

Sarah Abourakty of Fairfax practices spins in the center of the Fairfax Ice Arena.

WINTER FUN
inside

New Date
For Festival
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Winter Fun

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WINTER FUN



Scarlett Williams of Falls Church, left, and Laura Adams of Stafford spend their Friday night skating at the Fairfax Ice Arena. This is Williams' first time skating since she broke her wrist skating at age 9.



Sissy Walter of Fairfax, left, makes her way around the rink cautiously, but without incident.



Sarah Abourakty of Fairfax, far right, practices her spins in the center of the rink as other skaters skate by to the music. Fairfax Ice Arena has a disc jockey that accepts requests during the evening skate session.

All Skate

Cold weather sends locals indoors for ice-skating.

The Fairfax Ice Arena was packed Friday night, Jan. 21 as patrons enjoyed the evening skate. The arena is located at 3779 Pickett Road in Fairfax.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Make a Sweet Date

Annual Chocolate Lovers Festival celebrates 20 years on March 5 and 6.

The Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee has decided that it cannot depend on friendly weather in early February. The snow storms in 2010, which dumped several feet of snow in the Northern Virginia area early last February, postponed last year's festival until March, and the committee has decided a date change was in everyone's best interest, according to Beverly Myers, chairman of the Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee. "Knowing what we went through last year ... we're probably a little safer if we push [the

"It is an event that encompasses all age groups and there is something there for everyone."

— Beverly Myers

festival] back to the first full weekend in March, instead of the first full weekend in February," Myers said.

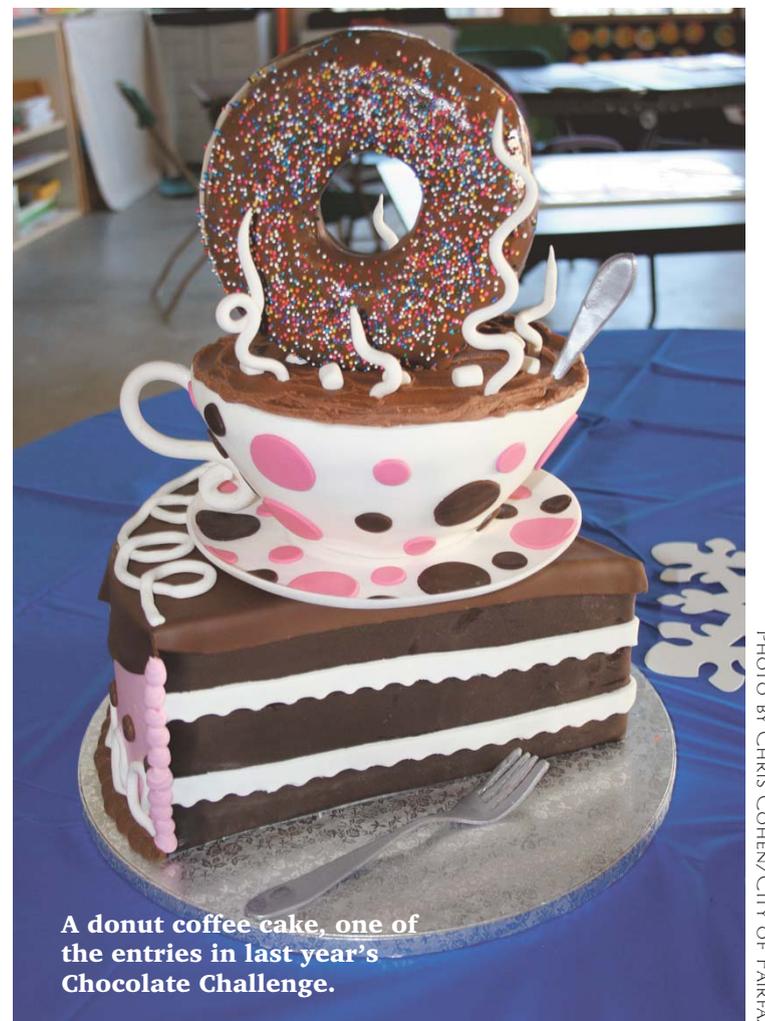
Better weather is one obvious reason for a change from February to March, but Myers said that vendors prefer the festival's new date — March 5 and 6 — because it allows them to focus on their shops during Valentine's Day, without having to prepare for the festival during the same time period. Myers also said there was not a noticeable difference in attendance or sales last year, even though the festival occurred after Valentine's Day. That could be attributable to chocolate lovers' appetites, or the atmosphere and activities surrounding the festival.

"It's an event that is certainly family-friendly, it is an event that encompasses all age groups and there is something there for everyone," Myers said.

New this year for the festival is a cash prize for the winners of the Chocolate Challenge, sponsored by the Independence Day Celebration Committee. First place in the professional division receives \$500, while first place in the amateur division receives \$250. Preference is given to the first 25 confirmed and paid entries, and there are still spaces available.

This year's judges for the Chocolate Challenge are Warren Brown, owner of Love Café and Cake Love and former host of "Sugar Rush" on The Food Net

SEE CHOCOLATE, PAGE 5



A donut coffee cake, one of the entries in last year's Chocolate Challenge.

PHOTO BY CHRIS COHEN/CITY OF FAIRFAX

Former GMU Dancers Return Home

Mark Morris Dance Group performs at Center of the Arts.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

When the Mark Morris Dance Group takes the stage at George Mason University's Center for the Arts on Friday, Feb. 4, it will be a homecoming of sorts, both for the dance troupe and some individual performers.

The world-renown company is based out of New York City, but has a close relationship with the university, said Dan Joyce, an associate professor in the School of Dance at GMU and a former 10-year member of the Mark Morris Dance Group, or MMDG as it is frequently called.

"We're very lucky that this is one of their frequent stops," Joyce said. "We're able to bring a more sophisticated show to an audience."

The School of Dance and MMDG have a mutually beneficial relationship: Members of the company, and sometimes Morris himself, often provide workshops or master classes leading up to their performances at GMU for students in the dance program, and sometimes those same students end up joining the company professionally.

At least two of the dancers in the performances on Feb. 4 and 5 are GMU alumni — Rita Donahue and Billy Smith.

Joyce has fond memories from his 10 years in the group, including traveling the world and working with Morris on several film and opera projects.

"It was really wonderful to travel all over the place and do high-level work in beautiful venues," he said.

But when one of his colleagues at GMU had an opportunity to work with a professional dance company, she asked Joyce to fill in for her and teach some classes within the dance program. It was an opportunity to put down some roots and sleep in the same bed for more than two nights in a row, Joyce laughed.

And now, he gets to work with students who might dream about joining a group like MMDG, students who can learn from Morris himself or one of his dancers, an opportunity almost unheard of outside a major metropolitan area.

The nice thing about GMU, Joyce said, is that students there are close enough to Washington to see major dance companies when they pass through town, but have enough peace and quiet and what Joyce



PHOTO BY BRYAN SNYDER/MMDG

The Mark Morris Dance Company brings their interpretations of modern dance to the George Mason University Center for the Arts on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 4 and 5.



GMU alumni William Smith III and Rita Donahue will be performing with the Mark Morris Dance Group on Feb. 4 and 5.

considers a kind of isolation to study their craft.

"For the dancers who get that one-on-one time with him, in one of the master classes, that's incredible," he said. It's an advantage for those who later go on to audition for MMDG, because while others might be awestruck over being in the presence of a legend, GMU students may have already met Morris and worked with him.

For this visit to GMU, MMDG will be performing four pieces: The Washington area premiere of "Petrichor," set to the music of Heitor Villa-Lobos, originally performed at the Cutler Majestic Theater in Boston last October. The group will also perform three

"It was really wonderful to travel all over the place and do high-level work in beautiful venues."

— Dan Joyce, associate professor at GMU, former member of the Mark Morris Dance Group

pieces from Morris' repertory: 1990's "Going Away Party," a piece set to the music of Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys; 1999's "Silhouettes," set to the music of Richard Cummings' and 2008's "Excursions," a piece choreographed to music by Samuel Barber.

When possible, Morris said he likes to use live accompaniment instead of recorded music, calling it an "equal partner in every show we do." The piece "Going Away Party" uses recorded music, "because it is a particular recording session that produced these wonderful performances and it is nearly impossible to replicate."

Morris got his start studying Spanish dance at the age of 9 and quickly added ballet and folkdance.

"It's something I do well and allows a close relationship with music," he said. "Dance continues to be fun and interesting and challenging to me."

Music itself is an inspiration to Morris, who said he makes up dances in response

to what he hears.

He does have his favorites, however. His favorite piece of choreography is "Romeo & Juliet: on Motifs of Shakespeare," his danced version of Shakespeare's classic tale set to the music of Prokofiev.

"It's my best work to date," he said. "I like watching my work performed by the brilliant dancers in the company. I also love to watch dancing generally."

Returning to GMU is a pleasure for Morris.

"We've been involved with GMU for a long time," he said. "We've been appreciated and supported by the university and the community. We have a regular following, we participate with the dance department. We like it there."

See a Show

The Mark Morris Dance Group will put on two performances, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 4 and 5, at 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts. Tickets, and more information on the performances, are available through GMU's website, www.gmu.edu.

WINTER FUN

Chocolate

FROM PAGE 3

work; Norman R. Davis of The Sweet Life Cakery in Annandale, Va., who has appeared on various Food Network's challenges; Zane Beg of The Sweet Life Cakery in Annandale, a real estate agent and baker whose decorated cakes are renown for having great movement and flow; and City of Fairfax Mayor Robert F. Lederer. The public can also join in the judging with a \$1 admission ticket to the Chocolate Challenge.

After the challenge, Brown, Davis and Beg will host a Q&A. Then, Davis will show the audience how to "fabulously decorate cupcakes at home," and then he will auction off the cupcakes.

Davis will also hold a raffle at the Taste of Chocolate on Saturday and Sunday. Each day, the winner can choose a theme and Davis will make them a cake that will feed 40 people. The raffle cost is one "pog." Each "pog" costs \$1. A "pog" is a cardboard chip used to enter the Taste of Chocolate, as well as trade for tasting vendors' merchandise.

There are many other events and specials during the Chocolate Lovers Festival. To view a full list of events, or to enter the Chocolate Challenge, visit <http://www.chocolatefestival.net>.

CHOCOLATE LOVERS FESTIVAL

Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast. Saturday, March 5, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive. Cost is \$6 per adult and \$4 for children ages 4-10. Children age 3 and younger eat for free (with a paying adult).

Taste of Chocolate. Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, March 6, 12-4 p.m., at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. Admission stops 30 minutes before the event ends. Free. Pogs, traded for tastes, cost \$1 each. Items to purchase include cakes, candies and other delicious concoctions. Stroller parking is available on the front porch of Old Town Hall. The fully accessible entrance to the event is via the door on Route 236/Main Street.

Chocolate Challenge and Silent Auction. Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, March 6, 12-4 p.m., at the SPACE at Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road. Admission is \$1 for adults and includes a ballot for judging the Chocolate Challenge entries. See displays of chocolate cakes and sculptures by professionals and amateurs, then join the area's most talented chefs and chocolatiers in judging the winners. Donated cakes and other items will be open for silent auction bidding through 3 p.m. Sunday. Strollers will not be permitted in the building. Please use the designated stroller parking areas.

OPEN HOUSE AND EXHIBITS

Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. Saturday and Sunday, March 5 and 6, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 10209 Main St. Free. Open house with free chocolate goodies and information on the city's colorful and interesting history.

Legato School. Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, March 6, 12-4 p.m., at Route 123/Chain Bridge Road, between Judicial Drive and Sager Avenue. Free. Learn about the noble heritage of America's favorite flavor at the one-room Legato School. There also will be games for children.

Ford House. Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 3977 Chain Bridge Road. Free. Visit the childhood home of Antonia Ford, whose colorful life includes espionage, imprisonment and falling in love with a Union officer.

Ratcliffe-Allison House. Saturday and Sunday, March 5 and 6, 12-4 p.m., at 10386 Main St. Free. The Ratcliffe-Allison House depicts the lives of everyday people in 19th century Fairfax and features the exhibit Kitty Pozer: A Joyful Gardener.

ICE SKATING SPECIALS

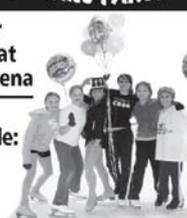
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WINTER FUN



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Rachel Snow of Springfield and Gwynneth Lau of Springfield are 'veil dancers.'

Dance, Dance, Dance

Variety of styles to be presented at Jan. 29-30 gala.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When the Fairfax County Dance Coalition (FCDC) formed in 2008, it was mainly to advise Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale campus on its stage renovations. But the coalition decided to take things a step further.

"We have a lot of excellent dancers trained in Fairfax County, but they go elsewhere for careers because there's nothing here for them," said FCDC President Sherri Shortell. "So we want to make this county a place where they can work; we want Fairfax County to become a center of dance excellence."

Toward that end, the Coalition is presenting its first annual gala, "A Celebration of Dance," Saturday, Jan. 29, at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 30, at 2 p.m., in the theater of NOVA's Annandale Campus at 8333 Little River Turnpike.

"We're trying to let the general public know there are professional dancers and dance companies right here," said Shortell. "So we thought the best way to do that was to have a performance."

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. To buy them, or for more information, visit www.dancefairfax-gala.org, or contact any of the participating dance organizations.

Nine companies will entertain, including: BalletNova, Classical Ballet Theatre, Dancin' Unlimited Jazz Dance Co., Dream in Color Foundation - Impact Dance Co., Encore Theatrical Arts Project, Lasya Dance Co., The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax, Center

Stage Dance Co. and the Virginia Ballet Co. "We're a very eclectic group, with dance styles ranging from ballet to contemporary, jazz, hip hop, Indian and tap," said Shortell. "It's a great show. There's definitely something for everybody. A lot of us haven't seen what the other groups are doing, yet, so it'll be exciting to discover what everyone else is bringing to the table."

Representing the City of Fairfax are Center Stage Dance Co. and The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax. Directed by Shortell, Centre Stage's seven dancers — five females and two males, ages 15-30s — will perform three numbers.

They'll be tap dancing to "Cool World Stomp" while decked out in tuxedos. "It's a very exciting, upbeat piece with intricate steps and dancers entering and exiting throughout the song," said Shortell. "It changes tap styles so the audience will see both rhythm and Broadway tap."

To Janet Jackson's smash hit, "Rhythm Nation," Center Stage's tappers will don black leather, switching to street clothes to perform the show's only hip hop number, "What I Do," by Chris Brown.

Shortell's dancers have been rehearsing since September, and she says the toughest part has been meshing the rehearsal schedules of students and adults. But directing them gives her great satisfaction.

"I founded Center Stage in 1990 and have taught the adults in the company since they were little children, so it's wonderful to have

that continuity," she said. "They're all more than just my dancers — they're more like a family. And my son, Alex, who's almost 17, is performing, so that's a joy, too."

Also proud of his group is Benn Savage, who's headed the dance school, The Center for Ballet Arts, for 18 years, and its performing company, The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax, for 15 years.

The dance company is part of the nationwide dance organization, Regional Dance America. "There are 23 companies its

Southeastern Region and we're the only dance company in Virginia in that region," said Savage. "This gives my dancers the opportunity to get work in the professional world."

His dancers will perform the ballet number, "Sarabande," at a dance festival in April in Montgomery, Ala., and he's thrilled about it. "They send scouts to these festivals," he said. "So there are opportunities for scholarships to major dance schools and for trainee and apprenticeship programs with major ballet companies."

Savage is also pleased about the dance gala at NOVA. "I'm excited about the Dance Coalition show because it gives my kids a chance to perform this dance in a theater before going to the festival," he said. "We have about 46 dancers in the company, mostly female, ages 12-20, but two men will also perform in 'Sarabande' and it's impor-

tant for people to see men dancing, too."

The Ballet Arts Ensemble will dance two, different numbers in the gala. For Saturday's show, some eight or nine dancers will perform a contemporary, modern-dance number, "Holding on. Letting Go," choreographed by Stephanie York.

"She's a talented, young choreographer, and this gives her an opportunity for other people to see her work," said Savage. "It may even launch her career as a choreographer. She does intricate choreography requiring strength and technique, and the dancers are doing it quite well."

On Sunday, 13 of his dancers will perform "Sarabande," professionally choreographed by Richard Rhodon of New Orleans. "It's done en pointe — most-demanding technically in dance — and is reminiscent of old, French Court dances to beautiful, rich, textural music," said Savage. "This gala will give us a chance to show our versatility. I'm glad we get to do both numbers and that my kids get to perform alongside all the other participants."

Each company has 10 minutes to dance. Regarding the rest of the program, BalletNova will do a classical ballet piece, "Grand Tarentella," and Classical Ballet Theatre will perform, "Paquita." The Virginia Ballet Co. will do Polovetzian Dances from "Prince Igor."

Dancin' Unlimited Jazz Dance Co. will perform a contemporary number, "The Theory of Sound," and a Broadway, Bob Fosse-style dance called "I Gotcha." Dream in Color Foundation - Impact Dance Co. will



Layna Lamons of Burke is a slave girl and her dancing partner, John Finnegan of Fairfax is Kumon the slave trader.

WINTER FUN



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

The 'veil dancers' at The Virginia Ballet Company, in no particular order, Rachel Snow of Springfield, Gwynneth Lau of Springfield, Siphon Kargbo of Falls Church, Imani Curry-Johnson of Springfield and Annie Sneed of Springfield rehearse for this weekend's show at Northern Virginia Community College.

Dance Gala This Weekend

FROM PAGE 6

do a contemporary jazz piece, "Redemption," and the Lasya Dance Co. will perform "The Flow," a traditional Indian dance with varying tempos.

The dance companies are all nonprofits, so the Coalition is currently trying to broaden the scope of the affordable venues here available for their performances. So, said Shortell, "We'd ultimately like to build a performing-arts center somewhere in

Fairfax County." Meanwhile, they're looking forward to the upcoming gala.

"All the directors have worked hard together to put this on - it's been wonderful," said Shortell. "Instead of being competitive, it's really been inspirational and a joy working with them. And this way, all of us get to introduce our students to each other's styles; I'm so glad I'm involved. It's going to be an excellent show; I hope people will come see what Fairfax County has to offer."

Fair Oaks Woman Indicted

Fair Oaks resident Jennah Billeter, 33, a former special-education teacher at Deer Park Elementary in Centreville, was indicted last Tuesday, Jan. 18, by a Fairfax County grand jury. She's charged with one count of misdemeanor simple assault and two counts of felony cruelty to children.

Police and Child Protective Services believe that, between May and July 2010, Billeter, of 11800 block of Federalist Way, reportedly physically assaulted and

mistreated two boys, ages 4 and 5, assigned to her class. They were attending Deer Park's summer program for autistic children.

In 2002, Billeter was an instructional assistant at Halley Elementary in Fairfax Station. She worked as a special-ed teacher at Clifton Elementary in 2003 and Bull Run Elementary in 2004, before coming to Deer Park in 2007. Following her arrest, the school system placed her on unpaid leave. She's scheduled for a Feb. 16 jury trial in Circuit Court.

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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Robinson running back Jared Velasquez rushed for more than 1,300 yards in both his junior and senior football seasons with the Rams.

Velasquez Runs to William & Mary

Robinson Star was District Player of the Year on both offense and defense last fall.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Jared Velasquez, the Robinson Secondary School senior who became one of the Northern Region's best all-around football players in recent years, made a verbal commitment on Tuesday, Jan. 25 to play the sport on scholarship at William & Mary College (Williamsburg) next school year.

The decision will become official on Wednesday, Feb. 2, the official annual NCAA signing day for high school athletes nationwide.

Velasquez, a 6-foot, 192-pound running back/defensive safety for the Rams, chose William & Mary over James Madison University, the other school he considered accepting a scholarship offer from. He made his official visit to William & Mary last weekend, and had made his way to Harrisonburg to visit JMU for an official stop the weekend before.

Other schools in the running for Velasquez included West Virginia University and the University of Richmond, both of whom offered him scholarships as well.

Velasquez, a former youth football player within the local Braddock Road Youth Club, attended a William & Mary football game this past fall season in which the home team

Tribe defeated Richmond soundly. William & Mary, under longtime head coach Jimmie Laycock, is an annual NCAA Division 1 (smaller school) playoff team. The Tribe is a part of the Colonial Athletic Conference.

William & Mary has been recruiting Velasquez since his junior year at Robinson. "They've always been there [in the recruiting picture]," said Velasquez, the region's top running back who, as a senior last fall, rushed for 1,300-plus yards and

"I love playing safety and love playing on defense and hitting people more than I love playing on offense."

— Jared Velasquez

led the Rams to a 9-4 overall record and a trip to the Division 6 region playoff semifinals. "JMU got in the picture late. I took both [official] visits [to the two schools]. I thought William & Mary was more of a fit academically and athletically."

He has been impressed with Laycock, who completed his 31st season at the helm of the Tribe last fall, and his coaching staff during the recruiting process.

"He's a really good coach and he's not going anywhere soon," said Velasquez, a solid academic student (3.4 GPA) who said

he is considering studying engineering or pre-med in college. "I love the coaches there, they're good guys."

VELASQUEZ is being tabbed to play a defensive secondary position for the Tribe. In high school, along with being a standout running back, he was a three-year starter in the Rams' defensive secondary, playing at strong safety as a sophomore and free safety the following two seasons. As a senior he was the Region's Defensive Player of the Year. He earned First Team All-Region accolades, in fact, at defensive back, running back and as a kick returner. He was the Concorde District's Player of the Year on both offense and defense.

Velasquez indicated he would be right at home focusing on the defensive side of the field in college.

"I love playing safety and love playing on defense and hitting people more than I love playing on offense,"

said Velasquez, a Fairfax resident. "Being back there, you see the whole field."

"They see him as a safety and that's where their needs are," said Robinson head coach Mark Bendorf, who credited his standout player with doing his homework on those schools recruiting him and taking his time in making a decision. "Jared was very thorough [in the selection process]. All four universities were recruiting him as a defensive back. He will also be a kick returner

SEE RAM, PAGE 9

Fairfax Girls Pursue Top Seeding

Rebels to play pivotal basketball game at Madison this Friday.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

With just a couple of weeks remaining in the regular season, the Fairfax High girls' basketball team is one of the top teams in the Liberty District and still in the running for the top seeding at the upcoming district tournament.

Fairfax (13-5 overall record, 7-2 district), even with its stellar season thus far, is somewhat of a long shot contender to finish in first place in the regular season district standings. The Rebels, who defeated Langley earlier on Tuesday, Jan. 25, are currently in a second place tie with Madison (11-4, 7-2) and behind first place Stone Bridge (16-1, 8-1). The Bulldogs, in a game with the district lead on the line, defeated Madison on Tuesday night, 47-43, in Ashburn.

This Friday at 7:30 p.m., Madison will host Fairfax in a pivotal, late season district contest in Vienna. With just five more regular season games remaining before the start of the postseason, the Rebels must defeat the Warhawks in order to keep their hopes of garnering the regular season title — and thus earning top seed for districts — alive.

"It's gut check time and the girls realize we're trying to win a championship here," said Marcus Konde, the Fairfax head coach. "We're still in the mix."

Fairfax defeated Madison Jan. 3 in the first meeting between the district rivals, 47-41, at Fairfax. Konde said facing and beating the Warhawks again would be a difficult test.

"The [earlier season] win over Madison was a confidence builder," said Konde, whose team had a huge 21 point, 11 rebound effort by center Meredith Mesaris that game. "We were the only team in the district [at that point] to have beaten Madison. We expect [Friday's game with Madison] to be a tough game."

The coach said Fairfax, of late, has not necessarily played its best basketball.

"We've played fairly well since the holidays, but we've started to hit a mid-season slump a little bit," said Konde, whose team is 5-2 since the start of the New Year. "We haven't played near to our potential yet. We're still playing one or two bad quarters [a game]."

Konde said a poor first quarter in the team's first meeting versus Stone Bridge, a 59-37 road loss on Jan. 12, dictated the

SEE LADY, PAGE 9

SPORTS

Ram Williamsburg Bound

FROM PAGE 8

[for the Tribe].

"It was important for Jared to know how [the recruiting schools] saw him fitting into their [plans]. In the case of William & Mary, they told him in certain terms that he was their highest recruited player. They did a good job recruiting him. [The CAA] is an outstanding league with teams like Richmond, JMU, William & Mary and Delaware."

Velasquez, who played three varsity baseball seasons as a centerfielder for the Rams, said his best high school football memory is Robinson's week five, 10-7 win over local rival Lake Braddock last fall. Velasquez rushed for 138 yards and scored his team's lone touchdown that game. It was the Bruins' lone loss of the season until they fell in the state AAA championship game to Battlefield High. Lake Braddock quarterback Michael Nebrich, perhaps the

lone player in the region with more star power than Velasquez last season, will be playing the sport at Connecticut next school year.

"That was insane," said Velasquez, marveling at the memory of Robinson's midseason victory over Lake Braddock. "We made memories as teammates that night."

AT RUNNING back his senior season, Velasquez rushed for 1,340 yards. He scored 20 offensive touchdowns. On defense, Velasquez totaled 72 tackles, forced two fumbles and intercepted three balls. On special teams, he was the region's top playmaker as both a kick and punt returner.

Velasquez, who rushed for 1,309 yards and scored 16 touchdowns his junior season, was a team co-captain last fall and earned Team MVP honors. Over his junior and senior seasons, Robinson won 19 total games.

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.

THURSDAY/JAN. 27

Fairfax County Park Authority Monticello Park Public Comment Meeting. 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Bonnie Brae Elementary School, 5420 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. The Park Authority has initiated a

public master planning process for Monticello Park, 5315 Guinea Road in Fairfax. The park consists of primarily a large lawn area and is classified as a local-serving park. 703-324-8662 or Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SATURDAY/JAN. 29

Journey through Grief. 2 p.m. Haven of Northern Virginia, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Free workshop. Snow day is Saturday,

Feb. 5. Registration is required at 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org, or havenofnova@verizon.net.

Town Hall Meeting with Del. David Bulova (D-37) and State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34). 10 a.m., at Fairfax City Hall Council Chamber, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. An overview of issues currently before the General Assembly. Constituents can participate in Bulova's 2011 Constituent Survey at www.davidbulova.com.

Lady Rebels

FROM PAGE 8

outcome of that game. The Rebels fell into a 16-2 hole after one quarter and trailed 32-13 at halftime. They never recovered, although they played the Bulldogs even in the second half.

Fairfax's only other district loss came a week later, on Jan. 19, to visiting McLean, 53-44. A poor fourth quarter in which the Highlanders outscored the hosts, 14-5, resulted in that setback. Fairfax will close out the regular season with a game at McLean on Feb. 11.

But for the most part this season, Fairfax has played winning basketball in the district, with victories coming over Langley (twice), Marshall (twice), Madison, Jefferson, and South Lakes. The Rebels must continue to consistently win in the district in order to finish as high as they can in the district standings. They will likely host a first round district playoff game next month.

The Rebels are led in scoring by Mesaris, a 6-2 senior pivot player who is averaging 18 points and nine rebounds per game. Another key player for Fairfax is 6-1 junior forward Liz McNaughton (18 points, seven rebounds per game).

In Tuesday's win at Langley, 49-38, the Rebels received a huge game from McNaughton, who scored a game high 20 points and pulled down 14 rebounds. Mesaris (11 rebounds) and Murphree (seven rebounds) both scored eight points in the victory, while Jasmyne Moore and Jordan Sharpe scored five and four points, respectively.

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WINTER FIN

Great Wines for Next to Nothing

Recommendations for delicious wines for about \$10.

BY MIKE POTASHNIK AND DON WINKLER
I-WINEREVIEW

A lot of people make New Year's Resolutions they can't possibly keep, like "I'm going to stop drinking good wine, and save my money for a 96 inch LCD, LED, HD, 3D TV." Well, to mix metaphors, now you can have your cake and drink it, too, while watching that new TV. All you have to do is find good quality wine that costs almost nothing.

From our travels and writing this past year, we came across many producers who offer delicious wines at terrific prices. Two which we especially like and are happy to share with readers are located in neighboring countries in South America.

One is Concha y Toro Chile's single largest winery, the other is Doña Paula, a large commercial winery in Argentina. Concha y Toro produces a series called Xplorador; Doña Paula's series is called Los Cardos.

Concha y Toro Xplorador

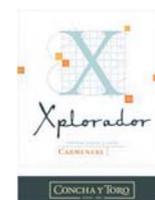
Last year in Santiago we sat down with Concha y Toro's chief winemaker, Marcelo Papa, to taste through almost the full range of wines. We reported the results of that tasting in *The Wines of Chile* on www.i-winereview.com. However, we never reported on Concha y Toro's line of entry level wines, Xplorador. Xplorador wines have suggested retail prices under \$10 a bottle, which usually translates into something less at your local neighborhood store.

How, you ask, can a respectable winery like Concha y Toro make such inexpensive wines? There are lot of reasons, of course, but the main one is that the fruit for these wines is sourced mainly from Chile's Central Valley where the yields are high. Then, under the direction of winemaker Tito Urzia, that fruit is fermented and aged in large stainless steel tanks, not expensive, small French oak barriques. Don't kid yourself. This process isn't going to produce Chateau Margaux. But you can get perfectly good, drinkable wines.

Nothing complicated, not particularly nuanced, just pure, plain good fruit. This makes them easy drinking, either as an aperitif or with a meal. The **Xplorador 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon** is a fruit forward Cabernet Sauvignon showing mostly red plum and berry fruit on the nose with just a hint of brambles and earth. It's a straight-forward, uncomplicated wine, but it's also surprisingly tasty, balanced and easy to drink. The **Xplorador 2009 Merlot** is a wine that definitely needs to be drunk with food. It has nice red plum fruit on the nose and palate, but it also has a green herbal note that can nicely comple-



Don Winkler and Mike Potashnik of i-WineReview.com, a McLean-based publication.



ment the right kind of food (think brussel sprouts, asparagus, and other vegetarian fare). The **Xplorador 2010 Malbec** shows cherry and raspberry aromas and vibrant fruit on the palate. It's quite delicious, albeit lighter than the typical Malbec coming out of Argentina.

Doña Paula Los Cardos

Doña Paula was established in 1997 by Chilean entrepreneur Ricardo Claro of the Claro Group with the purchase of 40+ year old Malbec and Chardonnay vineyards in Luján de Cuyo. The estate now consists of 1,878 acres of vineyards in the Tupungato and Luján de Cuyo regions. David Bonomi is chief winemaker, and Edgardo Del Popolo is viticulturalist.

Los Cardos is Doña Paula's entry level wines which sell for \$10-12. The fruit for most of the wines comes from the Finca El Alto in Ugarteche (Luján de Cuyo) and the high altitude (1100 m) Finca Los Cerezos in Valle de Uco, the zone closest to the Andes and therefore the coldest and best suited for early-ripening varieties, especially Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay. **Doña Paula 2010 Los Cardos Sauvignon Blanc** shows good varietal character with an opulent style. It has an effusively fragrant nose of grapefruit and nettles and a citrus, pear and herbal palate of very good intensity. This is a very good wine and an excellent value!

Doña Paula 2009 Los Cardos Chardonnay is in the ripe, New World style with a nose of smoke, ripe citrus, and honeydew. It's ripe on the attack with good integration of fruit and oak and shows good acidity on the finish.

Fresh plum and blackberry waft from the glass of the dark ruby purple **Doña Paula 2009 Los Cardos Malbec**. There's a sweet, tangy attack of blackberry fruit with notes of underbrush, tar and earth and good purity of fruit on the finish with firm, ripe tannins. This wine offers everything, and at a very reasonable price.

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WINTER FIIN

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

THURSDAY/JAN. 27

"Annie." 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School Little Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets \$12. www.lbmusical.webs.com.
Jonas Sees In Color, Poema, Queens Club, Mercury In Summer and The Baby Grand. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
Ari Hest with Bess Rogers. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Indie-folk. \$18. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 28

Mason Jazz Concert. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.
L.A. Theatre Works "The Real Dr. Strangelove." 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$18-\$36, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.
"Annie." 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School Little Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets \$12. www.lbmusical.webs.com.
Independent Living Project. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Fridays from Jan. 28-March 11. 703-249-1520.
Callers and Brainfang at 7 p.m. and Murphy's Kids, Irresponsible and Feed God Cabbage at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
David Jolley and Eduard Laurel. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Russian pieces from Reinhold Gliere, Alexander Scriabin, and Alexander Glazunov. \$35. 703-938-2404.

SATURDAY/JAN. 29

Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The German State Philharmonic, conducted by Philippe Entremont on its first tour of the U.S., performing Strauss' "Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche" and Brahms' Symphony No.

4, Op. 98. Entremont also joins Sebastian Knauer on piano for Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos, No. 10 in E-Flat major, K. 365. Tickets are \$30-\$60, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

"Annie." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School Little Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets \$12. www.lbmusical.webs.com.

Musical Tribute to Jim Tucker featuring The Lost Highway Band, Laurie Jones & SB2 and MHR at 5 p.m. and Passafire and Three Legged Fox at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

John Eaton. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road,

Watters, trombone and Dr. Dickinson, trombone. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Baby Signing. 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to sign words and letters. Tickets distributed 30 minutes before program begins. Age 2 with adult. 703-249-1520.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 2

Bands without Borders Featuring Brother Shamus, The Weatherfans and Half Brother. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna.

To the Rescue

The Lab Rescue Club of the Potomac will host an Adoption Event on Sunday, Jan. 30 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Petco, 9230-B Old Keene Mill Road in Burke. See Labs of all sizes and colors, and talk with fosters and volunteers about dog ownership or choose the right dog to join your family. If you bring all members of your family including canine, you may be able to adopt the same day. www.lab-rescue.org.



Vienna. Big band and jazz music. \$25. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 30

Faculty Artist Series: Mira Yang, mezzo-soprano. 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Robbie Fulks and Timothy Bracken. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Lab Rescue Club of the Potomac Adoption Event. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Petco, 9230-B Old Keene Mill Road in Burke. Talk with fosters and volunteers about dog ownership or choose the right dog to join your family. www.lab-rescue.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 31

Faculty Artist Series: Harry

jamminjava.com.
Buckwheat Zydeco. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Louisiana zydeco music. \$24. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 3

An Evening with Todd Wright and Cal Everett. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/FEB. 4

Mark Morris Dance Group. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The D.C. area premiere of "Petrichor," set to the music of Heitor Villa-Lobos, plus "Going Away Party," "Silhouettes" and "Excursions." A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$22-\$44, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

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NEWS

Bridges' Co-Owner Given 5 Years Prison

Aman is sentenced for setting fire to Fairfax City bar.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A 29-year-old Herndon man was sentenced Friday in federal court to five years in prison for intentionally setting fire to Bridges Billiards and Grill in the City of Fairfax.

He is Ajmal A. Aman and, at the time of the incident, he was a part owner of the popular Fairfax City bar. Besides receiving prison time, he was also ordered to pay \$744,790 in restitution for the damage caused to the victims of the fire.

Some 50 firefighters and EMTs responded, in the early-morning hours of Nov. 1, 2009, to the bar at 10560 Main St., No. 100. A sprinkler system contained the flames to a small office, but the City of Fairfax Fire Marshal's Office quickly determined that the cause was arson.

"Investigation revealed the presence of numerous, liquid pour patterns on the floor, throughout the business," wrote Lt. David Whitacre, a fire investigator and assistant fire marshal, in a Nov. 1 affidavit for a warrant to search the premises. "There was also a strong odor consistent with the presence of an ignitable liquid."

Further investigation revealed several containers of charcoal lighter fluid, plus containers of gasoline and other ignitable liquids. "An accelerant K-9 brought to the scene had positive hits for accelerant in several locations within the business," stated Whitacre. He also noted that Aman was there when firefighters arrived to put out the blaze and that his clothing smelled like gasoline.

Aman was originally prosecuted in Fairfax County General District Court, but his case was later turned over to the federal government. He stood trial last fall in U.S. District Court in Alexandria; and after six days of testimony and exhibits, he was convicted on Oct. 27, 2010.

According to court records and the evidence presented, Aman was one of six owners of Bridges and served as the company's treasurer. He was also the manager on duty, Oct. 31, 2009, when the bar hosted a Halloween party until 2 a.m. the following morning.

Flames broke out around 3:30 a.m., and investigators testifying at Aman's trial said that gasoline was found in high concentrations at the fire's primary area of origin — a small office in the back where Bridges's financial documents and accounting records were kept. Also found in that office were a full book of matches and the bottom half of a water bottle containing gasoline.

Furthermore, Aman was the last person on the scene that night and gasoline was found on the clothes he was wearing. According to evidence presented at his trial, Aman was suspected of abusing his position as treasurer by misappropriating the business' funds for personal travel and repayment of debts. The evidence also showed that this misdeed, along with competition from rival bars, may have been the motives behind the arson.

He returned to court last Friday, Jan. 21, and at that time, U.S. District Court Judge T. S. Ellis III sentenced him to 60 months in federal prison. Regarding the restitution, \$21,000 of the amount ordered is earmarked for the City of Fairfax for its firefighting costs related to this incident.

City officials say they don't expect to actually recover a significant amount of that total, although the judge ordered that it be paid before any other claims. Aman is to start paying \$150 a month toward the city's claim within 60 days of his release.

Investigating this case were the ATF, Fairfax City Fire Department, Fairfax City Police Department and the Fairfax County Fire Marshal's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorneys G. Zachary Terwilliger and Timothy D. Belevetz were the prosecutors.

FAITH NOTES

Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church will show the documentary "9500 Liberty" on Friday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. at the church, 10125 Lakehaven Court in Burke. Admission is free. "9500 Liberty" recounts the battle

over immigration policy in Prince William County when local elected officials adopted a law requiring police officers to question anyone they have "probable cause" to suspect is an undocumented immigrant. sabastian@sonjara.com.

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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The Department of the Army intends to publish a Draft FOST
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single 2.5 acre parcel (Woodlawn) which consists of grass vege-
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21 Announcements

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Interested parties may submit written comments on the Draft
FOST by Saturday, February 26, 2011, to Commander, U.S.
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