

**SPORTS**

**FAIRFAX**  
The Madison Warhawks baseball team stays unbeaten with a 4-0 Liberty District victory over Woodson.  
**B1**



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Erig Caba/Journal

Nero, a Fairfax County urban search and rescue task force member, poses for Ron Burns, artist-in-residence for the Humane Society of the United States. Burns will make paintings from the photographs for an upcoming book.

## Rescue Dog a Model Recruit

### Fairfax County task force pooch poses for tribute book

By **KRISTI COX**  
Journal staff writer

**P**erched on a pile of rubble, a leather pouch atop his head, artist Ron Burns cooed encouragement to his attentive model.

"That's a good boy," Burns said, camera clicking. "Stay. Look to the side, there you go."

Though the setting was desolate, to the model, Nero, a search and rescue dog, the pile was a playground.

The 4-year-old German shepherd, a member of Fairfax County's urban search and rescue task force, was one of 10 local canines called to search the Pentagon after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack. Nero also is one of five task force can-

ines who posed for Burns, artist-in-residence for the Humane Society of the United States, for a tribute book to service dogs.

Inspired by the death of Sirius, an explosive detection dog killed in the World Trade Center collapse Sept. 11, Burns and his wife, Buff, decided to create the homage to search and rescue dogs and therapy dogs in the form of a book of portraits Burns will paint from the photographs.

On Friday, Burns photographed four canines from Virginia and one from Maryland — three German shepherds, a border collie and a Labrador retriever — at the Fairfax

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