

Burke CONNECTION

Children's Theater

NEWS, PAGE 3

Resolved To ...

NEWS, PAGE 3

Ram Girls
Win Classic

SPORTS, PAGE 7

Holly Pfeferman of Fairfax, holding her son Sammy and daughter Meira, checks in with Meira to see how she's enjoying the Jan. 4. puppet show at Pohick Regional Library.

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If this sounds like it may be what you've been waiting for, I want you to know that at our office, we understand and appreciate that your fears are real and completely legitimate. Fear and anxiety are normal, and something that you can't always control. You don't have to feel embarrassed, just get started. We welcome you to visit our office by calling us or checking out our website.

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PHOTO BY GEORGE BURKE

Political Resolutions

Local political leaders offer a variety of resolutions, some humorous, some serious, for 2011.

“My resolution is to train the very cute and loving puppy I adopted for my family from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter ... and to encourage more people to visit the shelter and its wonderful staff on West Ox Road when they are thinking about acquiring a new pet.”

— U.S. REP. GERRY CONNOLLY (D-11)

“I was grateful to receive 61 percent of the vote in November and in 2011 will be working hard to earn that level of support.”

— U.S. REP. JIM MORAN (D-8)

“My New Years Resolution is to do everything in my power to jump start the process of bringing widening, transit, and change to U.S. Route 1.”

— DEL. SCOTT SUROVELL (D-44)

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) poses with wife Cathy, daughter Caitlin, and new dog Abigail, a Poodle-Bichon mix the family adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

“I resolve to get back in shape so I can go skiing. I used to go skiing with my family every year since 1970, but as I approach 50 and have a habit of eating my 5-year-old boy's leftover happy meal french fries, I have 'lost my edge.' So I will be in the gym. Oh, and I need to learn 'Stairway to Heaven' on my guitar.

— DEL. DAVE ALBO (R-42)

“My resolution this year for the legislative session is to do all I can to restructure the re-entry process for offenders committed to the state juvenile correctional system. This re-entry process will utilize evidence based best practice proven to be effective. By using vacancies in local juvenile detention centers for the final weeks of their incarceration, we can reduce the size of government by downsizing existing infrastructure, save money, move services closer to people, provide state of the art programming that will reduce recidivism, and bring jobs to 12 localities around the Commonwealth. I will be meeting with the governor on this soon and hope that it will become one of his New Years Resolutions.”

— SEN. DAVE MARSDEN (D-37)



The crowd watches as Goldilocks samples the bears' breakfast.

Storytime at Pohick

Toddlers troop to library for puppet show.

On Tuesday, Jan. 4, the Kaydee Puppets troupe performed at the Pohick Regional Library. The crowd of more than 100 toddlers and their chaperones enjoyed a rol-

licking version of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and sung a variety of nursery rhymes along with Mother Goose and some of her friends.

— PHOTOS BY DEB COBB



Sisters Alexis, left, and Lindsey Horn, of Burke, enjoy the show.

Expect Hazardous Conditions Ahead ...

... but no one said that was a bad thing.

BY ROXANNE SUTTON
THE CONNECTION

Mark Hazard Osmun gets around. He's written three novels, was the director of public relations at Jackson Family Wines, and won a Silver Anvil from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) for the "A Really Goode Job" Campaign he created for Murphy-Goode Winery. These are just a few of many in a long line-up of accomplishments.

For a man who has done so much in the public relations field, Osmun has a lot of information he is willing to pass on to the next generation of PR professionals.

Osmun graduated from George Mason University in 1975 with a B.A. in English. At the time, Mason did not have a Communication Department.

"In 1975, I think we only had 2,500 students," he said.

Today, George Mason has more than

32,000 students and more than 800 students in the Communication Department.

ALTHOUGH Osmun's current job uses the resources that the Communication Department at Mason offers today like journalism and public relations, he said his degree in English gave him the tools he needed to succeed.

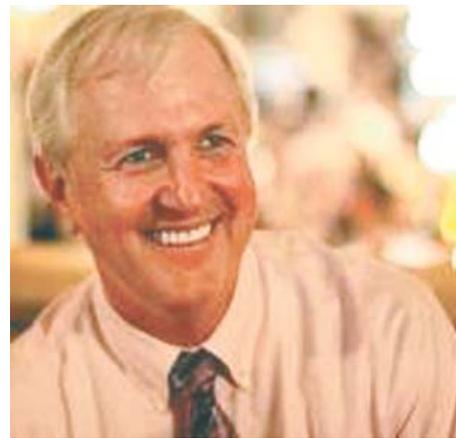
"English is about communication, writing, understanding, recognizing nuances, all essential to what I do."

— Mark Hazard Osmun

wine. The campaign's goal was to use social media to establish a market with the "millennial" generation. Osmun and his associates did this by holding a competition to hire someone to live the "Goode" life by tasting wine, eating food, and living in the wine country of California—all while getting paid \$10,000 a month to do it. The campaign increased wine sales for Murphy-

"English is about communication, writing, understanding, recognizing nuances, all essential to what I do," he said.

Osmun recently received a Silver Anvil, one of PRSA's highest honors, for the "Really Goode Job" campaign for Murphy-Goode



DONATED PHOTO

Mark Hazard Osmun

Goode by 74 percent and created more than 800 million media impressions.

Osmun's inspiration for the campaign came over a cup of coffee one January morning. "I saw a story in the paper about Australia's 'Best Job in the World' promotion for Queensland Tourism. As I drank my coffee, I slapped the paper and said, 'That's brilliant. I wonder if we could do that for wine.'"

They could, and they adapted the idea in the U.S. before anyone else. He said that if you're going to use someone else's brilliant idea, "you'd better be able to do it well, and do it fast."

WHEN IT comes to advice for someone entering the burgeoning public relations, Osmun suggests a background in journal-

ism. Many universities incorporate journalism in their public relations curriculum. At George Mason University, for example, students with a concentration in public relations take journalism classes to learn to write effectively. Osmun also recommends interning for a media outlet. "A future PR pro gains invaluable insight into how the media operates and what it wants," he said.

Osmun's favorite part of his public relations career is creating a plan and then seeing it work. Public relations is especially rewarding when working with charities. There, PR professionals can see how their work makes a difference in someone else's life.

While Public Relations is usually a rewarding career, like all jobs, it has its down sides. Osmun said he can relate to the TV show "Mad Men" when they say, "Love the work. Hate the clients." He said it is common to get hired by employers who will not always trust your decision-making abilities and therefore will resist your ideas.

The next step in Osmun's life might involve a little bit of Hollywood glamour. He has written two screenplays that are being reviewed in Los Angeles. More importantly, though, his future contains the relentless pursuit to remain creative in whatever he does.

"I like to take risks — my middle name was prophetic — because the only thing I'm sure of is that I absolutely will not achieve anything remarkable if I don't," he said.

To Be Greek or Not To Be Greek?

One George Mason University student shares ups and downs of sorority life.

BY VERONICA HUNSBERGER
THE CONNECTION

Colleges around the world have an extensive amount of participation in Greek Life on campus. With multiple sororities and fraternities to choose from, sometimes deciding to go Greek can be difficult.

Katelynn Cannava of Burke, a senior year Communications student at George Mason University, is a part of Greek life as a sister at the Alpha Phi Sorority.

Alpha Phi has a "formal list of values and goals to strive for as college

women" said Cannava. "Without joining Alpha Phi my freshman year, I don't think that I would be the same person that I am today. I've had unforgettable experiences, made friendships that I will keep, and have matured and grown into a person that I definitely not was four years ago." With sorority membership at 106 girls, one might think joining Alpha Phi was lot to handle, but

Cannava said otherwise. "Even with such a large number of girls and the diversity that we have, I find that I can really mesh well with a majority of my sisters," she said.

"It's something that can take up a lot of time and not everyone can make that commitment."

— Katelynn Cannava

PART OF GREEK life encourages members to give back to the community. Charity events and community service are only some of the many tasks lots of sororities



DONATED PHOTO

Katelynn Cannava

Gala where we raise money for our philanthropy, the Alpha Phi Foundation in Support of Cardiac Care."

Don't get the idea that these groups are all about work and no play. "Each semester,

and fraternities take on.

"In the past and most recently, we have volunteered at a local flea market, we raised money for and participated in the AIDS walk and the heart walk, we have held blood drives on campus, and we have also volunteered with the Best Buddies program on campus," said Cannava. "Every year, we hold a King of Hearts pageant (male beauty pageant) and a Red Dress

we have mixers with fraternities and a mixer with a sorority, sisterhood retreats and a semi-formal in the fall and a formal in the spring" said Cannava.

To be able to encompass a family bond with so many people, give back to the community, and enjoy memorable events throughout your college years sounds like an ideal experience, but Greek life isn't for everyone.

"It's something that can take up a lot of time and not everyone can make that commitment," said Cannava. "You only get out as much as you put in."

Cannava has offered advice for anyone walking the line between rushing or not. "I would say to test it out," she said. "Go to some of the events that Pan-Hellenic (the un-biased representative of all six sororities on campus) sponsors, meet and get to know some people in Greek life and see if it is for you. Being Greek really isn't the stereotype that it's made out to be on television shows and movies. We actually do a lot for the community while also balancing that with fun retreats and formals."

BULLETIN

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/JAN. 6

Dulles Toll Road Highway Noise Policy Briefing. 2:30 p.m. Dulles International Airport - Conference Room B, Main Terminal, Airport Manager's Office, Dulles. 703-417-8787, TTY 711.

SATURDAY/JAN. 8

Public Hearing by Fairfax County's Delegation to the General Assembly. 9 a.m. Fairfax County Government Center, Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-2649, TTY 711.

SUNDAY/JAN. 9

Ostomy Support Group of Northern Virginia. 1:30 p.m. PCC Physicians Conference Center, Inova Fairfax Hospital, 3300 Gallows Road, Fairfax. Annual Ostomates roundtable discussion. Help, advice, hints, tips and more. 703-802-3457 or www.ostomysupportofnova.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 10

External Committee Meeting, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. 5:30 p.m. ADS Offices, Suite 100, 3900 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. 703-324-7010 or TTY 703-802-3015.

Alcohol & Drug Committee Meeting, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. 7 p.m. ADS Offices, Suite 100, 3900 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. 703-324-7010 or TTY 703-802-3015.

Commission for Women. 7:15 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 10, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-9494, TTY 711.

Fairfax Area Disability Services Board. 7:30 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 2 & 3, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-7746 or TTY 703-449-1186. For special accommodations contact 703-324-5219 or TTY 703-449-1186

TUESDAY/JAN. 11

Board of Supervisors Meeting. 9:30 a.m. Fairfax County Government Center, Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-3151 or TTY 703-324-3903.

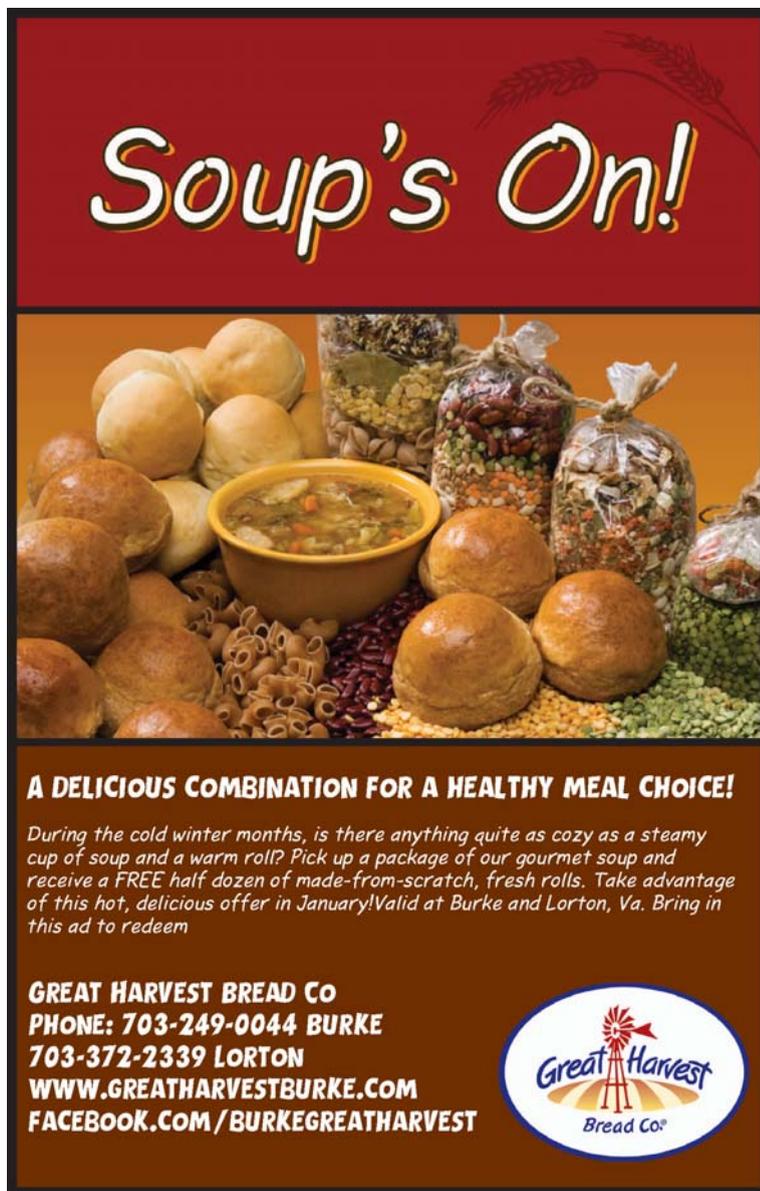
Board of Supervisors Public Hearings. 3:30 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-3151 or TTY 703-324-3903.

English as a Second Language Class Registration. 7-9 p.m. at St. George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road, Fairfax. Classes will be held from 7-9 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday, Jan. 18 through Mar. 24. Free childcare is provided. 703-385-4550.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 12

Park Authority Park Operations Committee Meeting. 4 p.m. Herrity Building, Suite 941, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-8662, TTY 711.

Park Authority Planning and Development Committee Meeting. 5 p.m. Herrity Building, Suite 941, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-8662, TTY 711.



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Secret Confessions of a Sneakerhead

GMU student spends thousands on top sneakers.

BY RACHEL JOUBRAN & PAUL TOMASELLI
THE CONNECTION

You may come across different people who love to collect a variety of things, from sports gear, cards, shells, stamps, even small mementos like shot glasses from around the world. Paul Tomaselli, a George Mason University Communications student, happens to collect sneakers.

It is cliché that girls love shoes and can never have enough, but Tomaselli proves that guys can have that same obsession. He has more than 200 of them and does not plan on stopping his collection any time soon.

As a 25-year-old, full-time student and part-time employee, Tomaselli finds spare time to look, research, buy and collect sneakers, something he's done since fifth grade.

Tomaselli grew up in Alexandria and Centreville and attended Paul VI Catholic



Self-confessed 'sneakerhead' Paul Tomaselli poses next to a stack of sneaker boxes.

High School in Fairfax. He attended Catholic schools his entire life and had to wear a uniform every day, so he found that sneakers were a good way to express himself in physical education class or on dress-out days. His mother would take him twice a

year to get a new pair and would let him pick out any reasonably priced pair that he liked.

In December 1996, during fifth grade, he realized he had become a "sneakerhead," someone who has a huge passion for col-

"I currently like any shoe that stands out and that shows flashiness and those that just look beautiful."

— Paul Tomaselli

lecting sneakers. He remembered the moment as if it were yesterday.

Tomaselli went to a Champs Sports store in a local mall and was mesmerized by a pair of Nike Air Penny II's in the black colorway and also in the blue/white colorway. The only problem was that he wanted to get both, but his mother gave him a limit of one pair since each was \$125. He spent an hour deciding and ended up walking out the store with the black version, which quickly became his favorite pair back then.

In 2008, Nike retroed the Air Penny II's. "Retro" is a term that means to bring a shoe back after it was discontinued from production, and Nike stopped making this sneaker in 1996. Tomaselli was able to grab five 2008 retro pairs of the black Air Penny II's,

SEE GMU, PAGE 17

GRIEF SHARE Grief Share Classes

Sundays from 1:30-3:30 pm
January 9—April 3 in room 216

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SPORTS



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

An official prepares to hand the ball to Robinson junior point guard Megan Green on Dec. 30 during the championship game of the Bobby Miller Bulldog Classic in Potomac, Md.

Robinson Girls Capture Bulldog Classic Title

Rams improve to 8-2 with wins in Maryland tournament.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Robinson head girls' basketball coach T.J. Dade rubbed his bald head in disbelief after watching the Rams miss another layup. Moments later, Dade crossed his arms and stared down at the floor in frustration after his team committed a foul at the defensive end.

Early in the fourth quarter of the Bobby Miller Bulldog Classic championship game against host Churchill, a Robinson team with superior talent led by just two. Thankfully for Dade, the Rams' effort during the final 6 minutes allowed him to laugh at the team's sub-par performance.

"In the fourth quarter, I saw a desire to win."

— T.J. Dade

Robinson outscored Churchill 13-2 down the stretch and the Rams defeated the Bulldogs 48-35 to capture the tournament title on Dec. 30 in Potomac, Md. After a convincing 19-point win against Seneca Valley (Germantown, Md.) in the preliminary round on Dec. 29, Robinson struggled with botched layups and missed free throws (the Rams made three of 13 attempts) against Churchill. But the Rams and their aggressive defense pulled away in the fourth quarter to improve their record to 8-2.

"We had some real bad moments," Dade said. "I don't think we played smart. I did see in the second half a little more determination. In the fourth quarter, I saw a desire to win. I saw that they said, 'We're not going to lose this game.' ... We've really got to work on our game. There were a lot of mental breakdowns. We're not that young. We've got juniors that played last year. There's really no excuse for that."

Mention of Dade's sideline displays of disapproval brought a humorous response.

"We've got to fix missed layups, good gracious," Dade said. "That's why I have no hair."

While Dade wants Robinson to improve moving forward, the two-day tournament experience had positives, as well. The Rams played dominant defense against Seneca Valley and led 17-4 at the end of the first quarter. Dade assigned junior point guard Megan Green to guard Seneca standout Bridget Rothert, who

SEE ROBINSON, PAGE 15

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The Waterlase® allows us to prepare teeth with less trauma which results in significantly less tooth sensitivity after new fillings.

Additionally, using the Waterlase® for gum procedures reduces bleeding, post-operative pain, swelling and the need for pain medication in many cases. That means a new level of comfort and satisfaction for your entire family.

■ Sterilization

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

■ Great for Teenagers

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OPINION

Resolved: Pick One Way To Get Involved

How about helping others in the New Year?

New Year's resolutions? Go ahead, let's pledge to lose weight, exercise regularly, spend less, recycle, save and read more. The turn of the calendar really does provide an impetus to make small and large changes in the way we live.

One item to add to the list of resolutions is to get involved locally. Volunteer one time for one day, or give a few hours a week to something that interests you. Pick one place where you can make a difference. The experience will enrich you (and your family) as well, connecting you to the community in new ways. Making time for even a single volunteer effort communicates an invaluable message about your values to your children in a powerful way that words cannot match.

Most local nonprofits and church groups that provide emergency food and services for families in need are overwhelmed right now by the dramatic increase in demand for food, emergency help with rent to prevent homelessness and much more. See sidebar for some suggestions.

Volunteer Fairfax connects volunteers of all kinds to organizations in need of help, providing flexible weekend and evening opportunities including packing emergency food kits for families in crisis, tutoring adults in alternative learning programs, reading to elementary school children after school, socializing with seniors or planting trees to prevent erosion. Volunteer Fairfax will hold its annual Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day on Monday, Jan. 17, 2011 at George Mason University, an opportunity to work on service projects with your family. See www.volunteerfairfax.org.

The Arlington County Volunteer Office promotes civic engagement and active volunteer participation, coordinating volunteer opportunities from hundreds of non-profit and government agencies. Visit www.co.arlington.va.us and type "volunteer" into the search box.

The Alexandria Volunteer Bureau recruits and coordinates volunteers and matches their

interests, skills and availability with the needs of service-providing nonprofit organizations and public agencies. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org.

The Literacy Council Northern Virginia is in need of volunteers who will devote several hours a week to helping adults master reading and writing skills; visit www.lcnv.org.

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer is a trained citizen who is appointed by a judge to represent the best interests of a child in court. CASA volunteers help children who will have their home placement determined in juvenile court. See www.casafairfax.org.

The Alexandria/Arlington Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program has helped hundreds of children have a voice within the court system. See <http://www.scanva.org/casa.htm>

Some other suggestions:

Get involved in state and local political campaigns. Every seat in the Virginia General Assembly, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and School Board and many other state and local offices are about to enter campaign mode, with some races hotly contested. Volunteer with a candidate, with the League of Women Voters or with your local electoral board.

The public school or library closest to your house is also in need of volunteers. Homeowners associations need activists to learn about a variety of local issues and coordinate neighborhood response. Your church or house of worship could use a hand. Animal shelters and animal rescue groups are also over extended with families giving up pets due to the economy, in addition to their usual work. Environmental groups like Audubon Naturalist Society and the Nature Conservancy offer many kinds of volunteer opportunities, as do local parks.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Places To Volunteer

- ❖ Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly, 703-988-9656.
- ❖ Shelter House, www.shelterhouse.org, operates two homeless shelters in Fairfax County, in Centreville and Seven Corners, 571-522-6800
- ❖ Northern Virginia Family Service, Oakton, 703-385-3267
- ❖ LINK, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org
- ❖ Reston Interfaith, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, 571-323-9555, www.restoninterfaith.org
- ❖ SHARE of McLean, 703-284-2179, www.SHAREofMcLean.org
- ❖ Herndon-Reston FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-391-0105
- ❖ Food for Others, 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, 22031, 703-207-9173
- ❖ United Community Ministries, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306
- ❖ Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160, www.echo-inc.org, 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield
- ❖ Lorton Community Action Center operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton, 703-339-8611. www.lortonaction.org
- ❖ FACETS, 703-352-5090
- ❖ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia. 703-541-3063, www.capitalareafoodbank.org
- ❖ The Campagna Center in Alexandria 703-549-0111
- ❖ Arlingtonians Meeting Emergency Needs (AMEN), 703-558-0035
- ❖ Doorways for Women and Families, Arlington, 703-522-8858
- ❖ Arlington Food Assistance Center, 703-845-8486
- ❖ ALIVE (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically) www.alive-inc.org
- ❖ Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, Arlington, 703-521-9890
- ❖ Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic in Herndon, www.jsfreeclinic.org
- ❖ Arlington Free Clinic, 703-979-1400
- ❖ Fairfax City Area FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-222-0880
- ❖ Lamb Center, www.thelambcenter.org, Fairfax, 703-691-3178

Obscuring Truth

To the Editor:

I'm a resident of Fairfax County. Given that it's lauded as among the best run, among the wealthiest, priding itself in the service provided to its residents, I am totally taken aback at the questionable behavior of some members of the School Board in regards to the future of our community schools. It is neither an emotional reaction nor an emotional issue. The county's taxpayer base owns the schools they let the School Board run and therefore a sense of school ownership by the taxpayer is only appropriate.

How does a School Board allow and tolerate the unethical behavior of a member of its cadre is begging to be addressed? What is hap-

pening to our communities, our governance, that so many people can witness breach of public trust and arrogantly turn their backs hiding in a curtain of fabricated, limited and skewed information and behind the skirts of sympathetic politicians? Allowing a member to deliberately obscure the truth, insist in rationalizing and justifying a vote rooted on deceit before Fairfax County's citizenry can only be categorized as appalling and demoralizing.

This comment is not a shot in the dark nor does it qualify as irresponsible. The incongruence of a vote to close a Governor's Award of Excellence community school vis-à-vis the solutions presented in the Southwestern Regional Plan-

ning Study as well as the information provided in multiple hearings raised suspicions of an agenda behind an agenda.

An informed public with the responsibility and power to vote can and will take care of this situation. Let FCPS know that they as well as the School Board work for U.S., the Fairfax resident.

Lin-Dai Kendall
Fairfax Station

Major Change For Schools

To the Editor:

The Fairfax County School Board is considering a proposal to delegate authority to the superintendent to establish the length of

the school day. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area spoke against this policy change at the Dec. 2 School Board meeting. This is such a major change that it should have been discussed widely and received more public attention. The League supports well defined channels for community input and review for FCPS policies. Setting the amount of time that students will be in school is a fundamental responsibility of local school boards: this decision should not be delegated to the superintendent or any other employee.

Virginia Fitz Shea
chairman
Schools Committee
League of Women Voters of the
Fairfax Area

THE CONNECTION

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Newspaper of
Burke
An independent, locally owned weekly
newspaper delivered to
homes and businesses.

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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LETTERS

Signage Needed

To the Editor:

On Jan 18, 2010, the Burke Centre VRE Station became an Amtrak Station. The Lynchburg/Boston Northeast Regional Train, Amtrak's best performing state-sponsored train in American last year, stops here. However, after almost one year and repeated requests, Amtrak has failed to add signage in and around the station to promote the return of this premium, intercity passenger rail service to Burke after 42 years. Without such signage, Amtrak service cannot flourish, and could even be eliminated.

According to the American Bus Association, a trade group for tour buses, the Manassas Area will be the Number 1 U.S. tourist destination in 2011. According to the National Park Service, they expect 1.5 million people to visit the Manassas Battlefield during the 150th Anniversary of the 1st Battle of Manassas. As Manassas cannot possibly handle such a crush of people, the overflow will naturally spill out into Fairfax County. The new Burke Centre Amtrak Station is only 17 miles from the Battlefield. If properly promoted, Civil War buffs from around the world could easily travel to Burke via Amtrak and its connections with the three area airports to avoid the horrendous Interstate 95, Interstate 66 and Route 29 traffic and patronize local car rental agencies, lodging establishments, restaurants and other historic sites.

Even a 5-year-old girl selling lemonade along a busy street has enough nascent marketing skill to know that she needs a sign identifying her product and its benefits to attract new customers. Unfortunately, Amtrak lacks even this rudimentary marketing ability as they have failed to announce their

marketing plan for their new Amtrak station.

Even without a marketing degree, anyone knows that a new service needs to be heavily promoted to be successful. In this case the service — daily Amtrak service from Burke Center to Charlottesville; Lynchburg; Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia; New York City and Boston and weekday commuter service to Washington, D.C. — is new for most local residents and needs basic promotion: 1) an eye-grabbing, informative poster on the platform, 2) a prominent Amtrak sign in front of the station, 3) Amtrak Station signs next to current VRE Station signs in the area, and 4) ads in Amtrak's "Arrive" magazine.

Even without Amtrak signage, about 250 riders per month take Amtrak from Burke Centre, a promising number for a first year station but still the lowest number for the 21 Amtrak stations in Virginia. With proper promotion, the number could easily be 500 or more. What a shame for Fairfax County residents if Amtrak pulled the plug on its own station because it failed Marketing 101.

Daniel Peacock, member
Virginia Association of Railway Patrons
Manassas

Write

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail: burke@connectionnewspapers.com

Free Remodeling & Design Seminars!

January 8th — 10am-2pm

(Snow Date: January 15th - Please call to confirm)

Thinking of remodeling? This event is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of free expert advice with no obligation. Learn about the hot topics you should consider when remodeling.

Saturday's Seminars:

- Kitchen & Bath Trends
- 2011 Color Trends
- 10 Tips for a Stress-Free Remodel

Seminars run from 10am-Noon.
Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

Seating is limited. Please call 703.425.5588 to reserve your seats!

Special thanks to our sponsors:



Directions to Sun Design: From I-66 East take the Fairfax County Pkwy/VA-7100 exit - Exit 55A towards Springfield. Left on Burke Centre Pkwy. After the second light, make your first left. Follow the road behind the Kohl's department store. We are located in the offices directly in front of you at: 5795B Burke Centre Parkway, Burke, VA



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Give Together
A Family Volunteer Day
Monday, January 17, 2011
Shift 1: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Shift 2: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
GMU - Fairfax Campus

Families of all shapes and sizes can volunteer at projects benefiting six local nonprofits - in the convenience of one, central location.

Spaces are limited and pre-registration is required at www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Special thanks to the Connection for its support of volunteerism.

Volunteer Fairfax

“New World” Symphony!
FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Christopher Zimmerman | Music Director

Saturday, January 15th – 8:00 p.m.
George Mason University Center for the Arts, Fairfax
and
Sunday, January 16th – 3:00 p.m.
Hylton Performing Arts Center, Manassas

- **BERNSTEIN:** Overture to *Candide*
- **WALTON:** Violin Concerto, Chee-Yun, violin
- **DVOŘÁK:** Symphony No. 9, “From the New World”

Tickets: 888-945-2468 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org

Save the Date

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The Outer Banks continues to grow as one of America's top wedding destinations, and so does our Wedding Weekend! Our 13th annual Wedding Weekend will showcase over 200 vendors and let you meet, select, and work with an amazing group of professionals dedicated to making your wedding a beautiful experience for you and all your guests.

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CAMPS & SCHOOLS



Sophia Willis, Grade 2, Cherry Run Elementary



Kristine Pham, Grade 1, Cherry Run Elementary



Chloe Allen, Grade 2, Cherry Run Elementary



Divine Nantamu, Grade 3, Cherry Run Elementary



Christopher Boehm, Pre-K, Cherry Run Elementary



Eileen Chang, Grade 6, Cherry Run Elementary



Matthew Voelkel, Grade 1, Cherry Run Elementary



Camden Adams, Grade 2, Cherry Run Elementary



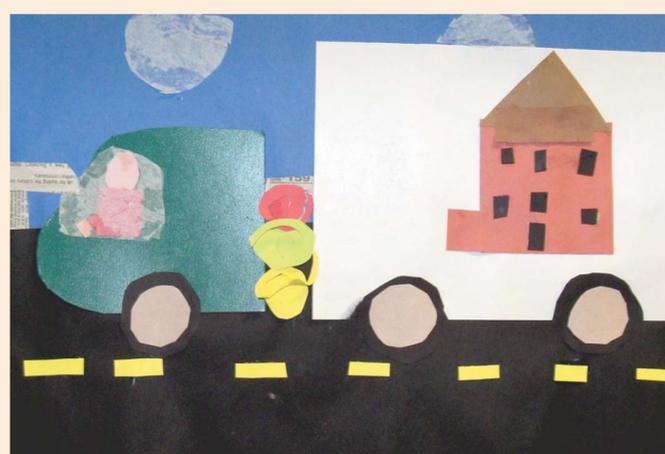
Monica Arnold, Grade 2, Cherry Run Elementary



Luke Peter, Kindergarten, Cherry Run Elementary



Shelby Gilliland, Kindergarten, Cherry Run Elementary



Maggie Mrowka, Grade 5, Cherry Run Elementary



Julia Schneider, Kindergarten, Cherry Run Elementary

Sports — An Annual Fabric of Life

Last year brought many memorable sports moments, expect more to come.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Sports are a big part of my life as I realize they are for much of the Connection Newspapers readership that support and cheer on their favorite youth, high school, college and professional sports teams.

For me, the yearly calendar is often marked by signature sporting events, such as the NFL playoffs in January, Major League Baseball's Opening Day in early April and the men's NCAA college basketball tournament in March.

My birthday (March 13) always arrives as the college basketball conference and national tournaments are beginning to unfold. Many of my birthdays have been extra special or dampened somewhat, depending on how my favorite college men's basketball team, the Terrapins of the University of Maryland, fared at the ACC Tournament or whether or not they went on to qualify for the national tournament field.

Sports fans often associate major events in their lives with landmark sports moments involving their favorite teams. A former co-worker of mine, a huge Boston Red Sox fan like myself, got married and enjoyed his honeymoon during the Sox's history-making World Series run in the fall of 2004.

After being with my mom in the hospital for the birth of one of my younger brothers, my father, then the high school boys' basketball coach at Bishop O'Connell in Arlington, rushed from the hospital to the O'Connell gymnasium where his Knights were in the closing minutes of a nip-and-tuck game. Upon my dad's arrival to the home team bench, his head assistant coach, in one of those memorable moments that has been remembered and laughed about for years, simply told him, "It's yours to lose."

In fact, O'Connell won that night, making it one of my dad's landmark coaching days — with the birth of a son and a basketball victory.

THERE WERE WONDERFUL local sports memories made in 2010 for fans around the Northern Virginia area. Quickly coming to mind for me were the prep school heroics of the Virginia State AAA baseball champions from West Springfield High School, who defeated previously unbeaten Woodbridge, 10-2, in the state title game on July 12 at Westfield High School. The Spartans, who successfully defended their Northern Region title, were led over the season by First Team All-State Pitcher Bobby Wahl, Virginia Player of the Year Charlie Morgan and Virginia Coach of the Year John James. It was



The Robinson girls' soccer team, under coach Jim Rike, won the Concorde District crown and ultimately qualified for the state tournament.

the Spartans' first state crown since 1998.

The Lake Braddock Secondary football team, led by star quarterback Michael Nebrich, successfully defended its Northern Region title by defeating Chantilly in the Division 6 region finals before ultimately losing to Battlefield in the state semifinals.

Other area teams experiencing marvelous seasons in 2010 included: the Lake Braddock Secondary girls' cross country team which, behind individual region champion Sophie Chase, captured the team championship; Liberty District girls field hockey tournament champions Fairfax High, a young overall squad that upset top seeded Jefferson in the district championship game; the Rebels' football team, an underdog unit under first year head coach Kevin Simonds which experienced regular season upset wins over both Robinson and McLean on way to qualifying for the Division 5 region playoffs; the Robinson Secondary boys' cross country team, which dethroned five-time Concorde District champion Oakton in capturing the team title; the supposedly re-building West Springfield girls' volleyball team which captured the regular season Patriot District championship and finished 14-7 overall; the Bill Gibson-coached West Springfield girls' basketball team (25-3) that won the Patriot District title, made it to the Northern Region finals and eventually went as far as the state semifinals in Richmond; the Lake Braddock Secondary girls' field hockey team which, in legendary coach Diane Miller's final season, won both the Patriot District and Northern Region titles; the Robinson

Secondary football team which won the super competitive Concorde District regular season title and handed eventual region champion Lake Braddock its lone regular season defeat; the South County girls' softball team, the 2009 region champions who experienced another fantastic season in 2010 by going unbeaten in the regular season and reaching the region semifinals before falling to eventual state champion McLean; the W.T. Woodson baseball team which upset Northern Region power Lake Braddock at the region tournament semifinals to qualify for the state playoffs; the Woodson girls' lacrosse team which won a fabulous come-from-behind state semifinals game over Loudoun Valley, 13-10, by scoring the game's final seven goals and receiving a fabulous outing by Rachel Obregon (5 goals); the Robinson boys' lacrosse team which captured the Northern Region crown with a dramatic overtime win over defending region champion Langley; the Hayfield girls' volleyball team had a spectacular season, reaching the region finals and qualifying for the state AAA tournament; and the Robinson girls' soccer team, behind standout seniors Audrey Barry and Ali Heck, which won the Patriot District title, reached the region finals and qualified for states.

Local professional sports highlights for 2010 included the Washington Capitals putting together the best win-loss record in the NHL; Washington Nationals rookie pitcher sensation Stephen Strasburg electrifying the Washington, D.C., home crowd and the entire baseball universe with his debut game, 14 strikeout outing versus the

Pirates; and the Wizards landing the top pick in the NBA Draft and selecting point guard extraordinaire John Wall from Kentucky.

I have covered high school sports for The Connection Newspapers for the past 23 years, and I am still amazed that every contest — regardless of the year, sport, schools involved, or even the players and coaches — is a special, one-of-a-kind event which will never be duplicated. One could attend hundreds of high school football, field hockey or soccer games and all of those sporting contests would hold their own, distinct characteristics, such as weather elements, the mentality of the individual athletes on that particular day, the recent success or failures of the teams leading up to the game, or even the bigger picture world events taking place at that particular time. No two games are ever exactly alike.

Almost always, the teams and players I have watched compete over the years have played with passion, determination and a healthy will to win within the rules. There is still a sense that high school sports is, overall, pure in a way the professional and college games are not.

The New Year, God willing, will be filled with more numerous, exciting high school and youth events for local sports aficionados to take in and enjoy. May area high school and youth sports fans throughout Northern Virginia continue to rally around and remain a big part of the local sports scene in 2011.

My best wishes go out to all for a happy, safe and successful New Year.

'Conquering Rose' Features Area Players

Local independent film looks to be picked up at film festival.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE CONNECTION

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.

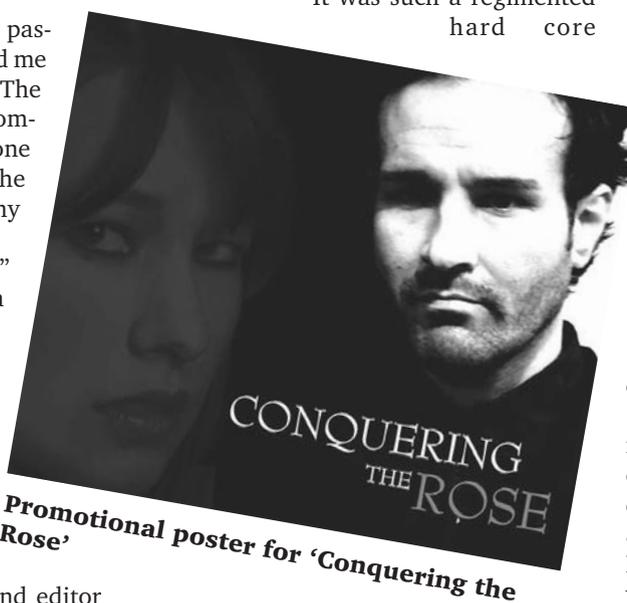
Christine Wasilewski is thrilled to be a part of the newly produced independent

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



Promotional poster for 'Conquering the Rose'

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 pro-



Joe Ensley was the cinematographer for 'Conquering the Rose.'



J. Michael Whalen directs 'Conquering the Rose.'

cess 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.

The synopsis of the film reads: "Modernization of 'Roman De La Rose.' When the coffin of Etta Rose Callahan, a charismatic dance student, is uprooted from the earth after days of rain, the small college town of Remington is haunted with questions involving the young girl's sudden suicide. Jeremiah Mouthy, a popular art professor reveals his obsession with Etta when he decides to paint a portrait of her for the town's annual art exhibit. Jeremiah's act of passion aims to make Etta his and his alone: risking his marriage, friendships, and reputation."

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

"I'm looking forward to having it in our backyard," said Whalen.

Whalen said that the film is straight drama and deals with a number of major issues. The diversity of the characters covers the spectrum.

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

For more information visit www.conqueringtherose.com.

Gale Curcio is an independent writer and public relations consultant in Mount Vernon.

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.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 5

Brian Huber Full Band "Imagination of Ourselves" CD Release, Gringo and Dimestore. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/JAN. 6

Elizabeth and The Catapult, The Last Monarchs and Cecelia Jeffrey. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
Batty Encounters. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories and activities about bats. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-644-7333.



FRIDAY/JAN. 7

The Michael Clem Trio and Peyton Tochterman. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
U.S. Navy Concert Band. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center

for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Professional Bull Riders Tour. 7:30 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$20-\$65. Age 2-12

Violinist Chee-Yun

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra will be performing on Saturday, Jan. 15 at 8 p.m. in the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The concert will feature violinist Chee-Yun and works by Bernstein, Walton and more. Tickets \$25-\$55, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

years old and excluding top price seats \$10. Available through www.ticketmaster.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 8
The Independent EP Release and

The Wave Exchange at 6:30 p.m., Pandamonium Dance Party with Dirty Steeve, Santi and Ypsset at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

U.S. Navy Band Commodores. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Professional Bull Riders Tour. 7:30 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$20-\$65. Age 2-12 years old and excluding top price seats \$10. Available through www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

Singer-songwriter Tom Chapin. 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

Road, Vienna. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.
Read to the Dog. 1 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Age 6-12. Reserve at 703-644-7333.

SUNDAY/JAN. 9

U.S. Marine Band. 2 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

MONDAY/JAN. 10

Jammin' Java's Mid-Atlantic Band Battle IV. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Book Buddies. 4 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Beginning readers practice their reading skills with a young adult volunteer. Age 5-9 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Marvelous Mittens! 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and activities about mittens and winter weather. Tickets distributed 30 minutes before program begins. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Animal Tales. 10:30 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Stories and fun about animals. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-978-5600.

TUESDAY/JAN. 11

Jammin' Java's Mid-Atlantic Band Battle IV. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Genealogy Databases. 2 p.m. City of

Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Search for ancestors using the library's genealogy databases and other free Internet databases. Adults. 703-293-6227.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-293-6227.

Paws to Read. 4 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Practice reading with Ralph, a trained therapy dog. 6-10 with adult. Register at 703-978-5600.

Let's Hear It For The Girls. 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. All girls book discussion group. Scat by Carl Hiaasen. Age 9-12 with adult female. 703-978-5600.

Kid Science: Some Like It Hot. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories and activities about hot and cold, and how temperature changes things. Age 4-6 with adult. 703-644-7333.

Daytime Book Discussion Group. 1 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. "The Death of Vishnu" by Manil Suri. Adults. 703-644-7333.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 12

Robinson DECA Fifth Annual Fashion Show. 7 p.m. Robinson High School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. A fashion show based on music. Tickets \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door. 703-426-2303 or SNHinkhouse@fcps.edu.

Jammin' Java's Mid-Atlantic Band Battle IV. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Things That Go. 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories and activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Book Bingo. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Gently used book prizes to treasure. Age 6-12. 703-293-6227.

THURSDAY/JAN. 13

International Guitar Night. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. With Clive Carroll, Alexandre Gismonti, Pino Forastiere and International Guitar Night (IGN) founder Brian Gore. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

Jammin' Java's Mid-Atlantic Band Battle IV. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Things That Go. 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Tales for Twos: HiBURNation. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories and activities about animals in winter. Age 24-35 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

FRIDAY/JAN. 14

The OK Corral CD Release. 6:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 15

Sing Me Insomnia and Struan Shields at 6 p.m., JAMuary, Box & Won, Venise and Empuls at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With violinist Chee-Yun and works by Bernstein, Walton and more. Tickets \$25-\$55, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

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

UFC Superstar Shane Carwin. 12-4 p.m. Max Muscle Fairfax, 10694 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. Free and open to the public. Carwin will sign autographs and discuss getting fit. fairfax.maxmuscle.com/about.

SUNDAY/JAN. 16

Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Gauge Train Display (G Gauge). 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Members will have running train displays. Adults \$3, children \$1. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

TUESDAY/JAN. 18

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-293-6227.

Evening Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. "When Will There Be Good News?" by Kate

Atkinson. Adults. 703-293-6227.
Book Discussion Group. 1:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "The Art of Racing in the Rain" by Garth Stein. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Book Discussion Group. 6:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. A Mercy by Toni Morrison. Adults. 703-978-5600.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 19

Paws for Reading. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice reading skills with a trained therapy dog. Age 6-12. Register at 703-249-1520.

THURSDAY/JAN. 20

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

SATURDAY/JAN. 22

Perú Negro With Eva Ayllón: "Festejo." 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A group of more than 30 dancers and musicians performs the rhythms, sounds and movements propagated along Peru's coast by African slaves, joined by singer Eva Ayllón. Tickets \$23-\$46, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Microsoft Access. 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Introduction to creating, modifying and mastering databases using Microsoft's Access program. Age 13 and up. 703-293-6227.

FAITH NOTES

Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road in Fairfax, will have a new Bible Study on Tuesdays, Jan. 11-March 8 at 9:45 a.m. entitled "Discovering Who We Are in Christ." \$15. Child care available. Register at 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

During the month of January, the Rev. Dr. Beth Braxton of Burke Presbyterian Church will be speaking on Sundays about the Christian faith as seen through the lens of other world religions. Braxton spent time visiting the worship services of four religious groups: Hindu, Buddhist, Islam and Judaism and has interviewed each of the clergy of those faith communities. In her sermons she will have video clips of those interviews. Between the 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services will be an education hour at 10 a.m., in which leaders from these four faith communities will answer questions about their theology and practices. The services are Jan. 2 - Hinduism; Jan. 9 - Buddhism; Jan. 16 - Islam; Jan. 23 - Judaism; and Jan. 30 - Christianity. Burke Presbyterian Church is located at 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke adjacent to the Kohls department store. Visit www.BurkePresChurch.org or phone the office at 703-764-0456.

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 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.

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SPORTS

PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION



Members of the Robinson girls basketball team huddle around head coach T.J. Dade during a break in the championship game of the Bobby Miller Bulldog Classic in Potomac, Md.

Robinson Girls Win Classic

FROM PAGE 7

entered the contest averaging more than 20 points per game. Green held Rothert to 11 while leading the Rams with 13 of her own.

Against Churchill, Green led the Rams with 14 points and helped a defensive effort that held the Bulldogs scoreless in the first quarter. Green earned tournament Most Outstanding Player honors.

"She's really, really stepping up in a leadership role and handling point guard" duties, Dade said. "A lot of times we put her on the other team's best player. That takes a lot out of a player when they have to go that hard on the defensive end and then come down

and try to run the offense. She's making strides in the positive direction."

Robinson opens Concorde District competition on Jan. 7 at home against Chantilly. Green said it was good to face teams during the holiday tournament the Rams aren't used to seeing. "It's a great win for us because we've been shaky so far — we haven't been that good," Green said. "Winning this tournament, hopefully, will give us momentum into districts."

Brigitte Kuter, who was named to the all-tournament team, scored 11 points against Churchill. Dhyamond Crenshaw added 10.

He is a man of sense who does not grieve for what he has not, but rejoices in what he has.
—Epictetus

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5918 Cove Landing Rd, #204...\$209,000.....Sun 2-4.....Claude Labbe.....Coldwell Banker.....202-362-5800
9856 Burke Pond Ct.....\$359,500.....Sun 1-4.....Pam Boe.....Long & Foster.....703-909-1663
9515 Millgate Pl.....\$449,950.....Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert.....703-862-8808
5644 Mount Burnside Way.....\$465,000.....Sun 1-4.....Suzanne Granoski.....Keller Williams.....703-300-2785

Springfield

8121 Cliffcrest Drive.....\$349,900.....Sun 1-3.....Spencer Marker & Co.....Long & Foster.....703-830-6123
8431 Willow Forge Rd.....\$350,000.....Sun 1-4.....Candace Rende.....Long & Foster.....703-314-2461
8726 Whitson Ct.....\$546,775.....Sun 1-4.....Karen Brown.....Weichert.....703-644-1364

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6811 Duke Dr.....\$425,000.....Sun 1-4.....Greg Koons.....Weichert.....703-209-7277
6202 Windham Hill Run.....\$499,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy and Associates.....Long & Foster.....703-822-0207
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14653 Winterfield Dr.....\$309,900.....Sun 1-4.....Fran Rudd.....ERA.....703-980-2572
14913 Carlbern Dr.....\$339,900.....Sun 1-3.....Tammy Klingaman.....Long & Foster.....703-986-5700
14716 Lock Dr.....\$389,900.....Sun 12-3.....Sandy Brill.....Century 21.....703-858-5676
5529 Ajuga Ct.....\$625,000.....Sat/Sun 11-5.....Kim Rosewall.....Jobin.....703-433-0600

Chantilly

13557 Smallwood Lane.....\$574,950.....Sun 1-4.....Judy Pfarnar.....Samson Properties.....703-989-8767

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418 or E-Mail the info to shogan@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 pm.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Aquatic Fall Prevention Classes. Fall prevention classes take place in a heated indoor pool Tuesdays and/or Thursdays 1:30 p.m. at The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Classes designed to work on balance and core muscles in order to prevent injuries and falls. Registration required. \$10 per class. Register at 703-667-9800.

Free health screenings are available Mondays-Fridays, 8:30-10 a.m. for diabetes and high blood pressure, at Burke Internal Medicine & Research, 9243 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Appointments are preferred. 703-455-9711.

Haven of Northern Virginia, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, is offering a free Widow/Widower's support group. Haven also offers one-on-one support. A volunteer will meet with a person grieving the death of a loved one, as needed, to provide individual support. Volunteers will be selected to match individual need. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or e-mail havenofnova@verizon.net

The Compassionate Friends Fairfax Chapter. Friendship and understanding to families grieving the death of a child. The support group meets monthly at Old St. Mary's Hall, next to Fairfax Station Rd and Route

123. 703-622-3639. www.tcffairfax.org

Breastfeeding Mothers Support Group. Meets at Inova Fairfax Hospital Women's Center, 7 South Dayroom, 3300 Gallows Road, Falls Church Thursdays from 10:00-11:00 am. Only mothers and babies. Scale available for infant weight checking. Full service breastfeeding store available. \$5 parking fee. 703-776-4489.

Alzheimer's Family Day Center, located at 2812 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, hosts various classes. Reservations are required, and classes are open to people who are caring for a relative or friend with dementia. 703-204-4664.

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Burke/Burke Centre \$339,950

Multiple Offers Received!
Gorgeous TH w/remodeled kit w/granite counters & new cabinets, fin walkout bsmt w/new carpet, lovely hdwd flrs, amazing remodeled baths w/granite & porcelain, deck, fenced yard, replaced roof, siding, windows, sliders, & heat pump, walk to pool & tot lot & more.



West Springfield \$549,950

Multiple Offers Received!
Immaculate home on large wooded lot with big deck, hdwd flrs, eat-in kit with granite & SS appliances, fin basement with full bath, recreation rm + den, family room off kit w/gas frplc, replaced roof, siding & garage doors, 4 BR. 3.5 BA, MBR w/walk-in closet, walk to shops & restaurants & more.



Fairfax Sta./South Run \$799,950

Multiple Offers Received!
Fabulous Berry-built home on premium lot w/4,800 sq ft, dramatic family rm w/skylts, sunny LV RM w/cathedral ceilings, huge fin bsmt w/recrm, 2 dens & full BA, eat-in kit w/granite, recessed lts, gas cook-top & slide-out shelving, 2 gas frplc, MBR w/enormous walk-in closet, lovely hdwd flrs, remodeled baths & mint cond.



Burke \$474,950

Multiple Offers Received!
Immac & sunny home on cul-de-sac with premium lot backing to Parkland, 5 spacious BR, 3 BA, remodeled eat-in kitchen with granite counters & cherry cabs, lovely hdwd flrs, deck, patio & hot tub, fin walk-out bsmt w/frplc, remodeled hall BA w/granite & marble, quality Hardiplank siding, replaced roof, furnace & A/C, walk to school & more.



Burke \$349,950

Multiple Offers Received!
Immac & sunny home on beautiful corner lot w/eat-in kit w/cherry cabinets & newer appl, 4 BR, 2 BA, garage, fin bsmt w/plenty of storage, gas heat, fresh paint, replaced windows, siding, concrete drive, HVAC & garage door, custom window treatments, all neutral decor & walk to VRE.

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EDUCATION

Breaking Invisible Barriers

GMU professor advises students to learn as much about themselves as they can.

BY ASHLEY GARNETT
THE CONNECTION

The day is Aug. 28, 1963. It is a blistering summer day at the nation's capital. Thousands of men and women, black and white, gather around to hear the powerful and commanding voice that stands at the pedestal in front of them at the Lincoln Memorial. It was on this day that freedom rights activist Dr. Martin Luther made his empowering speech, "I Have a Dream."

One could only imagine what King would have thought if he were alive today. The world has come a long way since he made his speech on that historic day. African Americans are not only considered "free," they now hold positions of power in the corporate world and to this day, continue to strive for the equality of all people worldwide.

As with any social movement, it only takes one person to make a change. Students at George

Mason University might even say that individual could be Dr. Mark Hopson, communication professor and author of, "Negotiations of organizational Whitespace: Critical reflections of power, privilege, and intercultural (in)sensitivity within academia."

A native of Grand Rapids, Mich., Hopson grew up as a young man influenced by the culture that surrounded him. Living just a hop away from Detroit, Mich., he grew up listening to the sounds of Motown, the music explosions that occurred with the rise of MTV, as well as nontraditional forms such

as jazz, big band and spiritual. Hopson commented that the music culture from Chicago, Ill. was another big influence, proving that culture holds no limits in his life.

Hopson pointed out that as a young man he held great respect for the influential leaders and social movements of the past. On Oct. 16, 1995, he participated in the Million Man March in Washington, D.C.

Hopson, who worked at an alternative school at the time, said, "I was around young men, I was a young man myself. I wanted to make a better connection with other black men who wanted the same thing and I wanted to bring something back home to either inspire or encourage the young men whom I worked with."

"Internally, I was reminded that I was or

am not alone in striving to be the best that I can be," Hopson said, thinking back to the march.

One trend that has remained constant over the years is the empowerment of one's ethnic identity.

Hopson defines this as the identity people draw from in relation to their country of origin or the place from which one's family lineage derives. "The older one gets, identity, either ethnic or personal gains significance with age," he said. "What might not seem important now will gain value as you become older and realize there are larger connections to identity."

COLLEGE are some of the largest areas where this type of empowerment can be experienced. Take for instance, Mason. It is



Dr. Mark Hopson

DONATED IMAGE

considered one of the most diverse college campuses in the state of Virginia. On any given day, students from diverse ethnic backgrounds can be seen involving themselves in the educational environment.

The advice Hopson offers to anyone struggling to accept his or her identity is, "Learn as much as you can about yourself. Allow yourself to interact with other people. Learn as much as you can about other people and from that learning begin to act."

Currently, Hopson remains as one of the top motivating professors at Mason, where he currently teaches Foundations of Intercultural Communication, as well as the Rhetoric of Social Movements/ Political Control. In each of his classes, Hopson starts the sessions by announcing, that he has "agape love" for his students. He is also on the leadership committee for the college's Campus Climate Taskforce, which creates safer environments for discourse about cultural difference.

"The older one gets, identity, either ethnic or personal gains significance with age."

— Dr. Mark Hopson

GMU Student Smothered in Sneakers

FROM PAGE 6

and a pair of originals from 1996. The blue/white version of the Air Penny II was retroed in 2009 and he finally was able to buy those.

He went back to school with those brand new Air Penny II's and received attention that he adored. Because of the beauty of the sneakers, along with the popularity he was gaining, Tomaselli was growing into a huge sneakerhead. This passion got even bigger in 1998 when he fell in love with the Nike Air Foamposite Max silver colorway. Even though they were \$180, Tomaselli convinced his mother to buy them for him and his popularity was pushed even more at school. Even his teachers were starting to comment on his sneakers.

During his high school years, Tomaselli began driving and working, which meant

that he was able to have transportation and money to purchase multiple shoes by himself. During these years, he built a new love for Nike Air Force Ones and Air Jordans, building his collection out of those. The Air Forces quickly became boring though and did not give him the excitement that he used to feel, so the Jordans and Nike basketball shoes were his main purchases.

"I currently like any shoe that stands out and that shows flashiness and those that just look beautiful," said Tomaselli. His favorite sneaker of all time is the 1996 Air Jordan XI Concord, which was also retroed in 2000 and in 2006. Michael Jordan, Tomaselli's favorite basketball player, wore these when he played and Nike created 23 different styles of his Air Jordan sneaker line. This specific pair happens to be the 11th shoe of his line, and probably the most popular among Jordan sneaker fans.

As if spending more than \$26,000 on his sneaker collection is not crazy enough, Tomaselli has pushed his limits in doing some crazy things to get the shoes that he really wants.

Tomaselli does not regret anything he does, but instead enjoys it because of his passion for the sneaker game.

Tomaselli continues to buy sneakers and does not plan to stop anytime soon. He has earned the nickname of sneakerhead and "freshness," since he always gets the newest, fresh items. He loves the attention that he gets from other people, which pushes him to live up to his reputation.

Tomaselli keeps his sneakers matching his outfits, and makes sure to keep them clean, trying to cycle them out every three months and never wearing them in the rain or mud.

"I believe people judge other people from what they wear," said Tomaselli. "People see my shoes and know I got style."

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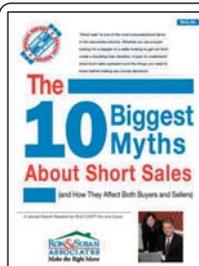
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