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School Boundary Meetings Set

Chantilly High, Fairfax High, Falls Church High, Oakton High, Robinson Secondary, Woodson High, Franklin Middle, Frost Middle, Jackson Middle, Lanier Middle and Rocky Run Middle are all schools involved in the boundary study to relieve overcrowding at Fairfax High and Lanier Middle School.

And the public is invited to participate in community dialogues regarding possible scenarios for the movement of students from one school to another. All meetings will be from 7-9 p.m. and are as follows:

- ❖ Wednesday, Feb. 20—Lanier Middle School, cafeteria, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax (snow date-Feb. 27).
- * Tuesday, Feb. 26—Woodson High School, cafeteria, 9525 Main St., Fairfax (snow date—March 6).

For more information, to sign up for the meetings and to submit questions and comments, go to http://www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/fairfaxlanier/index.shtml.

Seussical at Robinson

Seussical, the upbeat musical based on the story of Dr. Seuss' Horton from Horton Hears a Who, will be performed at Robinson Secondary by middle school drama students Feb. 15-17. This familyfriendly show that focuses on a message of preserving childhood innocence and believing in the impossible will include 55 middle school students as cast members and more than 50 middle and high school students working on the crew. Directors Amy Hard and Katie Jenkins have run Robinson's summer theater programs together; Jenkins is a former student of Hard's. Tickets can be purchased online in advance or at the door. Shows will be performed at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 15 and 16, and at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 16 and 17. Contact Katie Jenkins at 703-447-9982 or kajenkins@fcps.edu.

Citizens Fire and Rescue Academy

Area residents wanting to learn more about the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department may now have the chance. They may participate in a nine-week program showing them what firefighters and paramedics do every day.

Applications to the first-ever Citizens Fire and Rescue Academy will be accepted until Monday,

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY CATHERINE READ

Delegates Ken Plum (D-36) and David Bulova (D-37) during a session last week in Richmond.



In October, 2010, The Nottoway County School Board presented certificates of recognition to all four Rash children for achieving perfect SOL test scores. From left, top row: Ricky, Sarah and Diane Rash; bottom row: Mary, Eric and Anna Rash.



A photo of Eric, 15, on Christmas Day 2010.

Helping Parents Battle Social Media Giants

Parents demand access to son's Facebook account after his suicide.

> By Victoria Ross THE CONNECTION

icky Rash, a self-proclaimed "country boy" and second generation Virginia dairy farmer, enjoyed his bucolic life in Nottoway County. He and his wife, Diane, a nurse, were content to raise their four children in the same house Rash grew up

The world of social media—Facebook, Tumblr, and Twitter—held little interest for the couple who considered faith and family the bedrock of their life.

But after their 15-year-old son committed suicide on Jan. 20, 2011, social media became their focus.

In trying to piece together why his oldest son, Eric, would take his life, Rash wanted access to his son's Facebook account. Citing privacy laws and their standard "terms of service" agreement, Facebook attorneys unequivocally said no.

Now, Rash is at the center of a battle against Facebook and other social media giants. He has become a vocal proponent of legislation giving parents access to their children's accounts if they die before they reach the age of 18. With the help of Del. David Bulova (D-37), he is winning the fight that could make Virginia one of the first states to enact such legislation.

DESPITE CHALLENGES from Facebook, AOL, Google and other online providers who sent representatives to Richmond to lobby against the legislation—a bill co-sponsored by Bulova and Del. Tommy Wright (R-Amelia) dealing with digital assets emerged from that state's House and Senate committees last week with unanimous bipartisan support. The bill is now headed to Governor Robert McDonnell's desk.

"We never dreamed we would have to get into these issues," Rash said during a phone interview Monday. "But it's imperative that parents understand that the Internet and social media have overreached in their privacy laws, and that we want to change that." Rash and Bulova have known each other for several years after meeting when both served on their respective district's Soil and Water Conservation boards.

"Over the summer, Ricky emailed me and described what happened," Bulova said. "As a parent, it struck a nerve. I thought 'how on earth would a parent not have access to that information when their child is a mi-

Bulova said the "digital assets bill," as it's known, is the piece of legislation that took up most of his time this session. He discovered that federal and state laws have not kept pace with the continually evolving world of social media, and case law addressing digital assets is scant and uneven.

A Vienna attorney familiar with trusts and estates law said current laws are intended to protect the privacy of the living, and those laws predate the rise of the commercial Internet.

In 1986, for example, Congress passed a law forbidding "consumer electronic communication companies" from disclosing content without its owner's consent or a court

The question of who controls or supervises online legacies is a "grey area" that lacks legal clarity.

While five states have passed laws addressing "digital assets," the legislation varies widely and it's largely untested. As a result, the Uniform Law Commission approved the formation of a committee in November to draft recommendations for state legislatures to follow regarding the rights of a survivor or fiduciary to access digital property after death.

But that type of standardized state legislation is years away, Bulova said, and—af-

WHO CONTROLS A DIGITAL LEGACY?

To learn out how different online providers handle digital asset legacies, see the below websites.

https://www.facebook.com/help/359046244166395/

http://support.google.com/accounts/bin/answer.py?hl = en&answer = 2842525

Yahoo:

http://help.yahoo.com/kb/ index?page=content&id=SIN9112&actp=search&viewlocale=en US&searchid=1359362101041&locale=en US&y=PROD ACCT

AOL:

http://help.aol.com/help/microsites/searhib=116688ded=28dedypeD=DFACEAQS 1 18ddbyD=25171899908sted=1%00%10997110888adb=Ede

ter discussions with AOL and Facebookhe believed Virginia could enact a state law that addressed the situation immediately.

"This would be tough to tackle, but one thing Facebook suggested is to plant the law on social media's 'terms of service' agreements, because it's contract law, which makes it under the purview of the state," Bulova said.

"Terms of Service" are the standard, nonnegotiable contract terms which social media companies require all users to accept (with a mouse click) before accessing their

Take Yahoo's terms of service agreement. In a pro forma statement regarding accessing digital accounts after death, it states:

"We are truly sorry for your loss. Unfortunately, U.S. federal law generally prohibits us from disclosing to any person the contents of another's account. Additionally, as stated in the Terms of Service, Yahoo! accounts and any contents therein are nontransferable including when the account holder is deceased. As a result, Yahoo! cannot provide passwords or access to deceased users' accounts or content, including email."

"Companies hide behind the "terms of service" agreements, because there's no updated law that counters it," Rash said. "As one of our legislators said, think of it like this: the Internet is the wilderness and social media is the wild, wild west. Parents need to tame it, and demand control."

DEL. DAVE ALBO (R-42), who is chair of the Courts Committee and heard testimony from Rash, recommended approval of the

"Since we are talking about minors, they have fewer rights to privacy. So we thought it's not unreasonable to say that parents have the right to see Internet information if a child under the age of 18 dies," Albo

Bulova said the bill went through numerous committees, hearings and versions before four separate bills were narrowed down to two. He said the bill that is making its way to the governor's desk applies only to minors and could be applied retroactively if it becomes law on July 1.

While Ricky and Diane Rash may never be able to know why their son took his life, they said they are committed to fighting for parent's rights so others won't have to endure the same pain in their quest for an-

"When I was at the scene where Eric took his life, crime scene investigators asked me a whole litany of questions, and I answered them," Rash said, pausing. "The one question I could not answer, 'do you have any idea why?"

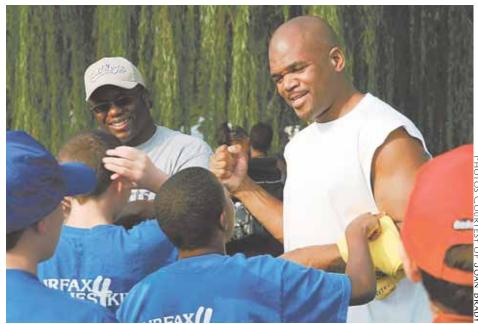
"Yes, it hurts each day no matter what," Rash said, recalling that Eric had told him he wanted to attend Harvard Law School. "He wanted people to know that not only liberals went to Harvard Law. I was just stunned thinking about the cost."

Rash said he and his wife are stronger in their faith and their relationship.

"We are blessed with three daughters, and crawling in bed and turning out the lights with the shades drawn was not an option," Rash said. "So we accept what we have and try to focus on future, not what may have been."

THE COUNTY LINE

During a fundraising walk in 2006, youth in Fairfax Families4Kids were greeted by rapper Run DMC, who grew up in foster care. Pastor Dan Rhodes (left) organized the event.



A Positive Reflection

Joan Brady gives foster children needed exposure.

By Victoria Ross The Connection

The last in a series.

n Monday, Sept. 10, 2001, Joan Brady of Great Falls had just started a three-month sabbatical from her job with an Internet company. Newly-married, Brady, who was 36 years old at the time, was exhausted from 80-hour work weeks in a rigid corporate environment. She wanted time that fall to contemplate what to do next with her life.

The next day provided answers and a sense of urgency. It was Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001.

The terrorist attacks, and the moving stories of heroism and tragedy on 9/11, indelibly left their mark. Brady, like many Americans, was inspired to do something new, to take more chances, to change direction.

"After that tragic day, it was hard to imagine going back to a job that had seemed critically important, but now felt largely meaningless," she said.

She thought she might become a social worker or a teacher, a job where she could make a difference in other people's lives. She decided to volunteer as a homework tutor at a group home for foster children.

As she struggled to find a way to motivate her students, she began "bribing" them with her photography. "Some teachers gave kids candy in exchange for completing homework assignments. I thought I'd try taking their photos and giving them copies," Brady said.

Their reaction to having their photos taken surprised her.

"It made me realize that they didn't have pictures of themselves, other than the one snapshot for their official file," Brady said. "I came to understand the connection between their having their picture taken and self-esteem."

According to child development experts, photos say "I'm important in this family." They show a child he or she is meaningfully connected to others, and provide a visual symbol of nurturing, love and caring. Foster children, who are frequently shuffled from one home to the next, rarely have family photos.

"In those days, I actually wasn't a professional photographer, just a gal with a point and shoot digital camera, trying to get through a three-month commitment I had made," Brady said. "I took pictures of the kids in the group home, mugging for the camera, playing basketball, bike riding, playing on the playground and occasionally holding up a good report from school."

She gave her students little \$1 photo albums she purchased at Michaels so they would have a place to store their photos.

She realized just how important the photos were to her students when she showed up at school one day and learned the photo albums had caused some trouble.

"It turned out that the kids weren't allowed to take anything to bed with them and several had been caught taking their little photo albums that we were filling with pictures to bed with them," she said. "It was in that moment that I realized I was doing something more than getting through the three-month commitment that I had made to be a homework tutor. I stayed on well beyond my three-month commitment."

By 2004, she combined her love of photography with her ability to connect with children and started Joan Brady Photography. She also began photographing foster children featured on Wednesday's Child. During a shoot in 2005, she met Beverly Howard, the director of a small Fairfax County foster-mentoring program called Fairfax Families 4Kids.

In Fairfax County, about 400 children are in foster care, and about 20 children, most of whom are 14 and older, are in the Fairfax Families 4 Kids program. According to

Howard, these children are considered more difficult to place in adoptive homes because they are typically teens who have a range of special needs. Mentors provide one-onone support and participate monthly group activities.

"I got involved with the program when I met Beverly Howard, the director. She is a force of nature, a person no one can say no to. I have learned so much from her and have been so inspired by both her wisdom and her spirit," Brady said.

She became the group's volunteer photographer, shooting the children during their outings with mentors. Many of the children, especially the girls, didn't like to be photographed. They thought they were ugly, unworthy of a photographer's time.

In one photo, Kenny, a 14-year-old from Reston who was recently adopted, is high in the air, all legs and arms, about to make a powerful slam dunk. In another photo, Serena, 17, flashes a warm smile, her face framed in a cascade of long brown curls.

"Serena is a really interesting story. She's a tough girl whose initial reaction of 'don't take my picture!' evolved into 'take a picture of me!' and 'How come there aren't more pictures of me in the book!' She is such a sweet and thoughtful girl," Brady said.

Howard said Brady's photos capture the children's creativity and give them a positive reflection, something most of them have never had. She said the children are empowered by getting their photos taken.

"Joan sees well beyond the labels that so



Fairfax Families4Kids hosts a number of events for foster youth and mentors. In the photo, a 14-year-old boy in the program is getting his face painted at a Fairfax festival.

Consider Mentoring

Fairfax Families4Kids is actively seeking mentors to connect with older children in foster care, those most at-risk for homelessness. To find out more about the Fairfax Families4Kids program or to become a volunteer or mentor, contact Beverly Howard, Ph.D., coordinator of the Fairfax Families4Kids program at 703-324-7518.

many of our youth have gathered along their journey in foster care," Howard said. "She can see the gifted artists, the aspiring scientists, the comedians, the athletes, and the beautiful children waiting for an opportunity to bloom."

Becoming an Advocate

Brady doesn't look like a fighter. She is petite, quick to laugh, and looks younger than her 48 years. But spend five minutes with her, and one quickly finds out how passionate and relentless she is about Fairfax Families4Kids.

"Actually, [fighting for children] started when I became a court appointed special advocate for a 9-year-old boy in foster care from DC in 2002. And yeah, I was surprised ... surprised that doing what was right by children was something that most often required a fight," she said during a recent breakfast.

"This is not just mentoring. Beverly has created a family, a family where one would not otherwise exist. It's a family where kids are loved unconditionally, which, in my experience, is very rare for children in foster care who are most often judged by their

SEE MENTORS, PAGE 11

News

Providence Players of Fairfax County Receive 19 WATCH Nominations

The Providence Players of Fairfax County have been nominated for 19 Washington Area Community Honors (WATCH) for artistic and technical excellence in Community Theater.

The Providence Players, a Fairfax-based non-profit community theater troupe, is celebrating its 15th anniversary. The Players is the resident theater company and community partner performing at the 224

County, just outside the City of Falls Church.

The Washington Area Theater Community Honors (WATCH) is the organization that adjudicates productions and presents annual awards recognizing artistic and technical excellence in Community Theater. The WATCH awards help to foster and encourage the growth of community theater. A total of 126 productions (43 musicals, 83 plays)—from which the nomiseat James Lee Community Center Theater in Fairfax nations were developed—were adjudicated in 2012.

The 19 Providence Players WATCH nominations were for productions of "Side Man," "Sleuth" and "You Can't Take it With You." The nominations are:

- ❖ Outstanding Direction of a Play—Jimmy Gertzog in "Side Man"
- ❖ Outstanding Light Design in a Play—Chip Gertzog in "Side Man"
- ❖ Outstanding Makeup Design in a Play—Beth Harrison in "Side Man"
- ❖ Outstanding Play—"Side Man"
- ❖ Outstanding Properties in a Play—Susan Kaplan in "Side Man"
- Outstanding Set Construction in a Play—Chip Gertzog et al in "Side Man"
- ❖ Outstanding Set Decoration in a Play—Kathy White in "Side Man"
- ❖ Outstanding Set Design in a Play—Raedun Knutsen & Chip Gertzog in "Side Man"
- ❖ Outstanding Set Painting in a Play—Chip Gertzog in "Side Man"
- ❖ Outstanding Sound Design in a Play—Jimmy Gertzog & Chip Gertzog in "Side Man"

- ❖ Outstanding Properties in a Play—Robbie Snow et al in "Sleuth"
- Outstanding Costume Design in a Play— Robbie Snow in "You Can't Take it With You"
- ❖ Outstanding Hair Design in a Play—Beth Harrison in "You Can't Take it With You"
- ❖ Outstanding Makeup Design in a Play—Beth Harrison in "You Can't Take it With You"
- Outstanding Properties in a Play—Chip Gertzog in "You Can't Take it With You"
- Outstanding Set Construction in a Play—John Coscia in "You Can't Take it With You"
- ❖ Outstanding Set Decoration in a Play—Lisa Church & Chip Gertzog in "You Can't Take it With
- ❖ Outstanding Set Design in a Play—John Coscia in "You Can't Take it With You"
- ❖ Outstanding Special Effects—Chip Gertzog in "You Can't Take it With You"



From left: Craig Geoffrion (Boris Kolenkhov), Tina Thronson (Grand Duchess Olga Katrina), Sara Bennett (Penny), Joe Gargiulo (DePinna) in Providence Players of Fairfax production of "You Can't Take it With You."

Photos by Chip Gertzog/Courtesy of the Providence Players



From left— John Coscia (Gene), Ari **Post** (Clifford) and **Andra Whitt** (Terry) in a rehearsal for **Providence** Players of Fairfax production of "Side Man."

The Capitol Symphonic Youth Orchestras



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OPINION

On Transportation

Compromise, in the works, should include indexing the gas tax to inflation.

irginia needs more options, not fewer, in developing revenue to pay for roads and transportation. Compromise on a plan to increase transportation revenue should not include making Virginia the only state in the nation without a gas tax. The current, ridiculously low gas tax should be indexed to inflation. The last thing the commonwealth needs is to do away with an existing, major source of money for roads.

Sen. Dick Saslaw proposed raising the tax, now 17.5 cents a gallon, by five cents each of the next two years and then indexing it to inflation. At the least, the tax should be indexed to rise with inflation from its current level.

Possible proposals to cut the tax in half along with increases in the sales tax miss the point, but are still far preferable to eliminating it.

The gas tax is a user fee. It raises money for roads from people and businesses who are using the roads, including drivers who pass

through Virginia from out of state.

We agree with Del. Scott Surovell, who says: "Funding roads exclusively with sales taxes disproportionately burdens the elderly who drive less than others and people who do not own cars."

Medicaid Expansion Progresses

The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce said it well when it issued a statement in favor of the commonwealth embracing \$10 billion in federal money to expand the number of people eligible for health insurance under Medicaid:

"Northern Virginia businesses and taxpayers are already paying for health reform through new taxes levied by the Affordable Care Act. If we do not take advantage of Medicaid reform [and expansion], roughly \$10 billion in Virginia taxpayer dollars will go to the federal government to fund coverage extension in other states. If the General Assembly approves the reform and extension plan, nearly all those taxpayer dollars will remain in-state where they can be put to good use for the benefit of the commonwealth, its businesses and its citizens."

Call for Photos for Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish at the end of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 21.

Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans. Please identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo and of your pet, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name). We also welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, and drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.

To see our last pet edition, visit:

http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2012/072512/Burke.pdf

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Residents from Springfield, Burke, Fairfax or Fairfax Station, should send submissions to: south@connectionnewspapers.com.

Sex Trafficking in Our Backyard

Northern Virginia is seeing increasing numbers of reported cases of sexual trafficking.

BY TIMOTHY D. HUGO STATE DELEGATE (R-40)

couple of years ago, I became aware that sex trafficking of children was not solely an international issue, but one that was happening in our own backyard. Unfortunately, the truth is that it is one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world, in the United States and, yes, here in Virginia. In 2011, I began working with Shared Hope International. This organization strives to prevent sex slavery, restore victims of sex trafficking, bring justice to vulnerable women and children, and strengthen Virginia's laws.

Since that time, the fight against human trafficking has become a top priority of mine. I am committed to fight against those who would do harm to our young people by enacting harsher penalties to those convicted of these horrendous crimes and by increasing public awareness.

According to the Polaris Project, a leading organization in the global fight against human trafficking, over 100,000 children alone are victims of the sex trade in the



United States each year. It ranks Virginia seventh in the nation in the percentage of calls received reporting human trafficking. This is not a top ten category that any state seeks. Northern Virginia itself is seeing increasing numbers of reported cases of sexual trafficking occurring in massage parlors, online escort services, and gangrelated activities among other avenues. Just last year, members of a Fairfax-based gang were arrested for soliciting Fairfax County high school girls for sex trafficking.

Virginia lawmakers have responded and enacted several pieces of legislation including my HB 1898, which raised the penalty for abducting any individual for the purposes of prostitution or abducting a minor for child pornography. In addition, the General Assembly currently has before it my HB 1606, which would stiffen the penalty for soliciting a minor for prostitution. I will continue to look for ways to make Virginia one of the least desirable states for those who seek to harm our young people.

I am not alone in combating this evil. I will continue to work closely with Governor McDonnell, Attorney General Cuccinelli, my colleagues in the General Assembly, Shared Hope International, the Polaris Project, the Richmond Justice Initiative, law enforcement agencies and others to increase awareness of this issue and to institute harsher punishments for those who seek to harm young people for financial gain.

Corporations are also participating in efforts to battle human trafficking. Just last year, AT&T granted the Richmond Justice Initiative \$25,000 to develop educa-

tional programs to help prevent human trafficking in the Richmond area.

I believe there is no worse crime than one committed against a child. I am dedicated to ensuring child sex traffickers remain behind bars longer for such horrific behavior, so that no child falls prey to those who seek them harm.

One child taken from his/her home, one young person falling prey to this evil, is one too many.

If you would like additional information on this issue, please contact me at 703-815-1201 or delthugo@house.virginia.gov

The writer is a majority caucus chairman at the Virginia House of Delegates.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
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AREA ROUNDUPS

From Page 2

Feb. 18, or until the class of 25 is filled. The free program is open to those at least 18 years old. The academy will begin March 28, 2013, meeting for nine consecutive weeks, from 6-9 p.m., at various locations.

Each session will cover different aspects of the organization, providing an in-depth overview of it and its uniformed and civilian workforce. Program topics include fire suppression, emergency medical services, training, recruitment and special operations. Apply at www.fairfaxcounty.gov./fr/cfa.

Recycle During Electric Sunday

Residents may recycle old TVs, computers, peripheral electronic devices—such as keyboards, speakers, printers and scanners, as well as household hazardous wastes—including fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, for free, during Fairfax County's "Electric Sunday" events.

The next one is slated for Sunday, Feb. 24, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax. For more information, call 703-324-5052.







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Flowers 'n' Ferns sees a constant turnover, with fresh flowers arriving daily from around the United States, Europe

Flowers 'n' Ferns employee Lisa Bellacicco of Springfield prepares preorders for Valentine's Day, amidst the back room's "organized chaos."

Burke Florist Unfazed By Valentine's Day Rush

Flowers 'n' Ferns is well prepared for its 33rd rose rodeo.

> By Tim Peterson THE CONNECTION

iamonds may be a girl's best friend, but when it comes to Valentine's Day, fresh flowers are a must-have. For area florists like Karen Fountain, the second-generation manager of Flowers 'n' Ferns in Burke, the romantic holiday is often the highest grossing single day of the year.

During the Feast of Saint Valentine, Fountain generally sells between three and 500 arrange- into business mode: what can I get tomorrow, etc. ments for delivery and pickup orders, as well as It was a few extra hours, but we were able to get it walk-ins. It's no small feat. "My feet get tired, I'm done not going to lie," said a still enthusiastic Fountain. "But we have a lot of fun with our customers. We call it 'fun and romance."

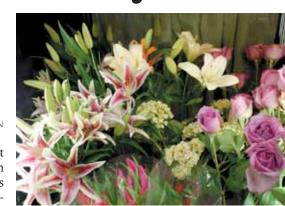
For over 33 years, the family-run Flowers 'n' Ferns who walks in the door." florist shop in Burke has provided customers—from last-minute Valentine's desperates to blushing brides and high school homecomers—with fresh stems and a personal touch. Fountain's parents Larry and Fern (hence the name) Denholm opened the shop after their Springfield Florist's establishment was torn down to make way for the Mixing from Ecuador and Colombia.

her stalwart crew of five employees (plus three else to call direct and buy in person. She claims part-timers and two extra drivers to cover busy the live interaction can save her customers money holidays) have had their fair share of rush orders on service charges and allows her to give each orand high-volume Valentine's traffic. "We know how der an appropriately unique flair. to be prepared," said Fountain. "When that gentle"I can design anything for any style," said Founman comes in on Thursday at 5 p.m., we'll still tain, "whimsical, elegant, or more traditional ro-

shotgun weddings. Last fall, Fountain received a the be all-end all. "Just think of their favorite color," phone call from longtime customer Rabbi Amy she said. "Gerbera Daisies, tulips, mixed baskets Perlin. Perlin's son was supposed to be married the can be just as romantic.' coming weekend, but the New Jersey venue was And though roses will still be available at 5 p.m., flooded from Hurricane Sandy.

"After I hung up and took a big breath, I called in the color scheme," said Fountain. "I went straight www.flowersnferns.com.

8 * Fairfax Connection * February 14-20, 2013



Stargazer lilies are a colorful complement to more traditional roses as an option on Valentine's Day.

"They've been longtime friends of ours," Fountain added. "So it was a little emotional as well, but I had to do it. And I would do that for anyone

CONSISTENTLY FRESH flowers and a neighbor's personal attention are the root of the shop's longevity. Blooms arrive fresh daily from local wholesalers and abroad: tulips from Virginia and the Netherlands, Gerbera Daisies from Florida and roses

Despite the shop's highly functional website and three-month-old smartphone app, Fountain still **AFTER DECADES** of rose peddling, Fountain and encourages Valentine's Day shoppers and anyone

mantic." And as far as choosing the perfect petals Not much fazes her, not even Franken-storms and for Valentine's Day, the florista advises roses aren't

don't underestimate the romance of punctuality.

Flowers 'n' Ferns is located at Burke Town Plaza, 9562 Old my wholesalers, got a feeling for what was out there Keene Mill Road. Visit their website for more information at

Home LifeStyle

Home Remodeling Projects Continue to Rise

Updating kitchens and bathrooms are homeowners' priorities.

> BY MARILYN CAMPBELL THE CONNECTION

ome remodeling projects continue to rebound, and kitchens and bathrooms are at the top of the project list, according to a new report for the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

"I was personally surprised [by] the number of really high-end projects, like those over \$150,000," said Nikki Golden, NARI spokes-

Station home decided to turn their modern spa retreat, they added a black granite vanity, matching shower bench and custom glass shower doors. "This master bathroom has been completely transbased contractor Robert Kalmin of RJK Construction. "Immediately as you walk in, you are greeted by a large double vanity. The cabinetry door style is Centennial from Bertch Bath. Two mirrors with matching trim are hung above each sink and add continuity."



The owners of this Fairfax Station master bathroom decided to turn their outdated space into a modern, spa retreat.

creative use of lighting helped set casual entertaining. When the owners of a Fairfax a relaxing, spa-like tone. "Three sconce lights add direct lighting lowed us to bring out a peninsula and flare to this bathroom," he into the living area, expanding the said. "The Key West soaking tub ... kitchen and providing the opportuwould make anyone jealous. A nity for additional cabinetry, unique feature in this bathroom is countertop space and a bar top," said the extra cabinet that is adjacent Suzanne Kalmin of RJK Constructo the bathtub. It adds extra stortion. "The [cabinetry] creates a conformed into an oasis," said Fairfax- age space and creates more trast in the kitchen. The door style countertop space for decorative is a full overlay, called Pembroke and items like candles.'

Kalim, who is also a board mem-their kitchen, they removed a wall ber of the Washington-region's that separated the kitchen from the National Association of the Remod- living area and created a open, eling Industry chapter, said that a free-flowing space that allowed for

"Removing a partition wall althe finish is 'Raven' on cherry wood."

The homeowners wanted a du-**WHEN IT COMES TO** kitchens. rable counter surface so they chose NARI says homeowners are ex-quartz. In addition, "a section of pressing a desire to expand. For butcher block next to the cook-top example, when the owners of a serves as a convenient prep space Reston home decided to remodel for cutting vegetables or bread,"

Those attending the show will

have an opportunity to see presen-

tations, attend seminars and get

expert advice on everything from

The owners of this Reston kitchen chose stainless steel appliances to create an earthy but luxurious atmosphere.

kitchen is packed with professional sula. A staggered glass natural grade appliances, [including] a Vi- stone combination tile is featured king professional cooktop and in the backsplash. The front of the oven-microwave combination."

The homeowners chose stainless steel appliances to strike an earthy but luxurious tone, she continued. "[They] are complemented by the room was refinished to match the stainless steel backsplash ... behind flooring in the remodeled kitchen the range and between the to create a seamless finish.

Suzanne Kalmin added. "This countertop and bar of the peninbar is covered with a staggered natural stacked stone."

To complete the project, the wood flooring the adjacent living

OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 & 17

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times**

Burke

6308 Swan Landing Ct.. \$609,000.. Sun 1-4.. ...John Hilton....... Century 21...703-599-1351

Centreville

13849 Wakley Ct........\$349,900... Sat 1-4............John Hilton...... Century 21..703-599-1351

Fairfax Station

6321 Barsky Ct.........\$729,900..Sun 2-4......Pat Fales.......RE/MAX..703-503-4365

Kingstowne/Alexandria

7619 Kingsbury Rd......\$499,990..Sun 1-4.......Emmett Dingley.........Fairfax..703-915-9301 7572 Cross Gate Ln......\$469,950..Sun 1-4..Tom & Cindy & Assoc..Long & Foster..703-822-0207

Lorton

9269 Blu Steel Way......\$992,500..Sun 1-4......Bob Lovett......RE/MAX..703-690-0037 6830 Tiddle Way.......\$699,000..Sun 1-4.....Beckie Owen..Long & Foster..703-328-4129 7203 Lyndam Hill Cir.....\$639,950..Sun 1-4..Tom & Cindy & Assoc..Long & Foster..703-822-0207

Manassas

14916 Yolanda Ln.......\$375,000..Sun 1-4....The Applegate Team..Long & Foster..703-451-5818

Springfield

6421 Wainfleet Ct.......\$529,000..Sun 1-4..........Joe Frangipane..Long & Foster..703-628-4430 7262 Linden Tree Ln......\$449,950..Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli........Weichert..703-862-8808 8469 Canyon Oak Dr.....\$334,900..Sun 1-4........Melissa Vahdati...........Exit..571-437-977

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

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Capital Home and Garden Show set for Feb. 22-24 at Dulles Expo Center.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL Centre View

ince Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow on Groundhog Day earlier this month, spring might be around the corner. But whether one believes in folklore or not, the winter chill will soon give way to warm weather blooms.

If the thought of getting a spring the Capital Home and Garden what's out there.

scheduled to headline the show. Dulles Expo Center, the event will offer homeowners more than 500

Cameron Ashburn who lives in Arlington is planning to attend. "I've never had luck creating a nice vard because I have a brown thumb instead of a green one," he said. garden ready is enough to make "I'll probably end up hiring a landyou crawl back into your own hole, scaper, but it'll be good to see Saturday, Feb. 23: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Show might offer inspiration. Jus- Peter Hogarth of Merrifield Gartin Cave, of HGTV's "Ground den Center in Fair Oaks, Merrifield Breakers" and Tim Carter, who and Gainesville, has attended the gives residential construction ad- show in the past. "Some vendors vice in his nationally syndicated set up displays that are designed column, "Ask the Builder," are to look like an outside landscape

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

building an outdoor kitchen to cre-Set for Feb. 22-24, at Chantilly's ating water gardens. "Typically customers look at patios and landscape and displays of vendors pedaling the latest in different plants," said Bill Mann of home and garden services and Behnke's Nursery in Potomac, Md.

Capital Home and Garden Show

DULLES EXPO CENTER, CHANTILLY

Friday, Feb. 22: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. **Tickets** (single tickets valid for one day

On-site adult admission \$10; Online adult admission \$7 Children 6-12 years-old admission \$3 Children 5 years and under free For more information visit www.capitalhomeandgardenshow.com

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FAIRFAX CONNECTION * FEBRUARY 14-20, 2013 * 9

Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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1 3722 Highland Place, Fairfax — \$1,925,000

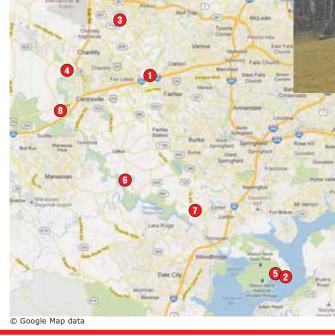




15039Braddock Road,Centreville —\$960,000

3 3435 Fawn Wood Lane, Fairfax — \$1,175,000

3 6728 Cedar Spring Road, Centreville — \$870,000



6 12500 Old Yates Ford Road, Clifton — \$960,000

 Address
 BR FB HB
 Postal City
 Sold Price
 Type
 Lot AC
 PostalCode
 Subdivision
 Date Sold

 1 3722 HIGHLAND PL
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 HALLOWING POINT RIVER
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3 6728 CEDAR SPRING RD 5 ...4 .. 2 CENTREVILLE \$870,000 ... Detached ... 5.01 20121 . THE WOODS AT BULL RUN . 12/21/12

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THE COUNTY LINE



Joan Brady is an award-winning photographer whose images have appeared in many publications.

Mentors Seen as 'Family'

From Page 4

worst behaviors with a blind eye turned toward their attributes."

Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey, a champion of the program, was quick to praise Brady's role in the program.

"While the mentors and volunteers are definitely the heart of FF4Kids, Joan Brady is definitely its soul," Frey said. "I can't imagine where the program would be without her."

Neither can anyone else connected to the program. In 2009, when the program was in danger of being eliminated because of across-the-board cuts in the county budget, Brady marshaled an army of supporters, launched a "save the program" blog, and cajoled, begged and nagged officials to keep the program. (In 2010, the program, fueled primarily by the work of the mentors and volunteers, cost about \$133,000 in a social services budget of more than \$200 million.)

Brady appeared before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors during the budget hearings. Her plan was to let the program's youth speak directly to the supervisors.

County staff said no. That answer was not acceptable to Brady.

"That's when we began fighting. I may have led the effort, but it was very much of a group commitment," Brady said. "We knew that these kids were virtually invisible to the community. We knew that they could not stand up for themselves. We wrote letters and emails and met individually with members of the Board of Supervisors. We went directly to the Human Services Council, writing to them as well."

Supporters scheduled their testimony so that they had a block of time, and they coordinated their speeches so that each of them covered a different aspect of the program.

And Brady made sure supervisors heard from the children, by having supporters read comments from their audio testimony.

the children in the program, and included the comments of a youth she mentored

"None of us in this room can fully understand what Families4Kids means to the youth involved, but I believe one of our youth stated it best, when she www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

told us:

'[If I didn't have FF4Kids], I would lose my mind ... I would lose my sanity. I wouldn't be able to function much. Cause even now I don't have very much. I get teased on at school. I get teased at the place where I'm supposed to call home. If I lost here ... it would be like there was no reason to do anything anvmore.'

In their short lives, so much has been taken from these youth. Please don't take away Fairfax Families4Kids," Pell said during the hearings.

"We stood together as unified members of the community," Brady said. "We achieved a stay of execution during those budget hearings in 2010."

Being Part of the "Family"

Brady is an award-winning photographer whose images have appeared in many publications, including "The Washington Post," "NYTimes.com," "Washingtonian" magazine, "Children's Voice" (the magazine of the Welfare League of America) and "O Magazine."

She is justifiably proud of her work, and will talk about it when prompted.

But she quickly steers the conversation back to the children, and how much difference mentors make in the lives of foster children. What she is not always quick to talk about is that the children in the program consider her an important part of their "fam-

During a celebration for mentors last month, Jorge, 17, stood up to address the group: "I don't have a mentor, but Joan is always there for me ... I check in with her and she checks in with me, nagging me about school and work," he said. "I know she cares."

"Honestly, I probably am in touch with him every week-and-a-half, and I think he usually checks in and when I respond, I do totally nag," she said, laughing. "Ok, I do follow the kids on Facebook, so occasionally I check in to admonish, but it's not much.

"But see. Just that tiny bit of interaction he has Molly Pell of Fairfax spoke about adopting one of with me—something that I hadn't even noted makes a big difference for him. It just takes a tiny bit of attention to make a difference," Brady said. "That's why I want the story to be about what's really important: the children, definitely not me ... "

Calendar

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

THURSDAY/FEB. 14

Bob's Discount Furniture Donation and Opening

Reception. 9:45 a.m., at Bob's Discount Furniture, Greenbriar Shopping, 13055A Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Entertainment and refreshments offered at the ribbon cutting as the organization presents \$25,000 to 16 local schools (between Fairfax and Waldorf, Md., at a concurrent opening) for arts and education programs. www.facebook.com/mvbobs.

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m., at the City of Fairfax Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories, songs and activities with a Valentine's Day theme for children ages 3-5 accompanied by adult. 703-293-6227 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/ branches/fx/.

Friends of the Burke Centre **Library Used Book Sale.** 1-6

p.m., at Freds Oak Road, Burke. Discover thousands of books for adults and children. 703-249-

FRIDAY/FEB. 15

Friends of the Burke Centre

Library Used Book Sale. 1-6 p.m., at Freds Oak Road, Burke. Discover thousands of books for adults and children. 703-249-

SATURDAY/FEB. 16

Friends of the Burke Centre

Library Used Book Sale. 1-6 p.m., at Freds Oak Road, Burke. Discover thousands of books for adults and children. 703-249-

TUESDAY/FEB. 19

22nd Annual Board of

Supervisors Breakfast. 7-9:30 a.m., at the Waterford in Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. A morning of information and networking that gives businesses and residents of Fairfax County an opportunity to hear straight

from the Board of Supervisors about what is happening in Fairfax County. Limited seating; \$50 paid alumni member, \$65 alumni non members and general public, \$30 current LLP '12 and LFI/ELI '13 members. www.leadershipfairfax.org

FRIDAY/FEB. 22

Friday Night Film Series:

Brother Outside. 7:30 p.m., at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10215 Lakehaven Court, Burke. The film takes a multifaceted approach to telling Bayard Rustin's story, creating an aesthetic that reflects Rustin's position as an outsider, troublemaker and an eloquent speaker; a non-religious event, guests are welcome to come with friends and bring dinner to eat. 703-503-4579, www.accotinkuuc.org or administrator@accotinkuuc.org

SATURDAY/FEB. 23

Black History Month

Celebration. 1-3 p.m., at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. An afternoon of dance, recitals and music and recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. www.fairfaxnaacp.org.

Around the World in 80 Days. 8

p.m., at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Dr., Fairfax. Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theatre brings the tale of the eccentric gentleman Phileas Fogg who circumnavigates the world on a bet. \$20-\$40; half-price for youth accompanied by an adult; free for GMU students. cfa.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/FEB. 24

Schubert in the Age of the

Sound-byte. 7 p.m., at the GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The distinguished pianist Jeffrey Siegel performs as he explores the question of how Schubert's dramas in tones fit into our robotic society with today's limited attention span. \$19-38 and half price for youth through grade 12 when accompanied by adult. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.



"Celestial Tides," one of Rioult dance ensemble's modern dance pieces.

Rioult Enchants in Area Debut

uit (pronunciation: "ree-you"), the dance company of former Frenc and field star Pascal Rioult, who came to the U.S. in 1981 on a modern dance fellowship from the French Ministry of Culture, brings his ensemble's signature style and much-lauded choreography to the area for the first time. The athlete-gone-dancer is famed for performing opposite Baryshnikov and has been compared to Balanchine. \$23, \$38 and \$46. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu. The performance is at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, on Friday, March 8 at 8 p.m.

SPORTS

Woodson Girls' Basketball Secures Regional Berth

Cavaliers defeat Lee in Patriot District tournament.

By Jon Roetman THE CONNECTION

oodson senior guard Keara Finnerty, a firstteam All-Patriot District selection, hasn't played in a Northern Region tournament since her freshman season. Senior guard Anna Walker, a member of the all-district second team who played two seasons at Falls Church before transferring to Woodson, has never experienced regionals.

The Woodson girls' basketball team started the season 0-6, not exactly a strong indicator of future success. But the Cavaliers responded by winning nine of their next 10 games and earning a topfour seed in the Patriot District tournament. On Tuesday, Woodson's season of resurgence went a step further as the No. 4 Cavaliers defeated No. 5 Lee 45-32 in the first round of the district tournament at Woodson High School. With the victory, the Cavaliers advanced to the semifinals and secured a berth in the Northern Region tournament for the first time since the 2009-10

According to stats from the Washington Post's website, Finnerty averages a team-high 18.7 points per contest. The Cavaliers' second-leading scorer, Walker, averages 9.1 and senior Katie Hayes, third on the team in scoring, averages 4.7. Against Lee on Tuesday, Finnerty finished with 11 points, but didn't score until knocking down a 3-pointer with less than 4 minutes remaining in the second quarter. Thanks to sophomore Emma Kirschner, Woodson was able to jump out to an early lead without a major contribution from its primary offensive threat.

Kirschner knocked down a trio of jumpers in the first quarter, helping the Cavaliers to an 8-2 advantage. She finished with nine points and nine rebounds.

'Anna Walker has always been a decent scorer for us, but we've

been searching for other scorers," Woodson head The Cavaliers faced No. 1 West Springfield in the coach Patrick Neri said. "Emma Kirschner came out strong and gave us a boost."

Walker led Woodson with 15 points.

The victory improved Woodson's record to 12-11.



Woodson senior Anna Walker, who played for Falls Church her freshman and sophomore seasons, will make her first trip to the Northern Region tournament after the Cavaliers defeated Lee in the first round of the Patriot District tournament on Feb. 12.



Woodson sophomore point guard Eric Bowles was named Patriot District Player of the Year.

Woodson Boys Punch Regional Ticket

The top-seed Woodson boys' basketball team took care of business on Tuesday, beating No. 8 Annandale 69-51 during the opening round of the Patriot District tournament at Woodson High School. The Cavaliers advanced to the semifinals and secured a berth in the Northern Region

With the victory, Woodson reached 20 wins for the second consecutive season, including back-to-back 13-1 regular-season district records. The Cavaliers have won five in a row and 17 of their last 18 games. However, Woodson had won 12 straight at this point last season before losing to T.C. Williams in

the district semifinals and Fairfax in the opening round of the regional tournament.

What is it about this year's team that will help Woodson avoid another late-season collapse?

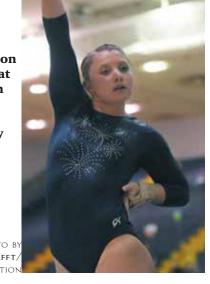
Multiple Cavaliers answered with a certain 'E' word.

"I feel like this team, we have more experience, more players that have already played on varsity and in situations like this," said sophomore point guard Eric Bowles, who started for Woodson as a freshman, "We just come out and play our game and just have to do what we do to get the

— Jon Roetman

district semifinals on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline. The district championship game is at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Woodson senior Simone Freidman won the all-around title at the Northern Region gymnastics meet on Feb. 6 at Lake **Braddock Secondary** School.



Рното в LOUISE KRAFFT/

Freidman Wins Region Title

Cavaliers finish fourth at Northern Region meet.

By Jon Roetman THE CONNECTION

Simone Freidman was a freshman Woodson, she watched Herndon senior Maria Hayden shine at the 2010 Northern Region gymnastics meet, winning the all-around title. Freidman hoped to one day experience similar success.

Three years later, Freidman had her chance to excel on the Northern Region stage. She didn't compete in high school gymnastics during her sophomore and junior seasons due to club commitments, but Freidman re-joined the Cavaliers as a senior. She had already won the Patriot District allaround title when she competed at regionals on Feb. 6 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

At the end of the night, Freidman added another championship to her resume.

Freidman captured the Northern Region all-around title, posting a score of 38.350. She placed first on beam (9.85), second on floor (9.55), tied for third on vault (9.6) and finished fifth on bars (9.35).

"It's unbelievable," Freidman said. "I really wanted this. I really wanted to be able to say I have the district title, I have the regional title ... [and] it means a lot as a senior to be leaving and making my mark with the

"As a freshman, there was one girl named Maria Hayden who won everything. I just remember looking at her and being like, wow, she's a senior, she made her mark, this is so great. I'm glad to finally be, four years later, [following] in her footsteps."

Woodson finished fourth as a team, posing a score of 141.45. Washington-Lee won its second consecutive region championship, finishing with a score of 147.15. McLean finished runner-up for the second straight year, earning a state berth with a score of 143. Chantilly placed third (142.45).

The top eight individual finishers in each event, the top four all-around competitors and the top two teams advance to the state meet.

Stone Bridge placed fifth (136.275), Yorktown was sixth (132.175), Oakton finished seventh (131.75) and Lake Braddock was eighth (119).

Centreville's Ciara Hoernke and Hayfield's Molly Overstreet tied for second in the all-around at 38.05. Marshall's Morgan Stahl was fourth (37.575). Stahl won floor (9.725) and vault (9.7) and Hoernke won bars (9.9).

Lake Braddock's Whitney King finished fifth in the allaround with a score of 37.55. She finished in the top eight on beam (third, 9.7) and vault (tied for third, 9.6).

The VHSL state meet will be held this weekend at Centreville High School. Team competition will begin at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15, and individual competition will start at 12:20 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16.

Zone 2: • Burke FAIRFAX
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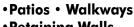
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Luemrung, President.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing dure of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered to the should be registered to the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Obsections should be registered to the first of two required newspapers and may any objections should be receive further notice of the adoption proceedings. A copy of the Petition, Case No.: 12-6. A-34, can be obtained at the Cabell County Circuit Clerk's office at the Cabell County Courthouse, located at 750 Fifth Aveat www. abc.virginia.gov or 100-552-3200

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ginia 25701. Said hearing will be before Honorable David M Pancake, Cabell County Circuit Court Judge.

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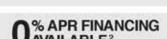
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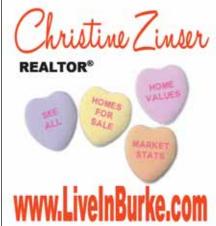
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