Local Gymnast Lands on the Medal Podium

Brandon Krynefski with coach Matt Brueser, the head of trampoline and power tumbling at Capital Gymnastics in Burke.

‘This Has Been A Great Ride’

Entertainment, Page 8

Holiday Fun

Calendar, Page 8
n preparation for the Virginia General Assembly, 2020 Session, the Virginia Conservation Network and its Network partners convened Saturday, Dec. 7 in Richmond, for a preview of environmental issues in the coming session of the General Assembly. The group provided information for a collective approach to advancing policy.

There were nine watch parties across the state; including the one in Reston. Kyle Gatlin, state climate organizer at Virginia Conservation Network, emceed the event held at the National Wildlife Federation Reston Office. Great Falls Group Sierra Club Virginia and Choose Clean Water Coalition hosted the location.

“All watch parties across the Commonwealth will be viewed simultaneously. The only thing different is the location and sponsors. The goal is partially to raise awareness of environmental issues in the Commonwealth but also to empower and excite attendees and the public to take further action. They can take action through our partner organizations in their programs,” said Gatlin.

AFTER EACH SPEAKER’S REMARKS, watch party attendees could text their questions into Richmond. “We will try to get in as many questions as we can and tend to get questions from every geographic area, some specific to that region based on the topic. The transportation funding question has been popular in previous years in the Northern Virginia region,” Gatlin said.

Paul Duncan of Fairfax attended the Reston event with the goal of education and action. “I’m here today because I’m eager to learn what’s possible for Virginia, now that Democrats have taken control. I want to know how I can contribute,” he said.

For twelve-year activist Susan Stillman of Vienna, there wasn’t anything more important than dealing with policy and climate change as well as powering Virginia with clean energy. “Policy in Virginia needs to change as well as powering Virginia with clean energy. It all fits with the environment, and it’s a great passion for me. That’s why I’m here today. I like this environmental community, and it’s a great way to act on my priorities,” she said.

According to Alex Rough of Reston, political and transportation chair of the Great Falls Sierra Club, Northern Virginia is the “capital of the internet with about 70 percent of the world’s internet traffic passing through the region.” “New Virginia Dominion Power fossil fuel projects are being undertaken at the behest of the data center growth in Northern Virginia. … Otherwise, the demand for new fossil fuel infrastructure is relatively flat. I implore Virginia state leaders to support legislation demanding new data centers projects be based on 100 percent renewable energy,” Rough said.

Douglas Stewart of Fairfax City focused on building sustainable communities by curbing vehicle pollution and transforming transportation. “I’m interested in creating more walkable, bike-friendly communities. That’s why I’m here today. I like this environmental community, and it’s a great way to act on my priorities. I love to walk and bike, and by doing that; I can help the environment by reducing pollution. It all fits together,” he said.

Susan Bonney of McLean came to learn what Virginia bills needed to pass to stop construction of “fracked natural gas pipeline,” she said. “I learned today that the pipeline developers’ energy demand forecasts are now so off and wrong that there will not be a public benefit from the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Mountain Valley Pipeline. Our General Assembly needs to pass bills that will make state agencies do transparent analysis to investigate the need for pipelines that impact our water and communities.”

Approximately 40 people, including Virginia State Del. Ken Plum (D-36), attended the Reston Watch Party and viewed the live stream presentation by Virginia Conservation Network.

During the Reston Watch Party of the Virginia Conservation Network’s 2019 General Assembly Preview, attendees discuss collective approaches to advancing priority environmental policy in the upcoming state legislative session.

“I am more hopeful for positive environmental legislation for Virginia in the upcoming 2020 General Assembly than I have ever been before,” said Plum. “The public is more acutely aware of the dangers of climate, and they voted accordingly in the last election. The new members coming into the legislature are more environmentally conscious and friendly than many from the past.”

At 9 a.m., Saturday morning, all watch party locations connected to the Richmond In-Person Preview, hosted by Virginia Conservation Network, The Frontier Project at 3005 West Marshall Street, Richmond. Mary Rafferty, executive director of Virginia Conservation Network, emceed the two-hour presentation. “Each year, we work with 225 (partners) to come up with the year’s agenda and work to ensure that we push it forward throughout the year but particularly during the General Assembly Session.”

NATURAL RESOURCES FUNDING in the state budget was the first topic reviewed as a statewide conservation priority during the General Assembly preview. Peggy Sanner, Chesaapeake Bay Foundation and Zachary Sheldon, The Nature Conservancy spoke.

“This year, we have the wind at our back in at least three ways. We have our governor’s commitment to triple the size of the portion of the general fund for natural resources. In 10 days, he’s going to introduce his Biennial Budget for the next two years. This is what he is committed to doing. We don’t know what it it is going to say yet, but we have optimism based on his commitment. And third, the energy brought in by the new General Assembly on the environment.”

Sheldon said, “An important tool we want to leave as it is, is the Land Preservation Act Tax Credit. It’s a very effective program and very popular.” Virginia allows an income tax credit for 40 percent of the value of donated land or conservation easements.

Bold action on climate, the second statewide conservation priority was the topic for Will Cleveland, Southern Environmental Law Center and Harrison Wallace, Chesapeake Climate Action Network. “You’ve probably heard me talk about this before, that’s the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I think this is the year we are going to get this up and have the most equitable version of this bill,” said Wallace.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI, pronounced “Reggie”) is the first mandatory market-based program in the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

According to Cleveland, there are four pillars to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the first to reduce carbon emissions from the power sector. “That means fewer coal
Shirley Ginwright, chairman of the Communities of Trust, presents a plaque to Sharon Bulova (in purple) as Sheriff Stacey Kincaid, Police Chief Ed Roessler, MPO Wayne Twombly and Major Dean Lay, look on.

Community bids farewell to Board Chairman Sharon Bulova.

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

It’s the end of an era in Fairfax County: When the Board of Supervisors reconvenes in January 2020, Sharon Bulova will no longer be at its helm. She’s retiring after serving 31 years on the Board, including the past 10 years as its chairman.

And Monday evening, Dec. 9, friends, family members, county officials and staff, plus longtime colleagues and associates, gathered at the county Government Center to bid her farewell. The event was filled with speeches, plaques, standing ovations and – like Bulova, herself – genuine feelings of warmth and goodwill.

She began her tenure on the Board as Braddock District Supervisor and, for 20 years, she also chaired the Board’s Budget Committee. Her accomplishments are many, including helping to found the Virginia Railway Express commuter rail line and overseeing the huge Tysons Corner redevelopment and the opening of the Silver Line.

Also significant was Bulova’s establishment of the Communities of Trust in December 2014 with then county NAACP President Shirley Ginwright. Bulova embraced police reform and established a commission which led to the Police Civilian Review panel and the independent police auditor.

Now, though, Bulova is stepping down to be able to enjoy the extra hours she’ll have in her life, as a result of leaving this demanding, time-consuming job leading a complicated county of almost 1 million people. Among the things she plans to do are visit her daughter in Seattle and travel to France.

Meanwhile, fellow Democrat Jeff McKay, former Lee District supervisor, was elected to succeed her as Board chairman.

After all the presentations and glowing words from everyone else on Monday, Bulova addressed the crowd gathered in the Government Center forum. She thanked everyone she’s worked with and said how glad she was that people in Fairfax County truly care about their local government. She also noted that she’s comfortable leaving her post now because she knows she’s leaving it in good hands.

Lastly, Bulova stressed how proud she’s been to have served these past three decades in local government. “This has been a great ride,” she said. “Local government is where the rubber hits the road. It’s been a wonderful journey, and I appreciated the opportunity to make it with all of you.”

Past and present Board of Supervisors members honor Sharon Bulova (in purple) for her three decades of service to Fairfax County.

Brandon Krzynefski, local athlete from Capital Gymnastics National Training center in Burke, set off for the competition in Tokyo, not knowing what to expect but after they adjusted to the jet lag, they were in the Ariake Gymnastics Center which is the same center that will host the 2020 Olympics. They faced teams from around the world, and in the end, they got beaten by Great Britain, the gold medalist team, and Russia, the silver medalist team. The best part of Japan, besides the authentic ramen noodles, was “winning the team bronze,” Krzynefski said, “we went in as underdogs.”

In early November, his team...
OPINION

‘Fridays for Future’ Protests Continue

Great Falls youth join the strike.

Outside of the Library of Congress, strikers and a golden retriever sat in playing protest music. Their colorful signs read “School Strike For Climate” and “Fridays For Future.” It is a scene that repeats itself every Friday. The group was of many ages and were from Maryland, DC, and some from our Great Falls community. Some have come after a day in school, some have skipped school to be present.

They are striking, as they do every Friday, with the DC branch of Fridays For Future, an international organization founded by Greta Thunberg. They are there to demand action on the climate crisis as demanded by science, and they have vowed to come back every Friday until they see it. It is a cold December day, but that doesn’t deter them. As the light fades over Washington, two strikers take their shoes off and dance on the sidewalk to Billy Joel’s “We Didn’t Start The Fire.”

—Cate Coetzee

STRIPES WALKING BY THE CAPITOL HILL, INCLUDING ANABELLE DENNEN, 14, GREAT FALLS AND CATE COETZEE, 14, GREAT FALLS.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supporting ‘Less-fortunate Others’

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the opinion piece titled “Commentary: Helping Families Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Fairfax County” (Connection, November 20-26, 2019).

As this county is known for its high rank among the richest in the nation, it was pleasing to see awareness brought to the issue of wealth disparity and struggling families in Fairfax.

The rapid growth of industries generates peril for the working-class as individuals view their financial shortcomings as a personal problem rather than a public issue of a sick society. Responsively, the efforts of Cornerstones and Britepaths seemingly work to combat the negative consequences of inequality and economic instability that our capitalist system produces.

The reflecting words of client “Denise” brought an insight into the new feeling of hope provided by the extra allowance from EITC. Their hope effectively propelled her and other recipients alike toward more rewarding opportunities and, eventually, upward mobility. Her comment that “conversations about social support programs are not hypothetical political statements; they are decisions that impact real people”, really weighed on me. My wish for fellow readers is that they think back on how they might’ve undermined the experiences of “less-fortunate others” in the past.

Jessica Sarmiento
Herndon

Time for Community to Come Together

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the article titled “Opinion: Editorial: Give Locally” (Connection, November 20-26, 2019).

In NOVA, and especially in the area where I live, the disparity between household incomes can be staggering. It becomes especially salient during Christmas time, when you see people posting pictures of the piles and piles of Christmas presents stacked underneath their tree, and boasting of their “haul” on Christmas morning, when there are families just a few blocks away struggling to even buy their children one or two gifts. So many people are so far removed from their neighbors and their communities that they don’t realize or refuse to acknowledge the issue.

It is incredibly sad to me that there are so many underprivileged students in an area filled with so much wealth, as well as the elitism of certain areas in our community. I hope that our community can come together and provide for those who are in need this holiday season, take some of the burden off of these struggling families, and facilitate a more inclusive and interconnected community for the years to come.

Molly Van Trees
Centreville

Karma

To the Editor:

Virginia Republicans should now consider what they’ve done to folks like John & Renee Thoburn and Lt. Col Oliver North, (Ret) when thinking about this lost election. Maybe they should make the song by Tim McGraw, “Humble and Kind” an integral aspect of their character. You were responsible for destroying the lives of John & Renee, and you chose to vote for Marshall Coleman, a throw away vote, rather than a decorated Marine/Vietnam Veteran/and your own Republican nominee - Ollie. Now you get to sit in your much deserved time out chair and watch as the Orchestra of the Democratic Party enjoy their well deserved victory. I doubt you learned your lesson about arrogance, but at least now you’ll be on the sidelines of change while those much more deserving as you now take the lead in Virginia.

Dave Minyard
Vienna
Tumbling Lands GMU Senior on Medal Podium

From Page 3

ons in trampoline, double mini-trampoline, tumbling and synchronized trampoline for boys and girls in four age groups. The USA competed in three of the four age-group categories: 13-14, 15-16 and 17-21. On the power tumbling team, the four member team was from all over the country, and Krzynefski was glad there was a girl on Team USA from Hawaii who spoke Japanese. “She was kind of like our translator,” he said.

Power tumbling is not an Olympic sport at this point, but there is an effort to raise it to that level, said Vanessa Skyrmes, a spokesperson for Capital Gymnastics.

To fund the trip to Japan, the USA Gymnastics funded half and he had to come up with the other half. With his ankle in a cast, Krzynefski got a late start fundraising but used several online tools and came up with enough to pay for half of the trip. “I’m super grateful to those who contributed,” he said.

When he’s not tumbling, Krzynefski is a senior at George Mason University majoring in civil engineering. As a child, he built things with Legos and moved on to taking STEM classes at Westfield High School where he graduated in 2016.
Holiday trees donned with a wide array of décor that ranges from musical instruments and fairies to dollhouses and mice will be on display to raise money for charity later this month. “Light Up the Season,” the annual event that highlights creative collaborations between Children’s National Hospital patients and notable area artists will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C.

As part of the project, patient-designer teams created custom holiday trees, mantelpieces, menorahs and dollhouses — all available for purchase — with proceeds going to Children’s National to support programs that improve the health and well-being of children across the Washington, D.C. region.

Inspired by the children’s Christmas book, “If You Take a Mouse to the Movies,” the tree created by Quintece Hill-Mattauszek of Studio Q Designs in Alexandria features mice decorating the holiday tree while under a whimsical snowfall. “Through a child’s eyes mice are symbols of youth and innocence with their resourceful courage, adorable curiosity, and their perspective of seeing the world from a different point of view, just like children,” she said. “We have embraced them in children’s literature for decades because of the lessons they teach, the values they instill, and playfulness they leave in our hearts.”

“Light Up the Season” will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C. Tickets for the event are $50 per child (ages 16 and under), $85 per adult and $250 for a family of four (package includes two adults and two children 16 and under). For more information, visit www.childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason or email lightuptheseasondc@gmail.com.

“My partner is quite the musician. He plays several instruments and is passionate about music. We decided to make our tree a musical tree.”

Taking inspiration from their patient-partner’s love of animals, the design team at Erica Burns Interiors in Oak Hill, created a display that includes a dollhouse and a fully decorated 7.5 foot tree with a modern farmhouse vibe. “Our team had a lot of fun decorating … we added lighting, wallpaper, area carpets, wood furniture and soft furnishings,” said Harvey. “We even decorated it with tiny wreaths and Christmas trees complete with tiny presents. Our tree includes a selection of handmade clay ornaments. Each ornament is stamped with a different animal and attached with a simple satin ribbon.”

Keeping the modern farmhouse theme continuous, the Harvey team combined green, plaid, white, silver and natural wood tones to complement the animal ornaments. “We are presenting our patient with a barnyard animal farm, which is decorated with the same theme, as our gift for inspiring us to create holiday decor that can be enjoyed for many years,” said Harvey.

Fairies and folklore were the basis for the Christmas tree created by Sandra Meyer of Ella Scott Design in Bethesda. The patient’s predilection for all things mythical was brought to life in a tree filled with flowers, fantasy and mythical fairies in a nature-themed setting. “Fairies have a long history of symbolizing kindness and a desire to help humans,” said Meyer. “Light Up the Season” is a fairy-like event that exists to help others.”

Light Up the Season will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C. Tickets for the event are $50 per child (ages 16 and under), $85 per adult and $250 for a family of four (package includes two adults and two children 16 and under). For more information, visit www.childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason or email lightuptheseasondc@gmail.com.

Erica Burns of Erica Burns Interiors designed a holiday tree that features bright colors, sparkling materials, and soft and textured finishes to engage the senses.
Citizens Police Academy
Accepting Applications

Interested in learning more about local law enforcement? The Citizens Police Academy is designed to give participants a glimpse behind the badge and provide information about training, policies, and the many units and divisions within the Fairfax County Police Department.

FCPD is now accepting applications for the Spring 2020 session that will meet from March 5 to May 9, 2020 and the Fall 2020 session that will meet from Sept. 17 to Nov. 21, 2020.

Students will learn about:
❖ Police training (including weapons and driving)
❖ Neighborhood Patrol
❖ Crime Scene Investigation
❖ Use of Force
❖ Traffic Stops
❖ Internal Affairs
❖ Police helicopter and its capabilities
❖ SWAT
❖ Department of Public Safety Communications (911 call center)
❖ And much more...

Classes are held on ten consecutive Thursday nights, from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Graduation is held on a Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes rotate to various police department facilities around Fairfax County. Due to the popularity of the program, all participants are required to attend at least 85% of classes in order to successfully graduate.

Requirements:
❖ Must be at least 18 years of age
❖ Live or work in Fairfax County
❖ Must clear a review of your criminal record and police contact history prior to acceptance
❖ Provide your own transportation

The Fairfax County Police Department seeks people from a wide variety of cultures and backgrounds when selecting participants for its Citizen Police Academy. Candidates from different ethnicities, professions, cultural backgrounds, orientations, age groups, and communities throughout Fairfax County are encouraged to apply in order to enrich class discussions and strengthen community relationships.

This program is not an accredited certification course to become a sworn police officer. For information regarding employment as a police officer or about the paid police academy, visit Join Our Team page.

For more information, call 703-246-4315 or e-mail at CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov

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Cats benefit from being in a foster home. We need long- and short-term fosters for cats of all ages, mothers with litters and kittens on their own.

Adopt/Donate/Volunteer at www.lostdogrescue.org

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The Fairfax County Police Department seeks people from a wide variety of cultures and backgrounds when selecting participants for its Citizen Police Academy.

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You Can Make a Difference

Consider Fostering
visit our website, click on Participate
Adopt/Donate/Volunteer at www.lostdogrescue.org

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HOME SELLING simplified FREE SEMINAR

Learn the answers to many common questions homeowners face as they prepare to sell their home. Topics will Include:
❖ Junk Removal
❖ Estate Sale Services
❖ Remodeling Options
❖ What Buyers Look For
❖ Cosmetic Updates and Fixes
❖ Buying a New Home while selling your Current Home
❖ The impact of Amazon HQ2 on home prices

Lunch will be provided.
Seating is limited - reserve your seats at dda@fairfaxcounty.gov

If your home is currently listed with another Realtor, this is not a solicitation of that listing

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To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-778-9418

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The Citizens Police Academy is designed to give participants a glimpse behind the badge.

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Photos courtesy of FCPD

ONGOING
Shir Heavey, the Jewish Community Chorale of Northern Virginia. For subscriptions, call 703-451-5120. Saturdays select Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. at Congregation Olam Tikvah, 3800 Glencoe Road, Fairfax. The Chorale is a friendly, welcoming, adult volunteer choir. Membership in the group is open to all members of Congregation Olam Tikvah and other Northern Virginians. Their repertoire consists mainly of Jewish liturgical music and also some contemporary Jewish music and some secular showtunes, too. Visit caroleboydleon.com/shir heavey for more.

Burke Farmers Market. Through Dec. 21. 8 a.m. to noon at the VRE parking lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. A great selection of fresh produce, baked goods, seafood, and dairy. All vendors make their own food or grow it locally within 125 miles. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke for more.

Give the Gift of Original Art. Now thru Jan. 5. At Torpedo Factory Artists at Mosaic, 3005 District Ave., #105, Fairfax. Open Wednesday thru Sunday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Reception celebrating small businesses, Nov. 30, 5 to 8 p.m. You can find extraordinary fine art that makes great gifts this holiday season — the work of highly-acclaimed Torpedo Factory Artists — at their satellite space in Merrifield. Beautiful paintings, fine-art photographs, one-of-a-kind jewelry, scarves, ceramics and much more will be offered. Plus you can get an early start on your holiday shopping. Artists Sonnie Hernandez and Greg Knott are in residence during this show.

Pajama Party + Santa’s Arrival. At Springfield Town Center. Springfield. Welcome Santa with a Pajama Party. Get in the holiday spirit with caroling, hot cocoa and watch Santa arrives in style with Fairfax police and fire. Santa’s visiting hours will be as follows: Now through Dec. 13; Monday – Saturday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Christmas Eve: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

NOW THRU DEC. 20
Fairfax City Elf Hunt. 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Takes place Fairfax City-wide, start point: Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Locate 10 elves at Fairfax City businesses, get a stamp from each business confirming that you found the elf; the Fairfax City Elf Hunt card with us at economicsdevelopment@fairfaxva.gov. Once you have your stamped Fairfax City Elf Hunt card, you will receive a Fairfax City car magnet and have your name entered into a drawing for a $250 cash prize. Completed cards must be received by Dec. 16 to be eligible. Free to participate; patrons are encouraged to purchase items when they visit businesses. Visit the website: https://fairfaxcityconnected.com/2019/10/08/clihunt/#p1mPhoto

DEC. 13-22
ETAP’s “Finding Santa.” 12 show times over 2 weekends, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 7:30 p.m., 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. At Richard J. Ernst Theatre, Annandale NOVA Campus, 3333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Encore Theatrical Arts Project presents a new holiday musical, “Finding Santa.” Cost is $19-28. This song and dance musical features over 50 performers, creative choreography, elaborate sets, over 165 costumes and 16 musical numbers. Come see all the glamour of a Broadway-style show right here in Northern Virginia. Appropriate for audiences of all ages. Visit the website: www.Encore-tap.org

FRIDAY/DEC. 13
Vienna Boys Choir. 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. There is no sound more celestial than the angelic voices of the Vienna Boys Choir, who return for their annual holiday concert to celebrate the magic of the season. The world’s foremost children’s choral group performs a delightful program of classical masterpieces, contemporary pop favorites, Austrian folk songs, and beloved Christmas carols with their signature old-world charm and youthful vocal purity. Tickets are $55, $47, $33. Visit the website: www.cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14
VRE Santa Train. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. At PaperMoon VIP, 10399 Premier Court, Burke. The 75-minute excursions begin as early as 8:09 a.m. and as late as 3:55 p.m. Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves will be on board listening to children’s holiday wishes and handing out goodie bags. Santa Train tickets can be purchased beginning Nov. 25. Half of the ticket sales will be sold online and the other half will be available for purchase at five locations. Each location sells tickets for the train station that corresponds to its location. VRE recommends creating an account before tickets go on sale to expedite the checkout process. Tickets are $5 in person and $4 online. Details about online ticket sales and vendor locations can be found at http://vrespecialevents.org. Visit www.vre.org.

TOY DRIVE. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. At PaperMoon VIP, 10399 Premier Court. Since 1947, the goal of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots initiative has been to bring the joy of Christmas to less fortunate children. To help Toys for Tots fulfill its annual mission, philanthropic donors from PaperMoon VIP, hosting their annual holiday toy donation drive. New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off Sunday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Saturday from 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the gentlemen’s club, at 6315 Amberth Ave, Springfield. The drive goes through Dec. 14, wrapping up with a Black Tie party. Visit the website: papermonthip.com/SantaCritters & Craft. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At PaperMoon VIP, 10399 Premier Court. Springfield. Come, come, one, two, come to meet Santa and his merry band of critters this holiday season at Hidden Pond Nature Center. Bring your camera to capture a picture with Jolly Saint Nick, his elves and their animal friends at the Santa’s Christmas & Craft program. Cost is $10 per child. Call 703-451-9588 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-pond.

U.S. Army Chorus Concert. 3-5 p.m. At Westminster Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. The U.S. Army Chorus will perform a free community concert. Don’t miss your chance to hear The U.S. Army Chorus when they return to Westminster Baptist Church for an afternoon of holiday nostalgia that is sure to enhance your patriotism and Advent preparations. Contact usarmymband.com or the Church at 703-451-5120.

Community Nativities Festival. 5-8 p.m. At Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6315 Amherst Ave., Springfield. The U.S. Army Chorus presents Zemer Chai Songs for Chanukah on Sunday, Dec. 15.

Celebrate Chanukah with Zemer Chai Songs
Sunday/Dec. 15, 7 p.m. At Congregation Adat Reym, 6500 Westbury Oaks Court, Springfield. Zemer Chai, The Jewish Chorale of the Nation's Capital, returns for the first time in more than a decade, to Northern Virginia. The Preeze JCC and Congregation Adat Reym are proud to welcome this unique Chanukah celebration. The concert, filled with songs of hope and determination, includes melodies dating back 1,000 years as well as songs from the current music scene and in between. The 40-member choir also includes a clarinet, flute, oboe (drum), bass and piano. Tickets are $25 in advance, $30 at the door. Active or retired military discount $20/$30 Purchase tickets at https://zemerchabip.mt

U.S. Army Chorus Concert
Saturday/Dec. 14, 3-5 p.m. At Westminster Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. The U.S. Army Chorus will perform a free community concert. Don’t miss your chance to hear The U.S. Army Chorus when they return to Westminster Baptist Church for an afternoon of holiday nostalgia that is sure to enhance your patriotism and Advent preparations. Contact usarmymband.com or the Church at 703-451-5120.

The American Festival Pops Orchestra. 8 p.m. At George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Just hear those sleigh bells jinglin’ as the American Festival Pops Orchestra invites guests into the season with its annual holiday concert. A beloved tradition at the Center, this special evening includes treasured classics like Leroy Anderson’s “Sleigh Ride,” “A Christmas Festival,” and a clogging ring-a- long. Maestro Anthony Muoio leads Northern Virginia’s very own pops orchestra and special guest artists in a cherished holiday celebration. Tickets are $55, $47, $33. Visit www.cfa.gmu.edu.

DEC. 14-15
Winter Wonderland. Noon to 5 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. At Winter Wonderland, you can hop a train ride on the Holiday Express, take unlimited spins on the Carol Koaster, play Gingerbread Man Golf or cook ’n’ more by the fire. Visit with Santa and enhanced elves, enjoy a reader’s theater and candy canes. Five-hour passes are $15 in advance and $20 on the event day. The park is accepting new toys or canned food items for donation. In the evenings, enjoy a magical train ride through a forest decorated with holiday-themed lights and scenes. Celebration Station runs the same weekends as Winter Wonderland, but will take place on Friday and Saturday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Celebration Station ticket are $10 each; trains depart every 20 minutes. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.

19th Annual Bethlehem Village & PeriFest. At Parkway Baptist Church, 9276 Bradrock Drive, Annandale. Get in the Christmas spirit walking through the narrow streets of Bethlehem. Haggie with shop owners, ride tax collectors, avoid the Roman Inquisition on your way to the mover scene. Hundreds of families make the trek each year to a replica of the holy city, raised by Parkway Baptist Church as its annual celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. For nearly two decades, this popular event has been offered at no charge to the Washington Metro community. It features a classic nativity scene with animals, Christmas music performances, crafts, games and story times for children. The festival was unable to be held last year due to COVID and will once again feature live entertainment, food and toys for children. Visit www.cfa.gmu.edu for more information.

See Calendar, Page 9
from page 15

W ith a combined more than 110 years as Fairfax County performing arts organizations, the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) and the Fairfax Ballet Company are collaborating to present the captivating masterwork, Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker.”

Along with live music accompaniment by the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra directed by Christopher Zimmerman, there will be more than fifty dancers on the big Center for the Arts stage. The Fairfax Ballet as well as special soloists and American Ballet Theatre alumni Elina Miettinen (Sugar Plum Fairy) and Sean Stewart (Cavalier) performing original choreography.

Where is it

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and Fairfax Ballet present Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker” at Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, George Mason University, School of Dance will come to life for a truly memorable night. Live music by our full FSO orchestra, and the incredible dancers on stage, it’s sure to be a magical experience for the whole family. Let the magic begin with Clara and Fritz. The family gathers around the Christmas tree. Soon, they see the arrival of Uncle Drosselmeyer, a toymaker bringing gifts. Audiences will then take in a transition from reality into fantasy with waltzing snowflakes, a handsome prince, and some mischievous mice as the toys come to life for a truly memorable night. “We’re incredibly honored to join the Fairfax Symphony in our fifth production of ‘The Nutcracker,’” said Karla Petry, Executive Director, Fairfax Ballet. “Audiences are in for a special treat.” “We are proud to maintain the long standing tradition of bringing Tchaikovsky’s ‘The Nutcracker’ to Fairfax County’s own vaccinated audience,” said Carlos Martinez, attending George Mason University, School of Dance will dance as the Nutcracker Prince. Northern Virginia’s Aleksey Kurdrin will be Herr Drosselmeyer and Philip Smith-Cobbs will dance the Arabian pas de deux.

There will also be more than four dozen dancers and students on stage ranging from 7-19 from Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties. “From the incredible dancers on stage, live music by our full FSO orchestra, and beautiful, high definition, digital scenery, it’s sure to be a magical experience for the whole family,” said Jonathan Kerr, Executive Director, FSO.

A beloved Holiday season event is coming courtesy of Fairfax’s own, Fairfax Symphony and Fairfax Ballet.
Environmental Priorities for Virginia

From Page 2

plants, fewer gas plants. REGGIE is how we do that... The next thing we need to do is to reduce the amount of energy we use... The less you use, the less you pay. There is going to be legislation this year that will require the utilities to hit certain energy efficiency saving targets - making sure they are burning less... Energy efficiency is actually the single most labor-intensive type of energy resource out there while being the cheapest. It creates the most jobs. It saves the most money. We do not do nearly enough in Virginia. We are going to see legislation do that," said Cleveland. "The third pillar is distributive generation... We have, in Virginia, laws that allow customers to put solar on their roofs. There are, however, some limitations on what you can do; how much you can have, where you can put it. We are going to see legislation this year... to remove the existing market barriers... so more people can go solar... We call it 'boots on the roof.' That's how you create jobs in clean energy.

"The last piece is... building out utility-scale solar, building out the offshore wind. There are good ways to do these things, and there are the Dominion ways of doing these things," Cleveland said.

Virginia Conservation Network named protecting waterways from plastics pollution and toxics as its third conservation priority, presented by Danielle Simms, Virginia League of Conservation Voters and Zach Huntington, clean streams program manager, Clean Fairfax.

"The plastic bills are pretty straightforward; what we are expecting. There are two in the Senate that have already been introduced. Senate Bill 11 is a local option tax on paper and plastic bags, with a 5-cent tax for those bags. Four cents going back to the locality so they can use it appropriately as they see fit. One cent goes back to the distributor of the bag; that helps offset the cost. SB 26 is a 5-cent tax on a plastic bag given to a customer free of charge for Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Both of these together would create a really strong plastic bag plan for Virginia going forward."

A four-person panel presented: "Other Statewide Conservation Issues Expected." Panelist named and discussed, "Transportation Funding, Dominion Energy Accountability, Creating Wildlife Corridors and Preventing Offshore Drilling."

In the third and final presentation, Mary Rafferty, Virginia Conservation Network, offered, "Tools and Strategies for being an Effective Conservation Advocate in 2020," a guide on how to communicate with legislators throughout the year to show that protecting Virginia's environment is a priority. She shared that information on how to get in touch with state legislators could be found at http://vcpp.org.

REGIONAL DISCUSSIONS followed the live stream. At the Reston Watch Party, comments ranged from the amount of electric energy used by Northern Virginia data centers, eradication of solar energy barriers and that the Watch Party marked six weeks until the start of the 2020 legislative session."Attendees reiterated the need to reach out to legislators while Gatlin reminded all to mark their calendars for Jan. 28, 2020, Conservation Lobby Day, to ensure a strong voice early in the legislative session.

Virginia Conservation Network is "a facilitator of strategic action, a resource for Network Partners statewide, and a constant conservation presence in Virginia's Capital. The organization and its staff focus on strengthening the conservation community as a whole and winning environmental victories that benefit all Virginians." Visit www.vcna.org for more information.

Legislators Action

State Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36): "Personally, I have a few priorities. First, I am introducing legislation to ban fracking East of I-95.

"Second, I am introducing a bill to encourage Virginia for electric vehicles including 'right to charge' legislation to prohibit condominium and homeowners associations from restricting owners rights to install chargers in their own parking lots, along with an electric vehicle purchase grant program (in lieu of a tax credit).

"I will also be introducing legislation to allow community net metering so that groups of homeowners can build solar panels on third-party property and reap the benefits on their own electric meters. This is the only way people can get solar in more established neighborhoods such as most of those in the 36th District where mature tree cover limits neighborhood solar potential.

Del. Karrie Delaney (D-67): "I am proud to be an ally and partner of the Virginia Conservation Network and its partners. I support their 2020 legislative efforts and will personally be filing legislation which furthers their goals and visions."
THURSDAY/DEC. 12
Provide Feedback on Parkway Improvements. 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Robinson Secondary School, 5055 Sideline Road, Fairfax. The Virginia Department of Transportation will hold a design public hearing on plans for improvements to about five miles of the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 286), including widening the road from four to six lanes between Route 29 (Lee Highway) and Route 123 (Igloo Road). The proposed project design also includes:

- Building an interchange at Pope Head Road and the future Shirley Gate Road extension.
- Improving the Route 123 interchange and Fairfax County Parkway/Burke Centre Parkway intersection.
- Providing a continuous shared-use path within the project limits by constructing the missing segment from Burke Centre Parkway to Route 123.

Comments may be provided at the meeting or sent to VDOT by Dec. 23, 2019. E-mail or mail comments to Mr. Sitaram Kodali, P.E., Project Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14
Coffee with Del. Bulova. 9-11 a.m. At Main Street Bagel, 10268 Main Street, City of Fairfax. Del. David Bulova (D-Fairfax) will continue a tradition started in 2006 by holding informal office hours to take place from 9 to 11 a.m. Constituents are invited to talk about issues of interest and to ask questions about legislation affecting them. No appointment is necessary. Bulova is also happy to arrange individual appointments on specific issues or concerns. He represents Virginia’s 37th House District, which includes the City of Fairfax and portions of Fairfax County. Visit www.davidbulova.com.


Car Seat Safety Check. 9-11 a.m. At Main Street Bagel, 10268 Main Street, City of Fairfax. Car Seat Safety Check. Visit www.fairfaxlions.org for more. Serve the community.Free to first time guests.

TUESDAY/DEC. 17
Car Seat Safety Check. 9-11 a.m. At Main Street Bagel, 10268 Main Street, City of Fairfax. Car Seat Safety Check. Visit www.fairfaxlions.org for more. Serve the community. Free to first time guests.

Lions Dinner Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Lions Club meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Guests are welcome to loan about the mission of the Lions Clubs “We Serve,” meet club members and learn to help serve the community. Free to first time guests. Email fairfaxlion@cox.net or visit www.fairfaxlions.org for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 28
Messy Church. 5-6:30 p.m. at St. Peter’s in the Woods, 5911 Fairview Woods Drive, Fairfax Station. Join St. Peter’s in the Woods for their monthly Messy Church. It’s a worshiping community especially geared towards families and young children, but welcoming to all. Bible-themed crafts and activities, casual worship and a free, family-style dinner. Call 703-953-9210 for more. Registration is appreciated, visit www.stpetersinthewoods.org/events.
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