

Elijah King (in cape) battles with the fairies. He plays the evil prince, who captured the good prince (Matthew Cook) in a net. Robinson will present "Waking Sleeping Beauty" and "The Lorax" this weekend.

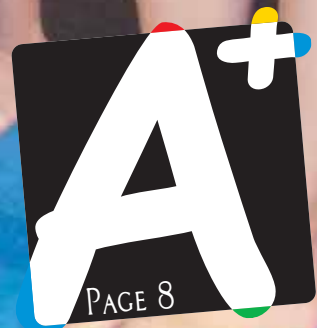
Raising Awareness,
Money at Fairfax High
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Traveling Down
A Familiar Road

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Robinson Offers Pair Of Children's Shows

A+, PAGE 8



Whisked Away to the Land of Oz

Home school co-op students stage an original musical to benefit Rancho 3M Orphanage.

BY DIANE RUSIGNOLA

It's a colorful conundrum young munchkin Ojo finds himself in while on a quest to save his Uncle Nunkie. Unc has fallen victim to Dr. Pipt, a crooked magician, and like any good nephew, Ojo is off to help. Sounds like the tales your family told over the holidays this year? Not so much?

In fact, it's the story of "The Patchwork Girl of Oz," which comes from the seventh novel beloved children's author L. Frank Baum set in the Land of Oz. It is a story of familial love and helping others, even when faced with almost certain failure. The tale at its

core teaches the importance of working together and doing your part to help those in need.

More than 30 middle and high school singers and actors from the Sovereign Grace Home School Co-op in Fairfax are preparing to bring this quirky story to the stage later this month. Profits from ticket sales and donations will be given to Rancho 3M Orphanage in Guadalupe, Mexico.

"I'm a wise, bearded Munchkin of few words," says Michael Briggs, who will play Unc Nunkie. "I love my nephew, who is like a son to me."

Ojo and Unc Nunkie are just two of the new faces playgoers will get to meet; Dr. Pipt, the Patchwork

Where and When

Performances will be held in the Sovereign Grace Church at 5200 Ox Road, Fairfax main auditorium on Jan. 24-25 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 26 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for students aged 3-17. For more information, visit "The Patchwork Girl of Oz" Facebook page, send an email ptwgofoz@gmail.com or www.rancho3m.com.

Girl (known as Scraps) and Ozma, the queen of the Emerald City, are all integral characters in the play with larger than life personalities.

"Scraps—an inanimate patchwork girl with nothing but servanthood awaiting her—suddenly finds herself bursting with life, ringing with rhyme and facing an adventure that will allow her to visit fantastical lands and whimsical characters," says Katelyn Black about her character. "Everyone she meets is delighted with her unique appearance and childish charm. But Scraps soon learns



Scraps (Katelyn Black) relinquishes the six-leafed clover as Princess Dorothy (Mercy Wheeler), and Queen Ozma (AnaMichele Babyak) look on in surprise in Sovereign Grace Church's Co op Drama Club presentation of "The Patchwork Girl of Oz."

that despite all her talents, she is missing something—something she must find before she can truly

be alive."

"Ozma is the child queen of Oz," says actress AnaMichele Babyak. "Near and far, citizens of Oz love and trust in all her laws and decrees. She is a sovereign, wise and revered ruler, yet always just and tenderhearted."

But don't worry—familiar faces like Dorothy, Glinda and the Lion will also be on hand.

"Now, the Lion is a courageous yet cautious feline," says Wes Remer, the young actor who will portray the lion. "He is also the police, army and royal guard of the Emerald City."

All of the songs in "The Patchwork Girl of Oz" are original compositions, many put together by Charla Rowe, a local theatrical director, producer and actor who leads Tantallon Community Players in Fort Washington, Md. The script is also an original adaptation of the book by another young actor in the community theater scene, Xandra Rose, who recently appeared as Lady Bracknell in The Castaways' production of "The Importance of Being Earnest" in Woodbridge, Va.

"The Patchwork Girl of Oz' is a fun musical full of adventure, suspense and song," says Sabrina Hess, who will be portraying Sunnie Winkie, a spider from the yellow land of the Winkies.

"It teaches the viewers that when you are missing a crucial element of life, you are truly not alive. We'll let the audience decide what exactly that crucial element is," Hess says.

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 - ❖ Midday from Tysons to Burke VRE station, 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
 - ❖ The new bus service will use the 495 Express Lanes
 - ❖ Buses will travel, on average, 55 mph on the Beltway, even during rush hour.
- For more information, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/routes/expresslanes.

PHOTO BY LISA FRANCE

Cutting the ribbon on the new Express Connector Service, from left, Christin Wegener, planning operations manager, Fairfax Connector, County Board Chair Sharon Bulova, Supervisors John Cook (R- Braddock) and Pat Herrity (R- Springfield), VRE CEO Doug Allen, FCDOT Director Tom Biesadny.

Express Buses From Burke to Tysons

Fairfax County launches Express Connector Bus Service.

ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

With the expansion of Tysons Corner firmly underway, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is getting ahead of the commuting curve with the launch of its new Express Connector bus service utilizing the recently opened 495 Express Lanes to carry commuters from Burke to Tysons Corner. The service is the first in the county to use the express lanes, and the first public transportation offered between the two locations.

There were local officials, public and press on hand at the ribbon-cutting ceremony and inaugural bus ride on Saturday morning, Jan. 12, at the Burke Centre VRE station, where the service will originate week-day mornings. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova handled the scissors, assisted by Supervisors John Cook (R- Braddock) and Pat Herrity (R- Springfield), FCDOT Director Tom Biesadny and VRE CEO Doug Allen.

"This is exciting stuff," said Bulova. "It's a marriage between the VRE (Virginia Railway Express) and our Fairfax Connector system, working with VDOT and the Express Lanes. People have to pay tolls to use those lanes," Bulova reminded. "It's a tremendous opportunity for commuters, shoppers and business people."

"In survey after survey, the number one reason people say they take public transportation is for a time efficient commute," said Herrity. "This route provides just that." Cook added, "Giving people more choices ultimately makes everyone's living experience here in central Fairfax County better."

After the speeches and the acknowledgements of the efforts behind the scenes, it was time to get on board the brand new bus and experience the trip. Obviously, traffic patterns on Saturday morning dif-



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

Dave Courtney of Burke was heading to Crystal City via the VRE on Monday, Jan. 14, but he stopped to get some information from Christin Wegener, Fairfax Connector manager of Operations Planning and Customer Service.

fer from the weekday commute. FCDOT Director Biesadny says the average trip should normally run about 40 minutes one way. There are four different routes. Routes G and J are basically mirror images of each other, covering the major employers in the Tysons area and giving commuters a choice of directions depending on where they want to disembark. Route F is the longest, covering the largest portion of area. "M route is the one for you if you are heading to Tysons for the shopping," said Christin Wegener, manager of Operations Planning and Customer Service with Fairfax Connector.

As an introduction to the commuting public, FCDOT is offering the service for free for the first two weeks. Starting Jan. 26, a one-way fare will cost \$3.65 with a SmarTrip card, or \$4 cash. Additional routes are scheduled to begin service to Tysons in March from the Lorton VRE station and from the new Saratoga Park and Ride. The full schedule, route and other commuter resource information are available at www.fairfaxconnector.com/express.

Medicaid Reform Could Benefit All of Us

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN
COOK
(R-BRADDOCK)



Cook

COMMENTARY

Medicaid reform and expansion, in front of the General Assembly this year, could in the long run provide benefits to all Virginians while also relieving pressure from human service programs run by local governments.

Medicaid is a joint Federal/State program that pays for medical care for the poor. Each state determines its own eligibility rules and the Federal government picks up about 50 percent of the cost. Virginia's eligibility rules are some of the most restrictive in the nation. Non-disabled, childless adults are not covered at all, while parents are only covered if they make under \$6,915 a year, which is just 30 percent of the poverty level for a family of four. Disabled individuals who make under \$8,900 per year are eligible as well.

Those who are ineligible and unable to get insurance (either due to unemployment or jobs without coverage, or who can't afford or otherwise get coverage under a private plan) tend not to receive preventive care at all and often use emergency rooms as their general practitioner. Many end up receiving government benefits, usually through programs run by local government. Hospitals provide expanded "charitable" treatment as well. In fiscal year 2011, Reston Hospital provided \$34.8 million worth of uncompensated health care, and northern Virginia's non-profit Inova Health Care System provided \$174 million. Make no mistake—hospitals must recoup these costs, and that means you and I pay more. Medicaid expansion would reduce these pass-through costs by providing regular coverage.

The Affordable Care Act (commonly referred to as "Obamacare") offers states the option of expanding Medicaid to cover people earning up to 138 percent of the poverty level (about \$32,000 for a family of four), with the Federal government paying 100 percent of the cost for three years, and 90 per-

cent thereafter. Some Obamacare opponents oppose Medicaid expansion because they oppose anything connected to Obamacare. While I disagree with many aspects of Obamacare, Virginia's need for Medicaid reform predates its passage. Further, we will all pay the many new taxes imposed by Obamacare even if we reject the benefits of Medicaid expansion. Virginia's 10 percent share of expansion would cost about \$100 million per year, much less than just Inova's current uncompensated care expense.

Medicaid expansion is not without its downsides. Medicaid is already breaking states' budgets and without further cost control measures, an expanded version could be even more costly. States also worry that the cash-starved Federal government could reduce its commitment later. Governor McDonnell and dozens of other governors are seeking Federal flexibility to engage in cost control measures. They also sought Obama Administration permission to expand to only 100 percent of poverty, but were turned down.

Medicaid reform is complex, but the need is clear and the benefits would run to all who use the health system. The Federal government needs to give states flexibility to reform the system. Virginia needs to take a step forward and expand. All of us will see the benefit through healthier neighbors, reduced pass-through costs for uncompensated care and reduced impact on other locally funded human service programs.



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NEWS

Traveling Down A Familiar Road

Transportation funding, education top agenda at town hall with Sen. Petersen, Del. Keam.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The biggest example of 'tragic mismatch' since I wore madras slacks and white socks in 1980 to my first middle school dance."

That's how Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) described Republican Governor Robert McDonnell's transportation funding plan, which calls for an increase in the sales tax and eliminates the \$17.5 cents per gallon gas tax.

If Petersen has anything to say about it, this year's short legislative session will be big on the issue of transportation funding.

During a standing-room-only town hall meeting at Vienna's American Legion Post 180 on Saturday, Petersen and Del. Mark Keam (D-35) made it clear they intend to fight McDonnell's "nonsensical" transportation plan, which the governor announced Jan. 8, on the eve of the General Assembly's 30-day session.

"The 'justification' is that the gas tax at a fixed rate brings in less money in our hybrid age. But that hardly seems like a reason to jettison it," Petersen said.

"Eliminating our traditional road funding because cars are more efficient makes about as much sense as canceling your child's college fund because tuition keeps rising."

In a statement released last week, McDonnell said his plan—which would make Virginia the first state in the nation to eliminate the gas tax—"is a sustainable, long-term solution that will fund our transportation network for decades to come."

"It provides over half a billion more dollars in highway construction funding each year and eliminates the structural deficit by 2019. In fact, our plan puts \$3.1 billion more into transportation in Virginia in just the next five years," McDonnell said.

PETERSEN told the nearly 200 constituents at the town hall meeting that his response to McDonnell's plan was not merely "knee-jerk partisan opposition." He gave points to McDonnell for "starting the conversation" on ways to improve Virginia's crumbling transportation network, which is set to run out of money for construction by 2017.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Virginia Delegate Mark Keam and Senator Chap Petersen (D-34) hosted a town hall meeting Saturday at Vienna's American Legion Post 180. Nearly 200 residents attended the meeting.

Petersen said he did not doubt McDonnell's "good intentions."

But calling for a 16 percent increase in the state sales tax on all goods, in place of the current per-gallon gasoline tax, was not the way to do it, he said.

Petersen said it just didn't make sense to raise sales tax—a general tax on all residents, many of whom do not use roads—while many out of state residents passing through Virginia use the state's highways for free.

"Of course, the retail sales tax is paid directly by the consumer. In that sense, it is far more onerous on citizens than the gas tax which is an input cost on a product, such as gasoline, which is 'priced to market.' That's why the level of gas tax has little if any effect on the price consumers pay at the pump," Petersen explained.

Petersen said the "real story" is the discontinuing of "user fees" to fund transportation—and instead making our roads and transit projects just another item in the state general fund. "That is a startling turn of events," he said.

"By ending user-based financing and pushing our road costs primarily to general taxes, the governor sets up an annual clash between transportation and the funding of public schools, health providers, and first responders, to name a few," Petersen said, adding that the governor's plan also ensures that out-of-state highway users will use our highways for free, since the gas tax is the only way the state

has to capture that revenue.

"Maryland is now for McDonnell," Petersen quipped.

"My biggest problem is that if you take a general tax and increase it on everyone, that ought to be the last resort and not the first resort," he said to applause.

Since the governor's announcement, Democrats, and even some Republicans, have come out in force against McDonnell's plan. Senate Majority Leader Richard Saslaw (D-35) said "I think that thing is so dead it's unbelievable." Petersen, however, is the only Fairfax senator to introduce his own legislation that would adjust (or index) the gasoline tax, currently 17.5 cents per gallon, based on the fuel efficiency index, rather than eliminate it.

"Thankfully, the legislature will have a chance to weigh in the next six weeks," Petersen said

CHARTER SCHOOLS, TYSONS TAX DISTRICT AND ROUTE 123

Keam, who filed a total of 14 legislative measures when the legislature convened Jan. 9, introduced his legislative agenda and took questions on a number of topics.

As a member of the House education committee, Keam said he was opposed to the governor's plan to have a constitutional amendment authorizing charter schools, allowing local school districts to decide when to allow a new charter school, without needing state Board of Education approval. McDonnell has long been a proponent of charter schools, and said Wednesday that Virginia has "one of the weakest public charter schools laws in all the country."

Keam said he thought charter schools should meet a gap, and not replace an existing system.

He received applause when he told the crowd that the governor's plan to hold schools accountable by giving each school a letter grade was "stigmatizing the schools our children go to." Instead, he said, the governor should consider grading the state's transportation network. "I'd like to see some off-ramps get some F's," Keam said.

Walter Basnight, a member of the Town of Vienna's planning commission, asked what lawmak

SEE FOCUS, PAGE 5

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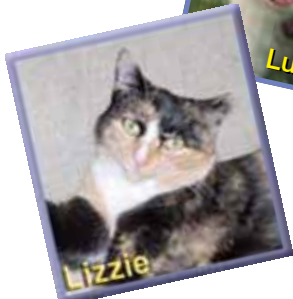
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NEWS

Focus on Transportation

FROM PAGE 4

ers plan to do about the area's increasing traffic headaches, especially on Route 123.

"It's a nightmare now and it's going to be a nightmare when Tysons gets here," Basnight said. "We need some support from the state as well."

KEAM said one of his bills—HB2141—would "increase transportation maintenance funds for highly used roads, such as Maple Avenue."

Several residents asked Keam about his plan to help McLean residents avoid higher taxes resulting from the county's plan to increase property taxes in Tysons by 7 to 9 cents to fund the area's \$3.1 billion redevelopment.

Keam said that while he fully supported the idea of redeveloping Tysons Corner into Fairfax County's "new urban downtown," he thought it was "unfair" to tax residents the same as commercial property owners who would directly benefit from the redevelopment. He noted many Tysons residents already pay a real estate tax, storm water tax and pest management tax.

Keam said he introduced legislation—HB2131—that would give the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors "every legal tool possible" to either completely exempt residents who live in special tax districts or require that they be taxed at a lower rate than businesses in those districts.

He cited residents of The Rotonda as among those who would be unfairly taxed in the new district. The Rotonda, a gated condominium community of five 10-story buildings built in 1978, has nearly 1,200 resident units on 35 acres near Tysons and Tysons Galleria.

"The Rotonda is home to many senior citizens who live on a fixed income. All of a sudden they have to pay for new schools, playgrounds, sidewalks? For that group of constituents, I think a new tax is blatantly unfair. I'm going to do everything I can to provide relief. For new residents? They are on notice."

Another topic of concern was the potential closure of the Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC). Several parents, who have adult children at the NVTC, asked Petersen and Keam to lobby lawmakers to keep the center open until the community could safely support a transition to a community-based home.



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Transportation Money

Virginia, and especially Northern Virginia, is woefully short on funds for transportation. One reason is that its gas tax, a logical way to fund transportation infrastructure, is one of the lowest in the nation, and has remained flat since the '80s, since it is not indexed for inflation. So the buying power of the gas tax has been dwindling.

It seems obvious that one way to fix this is to allow it to rise with inflation, or change it to a percentage of the price of a gallon of fuel. Tying road funding to gas consumption is a logical connection, and the increase encourages conservation and more fuel-efficient vehicles.

Instead, Gov. Bob McDonnell has proposed eliminating the gas tax, replacing the funding with an increase in the sales tax plus a plan to shift money from other state spending, like education, human services and public safety,

to transportation.

With considerable agreement that Virginia needs about \$1 billion a year to pay roads and transit, this proposal would raise about one-third of that.

Part of the governor's plan also calls for a \$100 annual fee on vehicles that use alternative fuels.

Raising the sales tax to pay for roads is particularly unfair to the many residents of Northern Virginia who have chosen to live in Arlington, Alexandria and other areas that are walkable and provide easy access to public transit.

Penalizing drivers of hybrid and electric vehicles by charging them more than six times what other vehicles pay is not in the best interests of anyone who breathes the air in Virginia, and is a stark slap at innovation.

The entire proposal makes about as much

Eliminating the gas tax makes no sense.

sense as forcing a select few Northern Virginia residents, the drivers on the Dulles Toll Road, to almost single-handedly pay for rail to Dulles. Dulles airport is one of the key economic drivers for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Building rail to serve the airport is an economic investment that will have broad benefits in revenue for the state. A disproportionately small amount of that revenue will make it back to Northern Virginia. So it is welcome that the governor's proposal calls for diverting some of the "new" transportation money to Dulles rail.

The current proposal would make Virginia the only state without a gas tax. It seems unwise for a state with such dramatic transportation deficits to abandon the one source of funding that makes sense. More money is needed; that requires addition, not subtraction.

— MARY KIMM,

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EDITORIAL

A 10-Year Mission: End Homelessness

BY MICHAEL O'REILLY

Our Fairfax-Falls Church community is one of the most affluent in the country. Our schools are second to none. We are the home for many Fortune 500 businesses. Even with the challenging economy, our unemployment rate is among the lowest in the country.

Despite these strengths, our community also includes people who are homeless and are staying at emergency shelters, living in their cars or camping in the woods. Our community includes families with no place to sleep at night and children with no place to go after school. It saddens me to report that there were over 3,000 homeless individuals in our community this past year. It is unacceptable to have homeless men, women and children in our community.

Homelessness impacts every person in our community and each has a role in ending it. Through the good work of many non-profit and religious organizations, for many years we have directed our collective efforts to managing the homeless issues. However, little was done to find longer term solutions to prevent and end homelessness. That has now changed.

The leadership of Congressman Gerry Connolly helped to galvanize all of the energy and effort in the entire community. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors with leadership from Chairman Bulova and Supervisor Catherine Hudgins and all of our key stakeholders from the non-profit, government, faith and business community came together to develop an impressive 10 Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. The plan recognizes the right of all people to have a safe, affordable place in which to live. The plan envisions our entire community working together as partners to eliminate homelessness. We have some very steep goals and lots of hard work ahead to reach our goal of ending homelessness in Fairfax County by the end of 2018.

We have made huge strides in the develop-

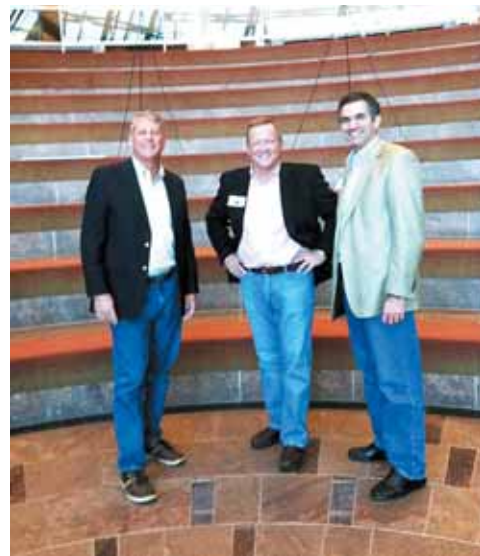


PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

From left — Michael O'Reilly, Jim Corcoran and Dean Klein during Jeans Day 2012.

ment of the governance structure called The Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness was established within Fairfax County. We have constituted a Governing Board made up of business leaders, elected officials, builders, clergy, law enforcement and others. We have created a new Consumer Advisory Council to ensure that currently homeless and formerly homeless have an active voice in the implementation of our plan.

We have much more work to do. We have recently moved our collective efforts to the plan's goal of creating 2,650 new housing units. We have supported and will continue to support efforts to amend the county's housing code to permit more individual housing options. We hosted a day long outreach program for our faith based communities which shows promise at increasing the housing stock.

Through our collective prevention and rapid rehousing strategies, community case management and the provision of other critical services, we prevented last year over 1,400 indi-

Editor's Note:

This month, The Connection begins featuring a monthly column written by community leaders involved in Fairfax County's nonprofit organizations. Every year, thousands of Fairfax County residents volunteer with nonprofits in a variety of ways, whether it's driving a senior citizen to a medical appointment or serving meals to the homeless in one of the county's hypothermia shelters. According to Volunteer Fairfax—a nonprofit that matches volunteers with service projects—individuals volunteered 205,688 hours of service to the community. We launch this series with a column by Michael O'Reilly, Chairman of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness.

viduals from becoming homeless by providing community case management and other services. In addition, we have launched a Housing Locator Network to strengthen relationships with landlords and to help to move the homeless in our community more rapidly into permanent housing. Through the work of our partnership we have seen an impressive increase in homeless families and individuals placed in permanent housing from 482 in 2010 to 853 in 2012. Many adults and children have been positively impacted. This can only be attributed to the commitment that many in our community have made to end homelessness.

Our approach to preventing and ending homelessness is predicated on us doing so in partnership with a broad coalition of nonprofits, faith communities, businesses and government. Working together allows us to do amazing things.

I thank you for your interest and commitment and look forward to our continued work together with all of our partners in the coming years as we strive to prevent and end homelessness in our community. If you would like to become involved in this important work please go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless or call 703-324-9492 for more information.

Michael O'Reilly is Chairman of the Governing Board of Fairfax Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Promoting Burke Centre Station

To the Editor:

Amtrak recently posted rider numbers for 2012 and 2011 for every station in the nation. While ridership increased nationally 3.5 percent, Virginia's ridership increased a whopping 8.3 percent and boasted the third ("Lynchburg Train," stopping at Burke Centre) and fourth ("Newport News Train," stopping at Woodbridge) fastest growing of the country's 46 passenger services. However, Burke Centre laid claim to Virginia's fastest growing station and one of the nation's fastest: 38 percent!

This rapid climb in riders has resulted from many factors: 1) plenty of free parking, 2) great area roads, 3) nation's worst traffic, 4) a major population center, 5) reduction in VRE step-up tickets (\$10 to \$5), and 6) posting of eight "Amtrak" signs along nearby roads.

In 2013, area passenger rail advocates will be pushing long-overdue initiatives: 1) adding a "Welcome to VRE/Amtrak Station" sign at the station entrance, 2) erection of an outdoor Amtrak kiosk in front of station, 3) erection of Amtrak sign on the front of platform roof, 4) erection of Amtrak Display case on the platform, 5) posting a holder in the garage with VRE and Amtrak schedules, 6) publishing articles in local and national publications, and 7) posting youtube videos.

With greater publicity, ridership will again show a meteoric increase next year.

Dan Peacock, member
Virginia Association of Railway Patrons

Embracing Giving in 2013

To the Editor:

Living in a society where little kids now own cell phones, and even iPhones, we are used to everyone saying "I want, I want, I want!"

In every religion, giving thanks is not supposed to be reserved for the last Thursday in November, but rather something we do every day.

In the Holy Quran it says, "And We have established you in the earth and provided for you therein the means of subsistence. How little thanks you give!" (Ch. 7 Vs. 11).

As an American Muslim, reflecting on this year has brought me to bow my head in shame. Every year we make resolutions, but only a few of us actually go 365 days abiding by them. Even with that aside, I personally think that materialism is now taking our culture by storm. Long gone are the days where the norm was eating dinner with our families or going on monthly outings with our loved ones.

Is it really that hard for us to appreciate our loved ones a little every month? Let us all try to embrace giving in 2013 and make an

effort to spread the love.

Aneela Wadan
Fairfax

A Shameful Sight

To the Editor:

While home on Christmas break, I decided to take a nostalgic hike along the Little Rocky Run creek. Everything was as I remember with the exception of a small plateau on a steep hill face near the end of Marble Stone Drive. I saw scattered about the burned aluminum remains of a 24-pack of Natural Light, sprinkled with a healthy dose of glass bottle shards—all of which seemed to be a sort of sacrificial offering to the skull of a deer mounted on a stick at the center of the plateau. It was as if The Lord of the Flies went to college. It was a shameful sight, made even more shameful by the presence of a familiar blue and black wildcat paw-print spray-painted on the trunk of a tree bordering the campsite. This embarrassing display from what appears to be those representing my old high school is not only a danger to the wildlife living in these parts, but it also ruins the often wondrous experience that young people have when they hike through the woods for the first time (an experience I remember well). I know the faculty at Centreville High has taught us better than this. Be responsible, Wildcats.

Ben Salmon
Clifton

AREA ROUNDUPS

National Day of Service

President Barack Obama has designated Saturday, Jan. 19, as a national day of service. Volunteer Fairfax is partnering with Points of Light and Target to put on a signature, national-service project in Washington, D.C., linking the vision of Martin Luther King Jr. with inauguration events and engaging political leaders, celebrities and the community in service and dialogue.

Some 10,000 volunteers will gather at the D.C. Armory and, throughout the course of the day, they'll pack 100,000 toiletry care kits filled with necessities for deployed U.S. service members, wounded warriors, veterans and first responders. For more information, go to www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Schultz Hosts Town Hall Meetings on Education

Elizabeth L. Schultz, Springfield District School Board member, invites Springfield District parents, students, and community members to join her at one of three Town Hall meetings she is hosting in

January to discuss current education topics of interest, including school issues and priorities.

❖ Tuesday, Jan. 15, 7-8:30 p.m.
Robinson Secondary School, Recital Hall, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax

❖ Wednesday, Jan. 16, 7-8:30 p.m.
Centreville High School, Library, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton

❖ Wednesday, Jan. 23, 7-8:30 p.m.
West Springfield High School, Spartan Hall, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield
No registration is required.

Contact Melanie Turpin in the School Board Office at 571-423-1070 or by email at Melanie.Turpin@fcps.edu with questions.

Advocates Needed for Elderly

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities throughout the area. Training is provided in spring 2013. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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Jayne Fallik, Zachary Bogner, Ruby Bogner, Hannah Kostoff, Zach Hess, Jon Hess, Ryan Hess, Deana Hess, Caryle Rolincik, Luke Rolincik, Lavonne Rolincik, Mark Rolincik and Sean Rolincik. Families and organizer of the Compete for a Cure fundraising event for Lou Gehrig's Disease at Fairfax High School.



PHOTOS BY OLUFEMI AKINSITAN/THE CONNECTION

Raising Awareness, Money at Fairfax High

Seniors organize fundraising for Lou Gehrig's Disease.

BY OLUFEMI AKINSITAN
THE CONNECTION

For three Fairfax High School seniors—Hannah Kostoff, Carley Rolincik and Ryan Hess—a school marketing project became an opportunity to advance a noble cause. On Saturday, Jan. 12, the three seniors organized a fundraising and awareness event for Lou Gehrig's disease or ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis).

According to Hess, who initiated the idea, "our objective is to raise awareness about the disease and work with the ALS Association to make people support the association with their money and time." The event, titled Compete for a Cure, took place at the school's sport auditorium.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. The progressive degeneration of the motor neurons in ALS eventually leads to death. The cause of the disease is not understood and it presently has no cure.

Hess, whose grandfather has been suffering from the disease for eight years, said "I jumped at the idea right away," when he learnt of the class project for marketing students. The project is writing a 30-page manual about marketing techniques towards competing at the State Leadership Program coming up in Virginia Beach in early March.

The winner of this event will participate at the International Career Development Conference taking place in California later in the year. The aim of the competition is to develop students' interest in marketing.

Working together with Rolincik, whose great uncle also died from the disease about 10 years ago, and Kostoff, the group set up a Facebook and Twitter page to raise awareness about the disease among fellow students and the public. They also reached out to corporate sponsors to raise funds for the event.

The event featured a raffle draw and games like basketball shootout, football toss, basketball catch game, a minute to win, badminton, and scooter relay race with the adult teams and the student teams competing with one another.



Laura Logan, event coordinator and representative of the ALS Association for Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia; and Hannah Kostoff, Ryan Hess and Carley Rolincik, seniors and organizers of the Compete for a Cure fundraising event for Lou Gehrig's Disease at the event in Fairfax High School.

In attendance was Laura Logan, the representative of the Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., chapter of the ALS association, who commended the efforts of the students and described them as "wonderful."

The group, who has been working on the project since September, did a survey of 450 people and made recommendations to the association, some of which include teen volunteering and the use of social media like Facebook and Twitter to spread the word about the disease.

On her experience, Kostoff said, "I now have a better knowledge about the disease and how the community can come together to raise awareness." Rolincik believes that "awareness will bring more donation to the ALS Association."

ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, was first brought to national and international attention in 1939, when Lou Gehrig, the famous baseball player, abruptly retired from the game after being diagnosed with the disease. According to the ALS Association website, www.alsa.org, "as many as 30,000 Americans have the disease at any given time."

Hess' grandfather, who suffers from the disease, lives in New Jersey. He described his reaction as "happy" when he heard of the event.



(From left) Graciela Perez, the Lorax; Matthew Cook, the young Onceler; Erica Denham, a Brown Bar-ba-loot; and Hailey Parker-Combes, a Humming-Fish, rehearse a scene.

Robinson Offers Pair of Children's Shows

Presenting "Waking Sleeping Beauty" and "The Lorax" this weekend.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The only thing better than one children's show is two children's shows, and Robinson Secondary's Production Company class, RoProCo, is presenting a double bill this weekend.

"Waking Sleeping Beauty" and "The Lorax" will take the stage on Friday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 19, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 online at www.RobinsonDrama.org and \$7 at the door.

"What makes this more than just an acting class—but a real production company—is that the students also did the set design and construction, costumes, sound and lighting design, and execution," said Theater Director Chip Rome. "So every little piece is being done, not just by the tech students, but also by the actors themselves."

Each 25-minute play has 23 students in the cast and crew. Rome is overseeing things, but students are directing both productions. Zach Blake directs "Waking Sleeping Beauty" and Anna Turner and Mady Hanton direct "The Lorax."

"Waking" has a more contemporary feel than the original fairytale, said Rome. "For example, Sleeping Beauty wears roller skates and isn't very bright," he said. "And the spinning wheel is delivered to the king and queen by good intentions, not bad ones. The good fairy who gave it as a gift didn't realize it was cursed."

In this rendition there are eight fairies, including Mathilda, who is

well-meaning but not accepted by the others. There are also two princes, one good and one bad. Initially, that fools the fairies but good eventually triumphs over adversity.

Dr. Seuss's "The Lorax" is a retelling of what happened to the Onceler, a businessman who discovered truffula trees "from which he made 'thneeds'—which everyone needs," explained Rome. "But he made so many that he destroyed the forest and the environment; however, we do have a hopeful ending."

In addition, children from the audience will populate the Lorax's world and become the fanciful Brown Bar-ba-loots, Humming-Fish and Swomee-Swans. "They'll be reminded about the importance of taking care of our world," said Rome. "And they'll realize they can make it better in their own world."

Waking Sleeping Beauty

Freshman Matthew Cook portrays Prince Fauntleroy, the good prince. "He's charming, nice to everybody and willing to help others," said Cook. "He's supposed to wake up the sleeping princess, but is opposed by his twin brother Prince Balderdash, played by Elijah King. I like my role because Elijah and I have good chemistry and it's fun being captured in his net."

Cook said this play has a comic feel and will keep the audience guessing. "You can be really goofy in a children's show," he said. "You know you're going to get smiles and laughs and make them happy."



The fairies try to wake Sleeping Beauty (Annie Tkacik, wearing roller skates) in Robinson's children's show.



The queen and king, Mady Hanton and John Anderson, receive a spinning wheel from Anna Turner as fairy Mathilda during "Waking Sleeping Beauty."

Playing Mathilda is freshman Anna Turner. "The other fairies don't like her because she's different," said Turner. "She doesn't wear matching socks, she's a klutz and she always messes things up and gives the worst gifts. But she's happy and joyful and tries to do what she thinks is best."

Turner loves her part because "I can experiment, go out of my comfort zone and be crazy and outrageous. And it'll show the audience that, even if one person isn't like other people, they can still be included and be friends with them."

Senior Zach Blake is student directing. "Telling people where to stand, what to do, and how to say their lines was both challenging and fun after being an actor for three years," he said. "There are so many choices that you have to

know which one to pick to make the show the best it can be."

He said the more he's gotten to know the actors' capabilities, the easier it's become to put on the play. "I learned how much creative authority you have as a director and how to use it," said Blake. "Having the final say is surprisingly enjoyable."

The Lorax

Portraying the Lorax is freshman Graciela Perez. "He lives in the trees, is the keeper of the forest and speaks for the animals," she said. "He tries to stop the Onceler from cutting down the trees to make clothing from what's inside them. It's fun because he's both playful and strict, so I can play with his personality."

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY



George Mason University Professor Laurie Meamber uses movies to teach students about consumer behavior.

Off to the Movies

Mason professor has unconventional method of teaching complex concepts.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

An Arlington resident and George Mason University professor has an unconventional way of helping her students master complex concepts and evaluating their proficiency: She requires them to watch movies.

Laurie Meamber, an associate professor of marketing in Mason's School of Management in Fairfax, teaches a consumer behavior course in which students study the actions and motivations of buyers. Meamber teaches them how to analyze why and how consumers make certain decisions. The class studies characters in popular films to see the concepts they learn throughout the semester.

"A primary goal of a consumer behavior course is for students to better understand consumer behavior in order to become more effective marketing managers," said Meamber. "An additional goal ... is to enhance their knowledge of consumer behavior so that they as consumers can consume wisely."

Meamber says that through watching and analyzing movies, her classes examine the entire range of internal, external and situational influences on consumer behavior. She divides her class into three groups and each group focuses on one factor that affects consumer behavior: external influences, internal influences and decision-making.

"Students [write] a brief plot summary, providing descriptions of the major characters as consumers and analyzing concepts that they had learned in the course that appear in the film," she said. "They do this in a comprehensive fashion, after having learned all of the ideas

taught in consumer behavior. This allows them to reflect upon, apply and synthesize the entire range of knowledge they have acquired in the course."

Mason spokeswoman Catherine Probst said, "Along the way, the students construct consumer profiles of the characters and examine reasons why and how they make decisions throughout the film. Specifically, students are looking for influences on consumer behavior based on attitudes, motivation, income level and occupation."

Mason student, and Reston resident, Ben Coffinberger took Meamber's consumer behavior class during the fall semester. His group chose "The Devil Wears Prada."

"We presented it by dressing up as the four main characters and acting out small scenes from the movie that provided examples of important marketing concepts we learned throughout the semester," said Coffinberger. "I was forced to identify and apply the marketing concepts I learned in the consumer behavior course to the scenes in the movie. Before taking this class, I didn't think to really recognize consumer-marketing behaviors in movies, television and everyday life. Now I view things in a totally different light."

Meamber says the increasing popularity of social media makes the movie approach a successful learning tool. "As time moves forward, this type of assignment fits in with the interests and learning styles of this generation of undergraduate students," she said. "This type of assignment allows students to analyze and reflect upon movies as a medium that portrays many examples of consumers and of consumer behavior."



Inova Fair Oaks Hospital named “2012 Top Hospital” by the Leapfrog Group. Left to right: Leah Binder, president and CEO of Leapfrog; G. Michael Lynch, chief medical officer; Sarita Gopal, president of medical staff; Eileen Ciccotelli, vice president of Business Coalition on Health; John Fitzgerald, chief executive officer of Inova Fair Oaks Hospital.

Fair Oaks Hospital Receives National Recognition

One Virginia hospital was among The Leapfrog Group’s annual class of “Top Hospitals” announced in Baltimore, Md. on Dec. 4.

Inova Fair Oaks Hospital’s management and staffs for the first time completed the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, being transparent on patient safety and achieving the “Top Hospital” award. The 2012 list includes university and other teaching hospitals, children’s hospitals and community hospitals in rural, sub-

urban and urban settings. The selection is based on the results of The Leapfrog Group’s national survey that measures hospitals’ performance in crucial areas of patient safety and quality. The results are posted on a website open to the patients and families, the public and employers and other purchasers of health care. It is the most complete picture available of a hospital’s quality, safety and resource use. See more at www.leapfroggroup.org/cp.

OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 & 20

 When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the “This Week in Real Estate” link. 

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To add your Realtor-represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-mail the info to: kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

HOME SALES

In November 2012, 58 Fairfax homes sold between \$1,300,000-\$107,385.

Address	BR . FB . HB ...	Postal City	Sold Price ...	Type	Lot AC .	PostalCode	Subdivision
11402 VALLEY RD	5 ... 4 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$1,300,000	Detached	1.69	22033	FAIRFAX FARMS
3835 FARRCROFT DR	4 ... 4 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$880,000	Detached	0.16	22030	FARRCROFT
12803 MISTY CREEK LN	5 ... 3 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$765,000	Detached	0.38	22033	CENTURY OAK
12718 MELVILLE LN	4 ... 3 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$730,000	Detached	0.91	22033	OAKWOOD ESTATES
3712 FREEHILL LN	5 ... 3 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$680,000	Detached	0.12	22033	CENTURY OAK
3905 MADISON MEWS	4 ... 4 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$670,000	Townhouse	0.03	22030	MADISON MEWS
13105 CORALBERRY DR	5 ... 3 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$545,000	Detached	0.34	22033	FRANKLIN GLEN
3610 CANOE BIRCH CT	4 ... 3 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$535,000	Detached	0.26	22033	FRANKLIN GLEN
3700 SUMTER CT	5 ... 3 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$509,888	Detached	0.13	22033	FOXFIELD
3904 CLARES CT	3 ... 3 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$505,000	Townhouse	0.04	22033	PENDERBROOK
13106 FOREST MIST LN	3 ... 2 ... 2	FAIRFAX	\$479,900	Townhouse	0.05	22033	GREENS AT FAIR LAKES
3140 SINGLETON CIR	4 ... 2 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$473,250	Detached	0.30	22030	MOSBY WOODS
3607 DEVILWOOD CT	3 ... 2 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$460,000	Detached	0.10	22030	GREAT OAKS
11736 VALLEY RIDGE CIR	3 ... 3 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$460,000	Townhouse	0.03	22033	PENDERBROOK
3607 EMBASSY LN	3 ... 2 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$450,000	Detached	0.28	22030	GREENWAY HILLS
4377 MAJESTIC LN	4 ... 3 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$450,000	Detached	0.22	22033	GREENBRIAR
13231 POPLAR TREE RD	4 ... 2 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$440,000	Detached	0.22	22033	GREENBRIAR
12305 QUIET HOLLOW CT	2 ... 2 ... 2	FAIRFAX	\$425,000	Townhouse	0.04	22033	FAIR RIDGE
4201 SIDEBURN RD	3 ... 2 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$420,000	Detached	0.26	22030	GREEN ACRES
13307 POINT PLEASANT DR	4 ... 2 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$420,000	Detached	0.21	22033	GREENBRIAR
4111 MEADOW FIELD CT	3 ... 2 ... 2	FAIRFAX	\$418,000	Townhouse	0.05	22033	FAIR RIDGE
12905 MELVILLE LN	4 ... 2 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$415,000	Detached	0.28	22033	GREENBRIAR
13221 PEARSALL LN	4 ... 2 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$408,000	Detached	0.27	22033	GREENBRIAR
12626 VARNY PL	3 ... 3 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$403,650	Townhouse	0.05	22033	FAIR LAKES
4027 MAPLE ST	3 ... 3 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$403,000	Detached	0.21	22030	WILLIAMS WESTMORE
13113 PELFREY LN	4 ... 2 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$399,000	Detached	0.20	22033	GREENBRIAR
10532 ASSEMBLY DR	3 ... 2 ... 2	FAIRFAX	\$397,000	Townhouse	0.07	22030	THE ASSEMBLY
4325 PERGATE LN	4 ... 2 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$395,000	Detached	0.22	22033	GREENBRIAR
3818 JANCIE RD	3 ... 2 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$392,000	Detached	0.29	22030	FAIRCHESTER
13345 FOXHOLE DR	3 ... 3 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$389,900	Townhouse	0.06	22033	FOXFIELD
3230 ADAMS CT	3 ... 2 ... 2	FAIRFAX	\$386,500	Townhouse	0.04	22030	CAMBRIDGE STATION
10507 ASSEMBLY DR	3 ... 3 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$379,900	Townhouse	0.04	22030	THE ASSEMBLY
3349 OAKSHADE CT	3 ... 2 ... 2	FAIRFAX	\$375,000	Townhouse	0.04	22033	FRANKLIN GLEN
13137 QUAIL CREEK LN	4 ... 3 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$365,000	Townhouse	0.03	22033	FAIR LAKES LAND BAY
4138 ADDISON RD	3 ... 1 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$350,000	Detached	0.19	22030	MAPLE HILL
13215 CUSTOM HOUSE CT	3 ... 3 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$349,000	Townhouse	0.03	22033	FOXFIELD
4424A EASTWICK CT #402-	2 ... 2 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$319,900	Townhouse .....	.....	22033	EAST MARKET AT FAIR LAKE
3887 SCIBILLA RD	3 ... 1 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$316,000	Detached	0.20	22033	CHANTILLY FARM
4300M CANNON RIDGE CT #12	2 ... 2 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$315,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22033	CHRISTOPHER AT CEDAR LKS
4110 VANDERBILT CT #302	2 ... 2 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$310,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22030	THE CROSSINGS
3801 RIDGE KNOLL CT #206A	2 ... 2 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$300,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22033	OXFORD HOUSE
12610 FAIR CREST CT #156	2 ... 2 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$285,000	Townhouse .....	.....	22033	FAIR LAKES
12681 FAIRCREST CT #79	2 ... 2 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$278,000	Townhouse .....	.....	22033	FAIR LAKES
10720 ORCHARD ST	4 ... 2 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$275,000	Detached	0.53	22030	FAIRFAX ACRES
12338 STRONG CT #544	2 ... 2 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$275,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22033	LINDEN AT FAIR RIDGE
12213 FAIRFIELD HOUSE DR #506B	2 ... 2 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$255,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22033	FAIRFIELD HOUSE
10730 MAPLE ST	4 ... 1 ... 1	FAIRFAX	\$248,000	Duplex	0.15	22030	ARDMORE
12016301 GOLF RIDGE CT #301	2 ... 2 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$245,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22033	HEIGHTS AT PENDERBROOK
12843 FAIR BRIAR LN #9	3 ... 2 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$245,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22033	GATES OF FAIR LAKES
12346 STRONG CT #548	2 ... 1 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$235,500	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22033	LINDEN AT FAIR RIDGE
12103 GREEN LEAF CT #101	2 ... 2 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$231,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22033	HEIGHTS AT PENDERBROOK
4408 HELMSFORD LN #106	2 ... 2 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$230,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22033	STONECROFT
3909 PENDERVIEW DR #1924	2 ... 1 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$209,900	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22033	PENDERBROOK SQUARE
3790 LYNHURST DR #204	2 ... 1 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$161,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22031	LYNHURST
10725 WEST DR #203	2 ... 1 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$159,900	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22030	FAIRFAX WEST
10169 MOSBY WOODS DR #104	2 ... 1 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$150,000	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22030	MOSBY WOODS GARDEN
12162 PENDERVIEW LN #1603	1 ... 1 ... 0	FAIRFAX	\$150,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	22033	PENDERBROOK SQUARE
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Winning Championship in Record Time

Fairfax Police Youth Club racer wins National Cross Country Championship.

Rheinhardt Harrison, running for the Fairfax Police Youth Club (FPYC), won the sub-bantam boys 8&U division at the USATF National Junior Olympics Cross Country Championships held in Albuquerque, N.M., on Saturday, Dec. 8.

Running against 140-plus national qualifiers, he covered the 2K course in a time of 7:30.37 setting a new course and event record. Since his 7:30 time (6:02 mile pace) was run at 5,300 foot elevation, a comparable 2K time at lower elevation would have been around 7:10 (5:46 mile pace).

Rheinhardt was among 12 national champions (ages 8-18) crowned at the USATF National Junior Olympic Cross Country



PHOTO BY ACTION SPORTS IMAGES

Rheinhardt Harrison won the sub-bantam boys 8&U division at the USATF National Junior Olympic Cross-Country Championships racing on the Fairfax Police Youth Club team.

Championships on Saturday as more than 2,300 of the best youth athletes in the United States competed. Rheinhardt was also the only runner from USATF Region III (Georgia, North Carolina, Potomac Valley-DC, MD, Northern VA, South Carolina, and Virginia) to return home with a National Title.

He has now won the gold medal for a second week in a row. One week earlier, during the Cross Country Coaches National Youth Championships at the LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course/Terre Haute, Ind., Rheinhardt led the field of 100-plus in the sub-bantam boy’s race from start to finish, completing the 2K in 7:35.80.

In winning the USATF National Junior Olympics Cross Country Championship, Rheinhardt finished the 2012 track and cross-country seasons with five National Champion titles; six All American honors; and he set three National Event records.

CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY/JAN. 18

Film Series: A Way From Violence. 7 p.m., at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10215 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Interviews and comedic and dramatic monologues in this film are aimed at increasing cultural understanding of connections between different forms of oppression which facilitate domestic violence; a discussion follows the screening. 703-503-4579 or www.accotinkuuc.org.

Aquila Theatre with Edmond Rostand's "Cyrano De Bergerac." 8 p.m., at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, Intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123, Fairfax. Edmond Rostand's classic tale of unrequited love, presented by acclaimed British-American touring troupe Aquila Theatre. \$20; \$32; \$40. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/JAN. 19

Can I Really Date a Guy Who Wears a Yarmulke? 8 p.m., at the JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. When PhD candidate Eleanor returns to New York from a Birthright trip, she meets Aaron, who is Dr. Right... but can she see past the yarmulke? \$27; \$22 for JCCNV members and seniors ages 65-plus; \$18 for students and groups of 10-plus. 703-537-3000, www.brownpapertickets.com or www.jccnvarts.org.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks IV. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman and flautist Christina Jennings perform Mozart's Overture to The Magic Flute, Leshnoff's Flute Concerto, Ives' The Unanswered Question and Brahms' Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 20

Garden Gauge Model Train Display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. 1-4 p.m., at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society will have a display and running G Gauge (Garden Gauge) model trains. \$3 for adults; \$1 for children. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

Can I Really Date a Guy Who Wears a Yarmulke? 2 p.m., at the



CONTRIBUTED

JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. When PhD candidate Eleanor returns to New York from a Birthright trip, she meets Aaron, who is Dr. Right... but can she see past the yarmulke? \$27; \$22 for JCCNV members and seniors ages 65-plus; \$18 for students and groups of 10-plus. 703-537-3000, www.brownpapertickets.com or www.jccnvarts.org.

Savion Glover's "SoLe Sanctuary." 7 p.m., at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, Intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123, Fairfax. Celebrated choreographer and tap dancer Savion Glover honors his art form with a Hooper's meditation on the art of tap. \$23; \$38; \$46. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu

MONDAY/JAN. 21

Third Annual MLK Day Youth Basketball Shooting Skills Clinic. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Both half and full day options with varying prices are available for a youth-friendly skills-building constructive day. www.bestyouthhoops.com/mlkdaycamp.

THURSDAY/JAN. 24

The Patchwork Girl of Oz. 7 p.m., at the Sovereign Grace Home School Co-op in the Main Auditorium, 5200 Ox Road, Fairfax. A young munchkin goes on a quest to save his uncle who has fallen victim to a magic mistake by Dr. Pipt; proceeds benefit the Rancho 3M Orphanage in Guadalupe, Mexico. \$6 for adults; \$3, students ages 3-17. ptwgofoz@gmail.com or www.rancho3m.com.

Can I Really Date a Guy Who Wears a Yarmulke?

When PhD candidate Eleanor returns to New York from a Birthright trip, she meets Aaron, who is Dr. Right with brains, looks and wit... but he's got a serious case of the part of Judaism that Eleanor definitely does not have: religion; can she see past the yarmulke? Showing Friday, Jan. 18 through Sunday, Jan. 27 on Fridays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. at the JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. \$27; \$22 for JCCNV members and seniors ages 65-plus; \$18 for students and groups of 10-plus. 703-537-3000, www.brownpapertickets.com or www.jccnvarts.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 25

The Patchwork Girl of Oz. 7 p.m., at the Sovereign Grace Home School Co-op in the Main Auditorium, 5200 Ox Road, Fairfax. A young munchkin goes on a quest to save his uncle who has fallen victim to a magic mistake by Dr. Pipt, the crooked magician; proceeds benefit the Rancho 3M Orphanage in Guadalupe, Mexico. \$6 for adults; \$3, students ages 3-17. ptwgofoz@gmail.com or www.rancho3m.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 26

Talk: Trafficking of Girls Around the World. 10 a.m., at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Chi-Ying Chung, professor at George Mason University, speaks to the The Fairfax City Branch of the American Association of University women at their monthly meeting. <http://www.aauwofva.org/branches/fairfaxcity.htm>.

The Patchwork Girl of Oz. 1 p.m., at the Sovereign Grace Home School Co-op in the Main Auditorium, 5200 Ox Road, Fairfax. A young munchkin goes on a quest to save his uncle who has fallen victim to a magic mistake by Dr. Pipt, the crooked magician; proceeds benefit the Rancho 3M Orphanage in Guadalupe, Mexico. \$6 for adults; \$3, students ages 3-17. ptwgofoz@gmail.com or www.rancho3m.com.

Dogs of War Book Discussion/Signing. 1-3 p.m., at Fairfax Barnes & Noble, Fair Lakes Promenade, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Dr., Fairfax. Kathleen Kinsolving makes an appearance to discuss her book on the fascinating relationships between powerful man and man's best friend. 703-278-0300. www.jccnvarts.org.

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SPORTS



Woodson senior Alex Boock scored a career-high 20 points against South County on Jan. 15. Boock has played in four games after returning from a finger injury.



Woodson senior Tommy Stepka attacks the basket against South County on Jan. 15.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Woodson's Boock Sets Career High in Win Against South County

Senior scores 20 points in fourth game back from finger surgery.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Woodson senior Alex Boock scored two points against West Potomac during his return to action on Jan. 4. Four nights later, Boock hit his first 3-pointer of the season, helping his shooting rhythm return. On Jan. 10, he reached double digits, scoring 10 against West Springfield.

Prior to the season, Boock, a 6-foot-4 guard, suffered a torn ligament in the pinky finger on his right hand—his shooting hand—which required surgery. He missed the Cavaliers' first 11 contests before rejoining his teammates on the court. Boock improved his productivity during each of his first three games—a trend that continued when he made his first start on Tuesday night against South County.

Boock knocked down mid-range jumpers, produced points in the paint and buried a trio of second half 3-pointers en route to a career-high 20 points as the Cavaliers beat the Stallions 62-53 on Jan. 15 at Woodson High School.

"No matter what kind of shot it is," said Boock, whose taped pinky was not a shooting deterrent, "once you see the ball go through the net, your confidence really goes up."

THE CAVALIERS, talented enough to go 9-2 during Boock's absence, received a boost in potency with the return of an additional 3-point threat. His first 11 points against South County came inside the arc, but Boock eventually moved beyond the 3-point line, where he made more than 30 shots last season. His first two 3-pointers were daggers at the end of separate 7-0 Woodson runs in the third quarter. His third from behind the arc gave the Cavaliers a 50-39 advantage early in the fourth.

"[Boock is] definitely one of the better shooters on this team and he can stroke like he was doing it today," senior Tommy Stepka said. "That's what we need—scoring. It really improves our team [and]

spreads [the production] out."

Stepka, a 6-foot-6 guard, scored 14 points and sophomore point guard Eric Bowles added 12. Senior Peter Murray had four points and eight rebounds and senior guard Michael Hansler grabbed six boards.

"We have pretty good shooters—and we have tall shooters, which helps," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "... When you have guys who are 6-4, 6-5, 6-6, it really makes the defense come out. It opens up lanes for everybody else. Getting [Boock] back gives us another scoring option on the floor. We have some other guys who do really well defensively, we have some guys who are athletic and can rebound the ball, but you can never have enough guys who can put the ball in the basket."

The victory improved Woodson's record to 13-2, including 7-0 in the Patriot District. The Cavaliers went 13-1 in district play last season, only to lose to T.C. Williams in the district tournament semifinals and Fairfax in the opening round of the regional tournament. Woodson has hopes of postseason improvement, but first the Cavaliers have to get through the second half of their district schedule.

"We've been playing with a little chip on our shoulder, a little swagger, which is good," Craig said. "But at the same time, too, that swagger can kind of get out of control and I think the last week or so we've kind of gotten away from what made us good and we need to get re-focused."

While Woodson remained undefeated in district play, South County dropped to 2-5 in the Patriot standings. Senior guard Justin Hampton finished with a game-high 25 points, but required many shots to get there.

Along with a career-best offensive performance, Boock showed his defensive skills, as well.

"I actually thought Alex did a good job on [Hampton]," Craig said. "Justin had 25 [but] we really wanted to make Justin work for his points. He's a real good player and I thought we did a really good job with that tonight. He really had to work for his points."

Hampton grabbed seven rebounds. Senior forward Oren Burks finished with 10 points for South County and junior Mark Elliott grabbed six rebounds.

WOODSON will host Annandale at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 18. South County will host Lee at the same time.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Hayfield sophomore guard Raven Lott led the Hawks with 15 points against Yorktown on Jan. 14.

Hayfield Girls, Boys Lose to Yorktown

Hawks struggle at offensive end during doubleheader.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Hayfield girls' basketball team managed five field goals in the first 25 minutes of its Jan. 14 game against the Yorktown Patriots and went without a field goal for a stretch of 15 minutes.

While the Hawks set the bar low in terms of offensive execution, the boys' team followed suit later in the evening, producing just seven points in the first half.

Monday evening was a rough night for the Hayfield girls' and boys' basketball teams, with both teams losing to Yorktown during a home doubleheader. The girls' team started the struggles with a 44-33 loss. Yorktown led 17-14 at halftime but pulled away by outscoring Hayfield 11-1 in the third quarter. The Hawks went without a field goal for a 15-minute stretch spanning from the second quarter to the fourth quarter.

Sophomore guard Raven Lott led Hayfield with 15 points. Junior forward Courtney Miller finished with 10 points and nine rebounds.

The loss dropped Hayfield's record to 4-11, including 1-6 in the National District. The Hawks will host Stuart at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 17.

For the Hayfield boys' team, Monday was senior night as a front-loaded home schedule left the Hawks playing their final regular season home game in mid-January. Hayfield entered the evening on an 11-game win streak, but quickly fell apart en

route to a 70-42 loss. Yorktown opened the game on an 11-0 run, led 16-2 at the end of the first quarter, 36-7 at halftime and 54-23 at the end of the third.

"It was a combination of [a] bad night, [Yorktown] shooting well and us not playing at our potential," Hayfield head coach Carlos Poindexter said. "... They shot the hell out of the basketball—maybe 70 percent. It was ridiculous how well they shot the basketball. When that happens and we shoot bad and we're not playing defense, then you lose by [28]."

Because it was senior night, Poindexter's starting lineup consisted of five seniors, leaving the team's leading scorer, junior Amir Atkins, coming off the bench. Poindexter said this might have contributed to the slow start.

Brandon Lawson led Hayfield with 13 points. Atkins, who Poindexter said was averaging more than 17 points per contest, finished with one field goal and seven points.

Hayfield's record dropped to 11-4 overall, including 6-1 in the National District. Wakefield is tied with the Hawks atop the district standings, but Hayfield won the first meeting 50-49 on Jan. 4.

"These guys went on an 11-game win streak, so they don't necessarily know how to lose—a lot of guys crying and stuff," Poindexter said after the loss to Yorktown. "[I'm] just trying to keep the morale up a little bit."

Hayfield will travel to face Stuart at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 17.

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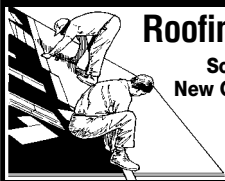
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