

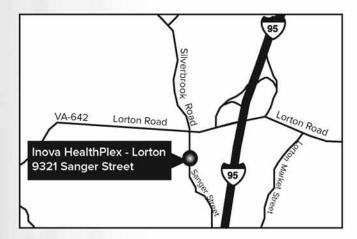


Emergency Care Close to Home... When Minutes Count.

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When: Saturday, March 2

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Inova HealthPlex – Lorton

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**Nutrition Booth** 

· Children's health and wellness activities.



# News



Del. David Bulova (D-37) addresses colleagues on the floor of the House of Delegates

# Life and Death Online

Virginia lawmakers pass "digital assets" bill to ease parental access to deceased child's accounts.

> By Victoria Ross The Connection Newspapers

n a rare display of bipartisan unity, the Virginia General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a bill Tuesday that makes it easier for parents and guardians to swiftly access minors' online accounts after their death.

The digital assets bill—co-sponsored by Delegates David Bulova (D-37) and Tommy Wright (R-Amelia)—is now headed to Governor Robert McDonnell's desk for signature.

Specifically, the bill allows a representative of the minor to obtain access to his or her digital accounts within 30 days of submitting a written request and death certificate to the social media site.

Bulova said he met with the governor earlier this week and is "hopeful" McDonnell will sign the bill, which would then become law on July 1, 2013 and could be applied retroactively.

"Honestly, when I submitted the bill, I had absolutely no clue what I was getting into. ... But, what I am most grateful for is that my colleagues allowed Delegate Wright and me lots of time to get this all figured out," Bulova said, noting that the bill went through numerous committees, hearings and versions before four separate bills were rolled into one

On Monday, the Virginia Senate unanimously passed the legislation; on Tuesday evening, the House passed the Senate version of the bill.

"Most other bills with these kinds of implications would probably have been looked upon sympathetically, but tabled," Bulova said.

### One Family's Journey: When the silence was broken ... '

In 2010, Ricky and Diane Rash, who owned a dairy farm in rural Nottoway County, had little use for social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

They were happy to raise their four children in the same house Ricky Rash grew up in, and wanted to impart the same values of faith, family and community service that they had grown up with as a foun-

But their life was suddenly and irrevocably changed on the morning of Jan. 20, 2011, when they learned their 15-year-old son, Eric, had committed suicide.

"The silence was broken that morning at 5 a.m., when the sheriff called and said a body had been found, and they thought it was Eric," Rash said.

Rash said the shock of seeing his son's body—lying in field not far from the family's dairy farm in rural Nottoway County—could have easily broken the family's spirit as well. But the grieving parents, who have three young daughters, were determined to find answers instead.

"When I was at 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?"

Why, they thought, would Eric, a straight-A student who had plans to attend Virginia Tech and dreamed of going to Harvard Law School, take his

SEE DIGITAL ASSETS, PAGE 14

# Fairfax Attracts 8,400 New Jobs

Intelsat U.S. headquarters relocation most prominent announcement of the year.

n 2012, the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) worked with 186 businesses adding 8,438 jobs to the Fairfax County economy.

Companies in the professional services and information technology sectors dominated the year's announcements.

The most prominent announcement during the year came from Intelsat, the world's leading provider of satellite services. It will relocate its U.S. headquarters to the Tysons Corner area from Washington, D.C., bringing more than 430 employees when it relocates in 2014.

Another high-profile announcement came from TASC, which provides systems engineering and decision-support services to intelligence and defense communities and is adding 494 jobs to the county economy.

"For close to 200 companies to announce the addition of almost 8,500 jobs in 2012, while much of the rest of the Washington area continued to struggle economically, is a testament to the kind of economy that we have worked so hard to create in Fairfax County," said Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D., president and CEO of the FCEDA.

"It also is gratifying to see our strategy of diversifying the economic base pay off with companies from many different fields, of all sizes and backgrounds, and from the U.S. and abroad, contributing to job growth here," Gordon said.

Of the 186 companies, 138 are U.S.-based businesses. Announcements in 2012 came from healthcare provider Kaiser Permanente, adding 146 jobs with the opening of a Tysons owned firms from 44 compa-Corner medical center; IT solu- nies maintain operations in tions provider Carahsoft Technology, adding 109 jobs; and Fulcrum IT Services, an IT ser-



**Gerald Gordon** 

vices provider, adding 80 jobs.

"Carahsoft has grown from zero to more than \$1.4 billion in eight years and as we continue to grow we are pleased to call Fairfax County home because of the access the county provides to a high-caliber workforce and the kind of amenities that help us attract and retain our team members," said Craig P. Abod, president of Carahsoft. "In 2012, we hired more than 100 new employees to expand our business development, sales, marketing and government contracting resources, and we anticipate hiring more than 150 employees in 2013."

Seventeen minority-owned or veteran-owned companies are among the U.S.-based expansions. They include OMNIPLEX World Services Corporation, which provides security services to government agencies, adding 325 jobs; DISYS, a minorityowned IT staffing and consulting firm, adding 150 jobs; and Onyx Government Services, a service-disabled veteran-owned small business that provides data management services, adding 25 jobs.

Thirty-one foreign-owned firms announced expansions in 2012, including Volkswagen Group of America (Germany), adding 107 jobs; Newgen Software (India), adding 40 jobs; ASCOM Network Testing (Switzerland), which develops technologies to analyze mobile networks and is adding 11 jobs; and MobileAccess (Israel), adding 15 jobs. Almost 400 foreign-Fairfax County.

-Victoria Ross

## News

## Virginia Lawmakers Strike Down Bike Safety Bills

By Victoria Ross The Connection Local cyclists vow return in 2014.

irginia may be for lovers, but bicyclists? Not so much.
On Monday, the Virginia House of Delegates killed the last bicycle bill to come before the body in a vote of 55-42. The bill, SB1060, would have added bicycles to the list of vehicles that cannot be tailgated.

Other bills killed by the House include another version of the tailgating bill, and a bill that stated car doors should not be recklessly swung into traffic.

"All of these bills applied to and benefited

all vehicles, not simply bicyclists. All are part of universal vehicular safety," said Michael Gilbert, co-founder of RideRichmond.

The Republican-controlled House had previously rejected an identical measure (HB1950) from Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-Arlington County.) Both bills would have added bicycles and other non-motorized vehicles to the list of those that can't be followed "more closely than is reasonable and prudent."

In addition to legally tailgating bicyclists, it is also permissible to open your car door

into the path of an oncoming bicyclist.

Sen. Chap Petersen's (D-34) "antidooring" bill passed the Virginia Senate, and then a House transportation subcommittee. It looked like a win.

But it was essentially struck down when the House transportation committee voted 7-7 on the question of reporting it to the full House, since a tie vote equals a loss in the General Assembly. Virginia now remains one of only 10 states in America that do not prohibit "dooring."

"Cycling has become an increasingly popular way of getting around Northern Virginia, and providing for rider safety on our congested roads would not seem to be controversial. Cyclists also sought the law so that insurance companies could not reject their medical claims by saying that no fault had been assessed by police after a bike-vs.-car door accident," said Gilbert.

The down vote on SB1060 ends the 2013 session's bicycle safety package, advocated by Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling (FABB), the Virginia Bicycling Federation, Bike Virginia, RideRichmond, and other regional bicycling organizations.

"Making our roads safe for all users—drivers, pedestrians and cyclists is simply good public policy," said Champe Burnley, Northern Virginia president of the Virginia Bicycling Federation.

"As we transition to other forms of transportation over the coming years, it is critical that the laws protect all our road users and penalize those who cause injury or death to others. These bills would help make our roads safer for everyone. How someone would vote against them is beyond me," Burnley said Monday.

"We only have one year left before the



State Senator Chap Petersen (D-34) works the phones in his Richmond office after Monday's General Assembly session.

2015 World Road Cycling Championships. The vast majority of other states have these laws, and once again, Virginia is being left behind due to ... backwards views on universal vehicular safety," said Gilbert.

In 2015, Virginia will be host of the UCI World Road Cycling Championships with an estimated viewership of 300 million. The United States has not hosted the event for 29 years, since 1986.

More than 450,000 spectators from around the world are anticipated in the Central Virginia region.

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- Install proper insulation in your home.
- When you're not using a fireplace, close the flue.
- Replace your furnace filter once a month.
- Turn your hot water heater down to warm or low, never more than 120 degrees.
- Replace all cracked or broken window glass, consider adding storm windows, caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows.
- Wash full loads of laundry and dishes.

For more information and additional energy saving tips visit washingtongas.com.

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### Area Roundups

### School Boundary Meeting 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 students to relieve overcrowding at Fairfax High and Lanier Middle School.

And the public is invited to participate in a community dialogue regarding possible scenarios for the movement of students from one school to another. It's set for Tuesday, Feb. 26, from 7-9 p.m., at Woodson High School, cafeteria, 9525 Main St., Fairfax (snow date: March 6).

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

### Help Prevent Teen Suicide

On March 18, 2009, FCPS student Joshua Lee Anderson was just 17 when he committed suicide. Afterward, his grieving family formed The Josh Anderson Foundation (JAF) to keep his memory alive and to raise funds for the education and prevention of teenage suicide. Its goal is to promote youth, mental-health awareness by bringing innovative, creative and effective programs directly into high schools.

Area residents can also help prevent teenage suicide by donating to JAF's largest fundraiser of the year, The Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon/Marathon run slated for Saturday, March 16.

To help, go to http://www.active.com/donate/joshafoundation2013 or make checks payable to The Josh Anderson Foundation and send them to 1300 Carpers Farm Way, Vienna, VA 22182.

### News

From left, Lynn Gilmore (corporate citizenship director, **Northrop Grumman Information Sys**tems), Rachel Moneypenny, Peter Zhao, Caulton Wilson, Zachary Hayden and Heather Naples (president, Brown **Construction Ser**vices) pose after the trophy presentation at this year's **MATHCOUNTS re**gional competition.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY RACHEL MONEYPENNY

## MATHCOUNTS Champions

# Mark Twain wins regional competition, advances to state level.

By Tim Peterson
The Connection

t doesn't take any higher level computations to evaluate the success of Mark Twain Middle School MATHCOUNTS teams, just simple fractions. Like 6/10: the number of times in the last decade the school's entrants finished first at the regional level; in the remaining 4/10, they were runners-up.

In the George Washington chapter of the 2013 Northern Virginia regionals, held on Saturday, Feb. 2, at Lake Braddock Secondary School, the all-eighth grade team of Caulton Wilson, Zachary Hayden, Peter Zhao and Arnav Gupta added another victory. Sweetening the win was a first place finish in individual competition by Twain's Hanhsen Zhao.

**ALL FIVE TWAIN STUDENTS** will compete at the state level of MATHCOUNTS, being held March 16 in Glen Allen, Va.

MATHCOUNTS is a 30-year-old nationwide competition aimed at developing not only advanced mathematical skills in middle school students, but also powerful problem-solving abilities. For most, it is an after-school activity—the Twain group meets for an hour and a half every Wednesday.

There is also an emphasis on taking math beyond the classroom, promoting its utility in and preparing young minds for mathematical, scientific and technical careers. So the stakes are certainly high, even without a winning reputation to uphold.

"When you come in the front door and look to the right, there's a big case," said mathematics teacher and Twain's MATHCOUNTS coach Rachel Moneypenny. "It's MATHCOUNTS MATHCOUNTS, MATHCOUNTS. The kids know we have a history of competing and doing well."

But despite the perceived pressure, her students keep things in perspective by focusing on the task at hand rather than the implications of winning or losing. Going to the regional and state competitions is more about the experience, according to Moneypenny.

### Other Counters from George Washington Chapter

#### TEAM

2nd place: South County Middle School, team of Timothy Arndt, John Wilkie, Sarah Trans and Michael Brockway; coach Gina Evans.

3rd place: Carl Sandburg Middle School, team of Emma Cuddy, Christopher Letai, Robby Scherer and Olivia Scheidt; coach Bob Scherer.

#### INDIVIDUAL

2nd Place: Michael Caballero, Queen of Apostles Catholic

School

3rd Place: Timothy Arndt, South County Middle School 4th Place: Emily Shin, St. Bernadette School

"They like the challenge, that's the biggest thing," she said. "The kids who end up doing well are the ones who would do it anyway, who would do it even if there wasn't a competition at the end of the year, because they just enjoy problem-solving."

Now in her third year at Twain as an Honors Math and Geometry teacher, this is Moneypenny's second year with the

**MATHCOUNTS** team and first as its head coach. She and the team begin preparing each fall for February competition, going over concepts that may not have been covered in the school curriculum yet, such as special right triangles and trigonometry.

Moneypenny keeps a grade book of each student's performance and ranks them; by December, she takes the top 16 students, groups them in teams of four and begins mock rounds of MATHCOUNTS competition. From there she selects the top four students for the regional team, with those ranked five through 10 allowed to compete in an individual circuit.

In her role as coach, Moneypenny strives to act more as a facilitator of peer-based learning rather than simply a front-of-room teacher. Whether it's modular arithmetic or binary, once she's presented her students with the necessary tools, "I can sit back and listen to them argue about how to solve a problem," she said.

"For me, that's so integral to mathematics, science, to education—learning how to collaborate, but also bounce ideas off of one another. If you can talk about the math, that's one way to tell you really understand it."

Given the history, the Mark Twain MATHCOUNTS students look to be talking about math for years to come.

### Free Remodeling & Design Seminars!





Sat., March 2nd - 10am-2pm

Where: 5795B Burke Centre Pkwy, Burke, VA 22015 (behind Kohl's)

Thinking of remodeling? This event is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of free expert advice with no obligation. Learn about the hot topics you should consider when remodeling.

#### Saturday's Seminars:

- 10 Tips for a Stress-Free Remodel
- Universal Design Planning Ahead
   Reinventing Your Home for Today's

Seminars run from 10am-Noon. Lunch to follow.

Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in. Seating is limited. Call Sabrina at 703.425.5588 to reserve your seats!

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## **OPINION**

## To 'Get That Vote We All Deserve'

### From Fix Gun Checks tour to White House.

By Omar Joseph Samaha Brother of Reema Samaha

fter my sister Reema was killed at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007, our lives changed forever. I say "our lives" changed forever because gun violence doesn't just affect the direct family of the person killed, but an entire community. As I learned more and more about gun violence, I found that on a daily basis, this ripple of pain and suffering is repeated 34 times in 34 communities

around the country, that's a Virginia Tech massacre every day.

This all became even more apparent when I drove around the country on the Fix Gun Checks tour. The campaign promoted respect for the second amendment and fixing our background check system on gun purchases to prevent dangerous, prohibited purchasers from acquiring them.

The campaign began shortly after the Tucson, Ariz. massacre where U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords was shot along with many other innocent Americans. For months I campaigned across the country, holding public events in small towns and big cities. When I made it to Tucson, Gabby was still recovering from her gunshot to the head, yet I had the opportunity

shooting. Her sister gave me a bright blue bracelet that had inscribed on it, "Gabby," along with a peace sign and a heart. I've cherished it

and worn it ever since along

IN EVERY STATE I traveled to, I met with families and survivors of gun violence, mayors, congressional members, law enforcement officials, doctors, gun owners and NRA members. From the rural countryside, to the suburbs, to the inner cities, I witnessed the same thing; gun violence affects people in every community and from all walks of life. The resounding plea

from everyone I met along the way is that we must do more to prevent gun violence in our country while respecting our second amendment rights. This can and must be done in a comprehensive manner in order to have real

After the Newtown shooting, everything changed, and Americans could not bear the thought of inaction. We can see that a push from citizens could cause the president and Congress to finally act to prevent these tragedies from occurring.

I went to the White House last Tuesday to speak with the first lady and other policy advisors and on Capitol Hill I spent much of the day meeting with congressional members. Everyone is now committed to working on the

to meet her sister and those affected by the complex issue of gun violence prevention around our country while making sure our Constitutional rights are not infringed.

On Capitol Hill, U.S. Rep. Jim Moran has been a very strong vocal leader in gun violence prevention and has worked closely with us over the years. He invited me to be his guest to the State of the Union. I was honored to attend along with many others who have experienced gun violence in their lives and even more so when President Obama acknowledged our

The president spoke strongly about how the time for talk is over and the time for action, to vote on gun violence prevention measures, is now. He reiterated, "They deserve a vote!" when referring to those who have been murdered in the growing number of massacres, for the 34 Americans killed every day, for the families and communities affected, and for the survivors who live their lives with permanent in-

dress, as I was leaving, I randomly got to meet one of those survivors, Gabby Giffords. She was being escorted by her husband, Capt. Mark Kelly. I had the feeling that one day we would cross paths. I introduced myself to her and though I don't believe she knew who I was, when I showed her the bracelet with her name on it her expression changed to one of excitement and enthusiasm.

Although Gabby is still recovering and relearning how to speak, the words we exchanged were enough to give us more hope and energy, to continue on until we get that vote we all deserve, for our safety, for our children, and for our families and communities.



with my "Hokie Hope" bracelet as I've hoped and prayed for her recovery and for all those af-

juries and trauma. SHORTLY AFTER the State of the Union ad-

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:

To discuss ideas and concerns,

Call: 703-778-9410

e-mail: springfield@connectionnewspapers.com

**Kemal Kurspahic** 

Editor \* 703-778-9414 kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Chelsea Bryan

**Editorial Assistant** 

703-778-9410 ext.427

cbryan@connectionnewspapers.com

**Victoria Ross** 

Community Reporter 301-502-6027

rosspinning@yahoo.com

Jon Roetman

Sports Editor

703-778-9410

jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com

@jonroetman

For advertising information sales@connectionnewspapers.com

**Steve Hogan** 

Display Advertising, 703-778-9418 shogan@connectionnewspapers.com

**Andrea Smith** 

Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411 classified @connection newspapers.com

Debbie Funk

National Sales 703-778-9444 debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

#### **Editor & Publisher**

Mary Kimm 703-778-9433 mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com @MaryKimm

#### **Executive Vice President**

Jerry Vernon jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

> **Editor in Chief** Steven Mauren **Managing Editor** Kemal Kurspahic Photography: Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft, Craig Sterbutzel Art/Design: Laurence Foong, John Heinly **Production Manager:** Jean Card Geovani Flores

#### Special Assistant to the Publisher

Jeanne Theismann 703-778-9436 jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com

#### **CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427 Circulation Manager:** Ann Oliver

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Time to Vote On **Gun Control**

To the Editor:

A powerful moment was reached during the State of the Union address when President Obama spoke of America's responsibility to survivors of gun violence. The president said, "they deserve a vote" — on gun reform. Representatives from Virginia should heed this call.

"They" also applies to the countless Americans who, like myself, remain concerned and disheartened by horrific gun violence. Though I was hundreds of miles away at school in Washington, D.C., on the day of the Virginia Tech massacre, just watching the images on television and knowing I had friends at Va. Tech at the time head on, because we, as concerned invoked a tremendous sense of citizens of Virginia and of the nathroats. shock and sadness that I still have tion, deserve a vote. to this day.

Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) has the responsibility, in his capacity as chairman of the House

Judiciary Committee, to make a serious effort to find ways to make our communities safer. Our Congressman Frank Wolf (R-10) should, too, take this opportunity to strengthen our state's, and our nation's, gun laws.

The time for a vote is now. It is time to close loopholes and increase preventative measures that were not, but should have been, in place.

These are just some of the meaningful reforms that will reduce gun violence.

Some lawmakers may declare that today's most pressing issue is the economy and looming sequester, but that should completely not rule out a plan for gun reform. Simply sweeping any chance for gun reform under the rug is foolhardy. It's time to tackle the issue

> **Velginy Hernandez Great Falls**

### Does VRE Need More State Oversight?

To the Editor:

Two bills (SB 1210 and HB 2152) before the Virginia General Assembly would give the state two more votes on the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Operations Board. The board strongly objects because it was not consulted in advance and state taxpayers contribute just 16 percent towards its budget. They were shocked by this request because the state's lone representative has never complained about this 20-year arrangement. They feel that this matter should be negotiated instead of forced down their

Over the last 20 years, the railway has grown by leaps and bounds. Station parking lots have been massively expanded numerous times. Seventy new coaches and 20 new locomotives were purchased. Ridership records are routinely broken to the point that close to 20,000 trips are made per day. On-time performance now reaches an astonishing level of 97 percent. This transit system passed the stress test of 9/11 with much

All local members of the current board are selected from a pool of elected officials. If they make bad decisions they could lose their bids for reelection. This "club" works fine because board members keep getting reelected, and VRE's ridership and on-time performance

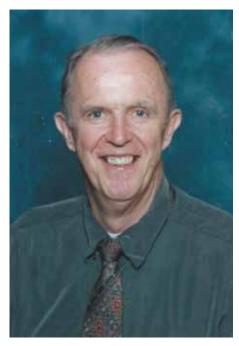
What the railroad really needs is more money. The funding amount in the transit portion of the governor's plan needs to be greatly expanded so VRE can be extended to Gainesville/ Haymarket and can build a new mid-day train storage yard.

> **Dick Peacock** Manassas

## **OBITUARY**

### Dr. Allen Neil Duckworth of Springfield, 72, Dies

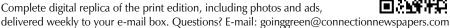
Dr. Allen Neil Duckworth of Springfield passed away on Saturday, Feb. 9, at the age of 72. Preceded in death by his daughter, Sarah Bergquist, he is survived by his wife of 49 years Becky, two sons, David (Alisha) Duckworth and Dr. Douglas (Jasmine) Duckworth, his daughter Dr. Beth (Michael) Flecker, his sister Debra (Win) Davis as well as 11 grandchildren and nieces Andi and Malika. Allen was born and raised in Elkins, W.Va., and graduated with a masters degree in engineering at West Virginia University before going on to earn a doctorate in computer science at George Washington University. He served as a captain in the US Army before settling into a 36 year career at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. Allen was devoted to his wife and family. He enjoyed his grandchildren, playing basketball, and travel. A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at the Fairfax Church of Christ, 3901 Rugby Rd, Chantilly, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb.



Dr. Allen Neil Duckworth

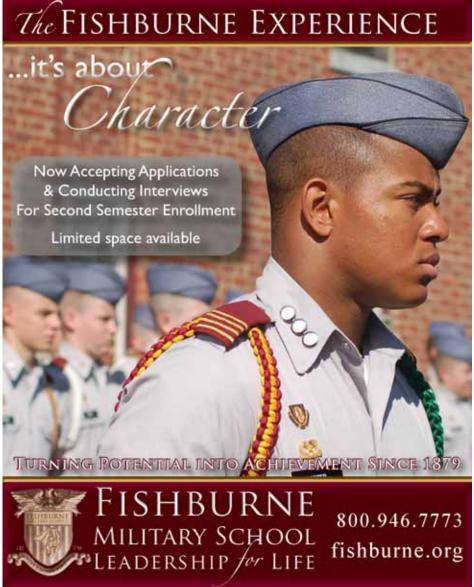
14. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to research Frontal Temporal Disorders (www.THEAFTD.org) or Capital Caring Hospice (www.capitalcaring.org). Interment will be at a later date in Elkins, W.Va.

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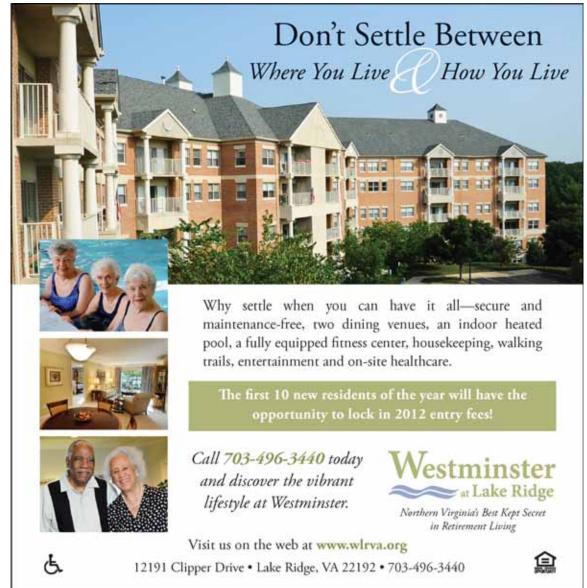












The Connection

he importance of dance is clear to Stoner Winslett, artistic director of the Richmond Ballet. "Dance is the expression of the human spirit through movement. It is the instinctive language of our hearts and minds," she wrote.

ginia for non-members and

class to dance students of the ballet," said Alicia Ronquillo, JCCNV Dance Academy.

of our Dance Academy," said a ballet class that push past the director. "We wanted to present Ronquillo. These include discidance from local and regional pline, respect for oneself and learncompanies that would show difing your limitations.



**Ben Malone** and Elena

"Djangology"

Caniparoli.

by Val

Bello of Richmond Ballet II in

Community Center of Northern Virginia on Sunday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. for non-members and members. Tickets: \$18-\$22. 703-573-3000 or www.jccnvarts.org.

arah Ferguson/Courtesy

In her reactions to the forthcomour students and audience with ing RB II master class, Elle Cryan, one of the Dance Academy stu-Why learn ballet? "Ballet is a dents, noted "I really appreciate as "Georgia on my Mind" and munity Center of Northern Virgreat foundation for all dance, as the opportunity to take a master "Ain't Misbehavin." vocabulary and proper technique class with the Richmond Ballet II are key to being successful in any because I will be able to experience what it is like to work with a professional ballet company."

> The RB II performance will include a number of distinct works. Some of the works will be "Classical Symphony," with choreography by Malcolm Burn, the Richmond Ballet's own ballet master, with music by Prokofiev. Another is is just outstanding.

Richmond Ballet II at Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River

dents, held Friday afternoon, March 1, is taught by Igor Antonov, Richmond Ballet II director.

Richmond Ballet II performance at the Jewish

century toyshop where at night a toymaker's dolls magically come to life and dance.

"Djangology" with choreography by Val Caniparoli, with music by jazz master Django Reinhardt, as well as songs such

"exciting, zany, and utterly irre-The RB II is led by Igor

Antonov, who danced leading roles with the Richmond Ballet. Inviting Northern Virginia audiences to the Richmond Ballet II performance, Kirsch said that "the quality of their storytelling"

## CALENDAR

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.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 23

Speed Stacking Tournament. 9 a.m.-

1 p.m., at North Springfield Elementary School, 7602 Heming Court, Springfield. Single and double (parent and child) cup stacking mpetitions held concurrently with prizes: food for sale to benefit the school \$4. 703-658-5563 or semetz@fcps.edu. Sixth Annual Monopoly

**Tournament**. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Workhouse in Gallery W-16, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The tournament benefits the Lorton Community Action Center, a food bank and human services nonprofit serving southeas Fairfax County; \$500 cash prize for tournament winner and continenta breakfast, raffle tickets and lunch provided for all. Register. \$25. www.lortoni

Robinson Gives Back. 7 p.m. at Lord

of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. A benefit concert organized by the Tri-M Music Honor Society members at Robinson. including small ensembles representing String Quartet, Cello Ensemble, Woodwind Quintet, Brass Quintet, Guitar Ensemble, and two choirs, Robinson Singers and Select Women's Ensemble. Free and open to the public, with donations suggested, all of which will go to Wounded

#### SUNDAY/FEBRUARY 24

Purim Fest. 5-8 p.m., at Ohev Yisrael Messianic Jewish Congregation, 8196



their work at a joint show at Green Spring Horticultural Center Gallery, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, from Tuesday, Feb. 26, through Sunday, April 28, daily from noon-4:30 p.m. Grossé's paintings range from realistic to abstract and Gawarecki's work features a window series as well as moody landscapes. The artists' reception is on Sunday, April 7, from 1-3:30 p.m. 703-642-5173.

Halley Race for Technology 5K & Color Fun Run. 8:30 a.m., at Halley Elementary School, 8850 Cross Chase Circle, Lorton, Run through a course with obstacles and color misting or in the more traditional 5k with ChronoTrack timing system for accuracy in the Crosspointe subdivision around Halley Elementary, to be awash in color, for the race to raise funds for classroom technology, www.halleypto.com

11:30 a.m., at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Area moms are invited to a casual gather on the topic of modern sexuality; coffee, tea, homemade breakfast fare and childcare provided. \$7. Register. MomsOnTheRun4@gmail.com.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 2

The Broken Spell. 1 p.m., at the Workhouse in the W-3 Theatre, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A children's theatre performance that tells the story of the princess that keeps falling asleep until her parents try to fix it by spell. However, it doesn't work and true love must be found. \$12 for adults; \$8

**Springfield Art Guild Opening** 

Virginia Community College, Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center— Building CE 2, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The Springfield Art Guild in collaboration with the Annandale Campus of the Northern Virginia Community Colleges, presents a month long exhibit and sale in the Ernst Auditorium lobbies.

for children. www.workhousearts.org.

Reception. 7-9 p.m., at Northern

#### FRIDAY/MARCH 8

Josh DeWeese Ceramics. 7-9 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, Josh DeWeese, assistant professor of art at Montana State University, Bozeman, and former resident director of the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts in Helena, Mont., exhibits ceramic piece that have been thrown then altered, using pottery as an expressive art form in a contemporary context. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

#### Saawariya: Dinner and a Movie Night. 8 p.m., at the W-3 Theatre in

the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Film, dinner and soft drinks make it an arts experience to savor: the Bollywood masterpiece directed by Sanjay Leela, inspired by Dostoyevsky's White Nights, shows Reservations (indicate dietary needs). \$39 per person.

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Meet each building's featured artist, a reception in W-16 City Works Opening Reception and Book Signing. 6-9 p.m., in Studio 4, the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The paintings of John Gascot and Mary Gallagher-Stout, or "The Art Monkeys" explore urban life, culture and architecture—their collaboration or "ongoing conversations," began with their first children's book, USA to Z: Artful ABC's for Kids of All Ages. www.TheArtMonkeys.com.

from 6-7 p.m. and more.

www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Northern Virginia Chorale, 7:30 p.m., at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. The chorale, accompanied by a jazz ensemble, presents "American Journeys," a sentimental musical iourney that recalls sights and sounds across the nation from Route 66 to New York, New York and the like. \$20 at the door; \$15 in advance. www.northernvirginiachorale.org

#### **SATURDAY/MARCH 16** Fairfax Symphony Orchestra:

Masterworks V. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman performs J. Strauss' Emperor Waltz and Tick Tack, Pizzicato, Trisch-

Tratsch Polkas and Overture to Die Fledermaus; R. Strauss' Suite from Der Rosenkavalier, Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks and Salomé's Dance. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or

#### THURSDAY/APRIL 18

www.fairfaxsymphony.org

2013 Fairfax County Volunteer

Service Awards. 8 a.m-10 p.m., at Waterford, 6715 Commerce St Springfield. The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards serve as a community-wide celebration of volunteerism and the awards honor individuals, groups and organizations that have given outstanding volunteer service. Nominations/online application are due: Feb. 4 by 4 p.m 03-246-3825 or www.volunteerfairfax.org.

### SATURDAY/MAY 11

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra:** Masterworks VI. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman, tenor Brennen Guillory and soprano Joni Henson perform Wagner's "Prelude and Liebestod." Tristan und Isolde and Prelude to Act 3, Lohengrin Verdi's Overture to La Forza del Destino, Overture to I vespri siciliani Love Duet Finale Act I Otello, "Dio ti giocondi, O Sposo" Otello. "Dio mi potevi, scagliar" Otello, Willow Song

Otello and "Libiamo," La Traviata

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## **OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 & 24**

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

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### Springfield

7801 Cliffside Ct.............\$525,000.. Sun 1-4......Jeffrey Stack.......Century 21..703-943-8130 7812 Attleboro Dr............\$475,000.. Sun 1-4.. Sherry Elphick-Schoske...............RE/MAX.. 703-971-5555

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designated The "State Ballet of Virginia." This year the Richmond Ballet added a second professional company, Richmond Ballet II (RB II). RB II performs and provides education ferent styles of dance and engage and community outreach programs. Soon the RB II troupe will dance at the Jewish Com-

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# Choosing a Summer Camp

# Region offers programs to tempt children with interests ranging from sports to drama to science.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

hile most of Washington is braving the winter weather, April Toman has been planning for summer. At the top of her list: choosing a camp for her two children, Claire, who is in fifth grade, and Will, who is a second grader.

"I start thinking about it in January," said Toman, who lives in Alexandria. "I talk to my kids about what they are interested in taking. There are so many options and the popular camps fill up quickly."

Education experts say summer camp is an important part of a childhood experience, and parents should start considering options well before the end of the school year.

"I think summer camps are wonderful for kids," said Tammy Davis, a doctor of education and a professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "Sometimes kids lose ground over the summer."

ground over the summer, especially with regard to their mental activity. Summer camp can continue brain development, especially with regard to creativity, mental activity, physical activity and social activity."

Davis, who is a former camp counselor, elementary school teacher and school

counselor, said children who are not exposed to new social activities could become isolated. "If your kids are only playing video games or going to the pool every day, they run the risk of cocooning themselves," she said. "Choose a camp that expands your child's horizons, that will be stimulating and engaging and where they will develop new friendships without the pressure of an academic environment."

Toman, whose children will attend summer camp at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, says that from traditional day camps to specialty camps, the options for children are plentiful. "My children have done junior veterinarian camp in the past, and this year we might try an eco-adventures camp."

#### FROM SPORTS TO SCIENCE,

the Washington region is filled with camps that will suit almost every child. For example, Annie



Students show projects that they made during a physics camp at SummerTimes Camp at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School last summer.

Moyer, director of the Sun & Moon Yoga Studio in Arlington and Fairfax, says yoga camps are options for children who have never practiced yoga. "No yoga experience is necessary," she said. "We do yoga games and poses, breath-

"Choose a camp that expands your child's horizons and will be stimulating and engaging." —Tammy Davis, Marymount University

e ing, artistic expression and,

weather permitting, outdoor playground time."

For youngsters with a passion for all things artistic, Jeanne Loveland, education director for the Greater Reston Arts Center, suggests art camp. "Our camps are based on the GRACE mission, which is contemporary art" she said. "There are some discussions and there are art projects. There is one camp of messy art projects that your mom would never let you do at home. The camps are educational, but also fun. We will bring in local artists."

Loveland added that during one session, students will learn about public art, and "will create a public art work that will be displayed publicly after the camp."

Jim Supple, director of summer programs at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, encourages parents to consider specialty camps as well as traditional day camps.

"Specialty camps are great ways to try new things, to expand horizons, and to challenge yourself," he said. "Children are naturally curious and specialty camps provide a way for children to learn more about their interests. If a

> child is not the most athletic and would rather learn about fashion or photography, acting or magic, specialty camps provide that outlet. They allow children to find things that they are good at and lets them be proud in that activity."

While the thought of academic camps might cause some children to cringe,

Mollianne Logerwell, Ph.D., director of science education at George Mason University's Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement, says that does not have to be the case. George Mason hosts science camps, and "students frequently tell us that camp was not only fun, but also increased their interest in science," she said. "Additionally, classroom teachers have told us that students who attended a VISTA camp ask higher-level questions and are more engaged in science lessons than students who did not attend camp."

Logerwell said VISTA camps are geared toward low-income students. "It's also a great way to expose families with limited knowledge to the possibility of attending and affording college."

**WITH SO MANY OPTIONS** for summer camps, choosing the best

summer camps, choosing the best camp for your child can be overwhelming. "When parents are



Students attending the Norwood School summer camp in Bethesda, Md., spend time with a firefighter.



Students attending the Norwood School summer camp in Bethesda, Md., enjoy sailing.

looking for a camp, they should try to find a camp where they're comfortable with the facility, the programming, and counselors and staff," said Kevin Rechen, camp director for the Norwood School in Bethesda, Md.

Gabrielle Summers, who is planning to send her children to summer camp at the Norwood School, says that she considers safety first. "Second, [I consider] the qualifications of counselors and leadership and their love of the children. [Then] I look at cost, early bird discounts, payment due dates and

cancellation policies."

For those who may not be able to afford the cost of summer camp, Rechen suggests that parents do a little research. "Many summer camps offer financial aid," he said. "There are also foundations that give grants for camps."

No matter which camp a child attends, however, Davis has one caution: "Be careful about overscheduling camps, doing back-to-back camps and not giving children down time," she said. "Some people use camp as day care and that is not always a good thing."



# SPORTS

## Lake Braddock Wins First District Title Since 2002

### Gregorits named MVP of Patriot District tournament.

BY JON ROETMAN The Connection

he Lake Braddock boys' basketball team conquered the Patriot District tournament's top seed in the semifinals, beating Woodson 57-54 on Feb. 14.

The following evening, when Lake Braddock trailed late in the district final, the Bruins had enough gas left in the tank to overcome a fourth-quarter deficit and capture their first championship in more than a decade.

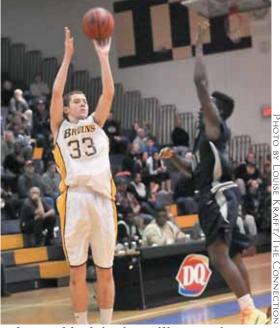
Lake Braddock won its first Patriot District title since 2002 by defeating South County 50-40 on Feb. 15 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. The fourthseed Bruins held a four-point advantage entering the fourth quarter, but the seventh-seed Stallions took the lead a minute later after a 3-pointer and a layup by Justin Williams. The South County senior scored again with 3:05 remaining in the contest, giving the Stallions a 37-35 lead, but Lake Braddock closed the game on a 15-3 run to secure the title.

"We knew they were going to come in there, give us a run for our money," Lake Braddock sophomore A.J. Alexander said, "but we just had to stay settled down, keep a cool head and we knew we were going to pull it out."

Alexander and junior Will Gregorits led Lake Braddock, with each making a significant contribution in the paint. Gregorits finished with 21 points and six rebounds, and Alexander scored 16 points and grabbed eight boards.

"We don't win if [Alexander] and Will don't rebound like they did," Lake Braddock head coach Brian Metress said. "That was our whole emphasis before the game: we said, championship if you rebound."

"It's the best feeling in the world," Gregorits said. "I've never had a feeling like this. It's probably the single-greatest event of my high school career so far. To be over 10 years without winning [a district title], we had to get it-we just had to."



**Lake Braddock junior Will Gregorits** scored 21 points against South County in the Patriot District championship game.

Alexander was named to the all-tournament team, along with Woodson's Eric Bowles, T.C. Williams' Landon Moss and South County's Williams and Justin Hampton.

Williams led the Stallions with 16 points in the district final. Hampton, a first-team all-district selection, went scoreless in the first half, but finished with 10 points, including a trio of 3-pointers. The senior converted a four-point play in the third quarter, cutting South County's deficit to 26-17.

The Stallions finished district runner-up for the second straight season.

Lake Braddock followed its district championship with a 60-43 victory against Stuart, the No. 4 seed from the National District, in the opening round of the Northern Region tournament on Feb. 18. The following night, Lake Braddock's season came to an end with a 46-43 loss to Robinson, the Concorde District's No. 2 seed, in the region quarterfinals.

# Regional Basketball Matchups Set

semifinals will take place Thursday and Friday at Robinson Secondary School.

The girls' semifinals will take place on Thursday. Edison, the No. 2 seed from the National District, will face Centreville, the Concorde District champion, at 6 p.m. The second game of the doubleheader will match Oakton, the Concorde District runner-up, against South Lakes, the No. 2 seed from the Liberty District.

The boys' semifinals will take place Friday. The 6 p.m. matchup will be a Patriot District showdown between Woodson, the district's No. 2 seed, and South County, the No. 3 seed. Woodson won both regular season matchups with the Stallions.

Woodson defeated Yorktown (N3) in the opening round of regionals and beat Herndon (C1) in the quarterfinals. The Cavaliers went 13-1 in the Patriot District during the regular season and entered the

he Northern Region basketball tournament district tournament as the No. 1 seed, but lost to No. 4 Lake Braddock in the semifinals.

> South County lost its final six regular-season district games and finished 3-11. The Stallions entered the district tournament as the No. 7 seed and upset No. 2 West Potomac and No. 3 T.C. Williams to reach the championship game, where South County lost to No. 4 Lake Braddock. In the regional tournament, the Stallions defeated Mount Vernon (N2) in the opening round and beat Chantilly (C4) in the quarterfinals.

> The 8 p.m. matchup will be between Robinson, the Concorde runner-up, and Wakefield, the National District champion. Robinson defeated Wakefield 57-41 during the regular season on Dec. 1.

> Robinson lost to Herndon in the Concorde District championship game, but bounced back with regional wins against McLean (L3) and Lake Braddock (P1).



Woodson's Keara Finnerty, center, and Madeline Nguyen, right, were named to the All-Patriot District Tournament team.

## Woodson Girls Finish Runner-Up

By Jon Roetman The Connection

he Woodson girls' basketball team overcame a 0-6 start to the season, qualified for the Northern Region tournament for the first time since 2010 and, thanks to a 40-point outburst from Keara Finnerty, played in a district championship game for the first time since 2004.

The Cavaliers accomplished plenty during the 2012-13 campaign, but T.C. Williams assured "district championship" would not be on Woodson's list of accolades.

T.C. Williams defeated Woodson 58-35 in the Patriot District tournament final on Feb. 15 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Two nights earlier, Woodson defeated three-time defending district champion and No. 1 seed West Springfield 61-43 in the semifinals. Finnerty, a senior guard, scored 40 points, made 8 of 11 3-point attempts and shot 73 percent from the field.

"From an offensive standpoint, I've never seen anything like it at Woodson," said Neri, who has been on the Cavaliers coaching staff for 13 seasons, including eight as head coach. "Even the years when I was an assistant and we went to the state semis, we didn't have anybody put up those kinds of numbers."

Against TC, Finnerty and Anna Walker each scored 10 points for the Cavaliers. Madeline Nguyen finished with nine points.

The Titans took control in the second quarter, outscoring Woodson 19-2 in the period en route to a 34-12 half time advantage. The Cavaliers cut the Titans' lead to 12 when a threepoint play by Walker made the score 41-29 at the end of the third, but Woodson would get no closer.

TC's Rejoice Spivey led all scorers with 29 points. Angie Schedler finished with 14.

Finnerty and Nguyen were named to the all-tournament team, along with TC's Christian Roberts and Baylee Simpson, West Springfield's Amy Berglund and Lake Braddock's Natalie Butler. TC's Spivey was named MVP.

Woodson's season ended with a 56-29 loss to Edison, the No. 2 seed from the National District, in the opening round of the Northern Region tournament on Feb. 18.



Second on Beam

Woodson senior Simone Freidman tied for second on beam at the VHSL state gymnastics meet on Feb. 16.

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## News

# State Senate Passes 'Digital Assets' Bill

In their search for clues about their son's death, Ricky and his wife, Diane, tried to access their son's Facebook page. They thought Eric may have posted something on Facebook that could shed light on their son's state of mind. Citing state and federal privacy laws, Facebook denied them access.

Rash said he and his wife were stunned to learn that they had no legal control over their minor son's digital legacy.

They wrangled with Facebook for

"Most other bills with these kinds of implications would probably have been looked upon sympathetically, but tabled."

— Del. David Bulova (D-37), who co-sponsored Virginia's "digital assets" bill

nearly a year to divulge their son's password, but were repeatedly locked out. If Eric had left any clues on his Facebook page, that information would be forever out of reach to his distraught parents.

That's when they began to lobby state lawmakers to tackle the issue.

"If Eric had left a journal, or anything tangible, we would have had access to it as his parents. Parents should have the same rights and access with anything online," Rash said.

"We never dreamed we would have to get into these issues," Rash continued. "But it's imperative that parents understand that the Internet and social media have overreached in their privacy laws, and that we wanted to change that."

### Social Media and **Privacy Laws**

Rash learned that social media has evolved faster than the federal law, and the question of who controls or stewards online legacies lacks legal clarity and consistency.

In fact, the last federal law dealing with digital privacy was enacted by Congress in 1986, nearly 20 years before Facebook was created.

The Electronic Communications Privacy Act allows children to enter into "terms of service" agreements, a contract all users must agree to when they sign up with social-media sites, such as Facebook and Twitter.

Legal experts say the law was intended to protect the privacy of the

living, but it is generally interpreted by social media giants as forbidding them to give parents access to their deceased child's online accounts.

Ironically, it was the "terms of service" agreement that allowed lawmakers Bulova and Wright to craft a bill that many say is solid enough to withstand a future legal challenge.

"We decided 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.

While five states have passed laws addressing "digital assets," the legislation var-

> ies widely and is largely untested. As a result, the Uniform Law Commission—a national group of lawyers that researches and drafts uniform state laws that can be adopted by state legislatures-formed a committee last year to study hot-button issues such as the right to "digital assets."

But a uniform law could take years, Bulova said, and he did not want parents to be in the same position

as the Rash's-locked out of their deceased child's online life.

State Senator Chap Petersen (D-34), who spoke in favor of the bill on Monday, agreed:

"If the feds pass a law in the meantime, great. But we're not going to sit around and wait if we can do something now," Petersen said. "As a parent of teenagers, it seems that parents ought to have access to what their child posts online, especially when the child

Rash predicts Virginia's law—and other states tackling similar issues-will force social media companies to "take notice."

"They don't want to become experts in a patchwork of laws from 50 different states, so this effort in Virginia may push the Uniform Law Commission to come up with something regarding digital legacies sooner rather than later," Rash said Tuesday evening, after learning that the bill had passed both chambers of the legisla-

Passage of the bill has given the Rash family some measure of comfort.

If the bill becomes law, they know other parents won't have to go through the same struggle to see their child's online life.

Rash said the past 24 months have been a journey his family never wanted to embark upon, but the support from Eric's friends, family members and other parents has helped the family remain strong.

"I think Eric would be proud ... parents are making progress for once," Ricky Rash said Tuesday evening.

"The support has been overwhelming. There were times we wanted to withdraw, but hearing stories about Eric, knowing that we could help other parents, we were able to push this thing to the bitter end."



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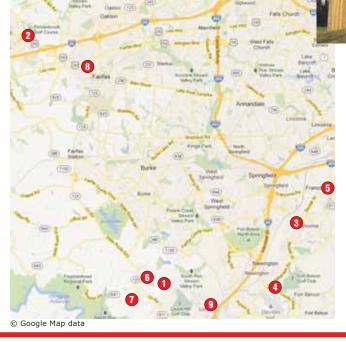


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