

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ❖ Kingstowne ❖ Newington

Fairfax County opened a new park-and-ride in central Springfield Dec. 6.

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PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Ready For Slugs

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Local Districts May Expand

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School Effort Now Non-Profit

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Political Districts Likely To Expand

Early data shows 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.

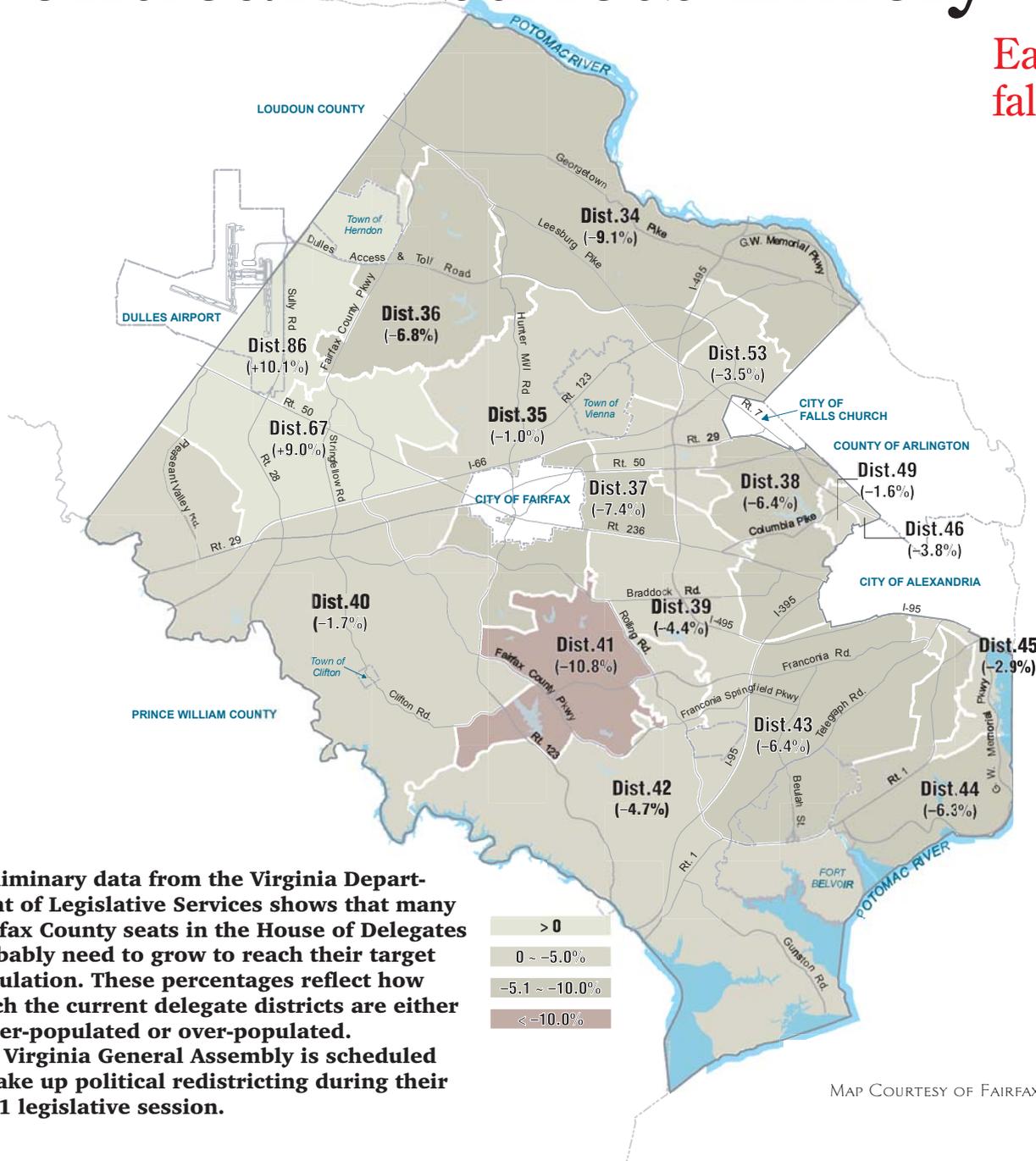
Over the last 10 years, Fairfax County's residential population appears to have increased at about half the rate of Virginia's population overall. As a result, Fairfax's share of representation in the General Assembly is expected to shrink relative to that of other localities, according to the Virginia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



MAP COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

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.

SEE LOCAL, PAGE 15

County Unveils New Springfield Park-and-Ride

Free parking opens on site of former Circuit City store, movie theater.

By JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County opened a free park-and-ride facility on Dec. 6 at one of the birthplaces of the "slugging" commuter movement.

The 277-space parking lot is located at 7039 Old Keene Mill Road, on the site of an old Circuit City store and movie theater in central Springfield.

"The demand has way exceeded the facility's capacity. Word about it hasn't even had time to spread yet and the lot is already full," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), who represents the area.

"People were already parking there ille-

gally. They were risking being towed every day. That shows you how important this facility is," he said.

"SLUGGING" is an unusual form of commuting that started in Northern Virginia approximately 35 years ago, according to McKay.

Commuters, typically going to the Pentagon or downtown Washington, D.C., line up at designated locations during morning rush hour. They volunteer to ride in strangers' vehicles, giving the drivers enough passengers to access the high-occupancy-vehicle [HOV] lanes, which move much faster than regular lanes, on

Interstate 95/395.

This process happens in reverse during the afternoon and evening hours, when commuters line up at designated sites in the city's downtown to come back to Northern Virginia.

Since no money is exchanged, "slugging" is one of the cheapest ways to get downtown during the workweek.

"The demand has way exceeded the facility's capacity."

— Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee)

"It is a unique mode of transportation in Northern Virginia that has been very successful," said Fairfax County Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

FOR LIABILITY REASONS, Fairfax County cannot officially endorse "slugging" but the new park-and-ride was constructed essentially to support existing slug lines.

"The county can't condone slugging, but it was essentially built to cater to slugs," said McKay of the new commuter lot.

One of the very first and most successful slug lines ever established, called "Bob's Slug Line," has operated from on or near the new parking lot's site for about three decades.

In recent years, Fairfax County has been leasing parking spaces at Springfield Plaza, directly across Old Keene Mill Road from the new commuter lot, so that local "sluggers" had a legal place

SEE SLUG LOT, PAGE 9

Holiday Effort

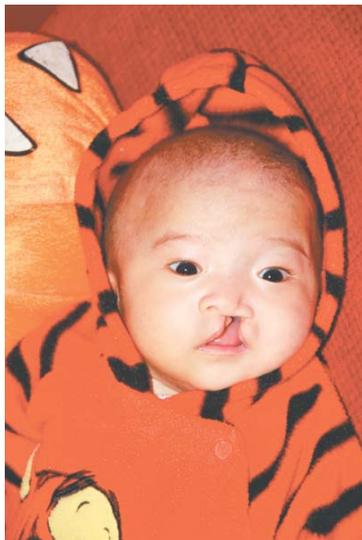
Local faith group supports Angel Tree, foster home in China.

Members in the Burke, Rolling Valley and Springfield wards of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are supporting the Angel Tree project, which in the past has distributed more than 5,500 Christmas gifts. Past recipients have included wounded soldiers at Walter Reed, victims of Hurricane Katrina, men and women at the Northern Virginia Training Center, local families, children in poverty stricken West Virginia, and little orphan girls in China.

This year, the Angel Tree project is collecting gifts for children visiting over the holidays with their wounded soldier mother or father who is recovering at Walter Reed Medical Center, needy members in the local area, and Marines wounded in Afghanistan who have recently arrived at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Anyone interested in providing a gift should contact Karma McLeskey at karma375@gmail.com or call her on 703 455-9309.

The wards are also collecting donations for Starfish Children's Services, a foster home in Xian, China. In particular, donations are being collected to help a special needs orphan named "Joy," who has a heart condition and cleft lip and palate. Amanda de Lange, a Brigham Young University graduate, founded Starfish Children's Services and receives "special needs" babies, weeks to months old, from the Chinese government's central orphanage.

Starfish provides nourishment, wellness services and medical intervention, including heart, spinal and cleft palate surgery. Starfish then returns the infants to the government orphanage for adoption. Learn more about Starfish at www.thestarfishfosterhome.org. Donation to Starfish can be made at the website or by sending a contribution to Starfish Children's Services, C/O Patrick McLaughlin, 6 West 122nd St, New York, NY 10027.



Chinese orphan Joy is receiving help from Starfish Children's Services.



PHOTO BY SARAH PEVNER/THE CONNECTION

West Springfield High School students and co-presidents of Born with Love, Nshira Turkson and Stephanie Asante, with their faculty advisor, Vera Woodson.

Project Is 'Born With Love'

West Springfield students turn community service project into non-profit.

BY SARAH PEVNER
THE CONNECTION

When Nshira Turkson, 16, and Stephanie Asante, 17, walked into Vera Woodson's fashion marketing class at West Springfield High School, they didn't realize they'd be walking out with a charity idea that would result in a non-profit organization.

Turkson and Asante, now seniors, were sophomores when they decided to start a community service program that would provide toys, clothes and school supplies to an orphanage in Ghana. More than 50 items were shipped to the orphanage during their initial campaign, and they've expanded that service project into the non-profit organization Born With Love, where they serve as co-presidents.

During the initial school organized campaign, Turkson and Asante worked diligently to get the word out, papering their high school campus with fliers, running toy drives at local churches, even relying on a local radio station to do free advertising.

The first shipment included donations by members of the high school community, but now Turkson and Asante receive donations from all over the country. They are currently working to register their organization with the United Way and Toys for Tots, in order to maximize contributions.

What has sustained the students through the process of creating a non-profit is the belief that they are doing something of real value. Both students acknowledge that their work in creating this organization has opened their eyes to how fortunate they

are as Americans.

Turkson, who volunteered for a summer in Ghana, said that she realized how much American teenagers take for granted, especially when it comes to education. As they continue to grow their non-profit, they hope to expand into collecting monetary donations to create scholarship opportunities for students in Ghana.

Woodson, their faculty sponsor during the creation of this project, explains that she expects a lot from her students because she knows how much they can accomplish. "Each student left my class with a business résumé and at least one college application completed," she said.

Woodson's work has left a lasting impression on these students, who are preparing to go to college now.

"I feel really prepared to go to college," said Asante.

"A lot of people don't know who to get started with something like this because they haven't found their passion yet," said Turkson.

The advantage their head start has provided them is something they say will help them in the work they continue to do in the future.

Now that the students have created Born With Love, they plan to continue it as they move into college. "I think college will be a great place to get people involved," said Asante.

Both seniors have applied to prestigious colleges, including Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania and Tulane.

Turkson and Asante agree that, no matter where their college paths take them, they will retain their commitment to Born With Love. "I told the girls when they started, they could write their own ticket into destiny," said Woodson.

Born With Love continues to accept donations for Ghana. For more information, contact Woodson at 703-725-7741.

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

FRIDAY/DEC. 24
Washington DC Jewish Community Center's Day of Service. Help at one of over 50 non-profits throughout the area. Projects vary from 2-4 hours and encompass a variety of activities such as throwing holiday parties for children, visiting seniors and serving meals to the homeless. Family and group projects are also available. \$20. Register at www.washingtondcjcc.org/volunteer.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 5
Parents and Caregiver Support Group for Special Needs

Children. 7:30 p.m. at Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Meets first Wednesday of each month. Register at 703-537-3040.

TUESDAY/JAN. 11
South County Federation Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at South County Secondary School Media Center, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Contact Alan Salisbury at southcountyfederation.com.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 12
NARFE Springfield Chapter 893 Meeting. 1:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield. With a presentation on what you about annuities, survivor benefits, life insurance and more. jkadelg@yahoo.com or 703 4313-9387.

CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Girls Find Fitness and Fun in Running Program

Springfield Estates girls exercise in after school run club.

BY TRACY FOSS
FIFTH GRADE TEACHER

Teachers at Springfield Estates Elementary School in Springfield started a Girls Run Club for girls in fifth and sixth grade. This was a free after school club that was open to all. The girls were thrilled to join.

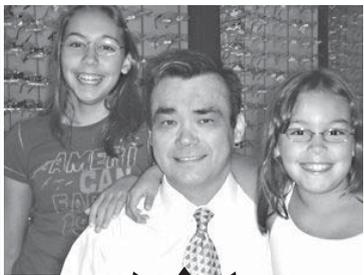
We had a total of 40 girls join our club. We met every Tuesday and Thursday for one hour. Each practice we would stretch, warm-up, have a lesson and run. The lessons focused on living a healthy life, being a positive friend, having a positive self-view and making healthy choices in exercise, eating and friendships. We started out in October only running half of a mile. By November the girls were completing more than 2 miles.

We ran our 5K race (3.1 miles) on Dec. 5, at the Lee High School track. Thirty-two girls ran and completed the race. It was a very cold day, but they were so proud of



SEE RUNNERS, PAGE 9 **Members of the Springfield Estates Girls Run Club pose for a photo.**

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OPINION

Counting Blessings? Remember Nature

Free gifts to all in area 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 coffee pot 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/goodneighborhndbk_web.pdf.

— MICHAEL L. LIPFORD

Michael Lipford is Virginia executive director of The Nature Conservancy

GUEST EDITORIAL

GUEST EDITORIAL

Those with Intellectual Disabilities at Risk

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

Despite our being eighth 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 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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CAMPS & SCHOOLS

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The following students graduated from Virginia Tech:

Varun Tandon of Springfield majored in mechanical engineering in the College of Engineering. Tandon is a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 2010 and has been commissioned in the U.S. Navy spring 2011; **Kimberly Leshner** of Springfield majored in wildlife science in the College of Natural Resources. Leshner is a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class

of 2010 and has been commissioned in the U.S. Navy; **John Steger** of Springfield majored in history in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Steger is a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 2010 and has been commissioned in the U.S. Army; **Daniel Stalcup** of Springfield majored in history in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Stalcup is a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 2010 and has been commissioned in the U.S. Army; **Jason Nguyen** of Springfield majored in psychology in the College of Sciences. Nguyen is a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 2010 and has been commissioned in the U.S. Army; **John DeLaura** of Springfield majored in history in the Col-

lege of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. DeLaura is a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 2009 and has been commissioned in the U.S. Air Force; **Joseph Feerst** of Springfield majored in aerospace engineering in the College of Engineering. Feerst is a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 2009 and has been commissioned in the U.S. Air Force; **Ashley Mamzellis-Heim** of Springfield majored in mechanical engineering in the College of Engineering. Mamzellis-Heim is a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 2010; **Mark Lu** of Springfield majored in economics, science in the College of Science. Lu is a member of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Class of 2010.

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CAMPS & SCHOOLS

TJ Latin Students Show Prowess

Language students from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology won trophies at the recent Classical Cottage Latin Certamen competition on Nov. 6. The novice team of Hannah Pho (McLean), Ben Andre (Oakton), Jeff Horowitz (Oakton) and John Wilkes (McLean) finished first in their division. In the upper-level division, Zach Seid (Clifton), Akhila Ananthram (Clifton), Ricky Short (Springfield) and Philip Meyers (Herndon) earned second place; and Latin second-year students Molly Hemenway, Daphne Fong (Fairfax), James Jang (Springfield), and Hyae-In Seo (McLean) brought home third place awards. Also winning third place rewards were juniors Rachel Goldstein (Fairfax), Tommy Lunn (Sterling) and Alana Whitman (Alexandria). Other students who put in a strong showing were Katie Hough (Fairfax Station), Bruce Bland (Springfield), Sienna Lotenberg (Arlington) and Abi Gopal (Leesburg).

Certamen is a competition for Latin students focusing on classical-themed questions on mythology, Roman history and culture and Latin grammar. Seventeen schools and approximately 200 students attended this Certamen at Powhatan School in Boyce, Va.

Thomas Jefferson Latin Certamen team members Akhila Ananthram, Ben Andre, Bruce Bland, Daphne Fong, Rachel Goldstein, Abi Gopal, Molly Hemenway, Katie Hough, Jeff Horowitz, James Jang, Sienna Lotenberg, Tommy Lunn, Philip Meyers, Hannah Pho, Zach Seid, Hyae-In Seo, Ricky Short, Alana Whitman and John Wilkes take several trophies at the Nov. 6. Classical Cottage Latin Certamen competition.



PHOTO BY ANGELA WILKES

Joseph Dawson, a member of the class of 2010 from Springfield, has been named to the spring dean's list at Loyola University, Md. In order to qualify for the dean's list at Loyola, a student must have a GPA of at least 3.5 with a minimum of 15 credits.

COLLEGE NOTES

John Julich of Springfield was selected for dean's third honors at Pace University in New York City, N.Y.

Joshua Closs of Springfield was recognized for outstanding academic achievement and put on East Texas Baptist Univer-

sity's 2010 spring semester dean's list with honors.

Cadet Major Marianne Nell-Tuscon of Springfield graduated from Randolph-Macon Academy on May 29. She was presented with numerous academic awards during her time at R-MA, including the Scholastic Excel-

lence Award, the Silver Standard on the National Spanish Exam level 5 and the Spanish Medal. She was regularly named to the president's list for maintaining a GPA above 4.0.

Matthew Walsh of Springfield graduated from Randolph-Macon Academy on May 29. While at R-MA, he

received a Certificate for Outstanding Performance for Flight Ground School. Walsh plans to attend Saint Louis University in the fall.

Beverly Stokes of Springfield graduated with a bachelor of music degree from Ithaca College's School of Music. The degree was awarded in May 2010.

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Holidays!

Slug Lot

FROM PAGE 3

to park when using "Bob's line". But the shopping center probably won't agree to lease parking spaces to the county indefinitely, said officials

"We are eventually going to lose those spots in Springfield Plaza so we had to replace them," said Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield).

FAIRFAX hopes to eventually turn this new surface parking lot into a 1,000-space garage catering to commuters.

According to McKay, the county applied for grants to build the full garage initially. But when the grants were turned down, the county decided to install the smaller park-and-ride facility as a stopgap measure.

"We may not be able to build our parking deck right now, but formalizing commuter parking will go a long way toward helping central Springfield," said McKay.

Fairfax County funded the parking lot's construction through a local tax on commercial and industrial real estate, which can only be used for local transportation improvements, according to the Lee District supervisor.

Runners

FROM PAGE 3

themselves for accomplishing their goal. Their families and friends came to the race to cheer them on. Several girls had self-selected running buddies that ran with them. They invited their mothers, fathers, siblings and friends to run the race. Many were surprised that they were able to complete the 5K. Our goal was to promote a healthy life and positive self-esteem. A picture cannot reflect the joy these girls felt during this race.

When reflecting on this club, there is one girl who comes to my mind. I have watched her flourish and improve. Girls Run Club has given her confidence to speak up in class, try her best in everything and make new friends. She still struggles in school, but she is so much more confident, and she is accomplishing more than she ever imagined she could have. All of the girls are ecstatic when things about Girls Run Club in the spring. They can't wait for their friends to join us.

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Congratulations to Jovanna Blum, age 11, of Falls Church, VA, winner of our Kids' Holiday Art Contest! Jovanna wins a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

Thank you to all the young artists who submitted their creative holiday drawings.
Special thanks to The Art League for judging the entries.

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SPRINGFIELD CONNECTION ❖ DECEMBER 16-22, 2010 ❖ 9

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PHOTOS BY CHIP CERTZOG

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 kindly guardian angel played by Joseph Le Blanc to



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

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. A blinking applause sign lights up overhead, while at center stage are three old-fashioned tall microphones behind which much action takes place. During a dress rehearsal, the costumes designed by Beth Whitehead were splendid, delightfully evocative of the times with spot-on period dresses and spiffy hats for the women and some dandy men's suits. The hair and make-up work of Beth Harrison included the awesome rich red lipstick of those days.

Performances are continuing through Dec. 18-19. Go to www.providenceplayers.org for details.

COLLEGE NOTES

Justin Strickland of Springfield received a \$1,500 college scholarship awarded by Fort Belvoir. He is one of only 645 recipients out of over 6,000 students that applied for the scholarship.

Kaitlin Lee Whitt of Springfield graduated cum laude with a bachelor of arts in political science, international affairs emphasis, from Seattle Pacific University.

Linda Murphy of Springfield, a student on Fairleigh Dickinson University's Metropolitan campus, located in Teaneck, N.J., graduated during May commencement ceremonies.

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Special thanks to the Connection for its support of volunteerism.



CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/DEC. 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.

Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. The Art of Racing in the

Rain by Garth Stein. Adults. 703-971-0010.

Practice Your English. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

Lorton Book Club. 7 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. "Manhunt: The Twelve-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer" by James L. Swanson. Adults. 703-339-7385.

C Is For Candle. 2 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Stories and activities celebrating the season. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-451-8055.

Springfield Writers' Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Share your work, give

and receive feedback in a supportive setting. 703-451-8055.

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.

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 refreshments available. Free admission. 703-993-8898.

Pat Travers, The Rob Hornfeck Enterprise, The Maiden Project and more. 8 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Age 21 and up. \$17 advance, \$20 at the door. www.Jaxxroxx.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 18

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.
Arsis, Powerglove, Conducting From The Grave, Deranged Theory, Orthrus, Blood Corps, Burnside Landing, Jupiter's Wake, Ethereal Genocide, Bolt, Wreckage, 1Alliance and Artiface. 2 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$13 advance, \$15 at the door. www.Jaxxroxx.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 19

Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes. 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. George

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15



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12/10 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

12/10 8:00 PM Bonita Lestina Performance Series at Old Town Hall: Columbia Flute Choir "Celebrating the Season"

12/12 2:00 PM Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center Second Sunday Series: Holiday & Popular Tunes at Old Town Hall

12/12 7:30 PM The Brethren Christmas Concert at Truro Church

12/15 2:00 PM Tales of Winter (ages 3-5) at the City of Fairfax Regional Library

12/17 6:00 PM Holiday Reception at the Adam Lister Gallery at theSPACE at Old Town Plaza

12/17 7:30 PM City of Fairfax Theatre Company presents "Little Women" at the Fairfax Baptist Church

12/17 8:00 PM A Celtic Christmas with Sior-Og and Friends at Old Town Hall

12/18 7:00 PM City of Fairfax Band & Fairfax Choral Society: Christmas in Fairfax at Fairfax High School

12/20 10:30 AM Children's Performance Series at theSPACE at Old Town Plaza: Bob Brown Puppets Holiday Show

12/29 2:00 PM Wintertime Fun with Kaydee Puppets (all ages) at the City of Fairfax Regional Library

12/31 6:30 PM Fairfax Four Miler—see www.runpacers.com for information

12/31 See in the New Year with an Ice-cream Social at Woody's



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Short-Handed Spartans Continue Winning Ways

West Springfield girls looking to return to state playoffs.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The West Springfield girls basketball team played its first road game of the season on Dec. 10. The Spartans were missing their head coach and a Division I athlete entering the contest and struggled with turnovers during. While most teams would consider the scenario an up-hill battle, West Springfield simply continued where it left off.

The short-handed Spartans traveled to Alexandria and defeated T.C. Williams 47-33 on Friday, improving their record to 3-0. West Springfield returns four key contributors from a team that finished 25-3 and reached the state semifinals during the 2009-10 campaign.

"I think the girls have said we want to go back to at least the same place we went last year: final four in the state, for sure," assistant coach Bill Langloh said after defeating the Titans. "We've got the potential to do that."

On Friday, head coach Bill Gibson was away from the team while dealing with the death of his mother. Langloh said the team was emotional but managed to take care of business, even without the services of 5-foot-10 junior wing Logan Battle, who sat out with a knee injury. Battle,



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

West Springfield freshman Amy Berglund, right, lunges to try and alter the shot of T.C. Williams guard Gaby Moss.

SEE SPARTANS, PAGE 13

Lake Braddock Boys Get Up to Speed on Court

Bruins to play at Robinson on Friday; Lee, West Springfield boys' seasons underway.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

A recent increase in man power should go a long way toward helping the Lake Braddock Secondary boys' basketball team in setting a right course for itself in the early stages of the season.

The Bruins (1-1) played their first couple of games without several players who, up until two weeks ago, were still competing as members of Lake Braddock's successful football team which won the Northern Region Division 6 championship before seeing its season end with a state playoff game loss to Battlefield High on Dec. 4.

On the hardwood, Lake Braddock played its first two games short-handed - a 56-50 home win over Centreville on Dec. 3, and a 68-40 home loss to Herndon on Dec. 7.

"The team is still in flux with the football players coming off the state semifinal," said Bruins' basketball coach Brian Metress. "Our football players missed the first 20 practices. They practiced for the first time last Friday and Saturday and we still had kids trying out on Saturday, Dec 11th. We went ahead and played our out-of-district games with Centreville and Herndon with only eight varsity players in uniform but pushed our W.T. Woodson game back because it was a

[Patriot] District game."

Lake Braddock was set to play three games this week - at Westfield on Tuesday, Dec. 14, the re-scheduled Patriot District home game versus Woodson on Wednesday, and a contest at local rival Robinson Friday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

"The goal for us right now is just solidifying a group of 12 guys, incorporating our football guys and establishing what we do."

— Lake Braddock Coach Brian Metress

In the season-opening win over visiting Centreville, the short-handed Bruins played excellent defense most of the night, allowing just 15 points total over the first half and 27 through three quarters. Lake Braddock had a 37-27 lead going into the final quarter and went on to get the hard-fought victory.

Three Lake Braddock players, in the win over Centreville, scored in double figures - senior forward Ibrahim Wehelie with a team-leading 18 points, senior center Bobby Freedman with 12 points and junior guard Brendan McHale with 10. Alec Boyer, a senior forward, added eight points.

Lake Braddock, however, could not keep up with a talented Herndon team four days

later, as the Bruins fell to the 3-1 Hornets by 28 points. Freedman led the Bruins with 15 points in the lopsided loss, in which Lake Braddock fell behind 19-2 early on.

Lake Braddock will use its pre-holiday schedule to become a more cohesive group on the floor in preparations for the bulk of the district schedule following the start of the New Year.

"The goal for us right now is just solidifying a group of 12 guys, incorporating our football guys and establishing what we do," said Metress.

Lake Braddock will host the Glory Days Grill Tournament of Champions holiday tournament Dec. 27-29. The eight-team field will consist of Middleburg Academy, Robinson, Madison, Hylton (Woodbridge), South Lakes, Osbourn (Manassas), Woodbridge and the host Bruins.

Four first round games will be played on Monday, Dec. 27 at Lake Braddock: Middleburg Academy versus Robinson at 2:15 p.m.; Madison versus Hylton at 4 p.m.; South Lakes versus Osbourn at 5:45 p.m.; and Woodbridge versus Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m.

The Lee Lancer boys' team (0-2) will be looking for their first win when they host W.T. Woodson this Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Lee, under longtime head coach Michael Harris, opened its season with an 84-70 loss at local rival Edison on Dec. 7. Three days later, in their home opener, the Lancers lost

a Patriot District game to West Potomac, 68-51.

In the season opening loss to the Eagles, Lee's Maseer Ghorab, a junior guard, led the Lancers with 22 points. Also in double figures for Lee that night were senior guard Jalen Boswel (14 points), junior guard C.J. Lewis (13) and junior forward Danny Sapp (12).

Lee's top scorers in the loss to the Wolverines were Ghorab (18), Sapp (13), Lewis (10) and Boswel (9).

Along with hosting Woodson this Friday, the Lancers will also be playing at home next Tuesday, Dec. 21 against Oakton.

The Spartans of West Springfield High are 1-4 in the early going of the season. The team, under new head coach Jason Eldredge, opened the season with a loss at Centreville, 51-41, on Dec. 1. Then, at the Herndon Tip-Off Tournament, the Spartans went 1-1, defeating Briar Woods, 58-56, on Dec. 3 before losing to Middleburg Academy, 74-52. Last week, West Springfield lost at Westfield, 67-37, on Dec. 7, then fell to district opponent T.C. Williams, 69-34, at home.

Ali Kazmi, a senior guard/forward, scored 17 points to lead the Spartans in the loss to Middleburg.

In games this week, the Spartans were scheduled to play at Robinson on Tuesday, Dec. 14, and they will host defending Northern Region champion Chantilly this Friday at 7:30 p.m. Eldredge, the Spartans' new coach, was the head girls' basketball coach at Freedom High in South Riding the past five years where he led the Eagles to two state titles the past two winter seasons.

SPORTS

Spartans Roll Over Titans

FROM PAGE 12

who is committed to Georgetown, is expected back soon.

Even without Battle, West Springfield is a talented team, led by all-region point guard April Robinson. The junior scored 19 points and made an impact on the boards, passing to teammates and controlling the game with confidence and experience. She helped West Springfield overcome a 20-turnover performance.

"We're pretty much just going to give her the ball and let her run the show," Langloh said. "When she gets in foul trouble it's not a good thing. She's smart enough I can let her keep going with two in the first half. She can really shoot ... she makes a lot of good passes and gets the ball to the right people."

When T.C. Williams showed signs of coming back, Robinson made a play. After a slow start, the Titans knocked down a free throw in the second quarter to pull within 10 at 15-5. Moments later, Robinson buried a 3-pointer, came up with a turnover and converted a three-point play to give the Spartans a 21-5 advantage. In the third quarter, after a 7-2 T.C. run pulled the Titans within 15 at 30-15, Robinson knocked down a 3-pointer from the top of the arc. When T.C. twice cut the lead to 12 early in the fourth quarter, Robinson answered with a bucket each time.

"We tried to throw some different things at her," T.C. head coach Kesha Walton said of the Titans' defensive strategy against Robinson. "She handled it very well."

ROBINSON described herself as a pass-first point guard who looks to score when she needs to.

"If I have a wide-open shot and there's a teammate who's close to the basket and I know they can make it, I'm going to pass it to them before I shoot the ball,"



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

West Springfield senior Muffin Brassfield (24) defends T.C. Williams senior Sade' Barber while Spartans point guard April Robinson (32) looks from the background during West Springfield's win over the Titans on Dec. 10.

Robinson said. "But when times get tough, usually me, Logan or Muffin [Brassfield] will step up and take those shots."

Along with Robinson and Battle, senior guard Brassfield and junior guard Jordan Miller are returning starters. Against the Titans, Miller scored nine points and Brassfield added five. Freshman wing Amy Berglund finished with eight points.

West Springfield will travel to face Chantilly on Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m.

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SPORTS

Wrestlers Shine at Classic

South County's Scott Blackstone captures 189 title.

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.

— RICH SANDERS

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. For more information, send an e-mail to rdmarotto@cox.net.

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road in Alexandria, needs volunteers for the Phoenix Rising Meal Program at. Help prepare meals for the homeless Thursday, Dec. 23, 6:30 p.m., and deliver the bags Friday, Dec. 24. Contact 703-971-5151 or www.franconiaumc.org.

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. For more information, contact us at 703-569-7577 or visit www.adatreyim.org.

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, worship services are Saturday Coffeehouse at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. www.BurkePresChurch.org.

COMMUNITY

Local State Legislative Districts May Expand

FROM PAGE 3

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 to 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 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 communi-

ties 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 cumula-

tive 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 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 constituents. 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)

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

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.

Vienna Boys Choir. 4 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.

ABACABB, In Alcatraz 1962, Frequent, Upon Disfigurement, As The Kingdom Falls, Villiska, Truth Be Told, Saints Will Rise, Supremacist, The Markov Process, Ceruleus, Decimate the Tyrant, Hackin Jessie and Epitome of the Weak. 1 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$12 advance, \$14 at the door. www.jaxxroxx.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 20

Toddler Time. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Early literacy storytime. No siblings, please. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-971-0010.

I Am Special. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Stories and activities. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-339-4610.

Read to the Dog. 4:30-5:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Read to a reading therapy dog. Call to register for one 15-minute slot. Age 6-12 with adult.

703-339-4610.

Going Green Inside and Out. 2:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Learn ways to go green and help the environment this winter as well as how animals use the green of evergreens to survive. 703-451-8055.

TUESDAY/DEC. 21

Lullaby Stories. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Join us for evening stories and activities. Pajamas and stuffed animals welcome. Age 1-5 with adult. 703-339-4610.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Practice and improve English. Adults. 703-451-8055.

Lorton Arts Foundation Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Phase II Expansion. At the Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Demolition ceremony at 12:15 p.m., hard hat tours 1-3 p.m. With Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) state and local officials. The renovations will allow the center to expand its performing arts offerings, theatre and visual arts productions and professional instruction for young audiences, and its event, conference, and meeting space for the region. Open to the public. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 22

Practice Your English. 10:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

Travel Club. 1 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St.,



Springfield. Bring lunch and enjoy a lively discussion. Adults. 703-451-8055.

The Sacred Worlds and Songs Divine World Tour: Blind Guardian, Holy Grail and Seven Kingdoms. 8 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$25 advance, \$28 at the door. www.jaxxroxx.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 29 Fun with Origami. 4 p.m. Lorton

Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Learn Japanese paper folding. Age 6-12. 703-339-7385.

Read Yourself Silly. 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. A juggling and magic show presented by Flow Circus. Cosponsored by the Friends of Richard Byrd Library. All ages. 703-451-8055.

Shrine, Broken Buttons, The Idiomatics, Georgiamac, She Bites Dogs, Drawing Sounds, Ritual of The Boar, IQ and

Shankool, LEDs and Smoke Machines. 6 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$8 advance, \$10 at the door. www.jaxxroxx.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 31

Outerloop Presents: Night of New Year's Metal. 6 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. www.jaxxroxx.com.

'Nutcracker In a Nutshell'

The Center for Ballet Arts in Fairfax is presenting performances of "Nutcracker In A Nutshell."

Tickets are now on sale for the performances, Saturday, Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 19, at 3 p.m., at the Rachel Schlessinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3100 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Tickets are \$18 at the studio, \$20 at the door. All seating is reserved. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to either performance on Saturday or Sunday, or to CBA beforehand, and help support the U.S. Marines drive for Toys for Tots. For more, go to www.thecenterforballetarts.com.

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21 Announcements
ABC LICENSE
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
ABC LICENSE
GNR, Inc trading as George's Steak N Things, 5624-C1 Ox Rd, Burke, VA 22039. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer On license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. George Rababy, President

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COMMUNITY

Local Players 'Conquering The Rose'

Independent film
looks to be picked up
at film festival.

J. Michael Whalen has hitched his star to a new independent film, "Conquering the Rose," that he has just finished filming in the area.

Written by Jenna St. John, it was produced by Jenna St. John and Francis Abbey. Joe Ensley was the cinematographer. Starring in the film are George Katt, Kera O'Bryon and Ian Novick.

"Conquering the 'Rose' was my passion piece and John Michael helped me bring it to life," said St. John. "The actors and the crew were phenomenal, matching the caliber of anyone in Hollywood and was very far the most rewarding experience of my life."

"We had extensive auditions," said Whalen. "We had a clear idea of what we wanted and knew almost instantly when we got the right people. I can't say enough about the two leads."

Whalen was born in Alexandria Hospital and grew up in Springfield. He attended Lake Braddock Secondary School. He has been a cinematographer, director, writer, producer and editor for several other independent and short films. He first read St. John's script earlier this year.

"There was such a big scope of characters - we had to do it," said Whalen.

Christine Wasilewski is thrilled to be a part of the newly produced independent film, "Conquering the Rose." A Mount Vernon resident, she also has a small role in the film.

In addition to this film, Wasilewski has also done hair and makeup for "6 Nonsmokers," makeup for "Tracks," and hair and makeup for "The End of Something."

They started filming on July 2, 2010. Over the course of four weeks, they filmed 12 hours a day.

"It was such a regimented hard core process," said Whalen. "You have to give it everything you have. It's an amazing thing when you put it all together. We all have a good feeling about it. Everybody is so invested in it that it added a level of quality."

They are now in the post production process and then they plan to take it on the festival circuit. They plan to submit to at least a dozen film festivals; the real goal is distribution.

While Whalen and his team haven't discussed venues yet, they also plan to show the film in local theaters.

While many film makers aspire to live in California or New York, Whalen believes that there are plenty of opportunities her in the D.C. Metro area.

For more information visit www.conqueringtherose.com.

— GALE CURCIO

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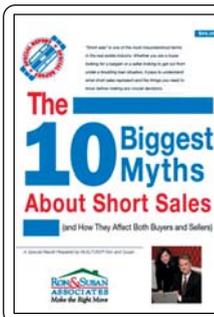
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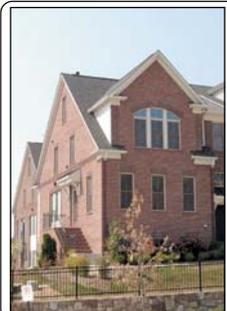


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