreated the terrors of being there in the deepest jungle.

Lynn Gramzow beamed brightly as she conveyed the screeches of animals and the flight of poison arrows that she performs in the production.

As Patricia Daly-Lipe made clear, the OLLI production will bring "great fun to audiences of all ages."

With the OLLI acting company, there were nods of agreement that by performing "things that come out of you surprise you."

Fairfax Public Access television will air "The Lost World" during December. For air times, visit www.fcac.org.

Ringling Bells for Charity

FROM PAGE 6

ing since donations are down and the need is up."

He's currently writing letters to local businesses, asking for their support. "But unless we find a lot of people in the community who make some decent contributions, it'll be tough making up that deficit," said Fitzgerald. "My biggest concern is that we use the funds

raised in the Christmas and winter-relief campaign to help support families in January and February."

He said the Salvation Army would "probably" be able to meet its toy and clothing demands at Christmastime, thanks in great part to the Angel Trees in various businesses around the county. Each contains tags with a child's first name and the gift wanted. Angel Tree locations include BJ's and Wal-Mart in Fair Lakes, Wal-Mart in Burke and shops in the Tysons Corner Mall.

The organization also runs an Adopt-A-Family program whereby people can volunteer to buy gifts for an entire family. It's run through the Salvation Army's social-service office and may be reached at 703-385-8700, ext. 23.

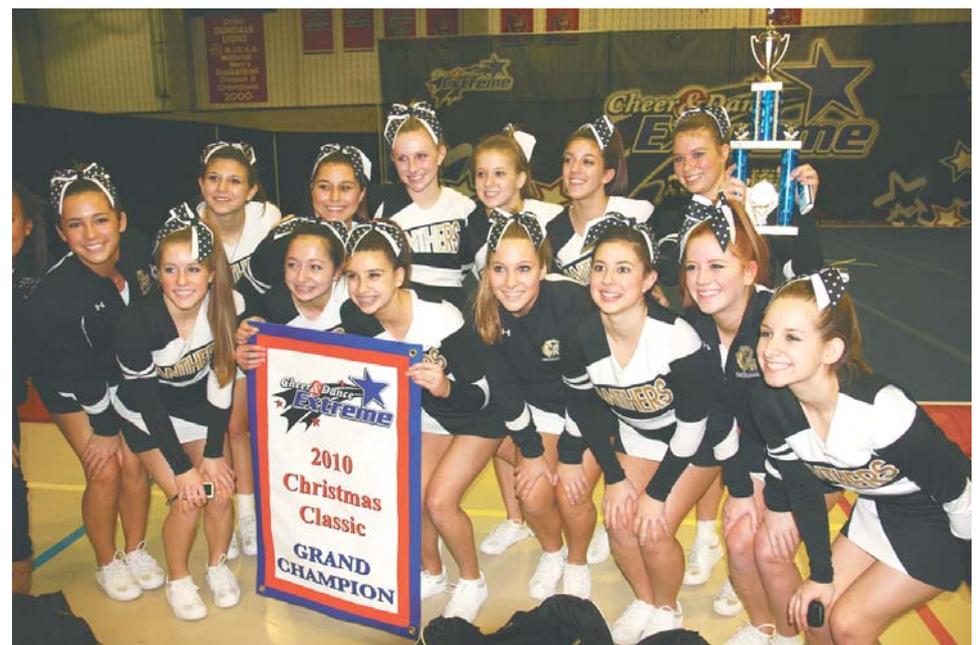
"We can only help as the finances are provided."
— Maj. Earl Fitzgerald

"We can only help as the finances are provided," said Fitzgerald. "We're also looking for at least 100 volunteers, in addition to our paid employees, to man our kettle locations. I'm trying to cover all 21 Giant stores in my service area. This includes Fairfax, Chantilly, Centreville, Herndon, Reston, Vienna, Great Falls, McLean, Burke, Falls Church and Fairfax Station."

The Salvation Army also needs volunteers for its donation kettles outside other Wal-Marts, Safeways, Magruder's in Vienna, K-Mart in Chantilly and Herndon, the Lotte store in Chantilly and the Super H Market in Fairfax.

To volunteer, call 703-385-8700, ext. 11, and ask for Stacey Burke. Tax-deductible checks, payable to Salvation Army, may be sent to it at 4915 Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030. In addition, people may text the word, "give," to 85944 to make a \$10 donation from their phones.

"I'd like to thank the community for their past support and for what they're doing this holiday season to support the Salvation Army's efforts," said Fitzgerald. "We just hope our donations will pick up so we can better meet the needs of those less fortunate in Fairfax County."



The Varsity Cheer squad from Paul VI Catholic High School poses with their championship banner after winning the Grand Champion title at the Cheer and Dance Extreme's Christmas Classic.

PVI Cheer Team Wins Christmas Classic

The cheerleaders at Paul VI Catholic High School have had a lot to cheer about recently. At the Nov. 21 Cheer & Dance Extreme's "Rumble in The Jungle Classic" in Eldersburg, Md., both the JV and varsity squads from PVI received first place medals and the varsity team received the Grand Champion Award with a trophy.

On Saturday, Dec. 11, the varsity and JV cheerleaders attended the Cheer and Dance

Extreme's "Christmas Classic" in Dundalk, Md.

The JV squad won first place and received a trophy. The varsity squad won first place for their routine and were named Grand Champions of the event. With about 40 squads competing, the PVI team was named the overall winner of all competing divisions, including school and recreational league divisions.

From Wrestling Mat to Pitching Mound

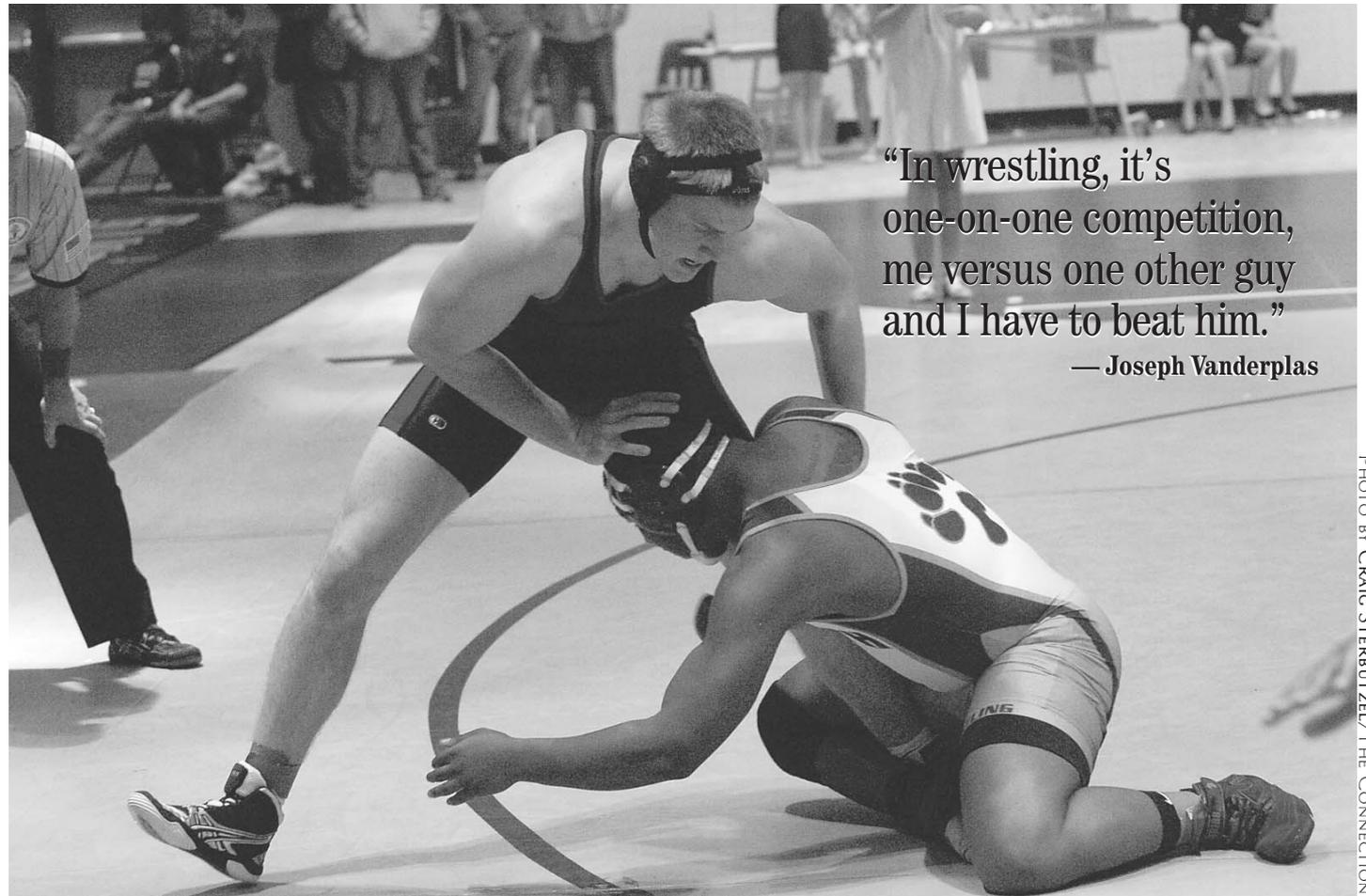
Wrestling helps Fairfax's Vanderplas get tough on mound.

Fairfax High senior Joseph Vanderplas is an imposing figure on the pitcher's mound. Standing 6-foot-2 and weighing 215 pounds, the left-hander has an arsenal of pitches strong enough to earn him an athletic scholarship to the University of Tennessee.

On the wrestling mat, Vanderplas is also an imposing figure. With a strong build and tough demeanor, the Rebel grappler worked his way to the 215-pound finals of the Northern Region Classic on Dec. 11 at Fairfax High School before losing to North Stafford's Justin Tribble by a 5-2 decision. The host Rebels finished 11th with 90 points.

Vanderplas said he's been wrestling since the seventh grade. With a bright baseball future waiting, the southpaw said he isn't concerned about wrestling's injury risks. In fact, Vanderplas said wrestling helps him improve as a baseball player.

"I talked to my head baseball coach, he's fine with it," Vanderplas said. "He wants



"In wrestling, it's one-on-one competition, me versus one other guy and I have to beat him."

— Joseph Vanderplas

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax senior Joseph Vanderplas, top, finished runner-up in the 215-pound class at the Northern Region Classic on Dec. 11 at Fairfax High School.

SEE WRESTLING, PAGE 14

Local Wrestlers Shine at Classic Tournament

Host Fairfax High places 11th, Paul VI grapplers come in 21st, Woodson 15th.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Virginia Wrestling Classic, the local high school early season showcase event, took place this past Friday and Saturday at Fairfax High School.

Thirty-one teams, most from within the Northern Virginia area, participated in the early season tournament. The team champion, for the second straight year, was Westfield High School, which accumulated 271.50 points and had 12 individual place finishers (top eight). Fauquier (Warrenton) and South County Secondary finished second and third, respectively, with 253 and 168. North Stafford (139.50) finished fourth, Annandale (117) was fifth and Chantilly (115.50) garnered sixth place. Rounding out the top 10 teams were seventh place Lake Braddock (112), eighth place Edison (105), ninth place Bishop Ireton of Alexandria (100) and 10th place South Lakes (95).

Other local team finishes included 11th place Fairfax (90), and 13th place Marshall

(84). W.T. Woodson (73) finished 15th, while Centreville High, Madison and Bishop O'Connell (Arlington) finished in a three-way tie for 17th place with 70 points each.

South County's Scott Blackstone went 5-0 to win first place at 189 weight class. Blackstone, in the finals, defeated Oakton's Austin Murga in overtime, 4-2. A second place finisher for the Stallions was Keegan Sullivan (152-division). Other place finishers for third place South County were: Austin Musfeldt (fourth place at 171); Zach Ayres (fifth place at heavyweight); Brett Stein (fifth place at 140); Hunter Manley (fifth place at 103); and Tyler Howard (eighth place at 135).

FOR SIXTH place Chantilly, Bernabe Mejia was the Chargers' best finisher with a third place showing at 189 weight class. Mejia went 5-1 over the two days. He won his third place consolation finals match, 3-1, over Ray Geier of Paul VI High (Fairfax). The Chargers had three other place finishers in Ricky Lopez (fourth at 152); Kyle Smith (fifth at 119); and Ian Shircliff (sixth at heavyweight).

Lake Braddock's strong seventh place team showing was fueled by three third place individual finishes, those coming from Cory Smith (171), Jake Sage (140) and Rory Renzi (135). Smith, in his third place match at 171, defeated Austin Musfeldt of South County, by fall at 3 minutes, 17 seconds. Sage, in his third place match at 140, defeated Ireton's Ricky Baier, 3-1. Renzi, at the 135 consolation finals, bested Westfield's Frank Aiello by major decision, 11-2.

Other place finishers for the Bruins came from Gil Enav (sixth at 160); Sean Haskett (sixth at 130); and Josh Story (eighth at 152).

FAIRFAX HIGH, 11th place overall in the team standings, received a second place individual finish from Joseph Vanderplas, who went 4-1 over the tournament at the 215 weight class. Vanderplas lost a tough 5-2 decision to Justin Tribble of North Stafford in the finals. The Rebels had three other place finishers in Shaun Hasenpflug (fourth place at 160); Nick Lowstuter (sixth at 103); and Kevin Richards (eighth at 125).

Paul VI (Fairfax), which finished 21st overall in the team standings, saw five of its wrestlers earn top eight place finishes. Those Panthers to place were: Ray Geier

(fourth at 189); Ty Campbell (fifth at 171); Tommy Whitaker (sixth at 125); Conor Hughes (seventh at 119); and Dan Carlton (eighth at 140).

Woodson High had four top eight place finishers — fourth place Carson Brown (heavyweight), fifth place Randall Mailand (152), seventh place Mitchell Kohlhaas (112) and eighth place Michael Orrick (160).

Westfield, the team champion, had two individual champions — Beau Donahue, who went a perfect 5-0 to capture the 140-division weight class, and Brett Campbell, who went 4-0 to win the 112 class. Donahue defeated North Stafford's Stephen Gwaltney by major decision (15-3) in the 140 finals. Campbell, meanwhile, won his 112 finals match over Fauquier's Bennett Payne, 4-2.

The Bulldogs also had four wrestlers who earned second place finishes in Tyler DeLeon (4-1 at heavyweight); Stephen Aiello (4-1 at 130); Derek Arnold (4-1 at 125); and Dennon Caranza-Kee (4-1 at 119). Also for Westfield, Harry Van Trees finished third place (5-1 at 152); Frank Aiello (135 division) and David Aiello (103) both took fourth place finishes; Jacob DeLeon (215) and Nick Lehman (145) both finished fifth; and Gabe Ryan (103) was seventh.

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COMMUNITY

Engaging Neighbors with Disabilities

Cook pushes initiative to bring people with disabilities into larger community.

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN COOK
R. BRADDOCK

Communities are about people, and strong communities are those where connections exist between all neighbors, which means reaching out and including everyone. At the heart of my Community Engagement Initiative is an effort to bring opportunities for community involvement to all residents. In the coming year, I am placing added emphasis on including our neighbors with disabilities.

Not too long ago, our society believed that individuals with intellectual, sensory and physical disabilities should live apart from society. Today, we know that community-based services are more effective in serving these citizens. In addition, we are discovering what many already knew — people with disabilities have knowledge, skills and abilities to offer our communities. Many people with disabilities are creative, energetic, and motivated community members. Our communities will become stronger with their inclusion. But we need to learn how, and we need to extend a welcoming hand to these neighbors through our community organizations.

To help in that process, I am sponsoring programs for our community at large. The first was last month's Town Hall, where community leaders were both informed of the capacities and interests of people with disabilities and were also encouraged to reach out and include these neighbors. The Town Hall featured

Nancy Mercer and Jill Egle from the Arc of Northern Virginia, who spoke about the capacities and interests of our neighbors with intellectual disabilities. Janice Kuch, with Fairfax County Library Access Services, spoke about technologies available to help people with sensory disabilities participate more fully in meetings and events. The program also featured Mary Wolf, a disabilities advocate, and Donna Goldbranson of Specially Adapted Resource Centers (SPARC), who spoke about her efforts to motivate and organize people facing serious life challenges to actively seek community engagement. Donna and Nancy are both Braddock District residents.

Next spring, a follow-on program will focus on encouraging those residents with disabilities to become more active in their communities and providing them with suggestions, techniques, connections to services and the inspiration to become more engaged.

Our population consists of people from a variety of backgrounds and with a variety of capabilities. Everyone has something to offer our neighborhoods. Community organizations — including civic associations, home owners associations, sports clubs, pools, scouts and PTAs — and our communities at large, will benefit as we include the full breadth of our population. For more information on how you can reach out to your neighbors with disabilities, contact Fairfax County's Disabilities Services Planning and Development Division at 703-324-5421. To date, hundreds of citizens have participated in some aspect of my Community Engagement Initiative, either through leadership training or participation in a host of community events. All across Braddock District residents are joining together to get to know one another, sponsor community social events, clean up their neighborhoods, start or expand neighborhood watch and emergency preparedness programs, and much more. If you are not already involved in your community, I invite you to join us. You'll be glad you did.

COMMENTARY

Wrestling Training for Rebel Pitcher

FROM PAGE 13

pitchers that are tough. ... In wrestling, it's one-on-one competition, me versus one other guy and I have to beat him. In baseball, I'm the pitcher and I'm facing the batter and it's really one-on-one right there. I have to get him out and he has to get a hit."

Vanderplas said he had a plan entering the championship match, but it didn't work out.

"I figured at the beginning he'd come at me hard, so I basically planned to stay low and beat him with conditioning later in the match," Vanderplas said, "and try to pin him with a cradle."

Westfield won the team title with 271.5 points, followed by Fauquier (253) and South County (168). Woodson finished 15th with 73 points and Paul VI was 21st out of 31 teams with 67.5 points.

— JON ROETMAN

FAITH NOTES

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.

Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road in Fairfax, will have a Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 at 8 p.m., with refreshments. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, will offer three worship services on Friday, Dec. 24. "The Miracle" is a Candlelight Service for Families at 5 p.m. The Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols is at 7:30 p.m., and the Candlelight Message and Communion at 10 p.m. www.BurkePresChurch.org or 703-764-0456.

RCCG Victory Temple, 6621 Electronic Drive, Suite G in Springfield, will host "A Night with the King: A Christmas and Carol Service", featuring The New Birth Choir and Clarity Pictures Ministries, on Friday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. 703-459-9434.

Interested in the Catholic Faith? Classes will be held at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church in the Guadalupe Room in the Parish Center, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Contact Carolyn Smith at carolynsmith.stleos@gmail.com or 703-273-5369.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, offers services on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m., in addition to

Sunday services at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. www.uucf.org.

The Parkwood Baptist Church, 8726 Braddock Road in Annandale, Bible Study Fellowship will study of the Old Testament Book of Isaiah. The Day Women's Class meets at 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays, and offers a children's program for ages 6 weeks-6 years. rdmarotto@cox.net.

Congregation Adat Reyim, an independent Jewish congregation, offers services Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:40 p.m. Hebrew School is Sundays at 9:30 and Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Hebrew High is Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Preschool is Monday-Friday at 9:30 a.m. Adat Reyim is located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield. www.adatreyim.org.

To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-917-6463



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE CONNECTION

Sounds of the Seasons

The Robinson Secondary School Singers, under the direction of Michael Horanski, were featured performers at the Salvation Army National Capital Area Command's Christmas Concert Dec. 12 at the

George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria. The are shown here singing The Peanuts theme 'Linus and Lucy.' The choir also led the audience in the singing of traditional carols like 'Silent Night' and 'Hark! the Herald Angels Sing.'

Council Edits Zoning Proposal

FROM PAGE 3

the charity find a building with one parking space for every few guests, since most people who use the Lamb Center do not own cars.

Originally, the city had also called for the Lamb Center and other social service providers like it to be located within 500 feet of a bus stop. But Drummond loosened this requirement to include all properties within a "reasonable distance" of public transportation.

The council has also added new rules that would prohibit loitering around the Lamb Center and other social service organizations. These types of charities would also be barred from offering "overnight stays" to their guests, said Drummond.

"Everyone I have spoken to said these regulations make good sense," he said.

Several City Council members said the new zoning regulations were intended to apply not just to the Lamb Center but also any similar social service provider who wanted to locate in the city.

It is not unusual for the city to set standards for certain kinds of building occupancies and uses, said Lederer.

For example, any drive-through bank or fast food restaurant has to seek special permission from the city before installing pick-up and payment windows, he said.

Still, the proposed zoning changes have been crafted to apply to a narrow definition of a social service provider. Though several charitable organizations are located in the City of Fairfax, the Lamb Center seems to be the only existing group that would be subjected to these new restrictions. No member of the City Council has been able to iden-

tify another organization that these zoning regulations would apply.

"If you look at this description of what the provider has to do [for the new restrictions to apply], it looks like it was copied from the description of us on our website," said McPherson.

McPherson still worries that there might be little or possibly no property that would meet all of the specifications laid out in the new zoning ordinances, even with more flexibility added.

He would like the city to produce a map of current properties that meet all of the specifications laid out in their proposed regulations. According to McPherson, one of the most difficult regulations to meet requires organizations like the Lamb Center to be at least 1,000 feet from any business that sells alcohol, yet still be confined to a commercial district.

Two members of the City Council, David Meyer and Joan Cross, said Fairfax should have reached out to the Lamb Center for input on the zoning proposal while drawing up the new legislation.

"The community that is most affected by this regulation has not had much formal input. It is unfortunate that we did not have that interaction with them at the beginning of this process," said Cross.

In response, Lederer said Lamb Center supporters would have plenty of opportunity to speak during public hearings before the City Council and Planning Commission. He also added that the City Council and the Lamb Center have had an open dialogue about their facility issues for several years.

At one point, the city hired a real estate agent to try and help the Lamb Center find a new location, including some sites in nearby Fairfax County, said Lederer.

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21 Announcements
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D & Y Ju, Inc trading as Springfield Sunoco Mart, 6400 Backlick Road, Springfield, Virginia 22150. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Young Jin Ju President

21 Announcements
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3) K. Anderson, Kenneth Anderson, Kenneth Anderson Jr - Unit 4184 - furniture, boxes, bags

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COMMUNITY

Charity Run

FROM PAGE 3

show and at T&K Treasures and La Bella Luce in Clifton. This year, the school had a display of his pottery, in his memory.

Sadly, though, Adam Seymour was born with a heart murmur. "He had a small hole in his heart and we took him to the cardiologist, every year," said his mother. "But the hole was so tiny that doctors said it would never be a problem, and they don't think it had anything to do with his death."

Adam Seymour had no physical restrictions, and doctors said exercise would make his heart stronger. So, besides playing soccer, he also ran cross-country, indoor track for Robinson. At college, he planned to focus on environmental studies, but was only there 36 hours when tragedy struck.

"We dropped him off on a Tuesday, and Wednesday midnight was the first soccer practice," said Beverly Seymour. "The team's tradition was to kick off the season with a 1.5-mile run in under 9 minutes. Adam was a fast runner and was running fifth out of 50 kids, doing well, with no problems."

Toward the end of the race, though, he told a coach he was having trouble breathing, but he kept running. He then told a second coach, who told him to walk, instead.

"They said he walked maybe 30 yards and collapsed," said Beverly Seymour "His heart stopped, he had CPR in the ambulance and was on life support for three days in the hospital."

But there was no brain activity so, on the fourth day, after family and friends said their goodbyes, Adam Seymour was removed from life support and died, Aug. 22.

"We're all devastated and sad, but I have a 14-year-old son to take care of," said Beverly Seymour. "But we remember the good things about Adam and keep his memory alive, and the 5K run and scholarship foundation will help us do this."

The Adam P. Seymour Foundation will provide scholarships to deserving athletes who demonstrate academic, civic and/or artistic achievement. It will also go toward CHD research and to help support youth programs.

"What a tragedy losing Adam has been, especially for his parents and brother," said his uncle, Scot Ferris of Oak Hill. "Everyone who met him knew what a kind soul he was. Adam had this enigmatic smile, like he knew something nobody else did, and it delighted him. And he was always the first one to help, when needed."

Ferris said Adam Seymour's unexpected death has been difficult for everyone. "It leaves a hole in our lives that will never be filled," said Ferris.

Now, as the 5K race approaches, said Ferris, "I know that hundreds of people from all over the state are looking forward to it. Hopefully, this year's run will be the start of a tradition that not only will help raise funds for a good cause, but will give Adam's friends and family a chance to get together and remember him."

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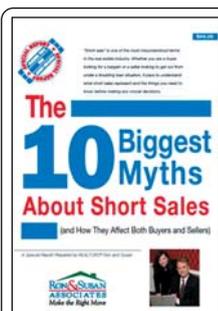


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