

Rita Donahue, of Fairfax, and Aaron Loux perform Mark Morris' "Festival Dance."

A Family
Made Whole
THE COUNTY LINE, PAGE 4

Performing 'Festival Dance'

NEWS, PAGE 8

Four Northern Virginia Senators Targeted

NEWS, PAGE 3



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Four Northern Virginia Senators Targeted

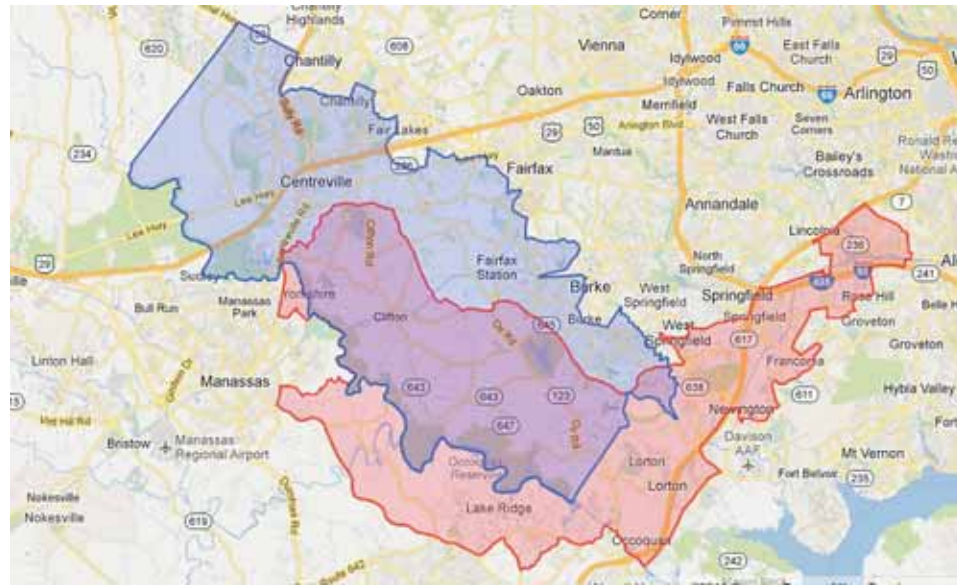
Redistricting effort puts Fairfax County seats in the spotlight.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
AND VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Four Northern Virginia state Senators are targets of a Republican-led effort to draw new districts — Sen. George Barker (D-39), Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37), Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) and Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34). Democrats say the redistricting effort is a cynical attempt to take advantage of the absence of Sen. Henry Marsh (D-16), a prominent civil rights veteran, who was in Washington, D.C. for the inauguration on Monday. But state Sen. John Watkins (R-10) of Powhatan defended the effort as a way to create a sixth majority black Senate district in Southside. It passed the Senate on a 20-to-19 vote.

“This is about political power,” said Barker, who was in one of the most competitive races of 2011. “They are trying to target the Democratic senators who represent districts that are basically swing districts.”

The drama took place Monday afternoon, when the state Senate took up a bill that would have made small changes to four Senate districts. During the debate, Republicans amended the bill in a way that would radically change districts throughout Virginia. Barker’s seat and Marsden’s seat, for example, would be about 80 percent different. And Puller’s seat would swap about 70 percent of her current precincts for new ones. Petersen, who represents sections of Fairfax City, Vienna, Dunn-Loring and Centreville, said in a call Tuesday he stands to lose nearly half of his constituents if the politically redrawn map holds up to legal challenges. He said he would lose precincts that he’s held for 12 years, including



State Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) would lose Dumfries and gain Belle Haven.

Mantua, Mosby Woods, Fairfax Villa and some newer precincts in Centreville.

“This is outrageous, and it must be stopped,” said Del. Charniele Herring (D-46), chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Virginia. “This goes beyond partisanship. It’s downright undemocratic.”

REDISTRICTING USUALLY takes place once a decade, a process that’s tied to the decennial census. Lawmakers have deviated from that once-in-a-decade timetable from time to time, usually to address problems with split districts that have presented problems for registrars. The effort that passed the Senate this week, however, goes far beyond that kind of tweaking by dramatically redrawing the map for the entire commonwealth. On the Senate floor, Watkins said failing to create a sixth majority black district in Southside Virginia would invite lawsuits under the 1965 Voting Rights Act. “I wish to avoid litigation,” Watkins said during the floor debate Monday afternoon.

Democrats countered that a court fight is imminent.

“We will fight this all the way to the Supreme Court of Virginia if necessary,” said

Senate Democratic Leader Dick Saslaw (D-35) in a written statement. “First voter suppression efforts, then the war on women, and now draconian changes to a Justice Department-approved redistricting plan. It appears that there are no boundaries to their overreaching political agenda.”

THE TIMING of the effort was galling to many Democrats, who accused the Republicans of taking advantage of the presidential inauguration to score political points. Because the state Senate is evenly divided between 20 Democrats and 20 Republicans, any change in the balance of power could create an imbalance. Although the Republicans have delayed the bill on several previous occasions, they waited until Monday to move on the legislation.

“To plot to do this on Martin Luther King Day, when civil rights icon Sen. Henry Marsh, left to attend the historic inauguration of our president is truly embarrassing,” said Marsden. “I am deeply disappointed that the Republicans continue to play these petty partisan games.”

Republicans pointed to a 2011 newspaper column by former Democratic Gov.

“This goes beyond partisanship. It’s downright undemocratic.”

— Del. Charniele Herring (D-46),
chairwoman of the
Democratic Party of Virginia

Doug Wilder, the nation’s first elected black governor, supporting a Senate redistricting plan passed when Democrats ruled the Senate. Democrats countered by accusing Republicans of “packing” the districts by using the change in Southside Virginia to free up more districts that would be friendly to Republicans.

“Obviously we went through redistricting in 2011. The constitution specifically speaks to 2011 as being the redistricting year, not 2012, not 2013,” Petersen said. “You can’t say ‘Obama was elected in 2012, but now we don’t like him in 2013, so we’ll just have another election in a year’ when the constitution doesn’t authorize elections ... That’s absurd.”

Petersen said he is confident any judge would find the bill unconstitutional, but one question still out there is whether Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, a Republican who is running for Governor in 2013, will defend the tactic.

“This is what happens when Republicans regulate other Republicans,” Petersen said. “Every layer of oversight is stacked against us.”

“I don’t know if it’s legal, but I do know it is despicable,” said Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), who said he was in bed with the flu when he got word about the political power-play.

“To pull a purely political maneuver on Martin Luther King Day and Inauguration Day — days that promote unity — is not only wrong, it’s purely unpatriotic. I only hope this can be reversed and that the General Assembly will actually focus on the peoples work and quit playing games.”

AREA ROUNDUPS

Making Children Resilient

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will host a presentation by resiliency expert Nan Henderson, “Resiliency in Action: How Families, Schools and Communities Create ‘Bounce Back’ Kids,” on Tuesday, Jan. 29, from 7-8:30 p.m., in the Robinson Secondary School cafeteria. Robinson is at 5035 Sideburn Road in Fairfax. (From the main entrance, turn left and the cafeteria is on the right.)

This free workshop is designed for parents, school staff and community members. The goal is to help students develop social competence, problem-solving skills, self-awareness, control and initiative. These are all traits that resilient individuals possess to bounce back and overcome challenges and adversity, including trauma, crises and stress. Register at

www.fcps.edu/dss/ips/resiliency/workshop/HendersonWorkshop.shtml.

Improve Transportation for Elderly, Disabled

Local residents’ answers to a brief survey will help Fairfax County improve transportation services for older adults and people with disabilities in this county and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. The questionnaire consists of 27 mostly multiple-choice questions. It takes 5-10 minutes to complete.

Take the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mobilityoptions>. It’s sponsored by the Fairfax Area Mobility and Transportation Committee, which reports jointly to the Fairfax Area

Disability Services Board and the Fairfax Area Long Term Care Coordinating Council. For an alternate format of the survey, contact Jill Clark at 703-324-5874, TTY 703-449-1186.

Give Caregivers a Break

Fairfax County needs Respite Care volunteers throughout the county to give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Volunteers are matched with families in or near their own neighborhoods. Support and training is provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

THE COUNTY LINE

A Family Made Whole

After a tragic loss, Reston couple creates a family through adoption.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The Granvilles look like a made-for-TV family. On a bright October afternoon, Chris, a computer engineer, is teasing his teenage son Kenny about what kind of pet to adopt, while Tiffany sits on a sofa, cradling Elijah, Kenny's baby brother, who has just woken up from an afternoon nap.

"Fish? No way," Kenny, 15, says. "They just go 'round and 'round in a bowl."

Kenny is lobbying hard for a dog or—at the very least—a guinea pig or hamster.

"What I'm saying is you start with the fish, okay, and then you move up to guinea pig or something else," Chris says.

"Can you tell we've been talking about this for just a little while?" Tiffany asks a visitor, rolling her eyes in mock exasperation.

It's quickly apparent the Granvilles are a close-knit family who like spending time together.

What is not so apparent is how this family came to be, and why an ordinary Sunday afternoon laughing with two children is a minor miracle for the Granvilles.

Chris and Tiffany, both in their 30s, were married in New York City on Christmas Eve, 2007. One of three children, Chris was raised in Queens. Both were very close to their parents and grandparents, whom they credit for inspiring their Christian faith.

IN FEBRUARY 2008, the couple moved to Reston, where they both had demanding careers as computer engineers. They also found out that same month that Tiffany was pregnant.

"We were like 'wow.' We just got married, and now we're going to have baby. We were living the dream," Chris said.

Jamison Granville was born on Oct. 23, 2008. He was a healthy 8.6 pound baby, and the light of his parent's life. When Chris's mother was diagnosed with aggressive kidney cancer that spring, Jamison kept a smile on his grandmother's face as she went through grueling chemotherapy sessions.

"He was my mother's first grandchild. She and Jamison were tied at the hip," Chris said.

When Chris's mother died on July 4, 2009, both Chris and Tiffany were devastated by the loss, but they took comfort in Jamison's smile, their large network of friends and family and their faith.

Like many working parents, the Granvilles had carefully researched and selected a day care center for their child. It wasn't unusual to get a call from staff at the center if Jamison was sick, or if other minor issues cropped up.

But on Sept. 16, 2009, Tiffany received a call from the center's director. She said she sensed something was wrong immediately.



A Granville family portrait, taken in February, 2012. (From left) Kenny; Tiffany holding baby brother Elijah; Chris Granville.

"I got a phone call about 3 p.m. The director said she needed to meet us at Reston hospital. She wouldn't give me any other information," Tiffany recalled, pausing. "Jamison was 10 months and 24 days old..."

Chris said he got a message from a detective. "He said to call this doctor, and the doctor said you have to stop whatever you're doing and get here," Chris said. "I didn't know what was happening."

"I can't tell you how I got from my desk on the sixth floor to my car," Tiffany said. "When I got there, doctors were working on him, but I could tell he wasn't there anymore. . . . You feel like you're in a movie, or a dream. You get through it, but you're not there."

Tiffany said the pain of losing Jamison was almost unbearable, and even her strong faith in God could not keep her from waking up some mornings and thinking there was nothing left to live for. "I have to be honest; there were days I did not want to be here."

But it was the couple's strong faith in God kept that kept them moving forward.

"We became more involved in our church, but at that point, it's just a day-by-day existence," Chris said. Tiffany said she drew strength from her grandmother, who had also lost her firstborn son. Her grandmother went on give birth to eight children, and adopted two more.

"I pulled from her strength. I thought to myself, this woman from Louisiana, with an eighth-grade education, through all this adversity, she was able to overcome it in a time when things were horrible for black folks," Tiffany said. "I remember what a loving and patient person she was. . . . I started to think about everybody I had here. . . . I thought we all have to leave one day, so you have to make a positive impact while you're here. We did not want what happened to us to define us."

THE COUPLE, who had always talked about adopting a child, had maintained friendships with other couples who were foster parents, and they decided

SEE POWER, PAGE 16



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOAN BRADY

Beverly Howard

Fairfax Families4Kids

Fostering bonds with children.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Nationwide, more than 463,000 children live in foster care. In many states, including Virginia, the number of foster youth has tripled in the last 25 years. As of Sept. 30, 2011, nearly 5,000 youth were in foster care in Virginia, according to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), a division of the U.S. Health and Human Services Department. Physical abuse is the most common reason children enter foster care, but it's not the only reason. Often there's emotional abuse, sexual abuse and the parent or caretaker's inability to provide a safe environment due to substance abuse. The prospects for youth who age-out (or "emancipate") from foster care are bleak, according to the ACF. More than half of the children who age-out of foster care end up "couch-surfing," and essentially homeless. In a 2009 ACF report:

- ❖ Less than 3 percent go to college;
 - ❖ 51 percent are unemployed;
 - ❖ Emancipated females are four times more likely to receive public assistance than the general population;
 - ❖ In any given year, foster children compromise less than 0.3 percent of the state's population, and yet 40 percent of persons living in homeless shelters are former foster children.
- A similarly disproportionate

percentage of the nation's prison population comprises former foster youth.

In 2005, Fairfax County launched a program called FairfaxFamilies4Kids, which actively seeks mentors to connect with older children in foster care, those most at-risk for homelessness. Beverly Howard, the program's coordinator, agreed to a Q&A interview. To find out more about the Fairfax Families4Kids program or becoming a volunteer or mentor, contact Beverly Howard, Ph.D., coordinator of the Fairfax Families4Kids Program at 703-324-7518.

Q: Tell us a little bit about the background of the program? What niche does it fill?

A: Fairfax Families4Kids is a mentoring program, now housed out of the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, which focuses on supporting older youth in foster care (or those youth who are at risk of re-entering foster care). The program's goal is for the youth in foster care to form and maintain healthy, positive and long-term relationships with caring adults and peers while learning essential life, leisure and social skills. It works to accomplish this through group mentoring events and individual mentoring relationships. The twice-monthly group mentoring events are outings in the community where the youth, mentors, volunteers, and prospective adoptive families come together in a safe, super

SEE JOYS, PAGE 16

PEOPLE

Global Grant Scholarship Winner

The Rotary Club of Fairfax, a part of Rotary District 7610 in Northern Virginia, recently awarded the Global Grant Scholarship to a young woman from Fairfax City. Sophie McManus learned she was the winner of the competitive scholarship on Nov. 4, nudging out many other young people from the area.

Sophie, who is currently employed as the program coordinator of external relations with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., became fascinated with diplomacy and peace studies when she was invited to participate in the National Model African Union in spring of 2011. She studied the political instability in Zimbabwe and its effect on the entire Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). The experience allowed her to practice the analytical and critical thinking skills she'd learned conducting her research project and applying them to larger entities and ideas.

The purpose of the Global Grant Scholarship Program is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries. While abroad, scholars serve as ambassadors of goodwill to the people of the host country and give presentations about their homelands to Rotary clubs and other groups. Upon returning home, scholars share with local Rotarians and others the experiences that led to greater understanding of their host countries.

The two-year scholarship, for study during the 2014-2015 academic year, will enable McManus to



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Sophie McManus, Fairfax Rotary's Global Grant Scholarship winner

SEE SCHOLARSHIP, PAGE 13

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**THE
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Expanding Medicaid Good for Virginia

Real health coverage for an additional 400,000 people is in reach.

Virginia has an opportunity to expand Medicaid in a way that could extend health coverage to more than 400,000 residents who currently have no health insurance while the Federal government picks up the tab; Virginia would pay 10 percent of the additional cost after 2020.

The Medicaid expansion would give medical insurance to 25,000-30,000 Fairfax County residents, where more than 132,000 have none.

More than 12 percent of the slightly more than 1 million people who live in the wealthiest county in the nation are without health insurance. Household income in Fairfax County averages more than \$122,000 a year.

In Arlington, 17 percent of adults under age 65 lack health insurance.

Under the health care reform act, many of Virginia's uninsured residents could be covered

by an expansion of Medicaid to cover residents who earn up to 133 percent of the poverty line, and that expansion would be paid for almost entirely by federal funds. But while the reform act itself was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, the court also opened a door for states to opt out of the expansion of Medicaid.

Virginia's current eligibility requirements for Medicaid are so strict that although it is the 11th largest state in terms of population and 7th in per capita personal income, Virginia ranked 43rd in Medicaid enrollment as a proportion of the state's population and 47th in per capita Medicaid spending, according to a 2013 Fairfax County report.

EDITORIAL

The report says that new coverage would extend to individuals earning less than \$15,302 per year or families earning less than \$31,155 per year, low income children who lose Medicaid when they turn 19, and adults with disabilities not currently eligible.

It isn't as if there were no health care costs for these currently uncovered residents. Right now, they access health care when they are very sick by going to an emergency room, where the hospital spreads the cost of care around.

But this is inefficient, expensive and unhealthy. Expanding Medicaid coverage would allow far less expensive preventative care and lead to better health outcomes.

A new analysis by the Commonwealth Institute shows that expanding Medicaid to 133 percent of the poverty level would generate state general fund savings and new revenues that would total \$2.08 billion and more than offset the state's share of expansion costs over the next eight years, plus provide significant numbers of new jobs and economic growth. Expanding health care will add tens of thousands of new jobs. People with access to preventative and early health care use fewer sick days and are more productive on the job as well.

From a practical perspective, declining federal money to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation because you don't like the feds telling you to wear your seatbelt.

From a human perspective, passing up the chance to offer health coverage to 400,000 Virginians is inconceivable.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Searching for 'The New Virginia Way'

Need to change the way Virginia supports people with disabilities.

BY RIKKI EPSTEIN AND
KYMBERLY DELOATCHE

In light of Virginia's settlement with the Department of Justice over Virginia's state institutions for people with disabilities, also known as training centers, it is time for us to enter "The New Virginia Way." We must focus on building community supports and capacity for those leaving the training centers and for the 7,500 families on waiting lists for state Medicaid waivers.

"The New Virginia Way" means changing the way Virginia supports people with disabilities from an under-funded, complicated system to a comprehensive community support structure. Right now, there are not enough supports available for every individual in the community. In fact, this lack of community options was a large part of the reason the DOJ investigated Virginia and found it violates the civil rights of people with disabilities.

The DOJ settlement and "The New Virginia Way" will ensure community supports are done correctly. The settlement is a legally enforceable agreement that holds Virginia responsible for making sure every person transitioning to

community-based care has the supports they need lined up before they move. If the Independent Reviewer overseeing implementation feels that Virginia is falling short, the case goes back to court. Judge John Gibney, who is overseeing the settlement, has made clear his commitment to protecting the rights of everyone involved and ensuring all requirements are met.

It is worth noting that since the settlement, the General Assembly has funded more waivers than the minimum mandated by the settlement. The governor's current budget proposal includes rate differentials for individuals who have intense behavioral and nursing needs, and the state is hiring a consultant to redesign the waivers to provide more comprehensive services with adequate reimbursement rates. This demonstrates a step forward.

Increasingly, service providers have dedicated themselves to supporting individuals with significant needs. Some specialize in helping individuals with a history of significant behavioral challenges and others have nurses on staff to support individuals with complex medical concerns. Several have begun to expand since



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARC OF VIRGINIA

An individual with a disability and his caregiver wearing "I Support The New Virginia Way" stickers at the Martin Luther King Day Rally in Richmond.

the settlement to help individuals transition.

The settlement encourages creativity and smaller, customized supports. We need to consider sponsored placements and apartments with 24-hour staffing. These housing models are already working in Virginia and can be established affordably and quickly.

Over a dozen states have no institutions and most have closed at least one. We have great role models for institutional closure, an Independent Reviewer with decades of experience in making transitions a reality, a settlement

that mandates safe and appropriate supports, and thousands of advocates dedicated to making sure we support everyone the right way.

This settlement is a landmark opportunity to ensure Virginia is changed for the better forever. That will happen when we all put our energy towards making "The New Virginia Way" reality.

Rikki Epstein is executive director at The Arc of Northern Virginia. Kimberly DeLoatch is executive director at the Autism Society of Northern Virginia

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NEWS

The Junior League of Northern Virginia took part in the National Day of Service by assisting volunteers in making cards for homeless and hospitalized children. Clockwise from left: Gretchen Johnson of Springfield; Jennifer Bornhofen of Arlington; Junior League of Northern Virginia member Holly Dalferes of Vienna; Kailynn Bray, Brittany Carr and Bradley Smith of Arizona.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

National Day of Service Launches Inauguration

Local residents give back to their communities and pledge ongoing service.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The 57th Presidential Inauguration began Saturday, Jan. 19, with hundreds of Americans rolling up their sleeves and serving their communities. More than 13,000 people attended the day's marquee event, the Service Summit on the National Mall, according to the Presidential Inaugural Committee.

The all-day event honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by promoting community service. President Barack Obama launched the National Day of Service as part of the inauguration festivities four years ago, along with Vice President Joseph R. Biden and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden. In 2009, he visited injured soldiers and lent a hand on a homeless shelter renovation.

On Saturday, President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama kicked off the day with daughters Malia and Sasha at Burrville Elementary School in Northeast D.C. With the help of 500 volunteers, they gave the school a makeover as part of an event orga-

nized by City Year.

The Bidens spent part of Saturday at the D.C. Armory for the Unite America in Service event, where volunteers packed 100,000 care kits for U.S. service members, wounded warriors, veterans and first responders. The kits include lint rollers, dental floss, toothbrush and toothpaste, wipes, Band-Aids and sanitizer.

A variety of service events were held on the mall and in Fairfax County. The Junior League of Northern Virginia assisted volunteers on the mall in making cards for homeless and hospitalized children. Gretchen Johnson of Springfield said the event was a "great start to the inauguration," and "a wonderful way to be a part of the inaugural weekend and give back to the community."

In Fairfax County, volunteers joined Our Daily Bread, a Fairfax nonprofit, delivering food to low-income families.

"Our volunteers packaged food at our Vienna Pantry and delivered it to 30 clients throughout the Fairfax County area who receive supplemental food from us every two weeks for approximately four months," said ODB Executive Director Lisa Whetzel.

The signature event included speakers Chelsea Clinton and actress Eva Longoria, as well as booths where participants could learn more about local and national service organizations.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

TUESDAY/JAN. 29

Info Session: Identifying Services and Resources for Older Adults. 7-8:30 p.m., at Inova Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), 4027 B Olley Lane, Fairfax. Learn about day programs for older adults involving senior centers, senior plus, adult day health care, PACE, chronic disease self-management programs and independent living programs. 703-324-3453 or NCSInterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 30

Park Authority Annual Public Comment Meeting. 7 p.m., Room 106 in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax. Find information on proposed fee changes and give input—to make a statement at the meeting, call in advance; obtain a desk copy of the fee proposal at the Park Authority office or online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting.htm>. 703-324-8662 or Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

ONGOING

Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest

Hill Dr., Fairfax. Tuesday and/or Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to work on balance and core muscles for injury prevention. \$10. 703-667-9800.

American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED. Various times, at 2720 State Route 699, Suite 200, Fairfax. One-year certification, digital or print materials and continued education on Mondays through Thursday and Saturday. \$70-110. www.redcrossna.org.

Hats, Gloves and Scarves for Children. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, FCFT Offices, 7011 Calamo Street, Suite 101, Springfield. The Fairfax County Federation of Teachers collects new children's hats, scarves and gloves for needy County children. 703-451-6840.

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Filmmaker Monica Zinn in a pensive mood.



Monica Zinn interviewing a subject for her latest film.

Sharing People's Stories Is Filmmaker's Passion

Local grad Monica Zinn working on second movie.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Monica Zinn is an independent documentary filmmaker. This Burke resident already has one successful film under her belt and is hard at work on another.

She graduated from Lake Braddock Secondary School in 2011, but attended the Fairfax Academy from 2009-11, and that's where her talent began to blossom.

"I credit any success I have to the Fairfax Academy, where I took Professional Television Production classes for two years," said Zinn, 19. "They really gave me the resources and environment I needed and nurtured my creativity. They promoted professionalism and helped jumpstart my career."

In fact, her teacher there, Dave Ruby, was the executive producer on her last film and is helping with some of the local interviews for her current film. "He's a really great mentor and teacher," said Zinn. "Everyone at the academy is really helpful."

Now a sophomore at NOVA's Annandale campus, she's applying to other colleges so she may obtain a bachelor's in communication toward a career as a filmmaker. But she's already well on her way in that department.

"I loved stories and wanted to write them," said Zinn. "But in my junior year in high school, there was a death in the family and that changed my perception on stories. I no longer wanted to make films about fictitious subjects and moved toward nonfiction—the stories that are right in front of people, but are ignored."

SO HER LAST FILM, "Perfection," was a documentary about eating disorders in young women. It screened at seven film festivals across the country, including the Santa Cruz Film Festival, and won Best documentary at the Virginia Student Film Festival.

"My mission as a filmmaker is to show people the reality they fail to see by sharing



Monica Zinn

true, heartbreaking stories of young people struggling," explained Zinn. "I'm currently working on a documentary about self injury, called 'Self-Inflicted.'"

"Self-injury—such as cutting, burning or branding—is defined as the deliberate harm to oneself to relieve emotional distress," she continued. "This behavior plagues our youth, normally starting around age 11, and is incredibly misunderstood by most people. I noticed a rise in self-injury in people my age and younger, and it wasn't being talked about—or only in stereotypes. I knew people who did it, but not why they did."

Zinn said harmful stereotypes about self-injury create distance from this issue and prevent any real action or understanding. So her goal is to start the conversation on self-injury in a "safe, unbiased and understanding way."

She's worked on her film about a year, first researching the topic and then using Facebook and Twitter to ask people to tell her their stories. And they've responded. She also contacted mental-health professionals about self-injury and the stigma and misperceptions attached to it.

"Many people think only Goth-looking people cut themselves, or those doing it are trying to commit suicide," said Zinn. "But these are the wrong ideas because there's not a lot of education about it yet among the general public."

Some people who stopped harming themselves and now want to help others let her

use their names in her film. For others, she protected their anonymity. "Since I'd made another documentary before and sent them the link, they trusted me and contacted me," said Zinn. "They wanted to talk about it because, in the past, they'd only encountered bias and judgment."

Therefore, much of her film's focus is sending the message that people need to learn about self-injury so they can respond with compassion to those who do it. She's the director, producer and editor, and she and a couple other people are filming it.

Zinn is able to interview local residents at Fairfax High's production studio and use its equipment, as she did when she was still a student making her first film. But to complete this film, she has to raise \$7,000 for her own camera equipment, plus travel expenses. She needs to travel to California and Colorado to interview two subjects and to Cornell University and UNC Chapel Hill to talk with some of the leading researchers in the self-injury field.

She's raised \$1,800 so far through the crowd-funding website, Indie Gogo.

TO LEARN MORE about her film or to donate, go to www.indiegogo.com/self-inflicted. Donors will receive e-mail updates, plus other perks, such as a DVD of the film, depending upon the amount contributed. Zinn also has her own website, www.moniczinn.com.

"The film is primarily interviews, but I may add narration, group interviews and man-on-the-street surveys about what people think about self-injury and who does it," she said. "Most of the people I talk to say they started in sixth grade."

Meanwhile, Zinn hopes to raise all the money by March 1, complete her film and then take it to film festivals. "I love doing it," she said. "Being able to hear and share people's stories is a passion of mine. It connects me to my peers and fellow human beings."

"I want to educate people, raise awareness and let self-harmers know they're not alone," she continued. "Then they'll be more likely to talk about it openly and seek help. My film will also show them that things can get better."

CALENDAR

THURSDAY/JAN. 24

Draw(n) Out Opening Reception. 6-8 p.m., at the Fine Art Gallery in the Art and Design Building, George Mason, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. An exhibition featuring the work of artists exploring physical and psychological perceptions of time (including process, evolution, decay and change) through drawing, pushing the boundaries of the medium; the exhibition is up Tuesday, Jan. 22 through Friday, Feb. 15. www.galleryELL.com.

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.

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

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.

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 dogs of very powerful men and the fascinating relationships between man and man's best friend. 703-278-0300 or <http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/bestof/2012/12/10/early-kingsolving-dogs-of-war.cnn>.

en Route! 7:30 p.m., at the Workhouse in Building W-3, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Next Reflex Dance Collective in collaboration with Furia Flamenca Dance Company, Janaki Rangarajan, Terra Dance Project and Starr Foster Dance Project present a touring dance project bringing professional dance artists together to share their work. \$25 general; \$20 for seniors/military; \$10 for youth/students. 703-584-2900 or Reservations.workhousearts.org.

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 with brains, looks and wit... 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.

SUNDAY/JAN. 27

Can I Really Date a Guy Who Wears a Yarmulke? 2 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 with brains, looks and wit... 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.

Burke Historical Society Meeting. 4:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. Hear the story of the Christmas 1862 Raid on Burke's Station and the Dumfries Raids leading up to J.E.B. Stuart's visit to the area; a business meeting follows with a "State of the Society" presentation from President Jon Vrana. www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

TUESDAY/JAN. 29

AAUW: Women in the Military. 3 p.m., at Fairfax Regional Library, Room A/B, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Hear from Col. Laura J. Richardson, U.S. Army and Senate liaison, and Commander Jill A. Rough, U.S. Navy, at a branch program devoted to women in the military, to be attended by American Association of University Women Executive Director Linda Hallman. www.aauw.org.

THURSDAY/JAN. 31

Local Dancers Perform With Renowned Group

Mark Morris Dance Group, Dance Gala at Mason.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

The celebrated Mark Morris Dance Group will soon bring its energy and style, its live music repertoire and several local dancers to enthrall audiences at the Mason Center for the Arts.

The Mark Morris Dance Group features Mason alumni Rita Donahue (2002) of Fairfax, and Billy Smith (2007) of Fredericksburg. Mark Morris dancer Spencer Ramirez is from Springfield and attended The Juilliard School in New York City.

The dance troupe will perform pieces not seen in the company's previous visits to the Fairfax County area. They include "The Office," a work for seven dancers performed to live music of Dvorak, "Socrates," set to a piano composition of Erik Satie and "Festival Dance," a work for 12 dancers with music of a Hummel Piano Trio. Performances are Feb. 8-9.



Mark Morris Dance Group performs Mark Morris' "Festival Dance."

The Mason School of Dance faculty also includes several Mark Morris Dance Group alumni such as Dan Joyce and Susan Shields. Shields danced with the White Oak Project, a venture of Mark Morris and Mikhail Baryshnikov. Joyce danced for about 10 years with the Morris group.

Joyce described the Mason School of Dance program as "building and developing employable professional dancers. Students also have the opportunity to receive training from the very best touring professional dancers and choreographers from all over the United States, in a won-

derful facility."

In a recent interview, Mason alumni Billy Smith noted that auditioning for entry into the Mason School of Dance and being accepted did much to provide direction for his nascent professional dance dreams. "Mason provided a wide spectrum of dance experiences for me to know and learn; a rainbow of dance backgrounds and styles so I could gain knowledge from the best to do what I loved doing."

Smith is giving back to current Mason dance students. He is choreographing a new dance work for



Jim Carroll

"Mardi Gras with MJO" at George Mason

The Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra celebrates the birthplace of jazz music with "Mardi Gras with the MJO" at George Mason University's Center for the Arts in Fairfax on Saturday, Feb. 16, at 8 p.m. Led by director Jim Carroll, the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra will perform a collection of New Orleans tunes by the likes of Jelly Roll Morton, Sidney Bechet, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Ray Charles and more. www.gmu.cfa.edu.

American Turkish Friendship Speaker Series: Fighting Violence. 12:10 p.m., at the American Turkish Friendship Association, 3949 University Dr., Fairfax. Professor of public sociology Lester Kurtz of George Mason University talks on fighting violence. 703-267-5751.

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Mason's School of Art Presents 'Draw(n) Out' Exhibit

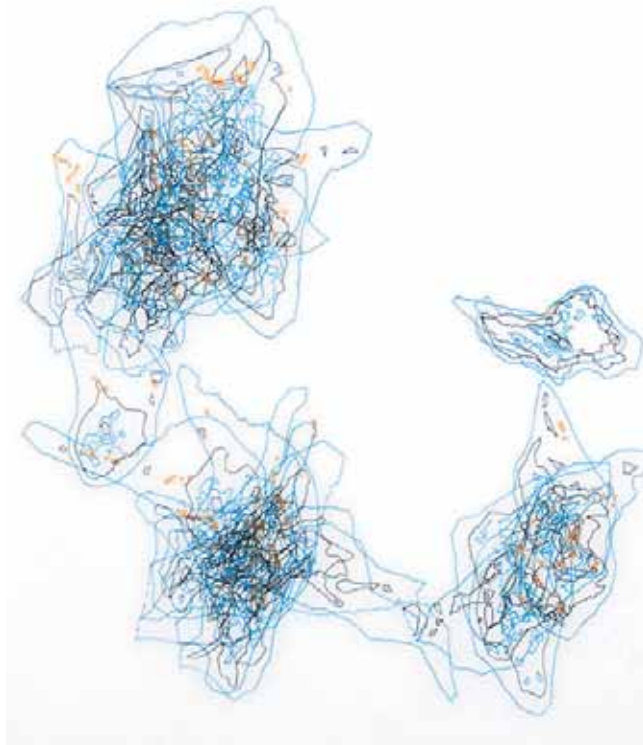
George Mason University's School of Art is presenting "Draw(n) Out," an exhibition featuring works by nationally recognized artists from across the United States, including a selection of artists represented by galleryELL in Brooklyn, N.Y. The exhibition will be on display in the Fine Art Gallery in the Art and Design Building on Mason's Fairfax Campus from Jan. 22 through Feb. 15.

An opening reception will be held on Thursday, Jan. 24, from 6-8 p.m.

According to Kariann Fuqua and Nancy Hubbard, who organized the exhibition and whose work will be on display, "Draw(n) Out" examines the work of artists who utilize drawing to explore physical manifestations and psychological perceptions of time. Notions of time—temporality, permanence, progression, flux—only add to the complexity of its definition, providing a rich framework from which artists can investigate

new meaning. The exhibition will focus on pushing the boundaries of the institutional definition of drawing, whether through the integration of mark-making with sometimes unusual materials or through a different conceptual approach to the medium, while simultaneously exploring themes of process, evolution, decay and change."

Artists include: Barb Bondy, associate professor of art, Auburn University, Auburn, Ala.; Matthew Choberka, associate professor of art and chair, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah; Kariann Fuqua, curator, George Mason University, Fairfax; Jodi Hays, artist, Nashville, Tenn.; Nancy Hubbard, artist, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Deanna Lee, artist, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Tim McDonald, associate professor of art, Framingham State University, Framingham, Mass.; Kirsten Nash, artist, New York; and John Ros, artist, Brooklyn, N.Y.



Kariann Fuqua, Untitled, ("Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill" series), Ink on mylar

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Caleigh Patterson of Fairfax is a member of the 2012-2013 Lynchburg College women's basketball team, coached by Abby Pyzik. Patterson, a junior center, is averaging 3.2 points per game and 3.5 rebounds per game.

Patterson, an exercise physiology major, is the daughter of Pip and Shannon Patterson.

The Hornets (5-3/2-0 ODAC) will travel to face off against Averett University in a non-conference matchup on Saturday, December 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Sean Padraig Brennan, a junior majoring in computer science at the University of Rochester, has been named to the Dean's List for academic achievement for the spring 2012 semester. Brennan, a resident of Fairfax Station, is the son of John and Mary Ellen Brennan, and a graduate of South County Secondary School in Lorton.

Taehee Han of Fairfax has been named to the Dean's List at New River Community College, located in Dublin, Virginia.

Fairfax residents **Cara Bialek and David Hixon** have been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at the Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Ga.

Austin Lee has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Randolph-Macon Academy. He is the son of Leah Lee of Fairfax and Seung Kyu of Arlington.

Brittney Ransdell has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Randolph-Macon Academy. She is the daughter of Denise Ralls of Fairfax.

Nathan Warren of Fairfax has been named to the fall 2011 honor roll at Loomis Chaffee School, Windsor, Ct.

Paul Anthony Polanski of Fairfax has earned a bachelor of science from Excelsior College of Albany, N.Y.

Marine Corps Pvt. Cameron T. Harshfield completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. He studied first aid, uniform regulations, combat water survival, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and assorted weapons training, close order drill and operating as a small infantry unit during field training. Harshfield is a 2011 graduate of Fairfax High School.

Elena Nadolinski of Fairfax was one of six young women invited to the White House as a winner in the National Council for Women in Information Technology Award for Aspirations in Computing. Nadolinski was the vice president of Woodson's Computer Science Club, and president of its Robotics Club. While she was president of the latter group, her team placed second internationally in the Botball Robotics Tournament.

Julia Marie Won of Fairfax has been named a recipient of the fall 2011 dean's award at Colgate University of Hamilton, N.Y. She is the daughter of Raymond J. Won and Jeanne T. Won.

Michael Holland Larkins of Fairfax has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Hampden-Sydney College. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Markel Larkins.

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NEWS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Infantry Division prepared to fire the 10 pound Parrott Gun. Each soldier had a specific job; Rolf Madole of Clifton was piece gunner (arm the piece), Neal West, Waldorf, Md., was primer lanyard (to fire the gun), Paul Goss, Fairfax, was thumb stall, Bryant Kincaid, Manassas, Va., was sponge ram, and Bob Griesbach, Ellicott, Md., was load projectile.

Presenting Living History

The Manassas National Park Battlefield heralds in the new year with a living history lesson. Sponsored by the national park and narrated by park ranger John Reed, the rest of the event is entirely organized, run and funded by volunteers.

A modest crowd of visitors were treated to live demonstrations of artillery and musketry firings. Park ranger John Reed provided an explanation of the

time period, the soldiers and their jobs and lives. Held on Henry Hill behind the visitor center, the first musket fire cracked the quite sky followed by a tremendous boom from the 10-pounder Parrot Gun known to most of us as a cannon.

If you missed this year's Living History event, there are still a couple more opportunities beginning in July with "The First and Second Battle of Manassas."



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SPORTS

Woodson Boys' Basketball Extends Win Streak to 12

Cavaliers adapt to TC's physicality in second half.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION (OR GAZETTE PACKET)

The Woodson boys' basketball team's collection of tall sharp shooters is a primary reason the Cavaliers entered Tuesday night's contest against the T.C. Williams Titans riding an 11-game winning streak.

With four players listed at six-foot-four or taller capable of stroking 3-pointers, Woodson provides a tough matchup for any opponent. TC, on the other hand, compensates for offensive shortcomings with a physical brand of basketball and a group of bruisers strong enough to make an impact in the paint.

With a chance to pull within one game of first-place Woodson, TC, the defending Patriot District champion, pounded the ball inside and tested whether the Cavaliers were as interested in defending the paint as they were launching shots from the perimeter. The Titans succeeded with their physical attack into the third quarter, but it was the Cavaliers who left The Garden with their win streak intact.

WOODSON DEFEATED TC 64-54 on Jan. 22 at T.C. Williams High School. The Cavaliers improved to 15 to two overall, nine to zero in the district and extended their win

streak to 12 games. The Titans dropped to nine to seven overall, six to three in the district and into a third-place tie with West Potomac. Lake Braddock is in second place with a seven to two district record.

A post-up bucket by TC's Landon Moss gave the Titans a 34-28 lead with six minutes 14 seconds remaining in the third quarter. Woodson battled back and took a one-point lead into the fourth quarter before outscoring the Titans 23-14 in the final period.

"We felt we had a quicker first step than they did," said Moss, who finished with six points. "They've got strong guys, but we felt like we could overpower them, maybe, if we got the ball inside . . ."

Of the Titans' first 34 points, 28 came near the rim or from the free-throw line. Of TC's final 20 points, only five came near the rim or at the free-throw line.

"You've got to be kind of physical with us and that's what they did the first time we played them — they really pounded us down low," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "They got the ball inside. They've got a lot of guys near the basket that make shots. . . I think in the first half we didn't really respond very well to the physical nature of the game. Especially on the defensive end on the backboards, we were a little soft. I think that was kind of our challenge to them at halftime was we wanted to get after them and do that."

How did the Cavaliers respond in the second half?

"I thought we were fine in the second half," Craig said. "Once we strung together a couple stops, I felt like I could kind of see our confidence growing. We're going to



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Woodson's Peter Murray scored 11 points against T.C. Williams on Tuesday night.

score the ball against most teams. We're blessed with a lot of guys that can put the ball in the hole. For us, it's about the defensive end and the consistency at the defensive end of the floor."

Woodson received a late boost from senior Alex Boock, who sat on the bench for most of the first half after being whistled for his second foul less than three minutes into the game. After not scoring a point for the first three quarters, Boock tallied 12 in

the fourth, including eight points during an 11-3 Cavalier run to open the period.

A THREE-POINT PLAY by Woodson senior center Peter Murray gave the Cavaliers a 52-43 lead with 4:05 remaining in the fourth. With TC trailing by six late in the game, Murray came up with a tip-in to extend the Woodson lead to 59-51 with 1:02 to play.

"It's always a challenge. T.C. Williams, they're known for being physical," Murray said. "They came out real hyped and were pushing us around at the beginning, but as the game went on we got a little chip on our shoulders and decided in order to be in this game and to win this game, we've got to push back. I thought we were able to do that very well and eventually we started controlling the boards better and not letting them get all those offensive rebounds."

Each of the Cavaliers' vertically-gifted shooters scored at least eight points. Six-foot-six Tommy Stepka led Woodson with 15 points and made a trio of three-pointers. Six-foot-four Boock scored 12 points, including a pair of three-pointers. Six-foot-four Murray had 11 points and six-foot-four Andy Stynchula knocked down two three-pointers and finished with eight points.

Sophomore point guard Eric Bowles, who is listed at five feet 11, finished with 13 points. Bowles' jumper in the closing seconds of the third quarter gave Woodson a 41-40 lead. The Cavaliers led for the remainder of the contest.

Woodson will travel to face Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25. TC will travel to face Lee at 7:45 p.m. on Friday.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Lake Braddock Girls' Basketball Beats Lee

The Lake Braddock girls' basketball team defeated the Lee Lancers 65-54 on Tuesday for its seventh win in its last eight games. The Bruins improved to 10 to five overall and six to three in the Patriot District.

According to stats from the Washington Post's website, Lake Braddock senior Natalie Butler, who will play for Georgetown next season, scored 34 points and grabbed 18 rebounds against Lee. The six foot four center is averaging 26.5 points and 18.1 rebounds per contest. In the Bruins' last five games, Butler has scored at least 30 points four times and reached the 40-point mark twice. Against

T.C. Williams on Jan. 11, Butler scored 40 points and grabbed 31 rebounds.

Lake Braddock's Christine McGrath scored 12 points against Lee and Marcia Altman added eight.

Lee's Adeli Block finished with 17 points, Meghan Cox scored 16 and Amber Bryson added nine.

The Bruins will travel to face Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday,

Jan. 25. The Lancers will host T.C. Williams at 7:45 p.m. on Friday.

Lake Braddock Boys' Basketball Beats Lee

The Lake Braddock boys' basketball team won its third straight game, beating Lee 51-42 on Jan.

22. The Bruins improved to 11 to five overall and took over sole possession of second place in the Patriot District with a seven to two mark.

According to stats from the Washington Post's website, Will Gregorits led Lake Braddock with 20 points and A.J. Alexander added eight.

R.J. Barney and Gideon Boakye each scored 11 for Lee.

Lake Braddock will host Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25. Lee will host T.C. Williams at 7:45 p.m. on Friday.

West Springfield Boys' Basketball Snaps Losing Streak

The West Springfield boys' basketball team beat Annandale 53-44 on Jan. 22, snapping a five-game losing streak.

Chris Saulino led the Spartans with 16 points.

West Springfield will host South County at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 25.

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HOME SALES

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Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision
3722 HIGHLAND PL	5	5	3		FAIRFAX	\$1,925,000	Detached	2.03	22033	FAIRFAX FARMS
3435 FAWN WOOD LN	4	4	1		FAIRFAX	\$1,175,000	Detached	0.83	22033	OAK HILL ESTATES
11717 VALLEY RD	4	4	1		FAIRFAX	\$790,000	Detached	2.22	22033	FAIRFAX FARMS
3835 PARKLAND DR	4	4	1		FAIRFAX	\$740,000	Detached	0.18	22033	PENDERBROOK
10806 SECOND ST W	5	4	1		FAIRFAX	\$707,550	Detached	0.17	22030	FAIRFAX HEIGHTS
12005 CALIE CT	4	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$677,500	Detached	0.12	22033	PENDERBROOK
12011 CALIE CT	4	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$659,000	Detached	0.11	22033	PENDERBROOK
9782 MAPLE TRACE CIR	4	4	1		FAIRFAX	\$649,888	Detached	0.10	22032	MAPLE TRACE
10537 JAMES WREN WAY	3	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$605,000	Townhouse	0.05	22030	CHANCERY SQUARE
3512 NODDING PINE CT	5	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$602,000	Detached	0.35	22033	FRANKLIN GLEN
3601 IRISH MOSS CT	4	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$585,000	Detached	0.36	22033	FRANKLIN GLEN
4103 HALSTED ST	3	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$563,000	Townhouse	0.03	22033	CENTERPOINTE III
4277 MCCLAIN HILL CT	3	2	1		FAIRFAX	\$555,000	Detached	0.07	22033	CARR AT CEDAR LAKES
12447 PEACEFUL CREEK DR	2	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$530,000	Townhouse	0.07	22033	STONE CREEK CROSSING
10111 BLUE COAT DR	4	3	0		FAIRFAX	\$510,000	Detached	0.25	22030	MOSBY WOODS
13404 SPRINGHAVEN DR	4	3	0		FAIRFAX	\$510,000	Detached	0.32	22033	FRANKLIN GLEN
10841 SECOND ST	3	2	2		FAIRFAX	\$508,000	Townhouse	0.15	22030	FAIRFAX HEIGHTS
10309 RANGER RD	4	3	0		FAIRFAX	\$500,000	Detached	0.31	22030	MOSBY WOODS
4247 TRUMBO CT	3	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$500,000	Townhouse	0.07	22033	FAIR LAKES COURT
10104 RANGER RD	4	2	1		FAIRFAX	\$492,000	Detached	0.23	22030	MOSBY WOODS
10328 SAGER AVE #409	2	2	0		FAIRFAX	\$490,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		22030	PROVIDENCE SQUARE
3136 SINGLETON CIR	4	2	1		FAIRFAX	\$475,000	Detached	0.26	22030	MOSBY WOODS
10328 SAGER AVE #217	2	2	0		FAIRFAX	\$465,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22030	PROVIDENCE SQUARE
10324 FOREST AVE	4	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$462,000	Detached	0.24	22030	GREEN ACRES
4709 GREAT HERON CIR	3	2	2		FAIRFAX	\$460,000	Townhouse	0.05	22033	GREENS AT FAIR LAKES
3912 MAXIMILIAN CT	3	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$446,500	Townhouse	0.05	22033	PENDERBROOK
3721 RANDOLPH ST	3	2	1		FAIRFAX	\$414,888	Detached	0.23	22030	LAYTON HALL
4480 MARKET COMMONS DR #816	2	2	0		FAIRFAX	\$399,999	Penthouse		22033	ELAN AT EAST MARKET
13119 SPARROW TAIL LN	4	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$399,900	Townhouse	0.03	22033	FAIR LAKES LAND BAY
12626 VICTORIA STATION CT	3	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$389,000	Townhouse	0.05	22033	FAIR LAKES
3916 BRADWATER ST	3	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$384,000	Townhouse	0.06	22031	COMSTOCK
10816 CREST ST	4	2	0		FAIRFAX	\$375,000	Detached	0.21	22030	WESTMORE
3927 COLLIS OAK CT	3	2	1		FAIRFAX	\$375,000	Townhouse	0.05	22033	FAIR WOODS
3707 MAZEWOOD LN	3	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$355,000	Townhouse	0.03	22033	FOXFIELD
12110 WEDGEWAY CT	2	2	1		FAIRFAX	\$352,000	Townhouse	0.03	22033	PENDERBROOK
3706 MAZEWOOD LN	3	2	2		FAIRFAX	\$350,000	Townhouse	0.03	22033	FOXFIELD
4022 CHESTNUT ST	3	1	1		FAIRFAX	\$345,000	Detached	0.16	22030	WESTMORE
10328 SAGER AVE #313	1	1	1		FAIRFAX	\$335,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		22030	PROVIDENCE SQUARE
13216 CUSTOM HOUSE CT	3	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.03	22033	FOXFIELD
12308 STRONG CT #555	2	2	0		FAIRFAX	\$275,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22033	LINDEN AT FAIR RIDGE
12970 RIDGEMIST LN	2	2	3		FAIRFAX	\$265,000	Townhouse	0.03	22033	TOWNES OF GREENBRIAR
4126H MONUMENT CT #202	2	2	0		FAIRFAX	\$254,950	Garden 1-4 Floors		22033	FAIRMONT
12895 FAIR BRIAR LN #12893	2	2	0		FAIRFAX	\$250,000	Townhouse		22033	GATES OF FAIR LAKES
12225 FAIRFIELD HOUSE DR #105C	2	2	0		FAIRFAX	\$250,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22033	FAIRFIELD HOUSE
4409 FAIR STONE DR #205	2	2	0		FAIRFAX	\$245,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22033	STONECROFT
12009 GOLF RIDGE CT #399	3	2	0		FAIRFAX	\$216,111	Garden 1-4 Floors		22033	HEIGHTS AT PENDERBROOK
12893B GRAYS POINTE RD #12893B	2	2	0		FAIRFAX	\$209,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22033	GRAYS POINTE
3975 LYNDHURST DR #302	2	1	0		FAIRFAX	\$167,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22031	LYNDENHURST
10167 MOSBY WOODS DR #310	2	1	0		FAIRFAX	\$160,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22030	MOSBY WOODS GARDEN
12902 GRAYS POINTE RD #12902A	1	1	0		FAIRFAX	\$155,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22033	GRAYS POINTE
9479 FAIRFAX BLVD #303	1	1	0		FAIRFAX	\$140,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22031	FOXCROFT COLONY
12155 PENDERVIEW TER #802	1	1	0		FAIRFAX	\$135,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22033	PENDERBROOK SQUARE
10725 WEST DR #202	2	1	0		FAIRFAX	\$128,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22030	FAIRFAX WEST

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Scholarship Winner

FROM PAGE 5

obtain a Masters of Arts in conflict transformation and peace studies from the University of Kwazulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa. McManus has chosen to focus on peace studies and conflict resolution programs because she is interested in understanding the factors that lead to the issue of racism through history and wants to understand the process of peace-keeping. Her academic coursework will be supplemented by participating in a community development project that provides a summer camp to youth in low

socioeconomic communities and have experienced racism, discrimination or violent xenophobic attacks.

The Rotary Club of Fairfax is a member of Rotary International, an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. For more information about the Rotary Club of Fairfax, visit the club’s website at www.fairfaxrotary.org or email Rotary Club of Fairfax’s Executive Director Irby N. Hollans, Jr., at ihollans@earthlink.net.

FAITH NOTES

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

St. Leo the Great Church in Fairfax offers a program for Catholics who are away from the church, struggling with church teachings or who would like to more fully practice their faith by returning to the Sacraments; the program, Welcome Home, is offered on Sundays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24 and March 3 and 10 at 7 p.m. in the St. John Room, 3770 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. csmith@stleofairfax.com.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the

corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a Bible Study Fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and Children’s Church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100, www.fbtministries.org

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:15, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m.,

followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service. 7300 Gary Street, Springfield. 703-451-1500 www.fbcspringfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

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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.
Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

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9610 Deep Lake Way	\$754,495	Sat/Sun 12-5	Clark Massie	Tetra Corp..703-391-6245
9626 Deep Lake Way	\$748,995	Sat/Sun 12-5	Clark Massie	Tetra Corp..703-391-6245
9618 Deep Lake Way	\$738,995	Sat/Sun 12-5	Clark Massie	Tetra Corp..703-391-6245
6308 Swan Landing Ct	\$609,000	Sun 1-4	Suzanne Burch	Century 21..703-328-5606
9515 Vandola Ct	\$575,000	Sun 1-4	Helen Grozbean	Keller Williams..571-233-4287
6200 Fushsimi Ct	\$475,000	Sun 1:30-3:30	James Nellis	RE/MAX..703-930-0655
10523 Reeds Landing Cir	\$369,900	Sun 1-4	Doris Crockett	Weichert..703-615-8411
12213 Wye Oak Commons Cir	\$364,900	Sat 1-3	Kimberly Neff	Avery-Hess..703-237-6779
10310 Rein Commons Ct #2C	\$129,000	Sun 1-4	David Ingram	Weichert..703-250-8500

Centreville

6487 Trillium House Ln	\$999,900	Sun 10-4	Jean Marotta	Birch Haven..703-402-9471
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Clifton

6324 Deepwood Farm Dr	\$579,000	Sun 1-4	Ed Duggan	Century 21..703-989-7735
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Fairfax

3876 University Dr	\$445,000	Sun 1-4	Carol Hermandorfer ..	Long & Foster..703-503-1812
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Fairfax Station

11107 Hampton Rd	\$1,295,000	Sun 1-4	Trina Ocasio	Weichert..703-594-1744
11156 DeVaughn Ct	\$722,900	Sun 1-4:30	Ned Malik	MLSNow..571-313-1821

Falls Church

3804 Munson Rd	\$829,000	Sun 1-4	Patrick Kessler	Keller Williams..703-405-6540
3324 Stonybrae Dr	\$699,500	Sun 1-4	Dana LaFever	Weichert..703-609-3479

Kingstowne/Alexandria

7459 Gillingham Row	\$499,000	Sun 1-4	Jonathan DeHart	Long & Foster..703-790-1990
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Lorton

8960 Fascination Ct #314	\$349,990	Sat 12-3	Shawn Evans	Long & Foster..703-795-3973
8960 Fascination Ct #111	\$265,990	Sat 12-3	Shawn Evans	Long & Foster..703-795-3973

McLean

919 Swinks Mill Rd	\$1,339,000	Sun 1-4	Debbie Mesen	Weichert..703-201-7723
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Springfield

8603 Langport Dr	\$520,000	Sun 1-3	Mary Ruehl..Coldwell Banker..	703-451-2500
7262 Linden Tree Ln	\$459,950	Sun 1-4	Kathleen Quintarelli	Weichert..703-862-8808
7840 Doane Ct	\$449,000	Sun 1-4	Patsy Harrington	Fairfax..703-963-8515
7205 Layton Dr	\$399,900	Sun 1-4	Trong Trinh	TMT..703-237-6779

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.

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THE COUNTY LINE

Feeling Power of Love

FROM PAGE 4

to explore that option.

“God works in mysterious ways. We actually used to go on outings with this couple and their foster children before Tiff and I were married,” he said. “We still had a lot of love to give.”

“That was the core of it, the love we had for each other,” Tiffany said. “You know, a lot of people say that when you lose a child, it tears a couple apart. Well, nothing could tear me away from him. He is my rock. His mental strength is astounding.”

FAIRFAX FAMILIES4KIDS

They connected with a small agency in Fairfax County called Fairfax Families4Kids, a unique foster-mentoring program run by the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. Created in 2005, the program’s mission is to build bonds between volunteers and foster children, a majority of whom are 14 years old or older.

According to Beverly Howard, Ph.D., coordinator of the program, every year in Fairfax County, as many as 20 teens in foster care leave the system without a family and are unable to return safely to their parents or relatives.

The children who wait are typically African-American, and are age 9 or older when they enter foster care. They have emotional, medical and educational needs. Many have lived in a series of foster homes or residential facilities.

Kenny was one of the children in the program when the Granvilles decided to become mentors.

Howard said volunteers who become mentors have a lot of flexibility, and there’s no specific amount of time mentors must spend with children. Some are assigned a particular child while others work with several children. Every month there are group activities for the participants and their mentors.

“We want people to know they can get involved without feeling too much pressure,” Howard said.

Mentors can attend as many group outings as they want, depending on their schedule.

Outings have included a Christmas Cruise on the Potomac; the DC Kite Festival; fundraising events for the homeless and a variety of sports events and clinics, from basketball to handball. Farm Day, held twice a year in Ashburn, is a favorite event for the children. Donated by a benefactor of the program, the event is held twice a year in Ashburn, and includes horseback riding, bike-riding, games and a picnic.

Howard said all the activities are structured to allow “natural matches” to develop over time as the youth interact with the volunteers and actively help select their mentors. “Mentors see the value, the strengths and possibilities in the youth and the youth begin to form trusting relationships with the mentors,” she said.

Kenny met the Granvilles during Farm Day. He had just turned 13, and had been in a series of foster homes since he was 9 years old.

Before formal foster care, he was living sporadically with his biological mother from the time he was 3 years old.

Born in Dumfries, Kenny’s mother had substance abuse problems. When she could not care for him, he would stay with her friends for weekends—or weeks at a time. When he was placed in foster care full-time, he had no more contact with his biological mother.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOAN BRADY

Kenny Granville

Sitting on a sofa at home, Kenny shows a visitor a book of photos from several outings. When asked if he remembers the first time he met Chris and Tiffany, he smiles broadly, and mentions that he left his coat in their car so they would have a reason to seek him out again.

The Granvilles said they felt an immediate connection to Kenny, and they would have come back to see him, even if he hadn’t left his coat in their car.

“Oh yes, I definitely remember Farm Day,” Tiffany said.

“We had been going to different events as mentors, and then Farm Day came along,” she said, shaking her head and wiping away tears. “It was weird. There was this big gush of wind and this kid came out of nowhere. Literally, leaves are flying around, and I saw Kenny playing... I said to Chris ‘I feel like he’s going to be our child.’ I mean, we thought we would adopt a younger child, but we just jelled with him.”

“As soon as they walked in, I went up to talk to them,” Kenny said.

“There was just something about him. His smile, his sense of humor, something that tugged at our hearts,” Chris said.

Kenny began spending weekends with the couple, playing basketball with Chris, watching football games, and just being a “regular” kid with a family.

“Everything just fit,” Chris said, “It felt like it was meant to be.”

Tiffany and Chris said there’s no one “aha” moment they can point to when they decided to adopt Kenny. “It just seemed like the natural next step,” Chris said.

As the Granvilles spent more and more time with Kenny, they became determined to adopt him. And then the couple got a surprise that some might consider a “game-changer.”

She learned she was pregnant with Elijah.

“And no, we never thought about not adopting Kenny,” she said, laughing.

Kenny was formally adopted by the Granvilles when he turned 14. Elijah was just weeks old, but “we wanted him there to be with his big brother,” Chris said.

During the adoption proceeding, the judge asked Kenny if there was any reason not to go forward, and why he wanted to be adopted.

“Because I love them. And they love me,” Kenny said.

“There wasn’t a dry eye in that courtroom,” Tiffany said.

NEXT WEEK : Interviews with mentors and child who aged-out and is now homeless.

Joys and Challenges

FROM PAGE 4

vised and supportive group environment to participate in enjoyable activities together. (Events have included chess tournaments, basketball clinics, kite festivals, a Broadway show, exercise classes, horseback riding, Internet and web design classes, and community service projects.)

Q: What does FFX4Kids offer foster children, and the parents who foster them?

A: FFX4Kids provides a social network where youth in foster care can interact with mentors, prospective adoptive families, dedicated volunteers and other children in foster care.

The dedicated FFX4Kids mentors are at the core of the “relationship-building” that keeps the youth coming back. Every participating youth experiences group mentoring for several months prior to being assigned a one-on-one mentor who agrees to mentor for at least two years. Many of these caring adults commit to being life-long supports for the youth they mentor. Some have even adopted their mentee. Other mentors have been consistently and actively involved in the program for five, six, and seven years, and have mentored a number of different youth during that time.

Q: What are some FFX4Kids “success stories?”

A: We have many success stories. We have participated in 10 adoptions of youth ages 11 to 18 (most have been between ages 14-16 at the time of the adoption) and 10 permanent connections for youth ages 18 to 21. A “permanent connection” means that these young adults leave foster care with a caring, adult connection who can provide guidance and emotional support as they embark upon adulthood. Most of us know that just because you turn 18 or 21 years old, you don’t automatically have all the answers, and it is always good to have an adult to help answer some of the questions that come with being an adult.

Success Stories: “Mason” was adopted by his mentors when he was 15 years old. He had already spent six years in foster care, and lived in numerous

adoptive homes and residential facilities. He is a charming, likeable, athletic young fellow who is now a freshman in college and working part-time. He regularly returns to the FFX4Kids events to encourage and motivate the other kids, and just to share in the fun. His parents also continue to be active mentors for other youth in FFX4Kids and a strong supporter of the program.

“Mason” is good friends with “Paul.” “Paul” has been in foster care for almost 10 years. “Paul” has also had numerous placements. He is still in foster care, participating in the Independent Living program, and enjoying his freshman year in college also. As he participates in the twice-monthly FFX4Kids activities, he finds continuous support and encouragement from the group mentors, who genuinely admire his strength and his tenacity. He is a role model and “Jr. Mentor” for the younger kids in the group.

Q: Knowing all of the obstacles, all of the challenges for foster children, what motivates you to keep working with foster children?

A: I love what I do. The youth that I have been blessed to know, are wonderful and all of them have enriched my life immeasurably. The adoptive families and mentors never cease to amaze me—by their commitment to the youth, their dedication, their energy and creativity, and their ability to see well beyond the labels that so many of our youth have gathered along their journey in foster care. They see the gifted artists, the aspiring scientists, the comedians, the athletes, and the beautiful children waiting for an opportunity to bloom.

I also have been blessed to have my own family expanded through the adoption of two older youth (ages 8 and 9). I know firsthand the joys and challenges this brings. I also know that love is not enough. The decision to adopt an older youth must come from both the head and the heart. It is critical that the adoptive family make an informed decision cognizant of all of the challenges before them, with realistic expectations, and knowledge of resources available to support the family. It is hard work, and not for the faint of heart.