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News

Woodson junior Giancarlo Pacheco and the Woodson Cavalry celebrate winning their second consecutive region championship on Saturday, March 1: following the deaths of the two Woodson students, the win was an emotional one for the Cavaliers.



Photo by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

Trying to Stay Strong Through the Grief

Woodson High community mourns two students.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

ears, sad faces, hugs, stunned silences, churning emotions and unanswered questions – all are part of the reaction of the Woodson High students in the wake of last week's tragedies: Two of their classmates have died.

Fairfax County police responded last Wednesday, Feb. 26, to Clara Barton Drive in Fairfax Station for a report of a pedestrian struck by a VRE train around 5:35 a.m. The victim, who died, was identified as Woodson sophomore Jack Chen, 15, of Fairfax Station. Police say the circumstances surrounding his death remain under investigation.

Two days later, Friday, Feb. 28, students learned another classmate – this one, a junior – had also died. No details about this death have been released. But one thing is certain: Both of these teenagers died too soon. And all those who knew and cared about them are deeply grieving their loss, including Woodson Principal Jeff Yost.

"These are great kids, with strong friendships," he said on Monday. "These kids made other kids smile and their teachers and coaches, as well. In short, they were very typical kids. That is the scary part.

"Those students left behind are taking care of each other, their teachers and, yes, even their principal. Teachers are eliminating and/or altering assignments. We have postponed sending any kind of intering grades out this week ... maybe next week."

Additionally, said Yost, "Counseling is available at school all of this week, and we have counselors, psychologists and social workers that work at every school already."

IN A FEB. 28 EMAIL to the Woodson community, Yost wrote, "I am saddened to report to you the unexpected death today of one of our 11th-grade students. Out of respect for the family's wishes, Woodson High School will not be providing any additional details related to this incident. Our thoughts and support are with the student's family and friends during this difficult time."

He said the school has a crisis team in place and support services for students, staff, and families are available. Yost also stressed the importance of everyone pulling together as a community "to identify risk factors and assist any child who may be in need of academic, social or emotional support."

"Social media is the place where students 'congregate' to share their thoughts about a tragedy," Yost told the parents. "Unfortunately, it is also a place where rumor, innuendo and speculation often prevail. Please make every effort to be aware of your child's activities on social media and encourage them to let adults know when they read something that concerns them."

A community meeting was set for Wednesday night, March 5, at the school to let parents know what Woodson's doing "to support their children during this time of grief, provide information and resources for parents to use as they help their children, and tell them about community efforts to build a network of support" for the students.

In addition, FCPS Superintendent Karen Garza and her administration are working on countywide initiatives that support student mental health and wellbeing. The School Board is concerned, as well.

"As the Braddock District School Board member and a parent of two Woodson students, I am deeply saddened by the loss of these two students and extend my heartfelt condolences to their families and loved ones," said Megan McLaughlin.

"I support FCPS' dedicated efforts to work with the community in examining what has happened and in determining how best to prevent future loss of life," she continued. "As a social worker and Board member, I will continue to advocate for community interventions that reduce student stress and improve their ability to cope with adversity."

LAST FRIDAY, FEB. 28, Woodson's basketball team beat Herndon in a regional semifinals game. And following the deaths of the two Woodson students, the win was an emotional one for the Cavaliers. "We're doing this for the community," said Woodson senior Michael Szabo. "We feel like this can bring it together in a positive manner in a negative time."

Woodson head coach Doug Craig praised the Cavaliers for responding well to tough times. "It's been a really difficult week in the community and I thought our kids really showed their character," he said. "To fight through and play that well on a big stage against a great team ... and for our kids to fight through all the adversity and find a way at the end to pull out the game [was big]."

Connection Sports Editor Jon Roetman contributed to this story.

Preventing Teen Suicides

Recent deaths shine light on FCPS suicide prevention programs.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

very 15 seconds, a teen in the United States tries to commit suicide.

Every 90 minutes, one succeeds.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also reports that the number of attempted suicides among teenagers increased from 6.3 percent in 2009 to 7.8 percent in 2011.

In Fairfax County, between four and seven students take their own lives every year, according to the authors of a 60-page report compiled last September by a team of community mental health agencies and Fairfax County Public School specialists.

"The youth rate, despite also being below state and national rates, remains unacceptable. The impact of suicide on families, friends, and communities is immeasurable," the report states.

In a span of 30 days, Fairfax County residents have felt the impact and pain of teen suicide on four separate occasions. In early February, two Langley High School students committed suicide a day apart. Last week, two more students from Woodson High School took their own lives.

"It's very clear there's an increased frequency of suicidal behavior and thinking in Fairfax County this winter," said Dr. Peter Robbins, M.D., medical director of The Child & Family Counseling Group in Fairfax. "If you compare this number to last winter, there's been a higher frequency of this behavior."

While Robbins acknowledges there are "no great answers" to the rash of teen suicides, he has been working with Fairfax County Public Schools to conduct seminars that clue parents in to the warning signs of depression and suicide.

"Numerous studies have shown that identifying at-risk students early is the best chance of prevention," Robbins said.

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS is doing that, through an array of programs and services aimed at spotting students at-risk for depression and suicide. Programs range

from 24/7 crisis response services to police training to mental health screenings to primary prevention programs.

Being a teenager has never been easy.

But today's teens are feeling new pressures from many different fronts. According to a new poll, conducted by NPR along with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Harvard School of Public Health, nearly 40 percent of parents said their high school students are experiencing added stress from school.

The curriculum is more demanding, homework sessions are longer and gaining admission to college is more competitive, which means the stakes are high for testing.

Add social media to the mix, where students can compare their existence to other teens 24 hours a day on Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter and other social networks, and the resulting stress can lead to depression and suicidal thoughts.

How can parents, students, friends, teachers help a students through the roller-coaster years of adolescence?

See Suicide, Page 15

Additional Resources

THE PREVENTION TOOLKIT:

a collection of data and resources regarding youth behaviors and risk factors, including depression and suicide, in Fairfax County. The toolkit supports organizations, communities, and individuals in developing data-informed strategies to address identified needs. It includes links to and resources about developing programs, implementing policies, and accessing services. http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/prevention/toolkit.htm

THE FAIRFAX COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY:

A joint initiative of Fairfax County
Government and Fairfax County
Public Schools (FCPS), the annual
survey provides data on student
behaviors and risk and protective
factors. The 2011-12 school year
survey taken by eighth, tenth, and
twelfth graders included
questions about mental health
and suicide. Full results can be
found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/
youthsurvey.

FAIRFAX COUNTY'S PREVENTION SYSTEM:

www.fairfax county.gov/ncs/ prevention



Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, listens as Jordan Feltcorn, a senior at Woodson High School, speaks after being recognized at the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County on March 2.



Hannah Piester, a junior at Oakton High School, guest speaker Barbara Wien, and Melissa Schwartz, a senior at Lee High School, speak at the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County on March 2.

Honored for Promoting Peace

The Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County honors 22 students.

By Janelle Germanos The Connection

he Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County, presented by the Herndon Friends Meeting, honored a group of 22 juniors and seniors who were nominated for their dedication to peace and conflict resolution on March 2.

The students, involved in activities such as Amnesty International, Best Buddies, Gay Straight Alliance, Girl Scouts, Student Government, Islamic Presence Club, mission trips, and much more, were recognized for promoting peace and working to remove the effects of war in the community.

Barbara Wien, a peace educator and human rights activist, was the guest speaker. Wien spoke about her experiences as an advocate for peace, including her role in protecting civilians in Colombia from a death squad, and reminded students that war is not an inevitable part of human nature and can be eradicated.

"Many children are also raised to believe that war is inevitable. They're raised to believe that the human race is inherently violent and will always live with war. Well, I'm here to challenge that notion," Wien said.

STUDENTS WERE AWARDED \$150 and were also able to donate \$100 to an organization of their choice. They also received a copy of the book "Sweet Fruit from a Bitter Tree," by Mark Andreas.

Margaret Fischer, the reception coordinator, read each student's accomplishments and contributions to the community as they received their award from Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and Providence District School Board member Patty Reed.

"Our last presentation demonstrates the bittersweet nature of working for peace," said Fischer of the award to Woodson High School senior Jordan Feltcorn, who was recognized for his restoration of Woodson's Students Against Destructive Decisions

Felcorn said he began his involvement with the club after observing bullying at his school, as well as volunteering with Fairfax County Medical Services and responding to calls including on drugs and drunk driving.

"The club works towards trying to prevent teens from making decisions such as drinking and driving, bullying, distracted driving, drug use and abuse, and suicide," Feltcorn said. "Unfortunately, this past week at my high school, W.T. Woodson, we experienced the tragic loss of life of two stu-

Feltcorn asked the audience to observe a

which has inspired me," Molnar said. "I think the group has had a big impact on the school."

2014 RECIPIENTS OF THE STUDENT PEACE AWARDS

Malaz Namir

Junior, Chantilly High School **Emma Celeste Munis**

Senior, Thomas A. Edison High School

Andrew Jhu

Junior, Fairfax High School **Hamima Nasrin**

Hayfield Secondary School

John Strangfeld Senior, Herndon High School

Adam Abutaa

Senior, The Islamic Saudi Academy Huong 'Helen' Tran

Langley High School **Melissa Schwartz**

Senior, Robert E. Lee High School **Kaylee McGuffin**

Senior, James Madison High School

Kareem El-Ghazawi Senior, George C. Marshall High School

Brooke Inglese

Senior, McLean High School

Nora Elshiekh

Senior, Mount Vernon High School **Mount View Brave Girls Club**

Mount View High School **Hannah Piester**

Junior, Oakton High School **Mary Krolicki**

Senior, Paul VI Catholic High School

Daniel Bermudez

Senior, Quander Road School **Beau Sloane**

Senior, South County High School **Seema Sethi**

Senior, South Lakes High School

Anwar Omeish

Senior, Thomas Jefferson High School for

Science and Technology Pamela Molnar

Senior, West Potomac High School

Elizabeth Maria Hiatt Senior, Westfield High School

Jordan Feltcorn Senior, W.T. Woodson High School

moment of silence in remembrance of two Woodson students who died the week be-West Potomac High School senior Pamela Molnar was among the students honored for promoting peace in the community. Molnar helped to start and grow the West Potomac chapter of Best Buddies, an organization that advocates for people with dis-"My mom is a special education teacher,

FOR THE FIRST TIME since the Student Peace Awards began, a school nominated a group of students for the award. The Moun-

tain View Brave Girls Club of Mount View High School was recognized for its work of supporting others through making "truth cards," which provide messages of support and are sent to women throughout the community, including the Bethany House of Northern Virginia, the Cancer Center at Lake Manassas, sex trafficking victims, and Mountain View faculty and students during turbulent times.



Chairman Sharon Bulova on a Snow Tour

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova takes a tour with public works staff during the snowstorm on Monday, March 3. They are showing her snow removal activities from critical county facilities like fire and police stations.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/MARCH 8

Dog Adoption. 12-3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax.

TUESDAY/MARCH 11

Alzheimer's Association workshop "Living with Alzheimer's: For Middle-Stage Caregivers." 6:30 -8:30 p.m. Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, 3701 Pender Drive, Suite 400, Fairfax.

THURSDAY/MARCH 13

Corporate Gary Job Fair. 9 a.m. -12:30 p.m. The Waterford in Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield. The company's career events attract a wide variety of employers that want to hire military veterans and spouses, including large organizations like Coca-Cola, Lockheed Martin, Hewlett-Packard, Engility, State Farm, the National Security Agency, and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Spring 2014 Burke Centre Used Book Sale. 1 – 9 p.m. T. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. This sale is one of the three large annual sales with all genres represented in the roughly 8.000 books for sale PLUS media like DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and more.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 19

Foot Screening. 5-7:30 p.m. Sentara Lorton Marketplace, 9455 Lorton Market Street, Lorton. Foot pain can affect a person's ability to enjoy the most basic activities of daily life. A qualified podiatrist will provide a complimentary screening for any foot problem you may be experiencing. These free consultations will last approximately 10-15 minutes. Appointments are required. Call 1-800-SENTARA (736-8272). Space is

ONGOING

Singers Wanted for the

Celebration Singers. The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Burke. Contact Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485 or email gparsons3@cox.net.

FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

The Cancer Treatment Centers of America, sponsored by the Cancer Support Team, Ministry of Greater Little Baptist Church, Fairfax, will present "Restore: The Journey Toward Self Forgiveness & Physical Health" on Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Greater Little Zion Baptist is a free event. To RSVP, call the church at 703-764-9111 or email Cancer Support Team Ministry at cstm@glzbc.org

The speaker will be Rev. Dr. Michael Barry author of the Forgiveness Project and Director of Pastoral Care at Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Philadelphia, Pa.

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Where: 5795B Burke Centre Pkwy., Burke, VA 22015

(behind the Kohl's shopping center)

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:

- From Concept to Completion
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- Universal Design

Seminars run from 10am-Noon. Lunch to follow. Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

Seating is limited!

RSVP: info@sundesigninc.com or call Sabrina at 703.425.5588



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OPINION Take the Money

No downside to gaining health care for 200,000 or more; 30,000 jobs and millions of dollars for hospitals from expansion of Medicaid.

expansion of health coverage part of the budget process. Any measure that would create 30,000 jobs, that could save \$1 billion in the state budget over 12 years, that could provide health insurance for 35,000 people who don't have it in Fairfax County alone, that is supported overwhelmingly by the business community and hospitals, actually deserves to be a part of the budget. As many as 400,000 people in Virginia currently without health in-

Under the Affordable Care Act, if states opt in to the expansion of Medicaid, Federal dol-

ov. Terry McAuliffe is right to make lars would pay the costs for five years to cover people with incomes up to 138 percent of poverty, \$15,856 for an individual or \$26,951 for a family of three in 2013. After five years, federal dollars would still cover 90 percent.

> Under the Affordable Care Act, people with incomes 100 - 400 percent of poverty qualify for subsidies on their health insurance premiums when they purchase coverage through a Marketplace. The amount of the subsidy, provided via tax credit, is based on income and the cost of insurance, and are only available to people who are not eligible for other coverage, such as Medicaid/CHIP, Medicare, or employer coverage, and who are citizens or law

fully-present immigrants. Because the Afford-

Elections have consequences. McAuliffe made expansion of Medicaid a key element of his campaign, and Virginia voters chose McAuliffe. The Virginia Senate approved a plan to expand health coverage using Medicaid dollars to purchase private health insurance.

There must be a way forward that doesn't involve stifling economic growth and the health of poor Virginians.

able Care Act envisioned low-income people receiving coverage through Medicaid, people below poverty are not eligible for Marketplace subsidies. At least 190,000, and as many as 400,000 adults in Virginia fall into the coverage gap because they don't qualify for Medicaid under Virginia's rules, among the most stringent in the nation, but earn less than the poverty rate, so not enough to qualify for subsidies. [Source: Kaiser Family Foundation]

County Reporter

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Message To Teenagers: Things Do Get Better

BY CATIE WARREN

SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION Catie Warren is a 2009 Woodson High grad and her brother is a freshman there. Now a writer, after last week's tragedies she wrote the following about high-school life in general on TotalSororityMove.com:

surance could be covered.

esterday, a student from my former high school died tragically. He was 15. Just a baby in the grand scheme of things; a young boy with his whole life ahead of him. A life filled with graduations and relationships and jobs and little ones. A life filled with happiness and joy and precious moments, laughter that makes your belly roar, silliness that makes your cheeks hurt, and love that makes your heart skip beats.

He had his whole life waiting for him. Instead, he chose to end it. His death marked the fifth suicide at this school in four years. And. It. Has. Got. To. Stop.

High school is a trying time. Anyone who tells you otherwise is either a liar or someone who peaked the moment they crossed that graduation stage. The hormones, pimples, breakups, gossip, homework, sports teams, locker bays, mean girls who won't talk to you, group projects you'll do yourself, jocks who don't know your name, teachers who don't get you, and the honor courses you wish you'd never taken - it's exhaust-

Someone took your seat at lunch, your best friend ignored you during homeroom, and you're pretty sure you failed your Spanish test. There's so much pressure

to the next level, your coach wants you to run faster, play harder, your teachers want you to push yourself, overextend yourself. You finish school at 3, get home from practice at 7, and are expected to eat dinner, shower, and maintain some level of social existence, all while completing the five hours of homework you have due tomor-

You have your PSATs, ACTs, SATs, APs, IBs, and GPA, and yet somehow, someway, throughout [it] all, you're supposed to maintain your sanity. You're under pressure. You're under a microscope. You're under scrutiny. But you can't break. You can't succumb. You can't give in. Failing now means failing forever. Weakness means defeat. If you're not first, you're last; and if you're not the best, then what's the point?

There are prep courses, college fairs, tours, visits, winter breaks spent doing science projects, spring breaks spent looking over flashcards and Words of the Day, and summer breaks spent reading Homer and Tolstoy Machiavelli. Push yourself. Be better. Do better. Try harder. You're better than that. Everything depends on this, on these four years. One slight misstep and your future is ruined. Tread lightly, kid. Don't

We force them. We ride them. We harp on their tiny failures and overlook their monumental successes. We expect greatness. We demand perfection. We push and we push and we push until we

Your boyfriend wants to take it can't push anymore. Until they can't take it anymore.

> We create stressed out children, harried teenagers, premature grownups. And they can't accept it. They can't handle the pressure of perfection, the expectation of full rides, the belief that if they fail now, they will lose this game of life that they've barely started.

> Teenagers today have it harder than any generation before them. They've been coddled, fed from the silver spoon, nurtured to a fault. They received trophies for simply showing up. They've been called lazy, out of touch with reality, overzealous, rude, irresponsible, immature and too mature for their own good. We're training them for jobs that don't exist, preparing them to buy into systems that are soon collapsing and expecting them to solve world hunger, cancer and bankrupted econo-

> So it's no wonder they crack. How could they not? Between the school, family and societal pressures and normal teenage angst, what did we expect? They're growing up too soon, too fast and too publicly. Success is measured in grades and test scores. Facebook friends and Instagram photos. They're dealing with not only helicopter parents, but also standardized-test-crazed teachers and horrible, anonymous, online bullies. Images are Photoshopped, actresses don't eat and athletes use

> And while we've been debating between immunizations and cord blood, grass-fed and organic, and

yoga and pills until you can no longer feel, these kids have been suffering. We expect the unthinkable, demand the unattainable, preach the impossible.

At some point along the way, we stopped letting kids be kids. We stopped letting humans be humans. We've lost sight of what's important, let go of what matters. We've forgotten the humanity. We need to slow down. We've got to slow down before it's too late. We're making our children grow up too soon - and we're losing them because of it.

High school is not the best four years of your life and doesn't decide your fate. It doesn't tell you the age at which you'll come to peace with your nose or learn to embrace your quirky laugh. It doesn't forgive you of past sins, it doesn't prevent you from making future mistakes, and it is not the happiest you will ever be.

High school is high school, and, oftentimes, it's [really tough]. Being a teenager is hard. But when you get through it, when you learn from the screw-ups and you realize you really can smile through the tears, it's worth it.

The time has come for us to embrace the imperfections, stop the pressure and learn to live with adversity and mistakes. To stop sweating the small stuff, let our kids be kids [and] realize we're only human. We're all just doing our best. We're all just trying to get by. Smile at a stranger, laugh 'til your belly aches and know in your heart that it really does get better.

News

Board Advertises Higher Tax Rate

Rate gives board flexibility, options in determining final budget.

he Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted 8-2 Tuesday to advertise a higher real estate tax rate that could add about \$100 to annual tax bills, which will be on top of the \$332 county homeowners will see this year as a result of higher real estate assessments.

Setting the advertised tax rate formally begins the two-month public process to adopt the Fiscal Year 2015 budget, and the rate represents the maximum potential tax rate for FY2015.

"Advertising a higher rate sets an upper threshold as budget decisions are considered," said Board Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large).

"Our action today does not mean that the advertised rate is necessarily what will be adopted in April when the board 'marks up' and formally adopts the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget," Bulova said, adding that the higher rate gives the board some flexibility "so that debate and discussion is not cut off at the very beginning of the budget process."

According to the County Executive's proposed budget, one penny of the tax rate is equal to roughly \$21.9 million in general fund revenue and \$50 for the average Fairfax County residential tax bill.

"This year, the board must take into account that property owners are seeing an average increase of \$330 in property tax assessments due to a recovery in the housing market," Bulova said.

"When we adopt the budget, the Board of Supervisors will be challenged with funding essential services such as our top-tier school system and keeping taxes affordable for residents."

A public hearing on the effective tax rate will be held on Tuesday, April 8 at 3 p.m. in the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium.

In addition, public hearings on the proposed FY 2015 Budget, the advertised capital improvement plan (CIP) and the proposed tax rate are Tuesday, April 8, at 6 p.m.; Wednesday, April 9, at 3 p.m.; and Thursday, April 10, at 3 p.m.

Those wishing to speak at a public hearing can sign up online to place their name on the speakers list, or contact the Office of the Clerk to the Board at 703-324-3151, TTY 703-324-3903.

The public hearings will be held in the Board Auditorium, Fairfax County Government Center, and will be televised live on Fairfax County Government Channel 16.

Town hall meetings are being held throughout the county to give residents the opportunity to ask questions and provide input. The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings April 8, 9, and 10, and will formally adopt a budget on April 29.

For information on public hearings, town halls, and opportunities to participate in the budget process, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb. Residents may also provide feedback and comments on the proposed budget through mid-April at dmbinfo@fairfaxcounty.gov.

- Victoria Ross









WELLBEING

Creating a Harmonious Family Life

Local experts offer tips for keeping your family happy.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

s Elizabeth Rees drove her daughter and two of her daughter's friends to a library reading group recently, the Alexandria mother of three admits that she felt like a chauffeur at first. But she had a change of heart after hearing sounds of laughter.

"They were giggling and so sweet in the back," said Rees, the associate rector at Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria. all around and I felt privileged to be there. I think that sort of thing happens all the time if only we are paying attention."

What are the keys to paying attention and creating a happier family life? Experts say it's important to stop trying to do everything 100 percent and make other things a priority. They offer their top tips for creating bal-

"With three young kids, a two-career marriage and way too many activities, I find this

balance as hard as everyone else and am ab- from other activities," said Moynihan solutely preaching to myself," said Rees.

EXPERTS SAY living in a competitive area like the Washington, D.C., region can make creating balance even more challenging. "I see children who are stressed to always be the best," said Dr. Bruce Pfeffer, a Potomac, Md.-based child psychiatrist.

Parents play a critical role in helping children create a healthy balance of work and play, he added, explaining that "parents must serve as rudders to guide their children [toward the] peace of mind that comes with a supportive home environment, emphasis on gaining joy in life, along with appropriate goals and achieving."

Michael Moynihan, head of the Upper critical." School at The Heights School in Potomac, "Suddenly that moment of grace turned it Md., agrees. "The most significant obstacles to harmonious family life today are over scheduling and over connectedness ... resulting in families that are pulled in many different directions for activities, and when they have those brief moments together, are at George Mason University. "Be purposeoften plugged into various electronic devices," he said.

> Make finding uninterrupted family time a priority. "The solution is to schedule family time such as meals together — without electronic devices — and to protect this time

Rees suggests being present and engaged. "So much of life is spent in work and preparation and accomplishments that it's hard sometimes to live in the moment," she said. "Maybe some days the only time you have make the most of even those moments."

Bethany Letiecq, Ph.D., an associate professor of human development and family science at George Mason University, said "It's also important to find joy in the mundane and to give one's self and others a break ... to be patient, empathic and compassionate with yourself and with your coparent. ...But that doesn't mean not holding everyone accountable to the family system, which is also

most," said Colleen Vesely, Ph.D., an assistant professor of early childhood education and human development and family science feels. ful. Children will likely remember quality time spent with a parent who was fully present than whether the house was perfect or the laundry folded."

Rees encourages stressed parents to give

nights. We come together and have a time of silence and share where we are in our lives. For me, that's my chance for renewal, refreshment, and it makes me return home with a completely different attitude. ... For together is in the car. ... Try to remember to others, it might be a walk in the woods or coffee with a good friend, or an hour at the gym. It's hard to make space for yourself, but it can make a big difference in how you treat the people around you."

When it comes to building a harmonious family life, which elements matter most? "Love, obviously, is essential," said Rees. "But has to be much more about how we live than what we feel when it comes to daily relationships. When we are stressed or worried "Parents might consider the importance of or tired, our closest relationships are the quality time versus quantity of time spent ones that take the biggest hit. It is in those together and prioritize what they value all-too-frequent moments that we have to work the hardest at things like kindness, respect, thinking of how the other person

The willingness to forgive oneself and one's family members is also vital to family harmony. "We all do and say things without thinking all the time with our families," said Rees. "They bear the brunt of all the weight we carry. Try to remember that in the heat cery store and comes out to help carry the themselves time alone as well. "I am part of of the moment and put aside petty grudges."



that's a big and amorphous word and really **Elizabeth Rees, the associate rector at Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church in** Alexandria, says laughter, forgiveness and gratitude are among the factors that create a harmonious family life. Here she is pictured on a family vacation with her daughter Maya, 3; her husband Holden Hoofnagle; her son Dylan, 7; and daughter Sophia, 10.

> Sometimes, says Rees, it's small, often overlooked actions that can have a major impact. "Little things matter so much in family life," she said. "Replacing the soap in the soap dish, or asking someone about their day and really caring about the answer, or giving a hand when you see someone struggling. When my husband hears my car in the driveway when I return from the grobags ... I notice and I feel cared for."

Letiecq said, "With myriad external stressors and pressures on family systems, it is really important that families ... work together to model positive coping strategies and moderate conflict and anxiety levels. Parents can model healthy conflict resolution practices and support their children's positive coping and adaptation. This often takes a lot of work, learning skills that we LAUGHTER HELPS A LOT, too, "Try not may not have picked up from our own family systems [such as] practice, cooperation

and X-rays

"The most significant obstacles to harmonious family life today are over scheduling and over connectedness. ... The solution is to schedule family time such as meals together — without electronic devices to interrupt being present to each other and to protect this time from other activities."

— Michael Moynihan, head of Upper School, The Heights School

"A Smile to last a Lifetime"

and patience."

"Learn and implement effective communication skills," said Rees. "Share what you are feeling with those all-important 'I statereally need to listen to, and then really listen with empathy and love. ... Not just thinking it, but saying 'I love you,' 'I'm sorry,' 'I forgive you,' 'thank you."

selves, for our kids, for our partners," said Rees. "Remember to step back and think less importance on the rest."

Parents are a child's best role models for dealing with setbacks. "Parents must help met," said Pfeffer. "Sometimes the best growth can be gained by resilience after a disappointment."

to take things so seriously and to see the humor even in the mistakes and the impossible moments," said Rees.

Practice gratitude. "Lately, I keep reading about the link between practicing gratitude and feeling happiness. I find it true in my ments' that we know about but find so hard own life," said Rees. "When I consciously to use in the heat of the moment. Stop what look for things to be grateful for, I am much we are doing when there is something we more aware of the moments of love and beauty in my life. So practice gratitude for each member of our families, for the good that we see in them, for the moments that we have with them. When, after a long day, Manage expectations. "Reasonable expec- I get to sit down and read a book with my tations seem like a big piece of this, for our- arms around my kids, I try to remember to thank God for that moment

"There really is not one 'right' way to parabout what really matters and try to place ent a child or engage in family life," said Letiecq. "Every parent-child relationship, every family system is unique in terms of what each person brings to the relationship: their children be resilient when goals are not temperaments, interests, skill-sets, personality traits, personal histories, past familial experience, health issues, etc. ... There is a range of parenting styles, but what seems most important is to do what works best with your child's temperament and what is going to be most supportive and least stressful

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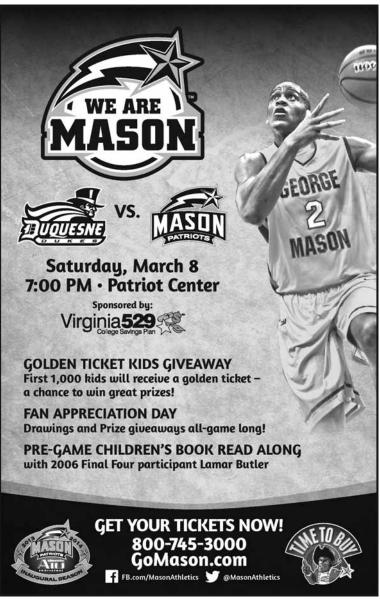
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CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY/MARCH 7

The Joffrey Ballet. 8 p.m. George Mason Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. An evening of contemporary ballet. Tickets are \$50, \$42 and \$25 for each performance. Youth Discount: tickets are half price for youth through grade 12. Visit the box office (open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/MARCH 8

Spring Fling. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. Springfield-Annandale American Association of University Women holds its annual Spring Fling, featuring a silent auction, luncheon, and speaker Susan L. Burke on the topic of sexual assault in the military. RSVP by March 5: springfling@rclark.net

HooShir A Cappella.8 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Indiana University's premier co-ed a cappella group with Jewish roots, and Potomac Fever, a 13-voice a cappella close harmony pop ensemble from the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC (GMCW). Tickets: \$29, \$24 JCCNV members and seniors (65+) \$19 students and groups of 10 or more. JCCNV Box Office: 703-537-3000, email: boxoffice@jccnv.org; website: www.jccnvarts.org

Annual Consignment Sale. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Burke United Methodist Preschool, 6200 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. Purchase or sell children's clothing, baby gear, toys, CD/DVD, other kid's items and help BUMP raise funds for their preschool program, too. From 1-2 p.m., there is a half-price sale where specially marked items are 50 percent off original price. bumpreschool.org.

St. Mary of Sorrows Church. 5222 Sideburn Rd, Fairfax, will begin a "Landings" program for returning Catholics and people considering returning to the practice of their Faith. Program starts March 4th for 8 weeks. Meetings are Tuesdays, 7:30 PM. Pre-registration required. Call 703-818-8618 or email annleggio@yahoo.com.

Girl Scout Cookie Booths. 3-5 p.m. WalMart, 13059 Fair Lakes Shopping Center, Fairfax. Troop 3604 will be collecting cookie donations for the benefit of staff and patients at DC Children's Hospital.

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The 2nd Saturday Art Walk at the Workhouse showcases the diverse work of more than 100 visual artists in a unique historic venue, creating an atmosphere that encourages visitors to immerse themselves in the richness of this creative

community. **Body & Soul.** 8 p.m. George Mason Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. An evening of contemporary ballet. For tickets, visit the box office (open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu.

FRIDAY/MARCH 14

Friday Night Film Series Presents: Half Nelson. 7 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10215 Lakehaven Court Burke, Virginia. 703-503-4579. HYPERLINK "http://

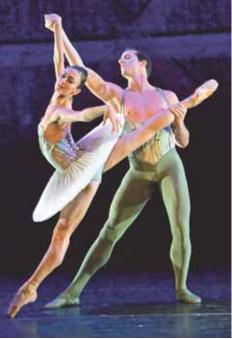
www.accotinkuuc.org" www.accotinkuuc.org. This is a non-religious event open to the public.

Spring 2014 Burke Centre Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. T. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. This sale is one of the 3large annual sales with all genres represented in the roughly 8,000 books for sale PLUS media like DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 15

Fairfax City Regional Library Children's Book Sale. 10 a.m. -3 p.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Thousands of gently-read books and nonbook media organized into categories including picture books, early readers, nonfiction, holiday, chapter books and more. \$.25-\$2.00. Some specials \$3 and \$4.

Fairfax County Mothers of Multiples Semi-Annual Consignment Sale. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Spend an evening in awe while watching contemporary ballet performances by the Joffrey Ballet company on March 7 at GMU's Center for the Arts.

The nZone, 14550 Lee Road, Chantilly. 200+ families will be selling gently used clothing, shoes, toys, books for the whole family. Find good deals on infant, toddler, school age, tween, teen, and adult apparel. HYPERLINK "http://www.fcmom.org/" http:// www.fcmom.org/

Spring 2014 Burke Centre Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. T. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. This sale is one of the 3 large annual sales with all genres represented in the roughly 8,000 books for sale PLUS media like DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 16

N Gauge Trains. 1-4 p.m. 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station.

The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will have a display and N gauge trains running. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. www.fairfax-station.org phone 703-425-9225.

TUESDAY/MARCH 18-THURSDAY/MARCH 20

Annie Jr.! The Musical. 7 p.m. Kings Glen Elementary, 5401 Danbury Forest Drive, Springfield. Tickets cost \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. Call 703-239-4000 today to purchase tickets in advance.

FRIDAY/MARCH 21

City Regional Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. -5 p.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Thousands of gently-read books in all categories including art, history, cooking, gardening, foreign language, travel, spirituality, reference, classic and popular fiction. Plenty of free parking.

SATURDAY/MARCH 22

Fairfax City Regional Library Book Sale. 10

a.m. -4 p.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Thousands of gently-read books in all categories

history, cooking, gardening, foreign language, travel, spirituality, reference, classic and popular fiction. Plenty of free parking.

SUNDAY/MARCH 23

Fairfax City Regional Library Book Sale. 1 -3 p.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Thousands of gently-read books in all categories including art, history, cooking, gardening, foreign language, travel, spirituality, reference, classic and popular fiction. Plenty of free parking.

SUNDAY/MARCH 30

Jeffrey Siegel, "The Romantic Music of **Chopin."** 7 p.m., George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. The acclaimed pianist performs Chopin's compositions as part of his Keyboard Conversations series. \$19-38, Mason ID permits 1 free ticket on March 18. cfa.gmu.edu.

News



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Ella Rose, Michelle Bowden and Bevin Surbey at the Shark Tank Racing Squad's breast cancer marathon on

Shark Squad Swims for Cancer Awareness

The team raised \$18,900 for breast cancer research.

By Janelle Germanos The Connection

atty Friedman, a coach and co-founder of the Shark Tank Racing Squad, shared some alarming statistics at the beginning of the team's breast cancer marathon on March 2 at the South Run Rec Center in Springfield.

"Every three minutes, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer," Friedman said. "Every 13 minutes, another woman dies from breast cancer."

Friedman shares the statistics with the team members to remind them why they are swimming.

For the fourth year in a row, the Shark Tank Racing Squad has participated in a breast cancer marathon to raise money for breast cancer research. Participants, from 9year-old team members to a 23year-old coach, swim between 110 and 120 laps.

"It exhilarating and symbolic," Friedman said.

The money is donated to the two-day, 39-mile walk Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, which Friedman will be walking in for the seventh time this spring in Washington, D.C. Members of the Shark Tank Racing Squad join Friedman for the opening ceremonies of the walk, and also cheer her on along the route.

"It's great seeing the kids there,"

Friedman said.

Friedman decided that she wanted to participate in the Avon Walk ever since traveling to Washington, D.C. when she was trying to start a family. She saw the walk going on and decided she wanted to become part of it, after starting her family. What she didn't realize was that her future close friend was participating in that walk.

"My friend lost her mother of inflammatory breast cancer, which is not really diagnosed often," Friedman said.

This year, the squad raised \$18,900 and reached over a million meters of swimming for char-

According to Coach Lance Page, the Shark Team Racing Squad is for motivated, exceptional swimmers.

"The swimmers have to try out," Page said. "There are also seven coaches for 45 kids, which is a good coach to swimmer ratio."

Coach Erik Elam said he is very proud of the squad's efforts.

"They really do a lot to help the community," Elam said.

The squad has been nominated for the upcoming Volunteer Fairfax Awards, and has participated in events such as Our Daily Bread's Empty Bowls Fundraiser.

Since the squad began participating in the breast cancer marathon, they have raised over \$52,000.

Friedman, who has been walking 8 to 10 miles a day in preparation for the May 3-4 Avon Walk, said she is constantly impressed by the squad. Coach Page also shares the same feelings.

"We really are one big family,"



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For more information or to register, contact Ginny Snaider, LCSW, at gsnaider@nvfs.org or 571.748.2557



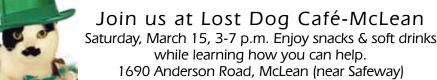
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Sports

Woodson Boys' Basketball Wins Back-to-Back Region Titles

Cavaliers overcome adversity, beat Lake Braddock.

By Jon Roetman The Connection

oodson senior Jimmy McLaughlin, a first-year varsity starter, grabbed a key rebound and knocked down a much-needed free throw during the final moments of the Cavaliers' region semifinal win over Herndon on Feb. 28. After the game, with several teammates overcome by emotion due to a week of tragedy at W.T. Woodson High School, senior guard Michael Szabo, a role player turned clutch shooter, emerged from the locker room and handled postgame interviews with the media.

The following evening, Woodson held a five-point lead over Lake Braddock entering the fourth quarter of the 6A North region championship game. Junior forward Tyler Wilson buried a 3-pointer early in the period that helped the Cavaliers gain scoreboard separation. Junior forward Will Cogan and senior forward Sean Baude each scored a fourth-quarter bucket. Later, Szabo and senior forward Andy Stynchula, a former role player turned starter, were named to the all-tournament team.

THE WOODSON BOYS' BASKETBALL

team captured its second consecutive region championship on March 1, beating Lake Braddock 66-56 at Robinson Secondary School. One year after overcoming a 19-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat Wakefield in the Northern Region final, the Cavaliers played from ahead against the Bruins, opening a 17-point second-quarter lead.

While the Cavaliers had reached the region pinnacle before, the path they traveled to the 2014 title was different. This team played more of an underdog role as they overcame adverse conditions during the season.

"It's a different group of kids," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said Saturday night.
"... A lot of them didn't get to experience it last year or really be a big part of it — they were on the team but maybe didn't get a chance to play out on the floor. Tonight, they got a chance to be out there on the floor and do a great job."

The 2012-13 Woodson team was loaded with sharpshooters. Then-sophomore point guard Eric Bowles distributed the ball to Tommy Stepka, Peter Murray, Alex Boock and others, who knocked down clutch 3-pointer after clutch 3-pointer. The Cavaliers finished atop the Patriot District regular-season standings, reached the AAA state semifinals and ended the season with a 25-5 record.

With Stepka, Murray and Boock having graduated, role players from the previous season and transfers stepped into primary roles this year. While there were bumps in the road, players like McLaughlin, Stynchula and Szabo made plays in the



Woodson junior Eric Bowles takes a "selfie" while cutting off a piece of the net after winning the 6A North region championship on March 1 at Robinson Secondary School



Woodson senior Michael Szabo cuts off a piece of the net after the Cavaliers defeated Lake Braddock to win the 6A North region title on March 1 at Robinson Secondary School.

"[I'm] really happy for our kids, really happy for our school community. This was a very difficult week. The fact that our Cavalry was out in such great numbers says a lot about the school community. To give them an hour-and-a-half, hour-and-45-minute distraction tonight, something to feel good about, that's what sports is supposed to be about at the high school level."

- Woodson boys' basketball coach Doug Craig

postseason when the Cavaliers needed them most.

While a lot changed for Woodson from one season to the next, Bowles' high level of production remained constant. After a stellar sophomore season, Bowles this year was named 6A North region Player of the Year and MVP of the region tournament.

"It feels great just to [win a region title] two years in a row," Bowles said Saturday night. "A lot of people doubted us this year because we lost everyone, but we just worked hard to get where we needed to be. I feel like this year people were doubting us more than last year because once we started playing last year, everyone saw how good we were. This year, people were like, they're not as good as they were last year."

WOODSON FACED ADVERSITY along the way. The Cavaliers lost to Lake Braddock three times by a combined eight points. A busted pipe led to flooding in Woodson's gym in January, forcing the Cavaliers to play some home games on the road and practice away from their comfort zone. And last week, the Cavaliers dealt with the deaths

"[I'm] really happy for our kids, really happy for our school community," Craig said

of two of their Woodson classmates.

Saturday night. "This was a very difficult week. The fact that our Cavalry (student section) was out in such great numbers says a lot about the school community. To give them an hour-and-a-half, hour-and-45-minute distraction tonight, something to feel good about, that's what sports is supposed to be about at the high school level."

"I think it's a testament to the community and the team," Stynchula said Saturday, "and just how strong we are when we need to be and we can really come together."

A pair of Stynchula free throws gave Woodson its largest lead of the region championship game, 38-21 with 2:32 remaining in the second quarter. Lake Braddock cut the Woodson lead to nine at halftime and five entering the fourth quarter, but the Cavaliers found a way to hold off the Bruins for the first time in four meetings this season.

Bowles led Woodson with 17 points. Stynchula scored 13 points, sophomore Matt Ayoub finished with 10 and Wilson added eight.

Will Gregorits led Lake Braddock with 17 points. A.J. Alexander finished with 13 points and John Nice had 12.

While the Cavalry supported Woodson

passionately during the championship game, students nearly cost the Cavaliers a chance to even reach the region final.

During the semifinals against Herndon the previous night, Woodson students stormed the court prematurely, resulting in a technical foul against the Cavaliers. Luckily for Woodson, Herndon missed a crucial foul shot with less than a second remaining and the Cavaliers won 63-62 in overtime.

"That was a little stressful out there," Szabo said Friday. "It was a little bit overwhelming thinking that [Cavalier fans] could have cost us the game when they've been there for us all year."

Woodson led 62-59 in overtime when Herndon's Brandon Alston was fouled while attempting a 3-point shot with 1.3 seconds remaining, resulting in three free-throw attempts. Alston made the first two but missed the third. McLaughlin grabbed the rebound and was fouled with 0.4 seconds on the clock and Woodson leading 62-61. With the Cavaliers in the double bonus, the game should have been all but over with McLaughlin shooting two free throws at the other end and Herndon needing a miracle with less than a second remaining. Instead, Woodson fans rushed the court, thinking time had expired.

Officials gathered and discussed how to handle the situation. After a few moments, officials issued Woodson a technical foul, which would give Herndon two free-throw attempts.

McLaughlin went to the line first and made one of two, extending Woodson's lead to 63-61. Herndon then sent Dorian Johnson to the line for the two technical foul shots. Johnson made the first attempt but missed the second, leaving the Hornets trailing 63-62 with 0.4 seconds on the clock. Herndon had the final possession, but the Hornets' inbound pass was swatted away and Woodson secured the win.

"You can't really plan for something like that and it's a shame," Craig said Friday. "Our kids were just excited. I'll take our Cavalry anytime. They've bailed us out a couple times, we figure we can bail them out."

Bowles led Woodson with 14 points. Szabo scored a career-high 13 points and went 4 of 6 from 3-point range. Tre Johnson finished with 11 points. Stynchula scored nine points and grabbed 13 rebounds, McLaughlin finished with four points and 13 rebounds, and Wilson totaled eight points and seven rebounds.

"Last year I didn't really contribute that much but we still won the region championship," Szabo said Saturday. "Coming back this year and being a big part of it, it felt really great."

Woodson will face Landstown (Virginia Beach), the 6A South runner-up, in the state semifinals at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 8 at Robinson Secondary School. The winner will advance to the state championship game, which is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. on Friday, March 14 at VCU's Siegel Center.



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In execution of a Deed of Trust from Cynthia Glacken 21 Announcements

and William Glacken, dated September 16, 2005, and recorded September 19, 2005, in Deed Book 17755 at page 1160 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Monday, March 10, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 41, Section 2, London Towne, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 2711 at page 684, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, together with and subject to the provisions of the declaration of covenants and conditions (including membership in London Towne Homeowners Association) recorded in Deed Book 2788 at page 487 among the aforesaid land records

Commonly known as 6258 Paddington Lane, Centreville, Vir

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$25,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 3.0 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including

interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be se

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or material-man's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agree ments of record affecting the same, if any

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The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by

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LEGAL NOTICE Route 1 Public Meeting on March 26 The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) will host its second public meeting for the Route 1 (Richmond Highway) Multimodal Transportation Alternative Analysis on Wednesday, March 26 from 6-8 pm, at the

South County Government Center, located at 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA. The public is invited to participate and learn the latest on this study to improve transit, bicycle, pedestrian and vehicular travel along a 15 mile segment of Route 1 from Woodbridge to I-495. Project partners include Fairfax County, Prince William County, Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment. For more information, visit route1 multimodalaa.com or call 804-786-4440. DRPT is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of its services on

the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For additional information on DRPT's nondiscrimination policies and procedures or to file a complaint, please visit the website a www.drpt.virginia.gov or contact the Title VI Compliance Officer, Linda Balderson, 600 E. Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.

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Robert "Bob" C. Truax

Robert "Bob" C. Truax, Commander, Ret., USN, October 15, 1936 - September 1, 2013, of Rochester, Minnesota, Springfield, Virginia, and Inverness, Florida, will be inurned at Arlington National Cemetery at 2:00 on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 with military honors. Prior to the inurnment an 11:00 Catholic Mass assisted by the Knights of Columbus will be held at St. Bernadette's, 7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA 22152. Bob is survived by his two children, Heidi Truax Radam and Scott Truax, five grandchildren, and four siblings. His Navy career, marriage to Patricia Clark, and community leadership have been an inspiration to many. Please provide remembrances to the American Lung Association.



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In addition we will be auctioning unit 2031 whereby the proceeds will go to local charities. For more information regarding "Charity Storage" feel free to contact us at: 703-352-8840 ext 2

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things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition. William Van Horne

The biggest

News

Prevention

From Page 3

"It is easy to misread depression as normal adolescent turmoil," said Mike Parker, director of Student Services at Thoreau Middle School in Vienna, noting that depression appears to be occurring at a much earlier age, and is a leading risk factor for suicide. "In addition, self-injury has become a growing problem."

In an effort to "proactively address these issues," Thoreau sent a letter to parents in January informing them that the school would offer depression screening to all eighth grade students in February.

The screenings were free, voluntary and confidential, a way to assess whether students have symptoms consistent with de-

The effort to address student stress and prevent teen suicides is a priority for Fairfax County school, according to Ryan McElveen, one of three at-large members of the FCPS school board. In an interview Tuesday, McElveen said that Superintendent Karen Garza is currently working with staff to craft an action plan to address student stress and suicide prevention.

"This plan will involve collaboration with county agencies and include various new strategies, training sessions, and reporting systems

I believe that the Board will fully support these efforts once a finalized plan has been crafted," McElveen said.

One educational tool FCPS currently uses is Youth ACT- Signs of Suicide (SOS), a depression awareness and suicide prevention program. Its primary objectives are to educate teens that depression is a treatable illness and to equip them with techniques to respond to a potential suicide in a friend or family member. The program includes a depression and suicide screening component and is available for middle and high school aged youth.

FCPS is also in the process of forming a Youth Suicide Review Team to review incidences of suicide in the county, analyze trends, and recommend to the Board of Supervisors programmatic and policy solutions to prevent future suicides.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS, such as the one hosted by Thoreau's PTA and facilitated by Robbins, are also offered at a number of schools throughout the county.

McElveen added that students should always feel free to come to school staff or parents with concerns about their class-

"Students need to know that we're all in this together as a community, and the school system has the resources to support them. If they are feeling stressed, they should talk with their teachers and counselors and find better ways to strike the important balance between school, extracurriculars, social life and family life," he said.



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Marsha Wolber 703-618-4397



Centreville Stunning 6 bedrooms and 6.5 baths custom estate on over 5 gorgeous acres. Builder-owned, this home is top quality and is graced with an abundance of striking design features. Boasting over 14,000 square feet of interior living and enter taining space this home has it all! Mahogany floors, marble columns, granite counters, 4 fireplaces, 5 car garage, wine room, home theater, pool and much, much more



Springfield \$675,000]Just Listed! Beautiful 4 BR/3.5BA home in Daventry on one of the nicest lots in the neighborhood! Main level office. Huge eat-in kitchen. Gorgeous hardwood floor throughout the main & upper level. Finished walk out basement. Fenced porch. So much more



\$429,000

Gainesville Enjoy 55+ lifestyle in Heritage Hunt with activities, 9429,000 pools, trails. SFH – 3BR/2BA with easy one level living. Complete kitchen renovation, screened porch & deck. Short walk to clubhouse. See photos & more 55+ homes www.marylaroche.com. Call Marv to view

Mary LaRoche 703-919-0747



West Springfield Absolutely stunning, beautifully renovated with top of the line appliances, 4 bedroom, 3 full bath, split level, great location, everything done, just move in, West Springfield schools.



Fairfax Station

Beautiful Horse Property! Gorgeous contemporary Deck House on beautiful 5+ acre horse property with two stall barn and two paddocks. Featuring walls of windows this home offers enjoy-ment of nature both inside and out. Features three fireplaces, soaring 2-story great room, 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. Beautiful landscaping has won local gardening awards!

Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Burke Centre

Beautiful, well kept, townhouse with many upgrades, nice deck, fenced vard, Robinson schools, must see inside; feels

Mary FitzHenry 703-250-8915



_ Lake Anna

Waterfront professionally maintained log home. Beamed ceiling, ceramic floors, open floor plan, see through fireplace between master suite and Great Room. In ground sprinkler system, level lot with easy walk water. Covered boat dock with lift and 220' ft. of waterfront.

Doug Hough 540-846-5844



finished levels, eat-in kitchen, master bedroom with walkin closet and private bath, recreation room with fireplace, fenced back yard with patio. Convenient location near major es, schools, shopping and restaurants

Judy Semler 703-503-1885



some appliances, w/d; close to trans, shops, schools, with Lake Braddock amenities, ie pools, lake priv; Lake Braddock schools. Mary FitzHenry 703-250-8915



Clifton

"Sparkles" is the best way to describe this 5 acre, paddocks. Upper level could be teen or in-law suite! Outstanding setting!

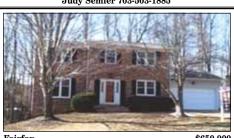
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Alexandria Manchester Lakes \$429,900 It Has It ALL!

Spacious 3 level townhouse has 3 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. Master bedroom suite has luxe bath with soaking tub and separate shower. Walkout lower level features rec room with gas fireplace and fin-ished den/office. Deck off main level. Eat-in kitchen. Separate din-ing room. Sunken living room.

Mary Wharton



Open Sunday, March 9. Everything you want...fabulous 3 finished level, 4 BR, Colonial with renovated kitchen, new carpeting, hardwoods, new windows, walkout LL, screen porch & ansive deck overlooking treed lot and parkland garage. Close to top-rated schools, VRE, Metrobus, and GMU.

Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421

Access the Realtors' Multiple Listing Service: www.searchvirginia.listingbook.com