

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ❖ Kingstowne ❖ New

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 5 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 9 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 10 FOLLOW ON TWITTER: @SPRCONNECT

All-Around Winner

SPORTS, PAGE 9

Lee senior Katie Stewart won the all-around competition at a gymnastics meet on Dec. 19 at Mount Vernon High School.

Three
Shattered
Families
NEWS, PAGE 12

Making
Holidays
Brighter
NEWS, PAGE 6

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NEWS



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova addressed attendees at the Inauguration Ceremony held at the Fairfax County Government Center on Dec. 13.

County Officials Inaugurated

All local elected officials will take office on Jan. 1, 2012.

The inauguration ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the Fairfax County Government Center for the 15 recently-elected officials was filled with all the pomp and circumstance of any official celebration.

“Almost three years ago when I addressed you for the first time as your chairman, it was to a backdrop of troubled and uncertain times,” Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-a-large) told the crowd of several hundred spectators in her inaugural address. “The world and our nation were reeling from a breakdown in our lending and financial institutions that was unprecedented in most of our lifetimes. Fairfax County, along with all state and local governments in the U.S., was seriously affected by this downturn,” she said.

In addition the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County constitutional officers, and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District directors all took their oath of office.

FAIRFAX CIRCUIT Court Judge Jan L. Brodie administered the oath of office to Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and 14 other elected officials, who each swore to support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The ceremony also included musical performances by harpist Christine Van Dyke from Fairfax County’s Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, the Frost Middle School Advanced Symphonic Orchestra, Langley High School Madrigals, South County Secondary School Chamber Orchestra and Captain Matthew Lopez of the Northern Virginia Firefighter’s Emerald Society Pipe Band.

The colors were presented by the Fairfax County Public Safety Honor Guard and PFC Laura Redman of the Fairfax County Police Department sang the national anthem. The evening concluded with a reception.



Fairfax County Board of Supervisor Chairman Sharon Bulova is sworn in by the Hon. Jan Brodie, Judge of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, for a four-year term as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Sworn In

In addition to Bulova, the district supervisors installed were:

- ❖ John C. Cook, Braddock District
- ❖ John W. Foust, Dranesville District
- ❖ Michael R. Frey, Sully District
- ❖ Penelope A. Gross, Mason District
- ❖ Pat Herrity, Springfield District
- ❖ Catherine M. Hudgins, Hunter Mill District
- ❖ Gerald W. Hyland, Mount Vernon District
- ❖ Jeff C. McKay, Lee District
- ❖ Linda Q. Smyth, Providence District

The constitutional officer installed was:

- ❖ Raymond F. Morrogh, Commonwealth’s Attorney

The three directors of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District installed were:

- ❖ Johna Good Gagnon
- ❖ George W. Lamb
- ❖ John W. Peterson

Stan G. Barry, sheriff, was not available and will be sworn in at a later date.

The ceremony will be rebroadcast on Fairfax County Government Channel 16 at 8 p.m. on Dec. 21 and 24.

“The ceremony was beautiful and I especially enjoyed the high school musical performances. What a great way to begin this four-year term,” Bulova said after the ceremony.

All elected officials will take office on Jan. 1, 2012.

— VICTORIA ROSS

Supervisors Reflect on Inauguration Ceremony



John Cook (R-Braddock)

“I was pleased to be there and thank the people of the Braddock District for the opportunity to serve. There are a number of important, long-term issues we need to address, and I look forward to being actively involved in the discussion. And, of course, I look forward to continuing our important work helping Braddock neighborhoods reach their full potential and pursue their dreams.”



Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)

“It was both a nice and historic ceremony. The fact that this was the first time an entire Board of Supervisors was reelected made the event enjoyable, relaxed and historic. The performances by the musicians from our county schools were outstanding and added a lot to the ceremony.”



Jeff McKay (D-Lee)

“It’s always very moving to see our democracy in action. I think of all the places in the world where people risk their lives to vote and I say a small prayer of thanks.”

OPINION

Share Your New Year's Resolutions

What were top events, accomplishments of 2011 in your opinion?

This is the last regular edition of the Connection for 2011. Between Christmas and New Year's, we'll deliver the Children's Connection, an annual tradition, with pages filled with the artwork and writing of local students.

Meanwhile, we are preparing for the first issue of 2012, sharing views of what were the most important happenings of 2011 and what to look for in 2012. We'll also share a variety of New Year's resolutions. We invite our readers to help in this endeavor.

For some, local elections were likely the top

event of 2011. For advocates of families of the fallen, like the Tragedy Assistance Program (TAPS), the end of 2011 brings the end of the Iraq war and the complex emotional and practical issues that come with that. For non-profits and charitable organizations, 2011 brought greatly increasing numbers of people in need. For your family, the top events of 2011 might have included the birth of a child or a graduation or the completion of a marathon.

Share your joys and milestones with us, not only from the year that's past, but also your expectations of 2012.

Answer one or all of these questions:

1) What were the (one, two or three) most significant happenings of 2011 for you in your community? Why?

2) What do you think our readers should

know to watch for in the coming year (up to three issues)? Or what do you think the top (one, two or three) happenings of 2012 will be locally? Why?

3) What is your New Year's Resolution? (Feel free to share more than one)

Please include your home address with your responses, we'll only print your town name. And we'd also love to have a photo of you, your family and/or events or places in your community that you reflect upon in your answer.

Please send photos and answers via email. For McLean, Vienna/Oakton, Great Falls, Reston, Oak Hill/Herndon, Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, send to Kemal Kurspahic, kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

For Arlington, Alexandria, Mount Vernon, the Centre View area or Potomac, email to Steven Mauren, smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

Free, Safe Ride Home from Holiday Celebrations

Once again, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program will provide a safety net for those who might celebrate the holiday season with alcohol and unexpectedly need a safe ride home.

WRAP's 2011 Holiday SoberRide program will operate each night from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The program began Friday, Dec. 16,

and will continue until Jan. 1, 2012.

To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 800-200-8294 (TAXI). You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. All requests for SoberRide service must be called to and dispatched from 1-800-200-8294. Callers will be responsible for any amount over \$30.

WRAP's SoberRide has helped to ensure lo-

cal residents have a safe way home on high-risk holidays, keeping likely impaired drivers off the roads. Since 1993, WRAP has provided nearly 53,000 safe rides home. SoberRide operates during the December/January holiday season, St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day and Halloween.

For details, see <http://wrap.org/soberride>

A Nonpartisan Redistricting Opportunity

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

I have repeatedly advocated nonpartisan redistricting. I believe that our current redistricting system is at the heart of political gridlock in Washington and Richmond. Thanks to power software, today politicians pick their voters instead of voters picking their politicians. We also have a system designed to minimize public input and maximize incumbent protection. However, in January, a federal judge will have an unprecedented opportunity in Virginia.

Most people wouldn't know it, but the General Assembly is actually still in special session, but just in recess while we "consider" redistricting. The Governor signed legislation redistricting the General Assembly on April 29, 2011, but Congressional redistricting was never completed.

The last time we were actually physically in the State Capitol for a session was July 29, 2011. The House and Senate had previously approved competing bills regarding redistricting. On July 29, 2011, neither party had reached an agreement. Nothing was passed. We still sit today staring each other down with lame duck members of

each chamber in office until Jan. 6, 2012.

The House of Delegates approved legislation that was effectively proposed by the incumbent congressmen ("the Republican Plan"). Most observers believe it will preserve the status quo in Virginia. It contained some strange creatures — e.g. the Fifth Congressional District stretched from I-66 to the North Carolina border.

The Senate proposed a plan ("the Senate Democrats Plan") which creates a "minority influence district" in the Richmond suburbs. Most observers believe it would endanger Congressman Randy Forbes. I have not carefully analyzed them, but it is my understanding that competitive seats are largely absent from both plans.

In terms of the 44th Delegate District, both plans would put the entire 44th District inside the 8th Congressional District. If you would like to see the plans, you can view them on the Division of Legislative Services Redistricting Website which you can access through Google or my blog.

Article II, Section 6 of The Constitution of Virginia requires redistricting to occur "in the year 2011 and every ten years thereafter." The Constitution does not state what happens if it does not hap-

pen "in the year 2011." From my point of view it is an unprecedented opportunity.

The following is expected. First, we will return to Richmond on Jan. 6, 2012 and all be sworn in. Then, the Senate will meet to approve its rules and committees and will deadlock 20-20 on "organizing" themselves. The Lieutenant Governor will vote to break the tie and give the Republicans a working majority in the Senate. The Democrats will complain and say that is illegal.

The House and Senate will then pass the Republican Plan and the Governor will promptly sign it. All that will occur in about 10 days. Then, it will go to court and a federal judge will then need to rule:

1. Whether to adopt the Republican Plan (assuming it meets the requirements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965); or

2. Whether to have a three-judge panel adopt its own plan.

From my point of view, this is an unprecedented opportunity. Many of us have endorsed the concept of non-partisan redistricting. Although the State Senate has passed legislation and it was nominally endorsed by Governor McDonnell during his campaign, it has died every year in committee. This situation presents an op-

portunity for a federal judge to actually do congressional redistricting on a non-partisan basis.

The work has already been done. Several Virginia Colleges held The Virginia Redistricting Competition last fall designed to produce maps created to maximize competition or simply focus upon non-political criteria. Fifty-five teams of students submitted entries. Four different teams were given awards for the Congressional District maps. (They don't look anything like the present maps).

Gov. McDonnell also created a Bipartisan Redistricting Commission. It even included a Mt. Vernonite — Former State Board of Elections Chairman Jean Jensen. They produced three possible congressional district maps.

The bottom line is that the work has been done. If the Court wants to take a step that was truly in Virginia's best interest, they should reject the legislatures' partisan self-interested work product and adopt one of the independent proposals. That is the only action that would be in Virginians' best interest.

You can email me at scottsurovell@gmail.com. You can also stay informed by reading my blog, The Dixie Pig, at scottsurovell.blogspot.com. It is an honor to serve as your State Delegate.

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AREA ROUNDUPS

Police Encourage SoberRide

Area police remind all drivers to consider all options available before drinking and making the decision to drive during the holiday season. Making arrangements in advance to rely on a designated driver, calling a cab, or spending the night all are alternatives police recommend to help prevent tragedies resulting from impaired driving.

Police encourage local residents to use the SoberRide program offered by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP). SoberRide allows for free taxi rides (up to a \$30 fare) from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m., starting Friday, Dec. 16, and continuing through Sunday morning, Jan. 1, 2012.

To take advantage of the program, call 1-800-200-8294 (TAXI) or #8294 for customers of AT&T wireless telephones to request a cab ride as an alternative to driving after drinking. People must be 21 or older to use SoberRide.

Adopt a Shelter Animal

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter has launched "Operation Empty Cage" as part of its "Home 4 the Holidays" adoption push. One goal is to empty the shelter's cages by finding a home for each animal available for adoption.

As part of this event, the shelter — at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax — will offer free spay/neuter for the first 100 dogs and cats adopted from it until Dec. 31. Animals available for adoption at the shelter may be seen Tuesdays through Fridays, noon-7 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, call 703-830-1100.

Christmas Tree Sale

The Clifton Lions Club is selling Christmas trees through Dec. 24 in the University Mall parking lot in front of Giant and McDonald's, at 10645 Braddock Road in Fairfax. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to charity.

Community Choir Coming to Clifton

A community choir is coming to Clifton, and is looking for people of all ages to join. Music selection will range from folk to modern to pop, and all styles in between. Email helentsantoro@gmail.com for more info, including info sessions and starting dates.

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Dick Lucier (right) was installed as the 2012 Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce President by Dan La May (left), the chamber's president in 2009-10, during its Annual Awards Dinner.



Awards Committee co-chair Todd Lattimer (left) presents the Corporate Citizen Award to Bill Kauffeld (right), general manager of Austin Grill at the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner.



Dan La May installs the newly-elected 2012-2014 board members of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce at its Annual Awards Dinner: (from left) Anna Kaviani of Allegra Springfield; Bill Kauffeld of Austin Grill; Kathleen McDermott of Alliance Law Group and Suzanne Shogren of the Hilton Springfield.



Awards Committee co-chair Eric Williams presents the Herbert C. Hunter Citizen of the Year Award to Evelyn Jackson at the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner.



Leslie Bazmore receives the Public Service Award from the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce during its Annual Awards Dinner.

Chamber Hosts Awards Dinner

Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce inducts 2012 Board members.

Businesses went black-tie during the Annual Awards Dinner hosted by The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce at the Hilton Springfield on Thursday, Dec. 8.

In addition to introducing its 2012 Board of Directors, the chamber's leadership honored several business leaders for their community involvement.

Beginning Jan. 1, Dick Lucier will serve as board president for a three-year term. A licensed insurance agent since 1974, Lucier has been a chamber member since 2005, and currently serves as chair of the chamber's Legislative Committee.

Other newly-elected board members include Bill Kauffeld, general manager of Austin Grill in West Springfield; Kathleen McDermott an attorney with the Alliance Law Group; Mark Russell, owner of Metro Run & Walk in Central Springfield; and Suzanne Shogren, director of sales at the Hilton Springfield. Anna Kaviani, owner of Allegra Springfield and the Chamber's 2011 board president, was elected to serve a second three-year term on the board.

The chamber represents businesses from Burke, Fairfax Station, Franconia, Kingstowne, Lorton Station, Newington and Springfield.

"Following the induction of the new board members, we recognized several businesses and individuals for their wonderful accomplishments and contributions to



Vicki and Eddie Greenan of Eddie Greenan Jewelers receive the Arthur E. Morrissette Top Hat Service Award during the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner.

our community," said Nancy-jo Manney, the chamber's executive director.

THE CHAMBER PRESENTED its Corporate Citizen Award to Austin Grill for its support of the Greater Springfield community through local sponsorship of Relay for Life, National Night Out, Lake Braddock Secondary School, Robert E Lee High School, West Springfield High School, the Fairfax County Human Society and many more.

The evening's second business award, the Arthur E. Morrissette

praised by school administration, parents, students and her superiors.

The chamber's highest citizenship award, the Herbert C. Hunter Citizen of the Year, was bestowed on Evelyn Jackson, a resident and volunteer at Greenspring. Jackson has managed the Treasure Chest, the all-volunteer run thrift store for Greenspring residents and staff, since 2005. Under her leadership the Treasure Chest has donated more than \$575,000 to local non-profit organizations.

THE BLACK-TIE EVENT was made possible through the long-time support of the Hilton Springfield, the events Presenting Sponsor. Additional sponsorship's provided for table favors, dinner wines and centerpieces. This year's Table Sponsors included Cerium Technology, Colonial Animal Hospital, Costco Newington-Springfield, Hilltop Golf Club, Interstate Worldwide Relocation, NOVA Medical Education Campus HIS, Transurban, and Union First Market Bank.

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization whose mission is to bring companies together to benefit the entire community by promoting and developing business opportunities in the Greater Springfield area. For more information, visit www.springfieldchamber.org or contact Nancy-jo Manney at 703-866-3500.

— VICTORIA ROSS



The first group of elves started Friday with their lists around their necks and Kathy Marchetti who is one of the ones in charge of the Christmas shop is holding the papers with the client information.

Making Holidays Brighter

ECHO's holiday cheer resonates throughout the community.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

ECHO's shopping elves were out in force last weekend, handing out gifts in all shapes and sizes at its annual Christmas Shop so that more than 2,000 local children will have presents to unwrap Christmas morning.

"It's a gratifying time for us. Gifts are everywhere, everyone is shopping, parents are hugging and crying because they are so appreciative," said Meg Brantley, ECHO's executive director. "It's wonderful to see the smiles."

Volunteers Kathy Marchetti and Barbara Minton coordinated ECHO's 15th annual Christmas Shop. They recruited 25 volunteers for their "elf force," who keep shelves stocked and help parents, many of whom don't speak English, shop for gifts for their children.

THE COORDINATORS collected thousands of gift donations throughout the year from various community organizations, churches and individuals, including new bikes, clothes, toys and games. The Christmas Shop, which started in a coat closet and expanded along with ECHO's main building on Old Keene Mill Road, is a hub of activity during the holidays.

"ECHO prepared a wonderful collection of donated gifts for clients' children this year" said John Gauthier, a longtime volunteer and ECHO's official historian. He recently wrote an extensive history of ECHO and its dedicated volunteers.

Brantley said parents shop for 3-4 gifts for each child, and

about six families go through the store every 20 minutes. In addition to gifts, parents are given stocking-stuffers such as toothpaste, tooth brushes and pillow cases.

FOUNDED IN 1969 by nine local churches, ECHO (Ecumenical Communities Helping Others) is an all-volunteer non-profit that works with 26 congregations in the Burke, Springfield, Fairfax Station and Lorton to provide nearly 400 volunteers who run the organization. ECHO assists people in need throughout the year, regardless of religious affiliation, by distributing food, clothing, household items, transportation, a variety of family counseling services and limited financial assistance in emergencies.

"ECHO has no paid staff. We call our volunteers 'angels,' because they are the ones who do it all. They accept and log donations, counsel clients, sort clothes, bag groceries, shovel the snow, you name it," Brantley said.

Pat Gauthier, who retired as ECHO's executive director in 2009, began her volunteer service by driving people who did not have transportation to medical appointments with her 3-year-old son. After retiring, Gauthier, who has 42 years of continuous service, continues as a daily volunteer.

ECHO is located at 7205 Old Keene Mille Road, Springfield. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 7-9 p.m. Call 703-569-9160 or go to ECHO's website at www.echo-inc.org.

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 22

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English and improve English-speaking skills. Adults. 703-249-1520.

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

"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 23

"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 25

"A Christmas Carol." 1 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.

TUESDAY/DEC. 27

Writers Peer Review Group. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsowne Centre, Alexandria. Submit up to 25 double-spaced pages to kingstownelibrarywriters@yahoo.com by the 15th of the month. Adults.

703-339-4610.
English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Practice and improve your English. Adults. 703-451-8055.

"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 28

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

Travel Club. 1 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Bring lunch and enjoy a lively discussion. Adults. 703-451-8055.

The Magic of a Book with Magician Mike Rose. 2:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Magician Mike Rose shares magic tricks from a 100-year-old book given to him by his grandfather. 703-451-8055.

"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 29

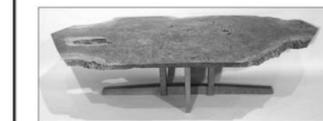
"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 8

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

Road, Burke. Practice English and improve English-speaking skills. Adults. 703-249-1520.

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 31

Fairfax 4-Miler. 6:30 p.m. Starts and finishes at Pacers Fairfax, Old Town Plaza Village, 10427 North St., Fairfax. Family-friendly running event to support the Fairfax Police

Youth Club. The post race party at 8 p.m. includes food and entertainment. \$35-\$40. www.fairfaxfour.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 30

"A Christmas Carol." Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Hwy, Lorton. Doors open 6 p.m., performance at 8 p.m. 703-550-7384 or www.lazysusan.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 6

Life Line Screening. Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road. Carotid-artery blockage, peripheral

arterial disease, atrial fibrillation, osteoporosis and abdominal aortic aneurysm. Packages from \$129-\$159. 1-888-653-6441 or www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.

SATURDAY/JAN. 7

"New Works" Opening Reception. 5-7 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, Gallery W-16, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Artwork by Workhouse Arts Center instructors, students, and staff will be on display Jan. 6-29. ArtNotes performance at 7:30 p.m. by local pop/rock band Shade Parade. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

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Lutheran

Prince of Peace Lutheran...703-451-5855
St. John's Lutheran Church...703-971-2210
St. Mark's Lutheran Church...703-451-4331
Immanuel Lutheran Church...703-549-0155

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SPORTS

Basketball Season is Underway

Local boys and girls teams preparing for holiday tournaments.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Region high school basketball season is currently in its early pre-Christmas stretch and coaches of the local teams are getting a feel for their squad's personnel, strengths and weaknesses. Many of the boys' and girls' teams will participate in upcoming holiday tournaments before diving into the bulk of their schedule with a steady portion of district games upon the arrival of the new year. By mid-February, coaches will hope their respective teams are playing at or near the tops of their games just in time for the start of postseason play's district tournaments.

Here is a look at some of the local teams.

SOUTH COUNTY GIRLS: The Stallions have a new head coach this season, longtime Northern Region coach Noel Klippenstein who spent the past nine years at the helm of the Marshall High girls' program within the Liberty District. Now, Klippenstein takes over a South County squad that in recent years was under the direction of former coach Chrissy Kelly.

Klippenstein is one of four coaches to have won 100 or more career games while in charge of the Marshall girls.

"Those were fun times," recalled Klippenstein, who reached the 100-career win plateau with the Statesmen faster than any coach in the program's history.

South County opened the season with a 48-38 win at Hayfield on Nov. 29 but, going into this week, had lost six straight since.

The team's lone returning starter from last year is senior point guard Angela Banks.

"Angela has been outstanding leading the team at point guard," said Klippenstein. "She has heart and is a good defender."

Newcomers to the Stallions' starting line-up this season include sophomores April Henson and Gillian Gerton, and junior Kim Levinstein.

LAKE BRADDOCK GIRLS: Bruins' second year head coach Leigh Janis will guide a young Lake Braddock team through a season of growth this winter. Lake Braddock (0-5) was set to host Patriot District opponent Lee on Tuesday, Dec. 20.

"This is a building year for our program," said coach Janis. "We have a lot of new faces and young kids on the team. The fun part about coaching these kids is that they are eager to learn and strive to get better each day. I am really enjoying coaching the girls on this team. We have had a tough [early] schedule, but it has been good for us since we are in a very competitive district."

Lake Braddock's leading scorer has been 6-foot-4-inch junior Natalie Butler, a frontcourt player and team co-captain. Butler has outstanding numbers over the first several games, averaging 16 points, 20 rebounds, and nine blocks per contest. She already has a pair of triple-doubles (double figures in points, rebounds, and blocks).

"She will continue as a force to be reckoned with throughout the season," said her coach.

Another important player for the Bruins is sophomore backcourt player Marcia Altman, also a co-captain.

Lake Braddock, next week, will be competing in a



With South County freshman Rachel Snare defending, Robinson senior Jenna Lamb goes up for a shot during a recent girls' basketball game.

holiday tournament at Oakton High School. Its first game will be against Loudoun County on Tuesday, Dec. 27.

FAIRFAX BOYS: The Rebels, part of the National District, will be competing at the annual Raytheon Bulldog Bash Tournament, hosted by Westfield High School, over the holidays.

Fairfax is under new head coach Mike Barbee. The squad, going into this week, held a 1-4 overall record (1-0 in the district). Fairfax earned its first victory of the season when it won at Liberty District opponent Marshall High, 54-50.

Last Friday, Fairfax, in a non-district contest against visiting local opponent Robinson (Concorde District), lost to the Rams 71-46. This week, Fairfax was scheduled to play its second district game of the season on Tuesday, Dec. 20 at Jefferson High.

"This is my first year coaching the team at Fairfax," said Barbee. "While we would love to have more wins early in the season, we have implemented a new system both offensively and defensively this year so we are dealing with the 'growing pains' of learning how to play within it. This is something we coaches expected coming in and part of the process of starting from new so we remain very positive about the direction of the program."

Fairfax's leading scorers thus far are guards Zack Burnett (13 points per game, 2.5 assists) and John Robic (10.5 points per game, along with three rebounds, assists, and steals per outing).

In the Rebels' district win at Marshall, post player Kris Kostadinov scored 18 points and pulled down seven rebounds. Other good scoring contributions in the win over the Statesmen came from Robic (10 points), Matt Frank (8), and Kyle Walsh (7). Fairfax overcame a 15-8 deficit after one quarter to win that game.

Fairfax, at next week's Bulldog Bash Holiday Tournament, will play the nightcap game on the tournament's first day (Tuesday, Dec. 27) versus the host Westfield Bulldogs at 9:15 p.m. The Bulldog Bash, now in its 10th year, will take place Tuesday, Dec. 27 through Thursday, Dec. 29.

Lee junior Leah Michetti finished seventh in the all-around competition at the state gymnastics meet last season. She is working her way back from a knee injury.



Patriot's Top Gymnasts

Leah Michetti overcoming injury, Katie Stewart wins all-around at Dec. 19 meet.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Shortly after nailing the dismount from her bars routine, Lee senior Katie Stewart gave an enthusiastic high-five to an assistant coach that sent a cloud of chalk dust into the air.

Moments later, Lee junior Leah Michetti produced the evening's top performance on the bars, but followed her effort with a more conservative post-routine hand slap with the Lancers coach.

Stewart and Michetti, two of the Patriot District's top gymnasts, approached the Dec. 19 meet at Mount Vernon High School in a fashion similar to how they approached their high-fives: Stewart placed first in the all-around competition, producing the top score in three of four events, while Michetti continued to show caution as she returns from a knee injury, choosing not to compete on the vault.

Michetti won the all-around competition at last year's Patriot District meet and finished seventh in the state on her way to being named first-team All-Met. She suffered a left-knee injury during a dismount prior to the 2011-12 season and spent time on crutches. On Monday, Michetti was performing at about 70 percent, according to head coach Val Taguding, but that didn't stop her from placing first on the bars with a score of 8.9. She finished fourth on floor (8.7) and placed fifth on the beam (8.2).

"It was a little bit of a shaky competition but it wasn't bad for getting back in from another

injury," Michetti said. "It's kind of been a slow start to the season but it's good to get back in."

Taguding said Michetti isn't resting on last year's high level of success.

"She's self-motivating and self-focused," he said. "She can read her body real well. She's doing what she can and moving along as best she can. She'll have good days and bad days but she can read her body and self-pace."

Stewart, on the other hand, enjoyed what she called one of her "best meets of the season." She finished first on vault (9.3), floor (8.95) and beam (8.9), and tied for third on bars (8.45). Stewart won the all-around competition with a score of 35.6, finishing ahead of second-place Monica Thompson of West Potomac by 1.9.

"Katie is getting stronger and cleaner," Taguding said. "We're working on a couple other things with her form, but we're getting there. She's improved every single meet."

Stewart finished fourth in the all-around at last year's district meet and qualified for states in the vault and floor. This season, Stewart said she wants to qualify for states on the beam and hopes to add new skills to her routine.

As a team, Lee finished second at Monday's meet with a score of 126.8. West Potomac won the event with a score of 128.25. Mount Vernon (101.55) was third, followed by Hayfield (99.85), Thomas Jefferson (98.05) and Edison (30.8).

Lee's Elisabeth Michetti finished fifth in the all-around with a score of 31.8.

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21 Announcements

Obituary
 Donald R. Rogers
 Donald R. Rogers, 78 of Woodford, formerly of Woodbridge, died Monday December 12, 2011. He had retired after 38 years as chief electrical supervisor at Ft. Belvoir and then retired again from Prince William County, as an electrical inspector. He also served as a Prince William County Sheriff Auxiliary Deputy for many years. He enjoyed drag racing and had one numerous races and trophies. Survivors include his wife, Pearl C. Rogers; a daughter, Donna Page and her husband Tom; a brother, Carol L. "Puddy" Rogers; two grandchildren, Thomas Allen "TJ" Page Jr. and Angela Christine Page; two great grandchildren, Michael Patrick Allen "Mick" Page and Kendall Leighann Page. He was preceded in death by a brother, Ralph Rogers. A funeral service will be held Saturday December 17th at 11:00 AM in the chapel of Storke Funeral Home, Bowling Green, with burial to follow in Stafford Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at the funeral home, Friday, 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Sign register book online at www.storkefuneralhome.com

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21 Announcements

NOTICE
 Edward E. Gahres, MD is closing his medical practice at 5021 Seminary Rd, Ste 109, Alexandria, VA, on December 31, 2011. Patients interested in requesting copies of their medical records should call (703) 931-7515 between 10 am and 4 pm, Mon., Tues. and Thurs.

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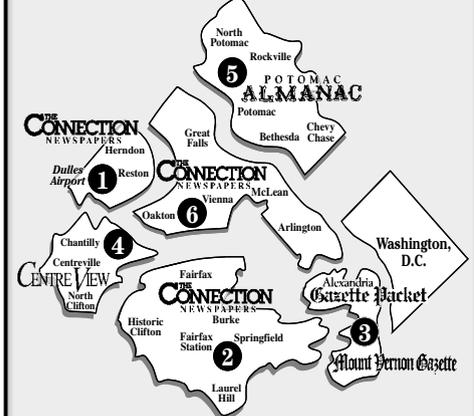
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ABC LICENSE
 Pizzarolli, Inc trading as Angelicos La Pizzeria, 10869 Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on/off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Damla Mehtap Kamis, owner - president
 NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
 Snookah, LLC trading as Snookah, 7104 Brookfield Plaza, Springfield, VA 22150. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on Premises, Mixed Beverage on Premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Qamar U. Zaman President
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Fairfax Water
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CONNECTION RULE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION/REDEVELOPMENT
 On December 6, 2011, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) held a public hearing regarding an ordinance to establish exclusive water service areas and maximum allowable rates, fees, and charges within Fairfax County for water service. At the same meeting, the BOS enacted the ordinance as Section 65-6-13 of the Code of Fairfax County. Section (a) of the ordinance provides that effective 12:01 a.m. December 7, 2011, Fairfax Water will be the provider of retail public water service within Fairfax County, Virginia, for any new construction or redevelopment of any dwelling unit and any residential or non-residential structure, unless Fairfax Water determines it cannot make water service available due to a utility-related reason.
 The ordinance requires that any determination by Fairfax Water that it cannot make service available be made in accordance with policies, rules, or regulations established by Fairfax Water for the purpose of establishing when a utility-related reason exists that prevents it from supplying water. The ordinance further requires that the policies, rules, or regulations be adopted by Fairfax Water after notice and a public hearing.
At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed CONNECTION RULE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION/ REDEVELOPMENT. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.
 A copy of the proposed rule can be viewed on our Web site at http://www.fairfaxwater.org. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed rule should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:
 Fairfax Water
 Public Hearing Comments
 8570 Executive Park Avenue
 Fairfax, VA 22031
 All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

Three Shattered Families

Drunk driver sentenced to 15 years in prison.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It was a tragedy all around. From the back of the courtroom, a 4-year-old boy with dark, curly hair whispered, “Papa, Papa” to the man about to be sentenced for severely injuring two people and killing another while driving drunk.

The child’s mother cried while describing what a good husband and father Carlos Sanchez-Ramos was. But so did the daughter of Paul Krause, the 54-year-old Fairfax Station man who lost his life because of the mid-March crash.

“The upcoming holidays will be hard because my dad will be missing,” said Christina Krause. “Father’s Day will be spent talking to a tombstone.”

And when all was said and done, last Friday, Dec. 16, in Fairfax County Circuit Court, Sanchez-Ramos, of Springfield, was sentenced to 15 years in prison for aggravated involuntary manslaughter, two counts of hit-and-run, child endangerment, second DWI offense in five years and driving on a revoked license.

THE INCIDENT occurred March 14, 2011. Krause was driving a 2010 Ford Fusion north on Richmond Highway when Sanchez-Ramos — driving a 1994 Honda Civic in the same direction — lost control of his car. His vehicle crashed into the Fusion, forcing it into the southbound lanes and head-on into a 2010 Mercedes-Benz containing an Alexandria couple in their 70s.

Police responded to the scene around 5:22 p.m., and Krause died later that night at Inova Fairfax Hospital. The Mercedes occupants, Anita and Robert Hood, sustained injuries, but survived.

Meanwhile, Sanchez-Ramos took his then 3-year-old son from his car and fled on foot. But police captured him nearby, and the boy — who was not injured — was safely returned to his mother. Sanchez-Ramos was charged with several offenses and held in jail on an ICE detainer, as well.

On Aug. 15, he pleaded guilty to everything, returning to court last Friday for sentencing. At the outset, his wife, Reina Carolina-Sanchez, spoke on his behalf. Saying they’d been together eight years, she told the court, “He is my husband, my other half. It’s a good relationship and we have a beautiful family.”

Sobbing uncontrollably, she said, “The day this horrible accident happened, my family was destroyed. My life and my son’s life have been shattered. I know there’s another family who’s suffered a lot, but I and my family have been affected, too. I’ve lost my family overnight; my son asks why Daddy doesn’t come and pick him up from day care. I don’t know what to tell him, anymore.”

Carolina-Sanchez called her husband a good person, adding, “I don’t know what happened that day. I apologize to everyone affected by this. I know my husband de-



Carlos Sanchez-Ramos

serves punishment for his mistake; but, Your Honor, I ask you not to separate my son from his father for a long time. He also has a daughter, 11, in Honduras.”

Testifying next was Anita Hood, who suffered broken hips and damaged knees in the accident. In a voice barely audible, she explained that the crash also injured her throat. She runs her own business, but said this injury affects her ability to do her job because she has to speak so softly over the phone.

Walking gingerly to the stand, her husband Robert Donald Hood said he sustained a broken foot in the crash, a damaged ankle and a smashed lower leg, which is permanently crippled. “I can’t walk or stand more than five or 10 minutes,” he said. “Our life has been completely disrupted.”

He’d recently retired and had extensive, overseas travel plans, but is now unable to travel to veterans’ conventions, as he used to do. He also prided himself on being able to take care of his home. Now, said Hood, “I can’t do everything for myself. I have to rely on others to do jobs around the house, and I can’t drive. I’m totally frustrated because I can no longer do the things I did before the accident.”

“The strongest man I know was forced to become a sedentary person,” said his eldest son, Robert. “He can’t play on the floor anymore with his 6-year-old grandson. My brother and I now have to spend time tending to our parents’ financial affairs and maintaining their house. My father was the rock. I wasn’t prepared to be the family’s head [so soon], but now I am.”

Previously, said his brother Kenneth, “Whatever you needed, you’d call the old man and he’d do it. He can’t do it anymore. Mother was very social, attending many nighttime functions; but now, she won’t drive at night. My wife has MS, so I take care of her, plus my parents and their property. So the accident disrupted my life, as well.”

THEN PAUL KRAUSE’S BROTHER Tom told the court Paul had “three beautiful daughters, and his marriage of 27 years to his wife Suki was a true love story. He was all in for his family. He and I were close, growing up, and never had an argument. He was a true, gentle, kind man.”

Crying, Krause said, “[Paul] served his country — 22 years in the U.S. Army. He was right on the edge of retiring, having three weddings and traveling. His wife is inconsolable; she comes home every day to an empty house. There’s nothing I can do to make this go away for her.”

Saying there’s “no greater pain” than losing a loved one, Krause said, “I can’t sleep at night. He was my big brother and I looked up to him; I enjoyed just the simple pleasure of calling him after a football or baseball game to talk about it. He was a great man and I miss him.”

Next to testify was Christina Krause. “March 14, 2011, at 7:44 p.m., my dad was taken from us and my life was shattered forever,” she said. “When the doctor told me he was gone, I couldn’t accept it. I screamed at him to go back in and save him.”

She said her father was a decorated Army officer who retired as a lieutenant colonel. Her parents met in South Korea when he was stationed there. As both she and her mother wept, Krause said, “He promised her he’d love her and take care of her forever. My mom left her family and all she knew behind, and he kept his promise to her.”

Krause said her father checked his children’s homework, helped them apply for college and cheered at their Tae Kwon Do tournaments. “He taught me to act responsibly and with integrity and that hard work paid off,” she said. “Many nights, I’ve cried myself to sleep — and I’ll have a broken heart forever. But I’d go through this all over again if it meant keeping my dad here with me.”

She spoke to her father on his birthday, just nine days before his death, and he gave her some advice. “He said now should be one of the best times of my life,” said Krause. “He told me to reconnect with my mom and to travel and experience all the world has to offer. I told him I loved him, and that was the last thing I ever said to him.”

But instead of having the happy times her father envisioned for her, after he died, her days were filled with grief. As the eldest daughter, she said, “I delivered the news to my family that my dad was killed by a drunk driver. I gathered his personal belongings from his demolished car and made funeral arrangements. This is not the best time of my life, as he told me — it’s the darkest.”

Krause said she no longer has the drive to pursue a master’s degree because he’s not here to advise her. “I can’t envision my wedding or family because my dad won’t be walking me down the aisle or playing with his grandchildren,” she said. “His life was stolen from him by this man who endangered his own child and ran from the scene.”

“I know my dad’s in heaven, but I believe

his soul hurts,” she continued. “On the day of his burial, when there were rainstorms and thunder, I believe it was my dad crying. Your Honor, give us a sense of justice and make sure Sanchez-Ramos never does to another family what he did to ours.”

Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Laura Riddlebarger told Judge Leslie Alden that, the day of the accident, Sanchez-Ramos “started drinking at noon and spent the afternoon drinking. By his own estimate, he had at least 10 beers.”

Furthermore, she said, “He shouldn’t even have been in the U.S. He was previously deported and re-entered the country illegally. And it wasn’t the first time he drove intoxicated. Even worse, with a blood-alcohol content of .20 [nearly three times the legal limit], he picked up his son and then drove recklessly, weaving from lane to lane.”

Then, said Riddlebarger, after the crash, “Instead of stopping and giving aid, he ran. There’s no justification and no excuse.”

Defense attorney Robert Harris said Sanchez-Ramos is 34, but only had six years of school and worked as an auto mechanic and construction worker. He told the judge, “This is a tragedy, but don’t lock him up and throw away the key.”

THE DEFENDANT then stood and apologized for his “bad decision” and for causing so much pain. Via a Spanish-language interpreter, he said, “If I could change places with Mr. Krause, I’d do it. I never wanted to do something like this. To both families, I ask, please forgive me. I am so sorry.”

Saying he’s “really repentant,” Sanchez-Ramos said, “From now on, I will only try to do good. This will be with me for the rest of my life. Please have mercy on me; I made a terrible mistake. I won’t ever drink again.”

Alden then sentenced him to 10 years in prison for the manslaughter charge and one year each for the five other charges, running the sentences consecutively for 15 years total. She also fined him \$250 for the DWI and suspended his Virginia driver’s license for three years. She further ordered him to pay the costs to prosecute his case and placed him on 20 years probation, if he remains in the U.S. after his release.

Addressing him directly, the judge told Sanchez-Ramos, “It’s a tragedy you’ve brought to the Krauses, Hoods and your own family — and all of it because you were drunk.”

“I’ll have a broken heart forever.”
— Christina Krause, victim’s daughter