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West Springfield senior Amy Berglund scored a career-high 30 points against West Potomac on Jan. 14.

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Sharpshooting Spartan

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Peak of the Season Oyster Bar and Peel & Eat Shrimp Thursday–Saturday 4–9 p.m.



Valentine's Weekend Feb. 14-16

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Week in Fairfax

Route 29K/ N Metrobus Changes

Washington Area Metro Transit Authority (Metro) has made the following changes to Metrobus Route 29K/N, which affects City of Fairfax riders:

✤ The 29N will extend from Fairfax Circle to Vienna/Fairfax-GMU station. This change will connect the Little River Turnpike corridor to the Orange Line and provide connections to additional Metrobus and Fairfax Connector routes.

There'll be 12 additional weekday trips in each direction.

The time between buses will improve to 30 minutes between Northern Virginia Community College and King Street-Old Town station (60 minutes on each route).

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.

Annual Valentine's Day Banquet. The Family Ministry of the Greater Little Zion Baptist Church is sponsoring their annual Valentine's Day Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 15. from 6:30 to 11 p.m. All couples and singles are invited to fellowship to enjoy an evening of dining, music, dancing and featured entertainment.

The theme for this night of extravaganza and celebration of Valentine's Day is "The Joy Of Love" (Song of Songs 4:10). Location: Waterford Receptions at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Cost: \$55 per person. Contact Deacon Anthony Bazemore or Deaconess-Elect Terri Bazemore at 703-764-9111. Reservations and payments are due by Feb. 10.

days.

served

son

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 or www.fbtministries.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming innner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit http://www.guhyasamaja.org for more information.

at

http://

Service will run later in the evening on week-

The 29N will run all day during the week. For

Robinson Secondary presents the children's show,

"The Snow Queen," Friday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m., and

Saturday, Jan. 25, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in

advance at the main office, \$7 at the door; \$6 re-

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/521540. It's be-

ing put on by the theater class, Robinson Production

Co., and is based on a tale by Hans Christian Ander-

are

more information, call 202-637-7000.

Robinson Offers

tickets

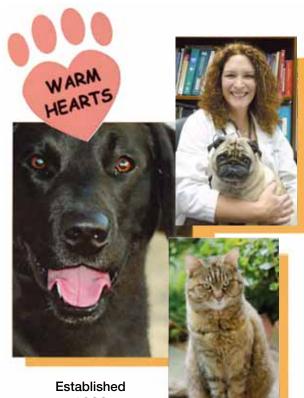
'Snow Queen'

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 8:30 and 10 a.m.

Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

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During the month of February, in addition to celebrating Dr. Phillips joining our practice, we are also celebrating National Pet Dental Health Month by offering \$50.00 off of any dental procedure. We'd be happy to see your pet for a complimentary evaluation of their dental health and to provide a comprehensive estimate for any recommended dental services. To take advantage of the special offer, please call 703-455-1188.

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NEWS

Let Sun Shine on Virginia's Financial Disclosure Laws

State legislators turn attention to ethics in wake of McDonnell gift scandal.

> By Victoria Ross THE CONNECTION

s members of the Virginia General Assembly convene for the first time since last February, legislators are stampeding to introduce ethics legislation in response to the gift scandal which engulfed then Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R).

The revelations last spring about numerous undisclosed gifts and purported loans from businessman Jonnie Williams to McDonnell — including a \$6,500 Rolex watch engraved to the "71st Governor of Virginia" and \$35,000 in gifts and catering for his daughters' weddings - shined a spotlight on Virginia's porous financial disclosure laws.

McDonnell, who remains under federal investigation over his relationship with Williams, pointed to various loopholes in existing state law as reasons for not disclosing gifts, noting that state law requires only the disclosure of gifts directly to officeholders, and not their families.

Following the principle cited by Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis that "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants," state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax) has introduced an ethics reform package which he says "makes the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) a centerpiece."

PETERSEN'S BILLS would increase disclosure, limit contributions and gifts, prohibit the use of private law firms for state business, and create an ethics commission, ideally with subpoena power, to hold legislators accountable and increase transparencv.

"The era of Rolexes, lake-house vacations, and \$150,000 loans must end," Petersen said. "For far too long those of us who serve in Richmond have relied on super-sized political contributions to fund our campaigns. That is a part of our current flawed culture. Working Virginians don't see campaign donations larger than their yearly incomes as 'no strings attached.' They see a transaction."

Petersen's package of ethical reform bills takes its place alongside several others announced last week, including a bipartisan reform package unveiled Tuesday, Jan. 7, by House Majority Leader M. Kirkland Cox (R-Colonial Heights) and House Minority Leader David J. Toscano (D-Charlottesville).

Under the Kirkland-Toscano bill, reforms include

♦ A \$250 cap on tangible gifts to officials and their immediate family members www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Photo by Victoria Ross/The Connection

Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), sitting, confers with a colleague during last year's General Assembly session. After the session ended in February, it was disclosed that federal and state authorities had launched an investigation regarding gifts given to then-Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) and his family. The investigation served to heighten public awareness of Virginia's lax financial disclosure laws.

from lobbyists or people with business before the state.

✤ A ban on solicitation of those gifts.

The requirement that family members' finances and gifts be disclosed.

The creation of an ethics commission that would serve as a resource, providing legislators guidance on issues that may pose a conflict of interest.

"What we have really tried to do here is take the best parts of our current system, which is fairly strict reporting accountability, and in targeted areas, we've really tried to beef that up and really get at some of the problems," Cox said at a news conference in Richmond last week with Republican and Democratic leaders.

Petersen said his proposals differed significantly from the House bill.

"I'm not overly impressed by the 'bipartisan compromise' announced in the House this week. My package has teeth. My intention is to change the culture, not just close the loopholes," Petersen said in an interview on Wednesday, Jan. 8.

"The other issue that's part of my proposal is making FOIA the centerpiece," Petersen said. "I think my FOIA bill is critical for bringing more transparency to this process. That's a huge difference, because without that it's really hard to know what's going

on and it's for people and the media to investigate."

Petersen said he wants his ethics commission to have subpoena power, which would give the group the authority to compel lawmakers to testify and produce evidence, or face a penalty for failure to comply.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, more than 40 states have similar ethics commissions, most with subpoena power.

Petersen said he has long been bothered by the lack of financial transparency in Virginia, and the ensuing erosion of the public's trust.

WHEN REPORTS ABOUT THE ROLEX

surfaced last July, Petersen sent a letter to the governor asking him to "come clean on this matter" by explaining the gifts, denying the reports, or resigning from office. He became the first Virginia lawmaker to suggest McDonnell's resignation in the wake of the deepening controversy over the lavish gifts.

"For too long, we've said 'hey, we're honorable gentleman, we can police ourselves,' Unfortunately, there have been too many recent incidents to contradict that," Petersen said.

"That's why I've introduced four bills that

What Petersen's Ethics Package Would Do

SB212: FOIA for General Assembly members and staff - SB212 removes the General Assembly's exception from the Virginia FOIA act. This bill repeals the 2013 General Assembly FOIA exemption act (HB1639), patroned by Del. Tag Greason (R-Potomac Falls).

- SB218: Limits on Campaign Contributions and Gifts SB218 Limits General Assembly members and Executives in the Commonwealth to a total of \$2,000 in gifts per year. All gifts over \$50 will continue to be itemized and reported. "Super sized" campaign donations will be limited to \$20,000 per individual donor per candidate.
- SB220: Prohibiting the Use of Private Law Firms for State Business -SB220 requires the office of the Attorney General to contract local city or county attorneys, rather than private counsel, when it experiences a conflict of interest. This bill will remove the incentive for private law firms to exploit the current law and over-bill the state on a public matter. This bill was brought about due to the ongoing attorney's fees charged by two firms employed by Attorney Gen. Ken Cuccinelli's office to defend Gov. Bob
- McDonnell, reportedly more than \$780,000. **\$ SB219:** Establishment of the Virginia Ethics Commission -SB219 requires that all loans, gifts, and statements of economic interests disclosures shall be filed with the Virginia Ethics Commission. Currently these disclosures are filed to the clerks of each house. The Virginia Ethics Commission will be a body independent of both houses, comprised of both former legislators and distinguished independent citizens whom have never held office. The commission will be able to make recommendations for disciplinary proceedings against legislators found in violation of disclosure laws to their respective house, where members will vote on any disciplinary action. For more information on these bills, go to:

http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/ legp604.exe?141+sum+SB212

SB220 (Petersen)

http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/ legp604.exe?141+sum+SB220

HB1639: (Greason, 2013)

http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/

legp604.exe?131+sum+HB1639 SB218 (Petersen)

http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/ legp604.exe?141+sum+SB218

SB219 (Petersen) http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/ legp604.exe?141+sum+SB219

will increase the public's right to know, limit campaign contributions to \$20K per candidate from a single donor, end the soaking of taxpayers by white-shoe law firms, and start a truly independent and distinguished ethics commission that includes everyday citizens to hold legislators accountable."

But Del. Dave Albo (R-42) said he wasn't overly impressed with Petersen's bills, and he supports the bipartisan compromise.

"The bipartisan House proposal includes an ethics commission, so I don't know why Senator Peterson thinks that his ethics commission is better," Albo said Friday, adding that it's unrealistic for state lawmakers to impose certain campaign contribution lim-

"If a bill could be crafted that would equally limit [all campaign contributions], then I would support it. But it has to be a level playing field," Albo said.

"It takes a long time to start earning back the trust that you have lost, and as Virginians, and as public officials, we need to start now," Petersen said.

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U.S. Garrison Fort Belvoir Environmental Restoration Program Public Notice for Corrective Measures Studies

Please join us for a Public Meeting on February 20, 2014 6:00 p.m. at the Fairfax County South County Center 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA

The U.S. Army, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and in accordance with Fort Belvoir's Hazardous Waste Storage Permit dated 23 October 2004, announces a 60-day public comment period, from **January 15, 2014 to March 15, 2014**, for Corrective Measures Studies (CMSs) for five Compliance Cleanup (CC) sites at the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, Virginia. These documents are available for public review at the Lorton Library in Lorton, VA and the Kingstowne Library in Fairfax, VA. The documents are also available via Fort Belvoir's Environmental Documents website at https://www.belvoir.army.mil/environdocs.asp.

The Army will conduct the public meeting on **Thursday**, **February 20**, **2014** to review the results of recently completed CMSs for these sites. Identified in these studies are the options for addressing the contaminants of concern and recommended approaches.

Sites CC-A08, George Washington Village Landfill, and CC-A09, Markham Road Landfill, are inactive, covered sanitary and construction debris landfills located in the South Post area near Dogue Creek. These landfills occupy 23.5 acres and are being addressed together due to their proximity. The recommended alternative for these sites to address landfill waste is Alternative S-3: engineered vegetative cover enhancement, long-term monitoring, and land-use controls. The recommended alternative to address contaminants in groundwater is Alternative G-2: monitored natural attenuation, land-use controls and long-term monitoring.

Sites CC-A11, Poe Road Landfill, and CC-A12, Accotink Landfill, are also inactive, covered sanitary and construction debris landfills located within the Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge directly south of Poe Road. These landfills occupy approximately 40 acres and are being addressed together due to their proximity. The recommended alternative to address both solid waste and groundwater contamination is Alternative 4: engineered vegetative cover enhancement, long-term monitoring, monitored natural attenuation and land-use controls.

Site CC-A05, Road and Grounds/Land Management Storage Area where contamination was discovered, is located in the South Post area and occupies approximately 2 acres. The recommended alternative to address water contamination at this site is Alternative 3: in situ enhanced bioremediation, land-use controls, long-term monitoring and monitored natural attenuation.

The CMSs and other related documents can be reviewed at the following locations:

Lorton Library 9520 Richmond Highway Lorton, VA 22079-2124 703-704-6000 Kingstowne Library 6500 Landsdowne Centre Alexandria, VA 22315-5011 703-339-4610

For any questions or comments, please contact: Amy Martin Fort Belvoir, Directorate of Public Works 703-805-0048

Fort Belvoir's compliance history during the life of the permit is available from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

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Photo Courtesy of 95 Express Lanes Project Virginia Delegate Dave Albo, Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity and a representative from the Fairfax County Parks Authority help a volunteer from Boy Scouts from Troop 1140 at Burke Lake Park. The "1,000 Trees in 1,000 Days" program, launched by the 95 Express Lanes project private partners Transurban and Fluor in 2012, aims to restore greenery to areas that lost trees during construction of the express lanes.

Program Works to Restore Greenery

Trees still available for planting in communities along the Interstate 95 Corridor.

that could put some trees back in

the community and actually use

the input of people and the com-

munity to tell us where they wanted the trees to go. The pro-

gram is open to any sort of appli-

cant, whether it's a home owners

association, a local religious association and even elected officials,"

Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops have helped put in the trees in

Stafford County, as well as in

Burke Lake Park. The project pays

for the cost of the trees, as well as

the instillation. Applicants can

choose from a variety of trees that

can adapt to different environ-

The program is accepting appli-

cations for the rest of the trees on

a rolling basis. Community mem-

bers interested in planting a tree

by next fall's planning season,"

"The program should wrap up

Transurban and Fluor also spon-

sors a community grant program,

which allows organizations ef-

fected by the construction to ap-

ply for funding for a project or ini-

"Those grants go to organiza-

tions that are impacted by the

project construction. That pro-

gram gives funds to implement a

program of the applicants choos-

ing," McGurk said.

can visit 95expresslanes.com.

he said.

ments.

McGurk said.

tiative.

By Janelle Germanos The Connection

n an effort to restore greenery to areas that lost trees during construction of the 95 Express Lanes project, Transurban and Fluor, private partners of the project, launched "1,000 Trees in 1,000 Days" to encourage community members to plant trees in areas along the 95 corridor.

The program began in 2012, and like the title suggests, aimed to plant 1,000 trees within 1,000 days. According to Mike McGurk, a corporate relations associate for Transurban, the project has already planted 853 trees. The program is one of two community initiatives offered to residents along the project corridor.

"The goal of the programs is to have a way to reinvest back into the communities that we will serve and the folks being impacted by construction of the 95 Express Lanes," McGurk said.

According to McGurk, the program helps put some trees back in the community that were removed to accommodate for the project. The program is not intended to replace all of the greenery removed due to construction, but is intended to put back some of what needed to be removed.

"We wanted to do a program www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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Springfield Connection & January 16-22, 2014 & 5

OPINION From Late Night Comedy to Your Bedroom

Why the General Assembly matters more in Virginia than most states.

he Virginia General Assembly began its annual session last week on Jan. 8.

The actions of the Virginia General Assembly matter more to localities than it would in many other states. In Virginia, localities have only the power specifically granted by the General Assembly, the Editorial Dillon rule.

So, for example, Montgomery County and Prince Georges County in Maryland recently voted to increase the minimum wage in those localities. They didn't need permission from Maryland General Assembly to do so. Arlington and Alexandria might be inclined to follow suit (the District government also voted to increase the minimum wage) but do not have that power.

The General Assembly limits how localities can raise revenue, what kinds of traffic regulations they can implement, whether they can control where guns are allowed, whether school districts can begin classes before Labor Day, and much more.

Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria sent their members of the Northern Virginia delegation of state senators, all Democrats, and delegates, overwhelmingly Democrats (13-5), to Richmond, where the House of Delegates is overwhelming Republican and control of the Senate is still up in the air pending special elections.

Del. Ken Plum (D-36) filed HB536 which

would "increase the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$8.25 per hour effective July 1, 2014, and to \$9.25 per hour effective July 1, 2015, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act." It isn't likely to see the light of day.

> Anyone can watch the Virginia House of Delegates or Senate on streaming video when either is in session, and the

Virginia General Assembly proved last year that it can be worthy of national attention for entertainment. It is in fact well worth tuning in once or twice or more. Visit http:// virginiageneralassembly.gov/ and click on "members and session," and see the "quick links" section for video links.

Legislators will consider literally thousands of bills between now and March 8.

Some quite random examples of proposed legislation from local delegates and senators:

Del. Dave Albo (R-42): Driving while intoxicated; refusal of blood or breath tests. This bill would allow a person who has been arrested for driving while intoxicated and who has refused to submit to a blood or breath test be given another opportunity to consent to testing after the arresting officer has advised the person of the consequences of his refusal.

Del. David Bulova (D-37): One bill would allow the employment of lights for the observation of deer (spotlighting) for certain activities authorized by the Department of Game and

Education, Transportation, Mental Health

See for Yourself

Visit http://virginiageneralassembly.gov/ and click on "members and session," and see the "quick links" section for live video links, information on who your legislators are and how to track bills. Every resident is represented by one state delegate and one state senator; look up your and email to be placed on their mailing lists. Consider attending heir local meetings.

Inland Fisheries. Another would provide that property used in connection with certain crimes associated with human trafficking is subject to forfeiture to the Commonwealth.

♦ Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) has proposed the repeal of last year's hybrid tax, plus a bill that would place a cap on the compensation that may be paid to a special counsel appointed to handle certain legal matters where it would be improper or uneconomical for the Attorney General, or the Attorney General is unable, to handle such matters. That cap would be the same as allowed for a court appointed attorney, a very small amount.

Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) proposes to create the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange, which will be established and operated by a new division within the State Corporation Commission.

Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) would make it a Class 1 misdemeanor for the owner of a website to both post an arrest photo and solicit, request, or accept money for removing the photograph.

Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) proposes to require drivers and passengers to wait for a reasonable opportunity to open vehicle doors on the side adjacent to moving traffic, an effort to prevent the "dooring" of bicyclists.



Springfield

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Special to The Connection reetings from Rich-

By David Bulova

mond! The 2014 General Assembly is now in full swing. In addition to consid-

ering nearly 2,000 bills, we will adopt Virginia's biennial budget, which must be balanced as required by Virginia's constitution. Thanks to everyone who has contacted me about issues throughout the year. This session I have introduced 13 bills and several budget amendments. Below is a summary of issues and initiatives I will be working on during the 2014 session.

Transportation – Last year's transportation funding package passed with strong bi-partisan support and is already generating significant revenue to fix local and regional transportation bottlenecks such as the I-66 corridor. Several legislators, however, are looking to repeal the package. Protecting this landmark accomplishment is a top priority.

Standards of Learning – There

6 Springfield Connection & January 16-22, 2014

has been mounting ✤ Bridge to Kindergarten – concern that Virginia's Standards of Learning

"teaching to the test" at the expense of critical thinking skills. I am thrilled that I have been appointed to the new Educational Reform Subcommittee of the House Education Committee, which will consider how to reform the SOLs.

Education Funding – It is not your imagination! The difference in the cost of living between Northern Virginia and the least expensive part of the state is a whopping 66 percent. To make up for this difference, our region has traditionally been given additional cost-tocompete funding for education. Unfortunately, the Governor's introduced budget proposes to eliminate this funding for school support personnel, which would result in a loss of \$20.7 million for our region. Restoring this funding is a priority for the Northern Virginia delegation.

Quality early childhood education is a key predictor of future educational success. This year I have introduced a budget amendment to provide classroom readiness skills to disadvantaged children who have not had a preschool experience. This initiative is based on a successful pilot program at Daniel's Run Elementary.

Del. Bulova unveils his legislative priorities.

Ethics Reform – Several events this past year placed a harsh spotlight on Virginia's relatively lax ethics and transparency laws. We got started on the right track when the Democratic and Republican caucuses announced the framework for a bipartisan ethics reform package. However, I am pushing for more to be done and have introduced House Bill 271 to increase transparency by requiring that gifts be reported on a more frequent basis. Currently, gifts are only reported once a year after the elections.

Health Care – There is broad

bi-partisan support to make changes to our mental-health system in the wake of the stabbing of Senator Creigh Deeds and the suicide of his son. We will also consider whether to expand Medicaid.

Human Trafficking – For the past several years I've been pleased to be part of a bipartisan coalition to fight human trafficking in Virginia by increasing penalties and giving law enforcement the tools they need to prosecute traffickers. This year I have introduced House Bill 767 that allows police to seize the assets of a trafficker, similar to what is already allowed for drug runners.

I invite you to share your thoughts by filling out my 2014 Constituent Survey. Also, mark your calendars for my annual Town Hall with Senator Chap Petersen on Feb. 1, from 9-10:30 a.m., at Fairfax City Hall. More information on both can be found at www.davidbulova.com.



have resulted in

News

New businesses continue to open in Springfield. From left: Ann Vandehey, DOS **Embassy Suites Springfield;** Taylor Holland, chief of staff for Lee District Supervisor; Michael Drobnis, **2013 president Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce; Dean Miller, National Sales Manager** Visit Fairfax; Brad Wymer, **GM Embassy Suites Spring**field; and Francesca deVito, **Catering Sales Manager Embassy Suites Springfield.**



Imagining a Transformed Springfield

Executive Director of Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce shares her thoughts on 2014.

By Janelle Germanos The Connection

ast year may have been a big year for Springfield, but according to Nancy-jo Manney, the executive director of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, 2014 will be even better.

"I'm sitting here in January and thinking wow, what a year this is going to be," Manney said.

The opening of the Springfield Town Center and Wegmans in late 2014 will be catalysts for growth in the area, Manney said.

"Projects like that are projects that people have been waiting for so long, so it is just going to be a good year," she said.

According to Manney, the Springfield Town Center and Wegmans should open in time for holiday shopping.

"They have not yet released a list of their tenants, and they aren't going to for obvious reasons, until everything is in place," Manney said.

The Washington Business Journal reported on Tuesday, Jan. 14 that LA Fitness, Regal Cinemas,

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED Nancy-jo Manney, Executive Director, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce:

Michael Kors, and many others will be among the new additions to the Springfield Town Center. Other projects to look for include the Interstate 95

express lanes, which Manney said should open after the 2014 holiday season. A Q&A on her thoughts on 2014 follows.

Q: What are the big things the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce is looking forward to in 2014?

A: The Springfield Town Center is the major development. We can be assured these are going to be really nice, high-end retail tenants that have been long desired to be in the area. The restaurants will be really nice. I've seen some initial designs for the food court, and it is a hospitable place where people would want to meet somebody for coffee or for lunch in a very casual environment, and then do some shopping. All of these things are things we have not been able to do in really five years, so as a community we are looking forward to getting back to that.

See Town Center, Page 10





Fans of Writer, NORA ROBERTS! April 4......\$129 Day Trip to Boonsboro, MD to meet Nora & Get an Autographed Book "The Collector"; Lunch at South Mountain Inn.

ALASKA CRUISE, May 23-30......\$1,403 Air from Dulles, 7-Nights Cruise on Celebrity's "Solstice" with all meals & entertainment. Call for Details.

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Springfield Connection & January 16-22, 2014 & 7

Education Learning Fun Creating Books with Children

Experts say helping little readers become authors can deepen a love of reading.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL inexpensive, it's one of the best

books, particularly books they've written themselves or with their mother. In world and particularly with knowlfact, K.J. is an avid reader of both homemade and traditionally published books, and his sister is fol- can read well can also think well lowing in his footsteps.

pictures and copied them on a home has shown that reading makes you printer," said their mother, Holly more contemplative, builds pa-Karapetkova, an associate professor tience, concentration, and you of literature at Marymount University in Arlington. "Once they were older, they illustrated the books or **MAKING YOUR OWN BOOKS** chose the item they wanted to in-stretches the imagination. M. Suclude like for a specific letter in an san Burns, Ph.D., a member of the alphabet book."

THE CONNECTION ways to help them develop a love of books and reading, which .J., 8, and his sister Karapetkova said is one of the great-Kalina, 3, love reading est gifts a parent can give a child.

"Reading is one of the fundamental ways that we interact with the edge," she said. "As a college professor, I find that my students who and write well. They are thinkers a twist on the story by maybe add-"When they were younger, I took on a much deeper level. Research have to use your imagination."

early childhood education and hu-Karapetkova and other research- man development and family sciers said that creating books like this ences faculty at George Mason

things that parents should keep in mind when making books with their children, however.

"Parents need to make it a positive experience," she said. "Children need to have books available [on topics] that are of true interest to them. When a book is being made with parents, it may not be engaging if the book is only of interest to the parent.

"Sometimes it gets sickening to have your kid tell you another princess story or another train story, but it is really important though to go with the child's interest," she continued. "You can take a little bit of ing a map that shows the places where the train might go."

Children may also want to turn to real-life for their books. "Children love to create stories based on their own experiences, and begin to dean early age," said Sharon Fishel. ArtReach director for the McLean Project for the Arts in McLean. "Parents can foster the link between



K.J., 8, and his sister Kalina, 3, make books with their mother, Holly Karapetkova, a professor of literature at Marymount University in Arlington. Experts say making books with children can help them develop of a love of reading.

their daily routine or special events, such as field trips, family outings or unplanned adventures."

When creating a homemade book, the text doesn't have to be original either. "You can take a familiar song and adapt the lyrics," said Karapetkova. "For example, a velop a love of art and literature at book about a daily routine can say 'This is the way we brush our teeth, brush our teeth, brush our teeth early in the morning."

The techniques for young childrawing, writing and reading by dren are a little different. "You with children is not only easy and University says there are a few having their child draw pictures of want a little one to engage with a

book," said Fishel. "A parent-child idea is nice. We do a lot of parentchild workshops here [at the McLean Project for the Arts] where one parent does one side [of the page] and child does the other."

The books children and their parents create don't have to be fancy, however. "When I've made books like this with my children, we've taken photos, we cut out pictures from magazines, glue sticks, something to put the picture onto," said Burns. "You can make those of the Lower School, said that parents can books fun by using artifacts. If

Fishel suggests sticking with the basics: "Composition book, crayons, colored penare OK. "I usually say don't let them erase cils. Go to a crafts store [and get] bags of what they write or draw 150 times. It is not origami papers or printed pattern papers," about perfection," said Fishel. she said, noting that "each part of it can be Burns agrees. "In books for pleasure you come a lesson plan. Get a patterned piece don't want to make big corrections," she of paper and explore with your child what said. "It's the relationship with parents that will make it positive." makes that a pattern. Don't assume that your Love suggests that parents display their child knows. children's books. "Writing and reading go

enue

of the budget.

initiate it."

over it."

Garza Proposes \$2.5 Billion Budget for FY 2015 Proposed Fairfax County public schools budget would

By Janelle Germanos The Connection

t the Jan. 9 School Board Meet ing, Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza released the proposed budget of \$2.5 billion for FY 2015.

The budget proposal requires an additional \$98.1 million, or 5.7 percent increase compared to FY 2014, from Fairfax County, which the school system says is due to uncontrollable factors such as enrollment growth, retirement rate increases and the structural deficit. The FY 2015 proposed budget is an increase of \$59.4 million from last year's approved budget.

"We had some significant cost drivers that affected our budget moving forward," Garza said at the school board meeting.

According to Garza, enrollment growth has created a strain on the school system due to the resources needed to address this growth. Other costs factors include a retirement rate increase of \$38.9 million, as required

cludes an increase of step bonuses for **FY 2015.**



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CON by the state, and health insurance in- **FCPS Superintendent Karen Garza** creases of an estimated \$23.9 million. **speaks at her Listening Tour on Dec. 7 at** Cooper Middle School in McLean. Garza THE PROPOSED BUDGET also in- has proposed a \$2.5 billion budget for

employees who are eligible, totaling \$41.0 million. There has been one step meeting with the school board regarding the used to prepare the budget, was \$48.5 milincrease for employees in the past five budget vears.

In order to address these cost includes the elimination of 731 positions.

The reductions include the elimination of 82 positions from central support, 180.5 positions from school support, which includes assistant principals, technology specialists, school clerical employees, custodians, and the elimination of the administrative intern program. The elimination of 468.7 classroom positions is also included in the proposed budget and will be done by increasing class size and cutting down on needs-based staffing, instructional assistants, and the career and transition program

"Some of that we believe can be mitinificant number of positions," Garza ones," Garza said. said.

Baccalaureate tests.

According to Garza, the Board of Su- million. pervisors has spent a great deal of time The FY 2015 projected beginning balance,

"I'm very hopeful and optimistic, having met with them numerous times, as we all creases, the budget includes reductions have, that there will be a shared solution and savings of \$96.5 million, which in- and that they will partner with us as we move forward to protect our great schools," Garza said.

> Garza said at the meeting that the school board has taken a shared approach in the FY 2015 proposed budget.

"As we look to FY 2015, our approach has been a shared approach. As I mentioned earlier, we had a projected significant shortfall. As we visited with the Board of Supervisors, we felt like after having visited with them and really surveying the lay of the land, we knew that we were going to have to look forward to solving this through a shared approach, recognizing that we're going to need their help in helping protect our schools moving forward, but at the same gated by annual growth and annual at- time, that we're going to have to make some trition, but it is significant. It is a sig- difficult decisions as a system, very painful

Garza said at the school board meeting The proposed budget also includes an that she knows the school system is asking going to be some difficult situations we are creases cannot be ignored. Our enrolladdition of \$4.2 million in fees for Ad- a lot of the Board of Supervisors. The bud- going to have Monday going forward," ment growth, our changing demographvanced Placement and International get is dependent on the Board of Supervi- Springfield School Board member Elizabeth ics, our rising insurance and retirement sors increasing the county transfer by \$98.1 Schultz said.

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"As a college professor, I find that my students who can read well can also think well and write well. They are thinkers on a much deeper level."

- Holly Karapetkova, Ph.D., Marymount University

your child may want to put some sand in the book, but it is important to have a child

"I like the thicker paper stock and sometimes it makes it easier to hold onto," she laminating paper and putting a plastic sheet

Even "folded paper, bound with a pencil becomes a writer's journal," said Karapetkova. "You can also take plastic ziplock bags, punch holes in the bags, fill them and they become bath time books because can be printed." they are waterproof."

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac create their own books as part of the elementary school curriculum. Jordan Love, head "create a writing center at home by provid-

you're doing a book from your beach trip, ing a child with an area dedicated to their work and ideas. All children need is blank paper, coloring crayons or markers, and a quiet place to work, preferably at a table that is their size. Elementary-age children should be provided paper that has a blank section added. "The other thing is to get the clear at the top and lines on the bottom.

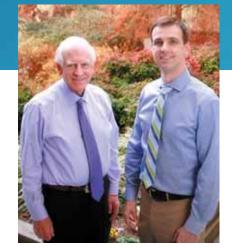
> "For preschool age children," Love said, parents can ask their child to dictate or describe in order the illustrations. Parents should describe what they are writing while the child watches them transcribe their ideas to the paper. This reinforces that language

Experts add that it's important to emphasize that mistakes, corrections and changes

hand in hand, and through supporting the writing process, parents are enhancing their child's ability to be a more effective and efficient reader. Writing together helps to expand a child's vocabulary, encourage creativity, activate prior knowledge, and build self-esteem.'

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The school board's revenue assumptions include \$375.9 million in state aid, \$171.7 million of state sales tax, \$42.0 million in federal aid, and \$66.6 million in tuition payments from City of Fairfax and other rev-

The projected FY 2015 student enrollment is 187,994 students.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS expressed both thanks to Superintendent Garza for increasing transparency and beginning the budget discussion earlier than previous years, as well as concerns for some aspects

"I have serious concerns with the budget that has been presented because I personally believe that there is some long term impacts in here that we need to ameliorate," said Dan Storck, the Mount Vernon District School Board member.

Other concerns included class size increase and the elimination of certain positions. "These are some brave cuts. These are

Evans said at the meeting she agrees the step Kaufax said.

increase for employees is fundamental. "As far as the request for the 5.7 percent transfer, I think that this is modest. It's reasonable. Considering our huge growth and our huge critical, fundamen-

tal needs, I think that our request here is quite reasonable," Evans said. Braddock District School Board member Megan McLaughlin expressed concern with the 5.7 percent increase in the

county transfer at the meeting, based off what the Board of Supervisors has approved in the past. "This school system has not seen a 6

percent or more increase since 2006. This 5.7 percent increase gives me great pause," McLaughlin said.

Some school board members, however, think the request is reasonable, including Vice Chairman and Lee District School Board member Tamara Derenak Kaufax.

"It cannot simply be stated that education is a top priority, when it has not been adequately funded for several years now. Our system has not. Lip service cannot educate a child. Our uncontrollable inrates. These are uncontrollable expenses. Mason District School Board member Sandy Again, don't ignore them," Derenak

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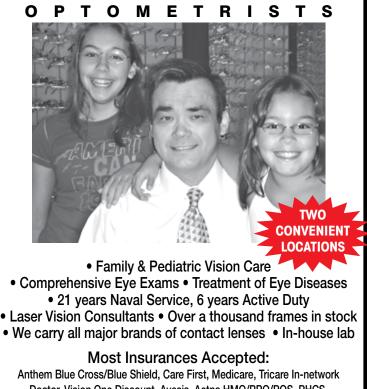
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News

Fairfax County Launches Sex Trafficking Prevention Campaign

Sex trafficking education materials also added to school curriculum.

By Janelle Germanos The Connection

n order to raise awareness to the fact that sex trafficking can happen any where, even in Fairfax County, a new prevention campaign and website raising awareness of this issue launched on Jan. 13.

The Fairfax County police partnered with Fairfax County Public Schools and the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services to launch the "Just Ask" Prevention Project, which includes a website and is intended to increase awareness of sex trafficking in Fairfax County.

"Obviously we prosecute and we do the enforcement efforts, but if we can prevent it, that is a better option for us," said Bill Woolf, lead detective of the Fairfax County Police Department human trafficking unit. "The best method of prevention is to raise awareness."

Woolf said the unit is focusing their efforts on combating juvenile sex trafficking.

"About 60 percent of our case load is juvenile sex trafficking. The sexual trauma that these kids endure really has life-long effects," Woolf said.

IN AN EFFORT TO RAISE AWARENESS

on sex trafficking and ways it can be prevented, a working group was formed to figure out how to best tackle this issue.

"The end product was this Just Ask' prevention campaign, and there are many fac-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED There'll be posters for buses, schools and other locations in support of Just Ask campaign.

ets to this campaign," Woolf said.

According to Woolf, traffickers often keep young girls in the cycle of violence and make them feel like they have no escape, which is why awareness is important.

"The theme is just ask - if you are a parent, just ask your teen. If you are a friend, just ask. If you are an educator, ask the student. That is the essential theme to this campaign. It's all about the open dialogue that we think is really going to impact in a positive way the reduction of sex trafficking in Northern Virginia. If we talk about it, people are aware of it, they know what they're looking for, and they know where to turn," Woolf said.

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity has also been educating people in his district about the fact that sex trafficking can happen in Fairfax County.

"One thing I have been trying to do is to raise awareness that this is out there. We actually have gangs that are recruiting our young girls to go into sex trafficking," Herrity said. "I'm not a detective, but one thing I can do is raise awareness and educate our population on the dangers."

Part of the campaign includes the addition of sex trafficking education materials for Fairfax County Public School students, which the school board approved at their Jan. 9 meeting.

"This is an area where we have come to realize that, where as we might like to think it can't happen here, it does, and it has, and it's a very serious issue," said Mason District School Board member Sandy Evans. "The media we have created here in FCPS will go a long way to raising awareness and hopefully protecting our young people who are victims of sexual trafficking at very young ages."

SEVERAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS encouraged the public to watch the videos, which other school districts also want to use.

"There are school systems around the

United States that are just absolutely anxious to get this videos from us, so what we are doing is not only helping Fairfax County, it is helping school systems across the United States," said Braddock District School Board member Megan McLaughlin.

Springfield School Board member Elizabeth Schultz was the only board member who voted against approving the material.

"About 60 percent of our case load is juvenile sex trafficking. The sexual trauma that these kids endure really has lifelong effects."

> --- Bill Woolf, lead detective of the human trafficking unit

"Frankly, I think with the degree of the sensibility of this material, something like this should be opt-in, not opt-out," Schultz said.

Will Ashe, the school board student representative, worked with the filmmakers on this project and was also part of the Family Life Education Curriculum Advisory Committee.

"We need to make sure as many people as possible know about this," Ashe said.

Town Center to Boost a Sense of the Community

From Page 7

Q: What are some other projects coming to Springfield in 2014? A: We have smaller projects, and they all kind of add together to make people see a new, greater Springfield area. The Metro Police substation will open up this year, and that is a very positive thing for the area. We don't know yet, but it is looking more and more like the FBI may pick this location. Springfield Toyota is moving their dealership to a bigger spot and they are putting in a ball field for the community. A lot of these things may seem like just another business, but it's not. They have bigger impacts on the community than we may think.

Q: What priorities do you think the General Assembly should tackle?

A: What we have said is, please don't disturb the transportation bill that was successfully accomplished last year. As they look at congestion mitigation, we as a chamber would like that to include

multi-modal, biking and pedestrian. That is very important for a mixed-use, high density area. It's not just about building roads or adding another bus line. While those things are very important, we need to provide safe walkable and bike-able environments for people, so if they want to travel from West Springfield to the Franconia/ Springfield metro station, they have a safe route to bike or to walk in the area. Otherwise they are just stuck in their car and then they have to drive there. When we can develop safe environments, then I think people will be more willing to get out of their car to bike and walk. We ask our representatives in the General Assembly to keep us posted on issues that are important to the business community. We work very closely with our other chambers here in Fairfax County and Northern Virginia to present a cohesive voice for the business community.

Q: What are some challenges that members of the chamber are facing?

A: There is still the economy. I'm still hear-

ing from a fair number of members concerning hiring. There are still a lot of people looking for jobs and looking for the right fit. Employers are still a little cautious about hiring, but there is also still a demand. For the past years, we've had fewer people doing more work, because they are cautious about hiring, but they also know they need to hire more people. That is something I think businesses struggle with on a daily basis.

It was a slow holiday season for some, but not everybody. It will be interesting to see what this winter does with regards to the weather. In general, I think people are excited with regards to the development that is coming and the potential that brings. There is always concern with health care reform and how that will impact businessthere is a lot of uncertainty there. Again, that could potentially impact someone who is trying to hire or decide if they should hire more.

Q: What are your thoughts on the possibility of the FBI coming to

Springfield?

A: The main reasons the FBI should come are convenience and accessibility. Quantico is just down the road, the Pentagon is up the hill. That is why Springfield being at the crossroads at so many interstates is convenient and good for a lot of things.

Q: What is your vision for Springfield in 2014 and beyond?

A: I think our vision is to look to the Greater Springfield area and to call it home: for people to want to be in the area and to build that sense of place. For many years it's been spread out and everybody has their little niche neighborhood, and we tend to get in our cars and go to work and nobody sees anybody. I think the Town Center is going to be keyhaving attractions in the Greater Springfield area, where people want to come, that will build that sense of community and place that will be good for the chamber, good for our business community, and our residents.

CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

FRIDAY/JAN. 17-SATURDAY/JAN. 18

"Cats." 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School 3501 Reber Run, Fairfax. Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and based on TS Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" Ticket sales for \$14.13 & \$6.25 on line at: fxdance.ticketleap.com

SATURDAY/JAN. 18

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. Harris Theater, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$25-60. For information call 703-563-1990 or visit: www. fairfaxsymphony.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 19

- Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 2 p.m. Harris Theater, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$25-60. For information call 703-563-1990 or visit: www. fairfaxsymphony.org.
- "Cats." 2:30 p.m. Fairfax High School 3501 Reber Run, Fairfax. Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and based on TS Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" Ticket sales for \$14.13 & \$6.25 on line at: fxdance.ticketleap.com

MONDAY/JAN. 20

Give Together. Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. A day of volunteering for families and friends.

TUESDAY/JAN. 21, 28

"Song & Character Study:" An Audition Workshop for High School & Adult Students. 6-8 p.m. Truro Anglican Church, 10520 Main Street. Fairfax. High School and Adult actors and singers are invited to join CFTC for a four week class on song and character study. Each week will feature a master class setting where students will bring a song to workshop with the class. Instructors will assist the student with delivering text as a song, with emphasis on combining of acting and singing skills in a well-rounded performance. Cost: \$40 per student. \$65 for two people in the same family, \$90 for three or more people in the same family. www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org

THURSDAY/JAN. 23

Mrs. Green's Natural Market. 6:30-8:30 p.m. 12995 Fair Lakes Shopping Center, Fairfax. Brand New, natural



Photo by Barry Wheeler/Courtesy of Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Spend your weekend listening to the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra with Conductor Chris Zimmerman on Jan. 18 and 19 at the Harris Theater at George Mason University.

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THURSDAY/JAN. 23-SATURDAY/JAN. 25

SATURDAY/JAN. 25 I Never Saw Another Butterfly. 7 p.m. The Sovereign Grace Home School Co op Main Auditorium, 5200 Ox Rd, Fairfax. The play tells the unforgettable story of a young Jewish survivor of the Holocaust during World War II. \$7 for adults; \$5, students 3-17. www.facebook.com/Sawabutterfly and jubileecampaign.org/funds/ tabitha-orphans-fund

THURSDAY/JAN. 23-FRIDAY/JAN. 24

Annie Get Your Gun. 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. This entertaining musical tells the fictionalized story of the life of Annie Oakley (1860–1926), a sharpshooter who starred in Buffalo Bill's Wild West, and her romance with sharpshooter Frank Butler. Tickets \$10. http:// lakebraddockchorus.squarespace.com for information and online ticket sales

FRIDAY/JAN. 24

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Messages of Hope. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. A Chris Lavelle Film, will be shown. A film event that will touch your soul, this documentary is based on Suzanne's true story of transformation that has captivated audiences. Participants can ask questions about the afterlife, hear the rest of the story, and get books signed following the discussion.ºCost: \$10.

FRIDAY/JAN. 24- SATURDAY/JAN. 25 "Cats." 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School

Communities of Worship

3501 Reber Run, Fairfax. Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and based on TS Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" Ticket sales for \$14.13 & \$6.25 on line at: fxdance.ticketleap.com

SATURDAY/JAN. 25

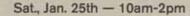
Springfield Burke Relay for Life Scrapbooking/Crafting Event. 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. West Springfield High School cafeteria, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Complete your craft projects in the New Year—photo albums, jewelry, Valentines. Cost includes lunch, door prizes, silent auction and shopping showcase. Suggested donation \$40 for full day, \$25 for half day. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. To register contact Leslie Carlin at 703-866-4862 or Anne Wardinski at 703-764-9687.

 Making the Connection. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton.
 Participants will learn how to open themselves to higher levels of guidance, creativity, inspiration and love.°Cost \$35.00 each Saturday presentation – morning or afternoon.
 "Heart Gifts" New Evidence of Our Interconnectedness. 1:30-4:30 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Suzanne Giesemann, former Aide to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and now acclaimed spiritual author, will tell the

gripping story of a very special soul called "Wolf", who in his short time on earth, walked two worlds at once – the physical and non-physical. His story reveals the interconnectedness of the two worlds and the messages he left behind are amazing gifts to us on how to bring peace, balance and greater love into life. Cost: \$35.00 for this afternoon session.



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Sports Sharpshooting Berglund Leads Spartans in Blowout Victory

Senior guard scores 30 points, makes 13 of 14 attempts.

> By Jon Roetman The Connection

est Springfield guard Amy Berglund grabbed an offensive rebound during the fourth quarter of Tuesday's game at West Potomac and attempted a putback just a few feet from the basket. The shot rimmed out, leading to a groan from the Spartan crowd.

Berglund, on the other hand, smiled.

"[O]f course I missed that one," she said.

Berglund wasn't happy that she missed a gimmie. But on a night when the Spartan senior was otherwise unstoppable, No. 25 understood the irony in her lone misfire.

Berglund connected on 13 of 14 field-goal attempts and scored a career-high 30 points as the West Springfield girls' basketball team remained undefeated with an 80-37 victory over West Potomac on Jan. 14.

Berglund, a 5-foot-9 guard, made her first 13 fieldgoal attempts, eight of which were mid-range jumpers or perimeter shots. She went 2-for-2 from the free-throw line and made both of her 3-point attempts. Berglund's final attempt after a night of sharpshooting resulted in her missing one of her easier opportunities and receiving a reaction from the crowd.

Berglund, who surpassed 1,000 career points this season, said getting off to a hot start gave her confidence.

"It's huge," she said. "If you make your first couple, you feel like you can make any shot."

West Springfield head coach Bill Gibson said Berglund added the 3-point shot to her arsenal after scoring nearly 400 points as a junior and shooting 52 percent from the floor.

"She has good shot selection," Gibson said, "and she's a good shooter."

Berglund scored 10 points in the first quarter, including a transition bucket with 2:34 remaining that gave West Springfield a 20-0 lead. The Spartans led 23-2 at the end of the period and 42-8 at the end of the first half.

West Springfield twice led by 40 points in the third quarter. Berglund's three-point play with 3:53 left in the period capped an 8-0 run and gave the Spartans a 52-12 advantage. Less than a minute later, Berglund knocked down a jumper to give West Springfield a 54-14 lead.

"She's amazing," West Potomac head coach Kenny Farmer said. "... She can flat-out shoot the ball."

The loss dropped West Potomac's record to 8-5. Sophomore forward Maura D'Anna scored 11 points for West Springfield and sophomore guard Jasmine Taylor finished with seven. Sophomore guard Shelby Haynes, junior forward Emily Reba and junior guard Sadie Shroeder each had six.

Tuesday's win improved West Springfield's record to 13-0. Gibson said the maturation of sophomores D'Anna, Haynes and Taylor, who played varsity ball as freshmen, has led to improvement for the Spartans. Last season, West Springfield lost in the Patriot District tournament semifinals, ending its streak of three consecutive district titles. The Spartans finished

12 Springfield Connection S January 16-22, 2014



West Springfield senior Amy Berglund scored a career-high 30 points against West Potomac on Jan. 14.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION



West Springfield sophomore Maura D'Anna scored 11 points against West Potomac on Jan. 14.

with a 21-5 record, ending their year with a twopoint loss to Centreville in the regional quarterfinals. West Springfield reached the state tournament in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

"Our team goal has always been to go to states," Berglund said, "but we've got to take it one step at a time."

West Springfield will host Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South County's Darby Glackin tied for fifth on floor with a score of 8.65 during a Jan. 9 meet at Oakton **High School.**

South County Gymnastics Places Third at Oakton Meet

The South County gymnastics Leibrandt tied for fifth (8.475) team took third place at a sixteam meet on Jan. 9 at Oakton High School.

South County posted a score of 118.225. Oakton won the event with a total of 129.625 and Chantilly finished runnerup (128.375). Langley finished fourth (114.65), Hayfield was fifth (102.575) and West Springfield finished sixth (97.55).

Oakton's Natalie Weaver won the all-around with a score of 34.625. West Springfield's Allison Leibrandt finished seventh with a total of 32.375, and South County's Darby Glackin finished eighth (32.250).

won vault with a score of 8.85.

and Glackin tied for seventh (8.4).

Weaver won bars with a score of 8.575. Leibrandt placed fifth (7.825), Glackin finished seventh (7.7) and South County's Samantha Leung placed eighth (7.575).

Weaver won beam with a score of 8.7 and South County's Collea Burgess placed second with a score of 8.65. Leibrandt placed seventh (7.8) and Glackin finished eighth (7.5).

Chantilly's Elise Mazzone won floor with a 9.4 and Burgess finished runner-up with a score of 9.125. Glackin tied for fifth with a score of 8.65 and Langley's Natalie Volpicelli Leibrandt tied for eighth (8.275).



Oakton sophomore Natalie Weaver won the allaround competition during a home meet on Jan. 9.



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