Keeping Homeless Out of the Cold

News, Page 4

Garza Proposes $2.5 Billion Schools Budget

News, Page 8

Let Sun Shine on Virginia’s Financial Disclosure Laws

News, Page 3

Nancy St. Pierre and Donna Daughtery, both Burke residents and attendees of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, serve food at the FACETS Hypothermia Shelter on Jan. 8.
#1 Weichert Agent in Burke & Fairfax Station

Call Kathleen today and ask for a copy of her “Satisfied Client List”

Is Winter a Good Time to Sell?

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closet, quality new windows & siding
paint, 2.5 remodeled baths w/ granite
Silestone cntrs & breakfast bar, fresh
eled eat-in kit w/ cherry cabinets,
Immac 4 lvl home w/ 5BR, lovely remod-

Ftx Sta/South Run $699,950
Private Wooded .6 Acres
Immac Colonial w/shush paint, new car-
pet, new hardwood flrs, fin walk-out bnt w/full bath, huge deck, skylight,
dramatic Master suite w/ cathedral ceil-
s & walk-in closet, eat-in kitchen w/ftone counters, loaded w/mediums,
Comm pool & tennis & walk to Burke
Lake Park.

Burke/Longwood Knolls $549,950
Remodeled Kitchen & Baths
Mint condition home w/ remodeled eat-
in kit w/ granite counters, tile fl w/new
white cabinets, Trex deck, fenced yard,
remodeled MBA w/ 2 maple vanities w/
white cabinets, Trex w/Walk-in closet, gas
heat, replaced windows, garage dr,
driveway & more. Walk to school!

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Remodeled Kitchen & Baths
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in kit w/ granite counters, tile fl w/new
white cabinets, Trex deck, fenced yard,
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Burke Author Launches Book

Deborah Gibson, a professional counselor who has lived in Burke for 25 years, presents her new book, “Meditations of the Heart,” at its launch event on Jan. 11. At the event, Gibson announced that the Spanish version of the book will be published by May. Gibson is also working on two other books that she hopes will be published this year. The books are available on Amazon and Gibson’s website, www.wordsofwisdom-va.com.

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: $35 per person. Contact Deacon Anthony Bazemore or Deaconess-Elect Terri Bazemore at 703-764-9111. Reservations and payments are due by Feb. 10.

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. www.FairfaxStation.org, 703-232-8100 or www.fbtsministries.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 inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoché, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit http://www.guhyasamaja.org for more information.

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.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspringfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleigh Parkway in Springfield, supports a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. All mothers and children are welcome. The program provides mothers an opportunity to get to know other mothers through discussions and craft activities. Register. 703-451-5520.
State legislators turn attention to ethics in wake of McDonnell gift scandal.

By Victoria Ross

A 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 — shed 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 transparency.

“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 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 lobbyist or people with business before the state.
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Temperatures in Fairfax County have reached record lows over the past week and FACETS is continuing to run its hypothermia prevention shelters this winter.

The shelters are hosted at churches throughout the area, and are intended to prevent hypothermia-related deaths, said Single Services Team Leader Abby Dunner.

“Since the program started, in Fairfax County we have not had any hypothermia related deaths, so it is obviously a very effective program,” Dunner said.

FACETS runs one of four hypothermia shelters in Fairfax County, and is the only organization that lacks its own shelter. The organization partners with local churches to host those in need. The FACETS shelter opens at 5:30 p.m. and guests must exit by 7 a.m.

“We are using completely donated space, so we are not able to stay during the day, but we try to make other arrangements, and they may go to drop in centers and things like that so they can stay out of the cold during the day,” Dunner said.

ST. ANDREW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH in Burke hosted one of the hypothermia shelters the week of Jan. 6, when the “Polar Vortex” came to Fairfax County.

Churches hosting a hypothermia shelter are required to provide shelter and food, but most go above and beyond, Dunner said.

“They provide entertainment, they provide services like gift cards, they upload smart trip cards so guests can get around, and they provide entertainment like choirs or bands. They really go out of their way to make this an enjoyable experience for guests,” Dunner said.

Jewell Gould, a volunteer at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Burke, said welcoming guests in extreme temperatures is a top priority.

“A woman who has never seen her husband fishing doesn’t know what a patient man she married!”

Robinson High School juniors Giselle Clark and Austin Southern volunteer at a FACETS Hypothermia Shelter at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church on Jan. 8 in Burke. Clark is in charge of packing lunches for shelter guests to eat during the day.

FACETS Hypothermia Shelter at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Burke can hold up to 35 people. The shelter opens at 5:30 p.m. and closes at 7 a.m.

“Hospitality and welcoming strangers is our core mission,” Gould said.

Church volunteer Claire Palmer of Springfield said her whole family often comes to volunteer.

“I think God requires it of us to help others, especially those who are less fortunate,” Palmer said.

Robinson High School Junior Giselle Clark is in charge of pack-

See Shelters, Page 7

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“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 &
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ENGLAND, DOWNTON ABBEY & JANE AUSTEN! August 2-9...$2,799
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2 Lunches, 2 Teas, 1 Dinner, All Sightseeing – CALL FOR ITINERARY!

Other Announcements
Send notes to the Connection at
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submissions is the Friday prior to pub-
lication. Dated announcements should
be submitted at least two weeks prior to
the event.
SATURDAY/JAN. 18
Dog adoption event: 12-3 p.m.
PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter,
13035 Lee Jackson Mem. Hwy.,
Fairfax, 703-817-9444
Teen Advisory Board Meeting, 3
p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935
Freds Oak Road, Burke. TAB meets
once a week to help shape the
library’s young adult collection,
programming and outreach projects.

SUNDAY/JAN. 19
Our Children: Fostering,
Mentoring and Adoption in
Virginia 3-5 p.m. Clifton
Community Hall, 12431 Chapel Rd.,
Clifton. Coordinator of Fairfax
Families4Kids will talk about their
work at the local and state level
working and advocating for the
wellfare of children and specifically
with fostering, mentoring and
adoption.
We will hear how we can become
involved and make a difference in the
lives of children.

“Religions & Cultures of the
Middle East”, six-class series
taught by Johnnie Hicks of George
Mason University, formerly of the
Telhran American School in Iran.
3-4:30 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church,
7434 Bath St., Springfield. 703-451-
2900.

TUESDAY/JAN. 21
Music Together 10:30 a.m. Burke
Centre Library, 5935 Freeds Oak
Road, Burke. Enjoy singing,
movement and instrument play with
music teacher Miss Shannon. Ages 8
months-4 years with an adult.

Pohick Evening Book Discussion
Group, 7 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450
Sydenstricker Road, Burke.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 22
Animal Crackers, 10:30 a.m. Burke
Centre Library, 5935 Freeds Oak
Road, Burke. Develop your child’s
early literacy skills with stories, songs
and activities about animals! Age 3-5
with adult.

Pohick English Conversation
Group, 7 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450
Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Practice
English with others and improve your
skills. Adults.

THURSDAY/JAN. 23
English Conversation Group, 7 p.m.
Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freeds
Oak Road, Burke. Practice English
with others and improve your skills.
Adults.

MONDAY/JAN. 27
Pohick Prose Society, 7 p.m. Pohick
Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road,
Burke. Help with using eReaders,
tables, computers and mobile
devices to access library eBooks.
Adults.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 29
Pohick English Conversation
Group, 7 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450
Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Practice
English with others and improve your
skills. Adults.

MONDAY/FEB. 3
Area Wide Prayer Meeting, 7:30
p.m. 10000 Coffer Woods, Burke. All
local Burke churches are welcome
and invited to join us as we pray for
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The Better Business Bureau of Washington, D.C. (BBB)

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

Greetings from Richmond! The 2014 General Assembly is now in full swing. In addition to considering 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 has been mounting concern that Virginia’s Standards of Learning have resulted in “teaching to the test” at the expense of critical thinking skills. I am thrilled that I have been appointed to the newly created 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-to-compete 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. Reinstating this funding is a priority for the Northern Virginia delegation.

Bridge to Kindergarten – 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.

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 meeting. This year I will be joined by State 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.
Shelters Continue for Winter 2014

According to Dunner, more low-income housing opportunities, such as the proposed residential studio units, would help FACETS clients in Fairfax County.

“These are affordable units that are safe for our folks to live, to be stable and to be productive members of society,” Dunner said. “Housing right now is such a shortage that we’re in a desperate situation.”

Dunner finds the backlash the residential studio units proposal is receiving to be surprising.

“T think if other people took the time to really learn who would be occupying these units, they would have a different viewpoint about it,” Dunner said. “Housing is the most important thing and yet it’s the most difficult thing to connect people to.”

— Single Services Team Leader Abby Dunner
Creating Books with Children

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

By Marilyn Campbell

At the Jan. 9 School Board meeting, Parents’ Involvement in Fairfax County Public Schools suggested that the County Public Schools superintendent misstated the proposed budget of $2.5 billion for FY 2015.

The budget proposal requires an additional 651.3 million, or 5.7 percent increase compared to the FY 2014 budget, which would send the school system into a deficit. Parents believe that this increase is due to uncontrollable factors, such as enrollment growth, and other costs such as field trips, family outings or events.

“Parents are saying that the school system is young enough to make their proposals for improvement,” said FCPS Superintendent Karen Garza as she spoke at her press conference on Dec. 31. Garza has proposed a $2.5 billion budget for FY 2015.

Garza defended the $2.5 billion budget for FY 2015. She noted that the school system has not been able to meet the needs of the children, including health insurance increases of 10.5 percent.

Proposed Fairfax County public schools budget would cut 731 positions, increase class size.

Garza Proposes $2.5 Billion Budget for FY 2015

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CALANDER

Send notes to the Connection at souah@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

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

MONDAY/JAN. 20
Give Together, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8531 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 students with delivering text as a song, with emphasis on combination 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.fairfaxtytheatre.org

THURSDAY/JAN. 23
Mrs. Green’s Natural Market. 6:30-8:30 p.m. 6900 University Drive, Fairfax. www.mrsreno.com

THURSDAY/JAN. 23-SATURDAY/JAN. 25
I Never Saw Another Butterfly. 7 p.m. The Virginia 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 (1866-1926), 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
Surfacing: Stories 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. Cost: $10.

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

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 Anna 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: $15.00 for this afternoon session.

Annie Get Your Gun. 2 and 8 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. This entertaining musical tells the fictionalized story of the life of Annie Oakley (1866-1926), 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

Some members of The Fairfax Academy cast rehearsing for the musical “Cats.” Performances begin Jan. 17 at Fairfax High School.

Hunters 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.

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Photo by Peggy Pridemore

Photo by Barry Wheeler/Courtesy of Fairfax Symphony Orchestra

Attend the next performance of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra with Conductor Chris Zimmerman on Jan. 18 and 19 at the Harris Theater at George Mason University.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

The Fairfax Academy's production of "Cats" will feature a master class setting where students will bring a song to workshop with the class. Instructors will assist the students with delivering text as a song, with emphasis on combination 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.

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Brooke Klabanskaia, piano, with guest artists Zino Bogacheck, violin, Philippe Chao, viola, Brendan Conway, violin, Claire Eichhorn, clarinet, Dasha Gabay, piano, Igor Zhukovsky, cello, 703-819-6669

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Photo by Barry Wheeler/Courtesy of Fairfax Symphony Orchestra

Attend the next performance of 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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Schools Budget Requires Tough Choices

Board of Supervisors increasing the county transfer by $98.1 million.

The FY 2015 projected beginning balance, used to prepare the budget, was $48.5 million.

The school board’s revenue assumptions include $375.9 million in state aid, $171.7 million of state aid, and $66.6 million in tuition payments from City of Fairfax and other sources.

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

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

“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 going to be some difficult situations we are going to have Monday going forward,” Springfield School Board member Elizabeth Schultz said.

Mason District School Board member Sandy Evans said at the meeting she agrees the step 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, fundamental 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 increases cannot be ignored. Our enrollment growth, our changing demographics, our rising insurance and retirement rates. These are uncontrollable expenses. Again, don’t ignore them,” Derenak Kaufax said.

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.

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 inner 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.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday School at 10 a.m., followed by a 11:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1100 or www.FBCSpringfield.org.
West Springfield senior Amy Berglund scored a career-high 30 points against West Potomac on Jan. 14.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

West 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. “If course I missed that one,” she said.

Berglund wasn’t happy that she missed a gimme. 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 field-goal 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 Reha 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 with a 21-5 record, ending their year with a two-point 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.


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 team took third place at a six-team 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 runner-up (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).

Langley’s Natalie Volpicelli won vault with a score of 8.85.

Leibrandt tied for fifth (8.475) 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 Leibrandt tied for eighth (8.275).

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