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NEWS

Judge Orders More Materials Released in John Geer Case

Though extensive, the thousands of pages of documents, dozens of audio files and handful of videos released last month by Fairfax County, documenting the shooting death of Springfield resident John Geer, aren't exhaustive.

On Feb. 6, Michael Lieberman, the lawyer representing Geer's family and partner Maura Harrington, brought several motions to Fairfax County Circuit Court, compelling the county to produce additional materials.

Geer was shot by Fairfax County Police Officer PFC Adam Torres Aug. 29, 2013, while he stood in the doorway of his home with hands raised. The county's Jan. 30 public release includes documentation of the initial internal criminal investigation of the incident by the Fairfax County Police Department.

Judge Randy I Bellows granted some of Lieberman's requests and deferred the one for Torres' closed Internal Affairs personnel file.

"What did county know, when did they know it and what did they do about it?" said Lieberman, who first filed a \$12 million civil suit in December 2014 against FCPD Police Chief Edwin C Roessler and unknown officers who were involved with the incident.

Lieberman is seeking "factual and evaluative" information regarding another incident, when Torres reportedly had an outburst with Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Charles Peters in a courtroom, in March 2013. The county has a Feb. 20 dead-

line to produce that investigation file.

Since Lieberman's suit was filed before Fairfax County released the name of Geer's shooter, he is also planning to amend the initial complaint, adding Torres' name and names of the FCPD supervisors who were on the scene and assisted remotely.

Bellows' ruling favors Lieberman's request for release of those other officers' information, and gives Lieberman until March 6 to file an amendment to the complaint. In an interview, Lieberman said this case has "very similar attributes" to the 2006 death of Salvatore J Culosi, with which he was also involved. Culosi was killed by another FCPD officer in front of his Fair Lakes area townhouse.

Lieberman said "through expert testimony and through a test of the police department officer who shot Dr. Culosi," it was clear the officers were violating rules of weapon control, including pointing at people without imminent danger.

In addition to his other discovery requests, the lawyer wants to know if Fairfax County has made an effort to retrain officers since the Culosi killing.

"From our mind, the county should've been on notice," Lieberman said. "You have a problem: No one's doing it. That's called a custom. It was a problem in 2006 and surely was a problem in 2013. Maybe it was all avoidable if they had just done something different. Maybe Mr. Geer would be alive today."

— TIM PETERSON

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NEWS

Combining Health and Mental Health

Community Services Board provides emergency services, prevention and treatment.

BY KENNETH MOORE
THE CONNECTION

One teenager who attempted suicide revealed that if anyone had asked him before hand whether he was thinking of hurting himself, he would have said yes.

That message rang loud and clear to Teresa Gallahan, school nurse at a Catholic school in Chantilly. The teen was part of a training video for a course on Youth Mental Health First Aid, offered by the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.

Gallahan, from Herndon, was impressed that the instructor urged her to enter the phone number for the CSB Crisis Hotline into her cell phone on the spot.

"I'm trained to look for resources," said Gallahan, a Herndon resident, who has worked at St. Veronica School for approximately 7 years. Gallahan and her principal have now organized all teachers and staff to take the CSB training.

"Most parents appreciate that we keep an eye on their children," Gallahan said.

Since 2012, 1,750 have taken the CSB First Aid Mental Health Training. More than 10,000 people have taken the CSB online youth suicide prevention program.

Mental Health First Aid is one of the ways the Community Services Board serves all residents in the community.

TRACEY PHILLIPS was 24 weeks pregnant when her labor began.

She had three premature triplets; her second baby didn't survive, and her son and daughter spent five and four months in the neonatal intensive care unit.

"I had to recover from a C-section, we had to plan for my son's funeral, and we had two very sick children in the NICU," she said. "The human spirit finds a way."

Phillips' family was immediately helped by the CSB's Infant and Toddler Connection, which provides evaluations and early intervention services for infants and toddlers who might have developmental or in-



Fairfax County Community Services' Board opened its new facility in Merrifield.

tellectual disabilities or developmental delay.

"We would be looking at a very different picture had my family not been given early intervention," Phillips said. "When my daughter started to walk I was sure she was on the right track."

Phillips' children, now six, both have special needs. Phillips now works for the Infant and Toddler program and is grateful she can give back to other families who are beginning their special needs journeys.

"There's a whole movement of people with lived experience who have something to offer," said CSB Executive Director Tisha Deeghan, of hiring people like Phillips. "That voice is absolutely magical in helping."

"Even with all that happened to us, I have found other families that have been through much worse," Phillips said. "We have been through the worst of it, we can see a future."

During FY 2014, the CSB served 3,164 children through the Infant and Toddler Connection.

THE COMMUNITY Services Board plans, organizes and provides services for people who have mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or intellectual disability. The CSB served 21,249 residents during last year's fiscal year.

Most CSB services are primarily for people whose conditions seriously impact their daily functioning. But anyone with a related concern may contact the CSB for help in finding appropriate treatment and resources.

"We are here for everybody," said Deeghan, who moved to Fairfax for her new job in September. "We are the agency that deals with the most difficult and complex situations."

Deeghan took the helm at the Community Services Board in September 2014, coming from Michigan with 33 years of experience in mental health and substance use disorder treatment and prevention. Most recently, Deeghan was the senior vice president and chief operating officer for Genesee Health System in Michigan for 13 years.

Deeghan replaces George Braunstein who retired in 2014 after serving as executive director since 2008.

"I'm learning the Fairfax way, the Virginia way. There is so much wealth here, but there are two Fairfaxes," said Deeghan of her new home. "There is the wealth and the resources and the tremendous support from the Board of Supervisors. But there's another Fairfax, where people are very vulnerable, people who cannot find jobs, people who can't access services."

CSB'S NEW MERRIFIELD CENTER opened late last month at 8221 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive, and offers an integrated system of care, allowing people who are receiving services for mental health issues, substance abuse to receive other medical care at the same time.

"It's state of the art," Deeghan said. "It's the best example that I know of of an opportunity to bring integrated-care services to people."

Primary health care, pharmacy, dental clinic are available at the same location, as well as emergency services, entry and referral services, and more.

As one example, having a pharmacy onsite so patients are certain to receive their



Tisha Deeghan, a Fairfax resident, became executive director of the Fairfax County Community Services Board in September 2014.

What Is the CSB?

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board is the public agency that provides services for people who have mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or intellectual disability. The CSB also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services.

The Community Services Board serves three major populations: people with mental illness, people with substance abuse disorder, and people with intellectual disability and/or developmental disability. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/>

medications as soon as they are prescribed is a major advantage.

"It's exciting to me to see this system and all the creative community-based services in place," said Deeghan. "We're seeing much less need for high-end or restrictive services, such as hospitalization or residential placement, because we are getting so good at providing community-based services."

Providing integrated services is a national movement, Deeghan said. She cited a study a few years ago that showed that people with serious mental health issues often die 25 years or more earlier than others from treatable illnesses, because they didn't have access to health care.

Of the people served at the CSB last year, only 40 percent said they had a primary health care provider.

One in every five people live with a mental health problem, according to CSB documents. Two-thirds go without treatment. "Mental illness and substance abuse disorders impact every single layer of economics," said Belinda Buescher, of the CSB.

"We are here for everybody. We are the agency that deals with the most difficult and complex situations."

— CSB Executive Director Tisha Deeghan

"The human spirit finds a way."

— Tracey Phillips

Who To Call for Help

In emergency situations (24/7)
❖ CSB Emergency Services, 703-573-5679, TTY 711
❖ Fairfax Detoxification Center, 703-502-7000, TTY 703-322-9080
❖ CrisisLink suicide hotline, 703-527-4077
❖ CrisisLink suicide text hotline, 703-940-0888
❖ Call 911 for a life-threatening emergency
During business hours:
❖ CSB Entry & Referral Services, 703-383-8500, TTY 711
❖ Infant & Toddler Connection, 703-246-7121, TTY 703-324-4495
For basic needs: food, housing, medical care, etc., 703-222-0880, TTY 711
Staff at all of the numbers listed above can take calls in English and Spanish and can access other languages when needed.

Sign Up for Mental Health First Aid

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/events/mental-health-first-aid.htm



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

Dibora Eshete receives the first Art Steffen Memorial Citizenship Scholarship at Mountain View High School's mid-year graduation awards ceremony. (From left) Art Steffen's social studies department colleague at Mountain View Catherine Collins, Dibora Eshete, Bev Steffen and Mackenzie Steffen.

First Art Steffen Scholarship Awarded

For nearly three decades, Edward Arthur "Art" Steffen taught at Fairfax County Public Schools.

He spent his last 10 years at Mountain View Alternative High School in Centreville. After retiring from teaching in 2012, Steffen continued to coach basketball, with his final position at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Steffen died unexpectedly on June 15, 2014, and the subsequent celebration of his life brought over 1,000 people to the Fairfax County Police Association hall in Fairfax.

To honor Steffen's memory, his widow Bev and children Emily and Mackenzie decided to establish the Art Steffen Memorial Scholarship Fund that would recognize individuals in the areas of citizenship and basketball. The scholarship would assist with either financial aid or trade opportunities.

The citizenship scholarship is awarded to one student at Mountain View Alternative High School in Centreville, and the basketball scholarship goes to a female at Lake Braddock, Robinson, Centreville or West Springfield who is involved with either playing, coaching, refereeing or managing a team.

Steffen graduated from West Springfield High School in 1970.

The first Art Steffen Memorial Citizenship Scholarship of \$1,000



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEV STEFFEN

Art Steffen was most recently a basketball coach at Lake Braddock Secondary School before his sudden death in June 2014.

was awarded to Mountain View senior Dibora Eshete on Feb. 6 at the school's mid-year graduation awards ceremony. Eshete graduated on Feb. 10.

Another Mountain View student will receive a scholarship at graduation in June. The basketball scholarship will also be awarded at Lake Braddock, Robinson, Centreville or West Springfield at the end of the school year.

For more information about donating to the scholarship fund, visit artsteffen.ucpfund.org.

—TIM PETERSON



COURTESY OF MIN AND JIMMY O'BURNS

Reston-based real estate agents Min and Jimmy O'Burns of Long and Foster have been in business together for 15 years. They say one of the keys to their long-lasting business relationship is understanding each other's strengths.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBBIE AND DAMON NICHOLAS

Husband and wife real estate team Debbie and Damon Nicholas met while they were students at the University of Virginia.

Couples Who Work Together Stay Together

Local couples offer advice about keeping a relationship healthy at home and on the job.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Going into business with one's spouse can bring both joy and challenges. As Valentine's Day approaches, three local husband and wife real estate partners share their experiences and offer advice to other couples.

Min and Jimmy O'Burns of Long and Foster in Reston, have been in business together for 15 years. The two met when they were neighbors with identical condos. They started dating after six months "and have been joined at the hip ever since," according to Min O'Burns.

"I burned out on selling new homes and wanted to join Jimmy," Min O'Burns, who originally worked for a builder, continued. "I had to convince him that I would be an asset rather than a ball and chain. Pretty soon we became what is our motto, 'The power of two.'"

Working as a team allows them to spend a significant amount of time together. "It's not suited for everyone," said Min O'Burns, adding that the nature of real estate makes it ideal for couples, with flexible appointments and the ability to enjoy lunch together. "You both need to be of the same kind of mindset. You have to have the same work ethic and diligence."

Understanding your own personality as well as your spouse's is key to working together successfully as a married couple. "You have to identify each other's strengths and figure out who's good at what," said Min O'Burns. "The two of us together make a pretty good team."

"Jimmy is a strong negotiator and strategist," she continued. "I'm a good writer, I'm organized and I'm good at marketing. I'm also a little bit of a hand holder."

"We still enjoy it after all the years we've been in business together. In my mind there is no downside," added Jimmy O'Burns. "We're serious about our business and we think that business should come with a little bit of humor."

Deborah and Lenny Manarin of the Arlington of-

fice of McEneaney Associates Inc, Realtors, have been married for 10 years. They met through their work in the real estate business. In fact, Deborah, an Alexandria native, has 25 years of experience and Lenny more than 40.

"We tell clients 'You're paying one commission, but you're getting the experience and knowledge of two people,'" said Deborah Manarin.

She added that one big asset of working with a spouse is a shared knowledge of the industry. "We both understand the business and the stresses of dealing with people 24-7. Each of us is a good sounding board for the other on issues you're dealing with," Deborah Manarin.

Debbie and Damon Nicholas of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Fairfax met as students at the University of Virginia and have been married for 32 years.

Debbie was a real estate agent and Damon was a full-time federal employee when they had their first child, who was born with severe disabilities. Two other sons quickly followed.

"We found ourselves going to two to three doctor's appointments per week," said Debbie Nicholas.

After a promotion took away all of Damon Nicholas' flexibility, he switched to real estate full time. The move meant Debbie Nicholas could stay home, Damon could go to doctors' appointments and they could get more involved at school. The couple also developed a Special Olympics program at Willow Springs Elementary School in Fairfax and coached their younger sons in youth leagues.

Working together offers both pleasures and challenges.

"It's difficult and easy at the same time," said Damon Nicholas. "It's difficult to shut off work at times because we have a passion for helping our clients and we love what we do. The good news is that we see each other a lot more than other couples. And we like each other so that's good."

The Nicholas' three sons are now adults. In 2013, their middle son joined their real estate team.

Debbie and Damon Nicholas offer simple advice to other couples considering going into business together.

"It's always important to respect your spouse," said Debbie Nicholas. "Above all we want to demonstrate to people that we love each other and respect each other. Working together is not something that you commit to if you can't respect each other in public and in private."

VIEWPOINTS

Describe your ideal Valentine's Day Date

— TIM PETERSON

Sev Kerat, senior at South County High School, Springfield resident:

"We'd go ice skating, or something else active to move about and set the mood. Doing an activity makes me feel relieved instead of uptight."



Liz Maquera, junior at West Springfield High School, Springfield resident:

"First we would go hang-gliding and then end up at a picnic in the park, somewhere like Great Falls Park. Later we would go to a movie, an action movie, that's not sappy, so we both can enjoy it."

Katy Morgan, senior at South County High School, Fairfax Station resident:

"I would just stay in with a cute boy, hugging on him and cuddling. He would make dinner for me because it's my birthday, macaroni and cheese from scratch, and then we would watch a chick flick."





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OPINION

Not the First or Only Time

Secrecy around police shootings has been a problem for at least a decade.

The official position of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on the need for changes in policy after the shooting of John Geer by police in Springfield in August of 2013 appears to be that this is the first time police policies have been a problem:

"Policies for handling police-involved incidents, which served us well for decades, were inadequate in this complicated situation."

Police-involved shootings have resulted in excruciating obfuscation and delay by Fairfax County Police dating back more than a decade. In this editorial, we refer to two high-profile cases, but these are not the only cases where police secrecy had caused incalculable pain to families while damaging the credibility of the police and other county officials. And this issue is not limited to Fairfax County. Alexandria and Arlington use similar approaches to limit public access to information.

Most Northern Virginia residents think very highly of their police. We are very safe here. People understand that sometimes mistakes happen, that sometimes force is needed, and that sometimes police will exercise deadly force. What they are unlikely to accept is secrecy that shrouds mistakes, and failure to take responsibility for explaining events of deadly force.

We'll quote the father of David Masters who wrote a letter to the Mount Vernon Gazette (a Connection Newspaper) in June, 2013, two months before John Geer was shot:

"I am the father of David Masters. David was shot to death by a Fairfax County police officer on Nov. 13, 2009 while sitting in his truck at a stop at the intersection of Route 1 and Fort Hunt Road. I don't know any more about the circumstances of this grim fatality now than I did then and now, as then, the records of this tragedy are not available to anyone outside the police department. The officer who shot my son was ultimately and I must say secretly fired by the then police chief, David Rohrer. But even that was done without any admission of culpability by anyone in the county. ... I don't understand why the Virginia Freedom of In-

formation Act gives blanket exemption to police matters. ... As it is now, the police department can, and seemingly does, operate in a culture of complete autonomy without fear that its actions will be held up to any kind of scrutiny."

The Connection reported in 2006 about the accidental shooting of an unarmed Salvatore J. "Sal" Culosi Jr. during his arrest on gambling charges:

"With red-rimmed eyes and her voice cracking, Anita Culosi expressed outrage Thursday evening [March 30, 2006] that a Fairfax County police officer will not be charged with a crime for accidentally killing her 37-year-old son. 'My son is laying in a cemetery,' she said, surrounded by family members holding framed pictures of her son. 'That man pulled a trigger and shot my son dead.'"

Anita Culosi's son, Salvatore J. "Sal" Culosi Jr., was accidentally shot to death by a Fairfax County SWAT team officer on Jan. 24 outside his Fair Oaks townhouse. He had been under investigation for illegal sports gambling for the previous three months, accepting at least \$28,000 in bets from an undercover Fairfax County detective.

In July, 2012, more than a year before John Geer was shot and killed, a group of citizens identified four cases, including Masters and Culosi, where police secrecy continued to block questions about shooting deaths. Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability characterized "questionable circumstances" around the shootings, noted that no one, including the families of the deceased victims, had been able to obtain a police incident report despite the fact that the four cases are closed.

CCPA Executive Director Nicholas Beltrante sent letters asking for the release of documents, "to find out what happened in the shooting deaths, why deadly force was used instead of a taser gun or beanbag gun, and to find out if police misconduct took place."

Beltrante said: "Our letters will highlight to the public the importance of amending the Virginia FOIA to require the release of police incident reports, and the value of improving

police accountability by creating an independent police citizen oversight panel made up of Fairfax county citizens Unnecessary use of deadly force by the police, if it is occurring, will undermine the integrity and confidence of the public in our police and our elected officials."

The revelations about the shooting of John Geer as a result of a civil lawsuit seriously undermine the credibility of the investigation process.

Aside from the officer who shot Geer, four other officers on the scene told investigators that same day that they were shocked by the shot that killed Geer and thought the shooting was unnecessary. There was no weapon in view, and Geer made great effort to be predictable in his actions, asking permission to scratch his nose, otherwise keeping his hands up on the doorframe.

But a day after the shooting, police released the following update:

"The preliminary investigation indicates that when officers arrived on the scene, they were met by an individual who displayed what appeared to be a weapon in a threatening manner and was subsequently shot."

And last month, before the statements of the other officers were released, the police released this update with the name of the officer:

"Geer was reported as having multiple firearms inside the home, displaying a firearm that he threatened to use against the police, and refused the officers' requests that he remain outside and speak to them. Officers, including a trained negotiator, attempted to peaceably resolve the situation. They spoke with Geer for more than 30 minutes as he stood in the doorway of his home. When Geer began lowering his hands at one point during the negotiations, PFC Adam Torres fired a single shot that struck Geer."

But investigators knew that the negotiator had not seen Geer holding a weapon.

We don't agree with this statement by Bulova: "The Board of Supervisors has taken the steps needed to ensure its policies allow for justice to be fairly and swiftly served."

This is not an isolated case. The Board of Supervisors must demand transparency from the police.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Failing in Their Duties

To the Editor:

I applaud your editorial on the Geer murder ("No Justification for Secrecy, Delay on Geer Shooting," Connection, February 4-10, 2015). The Connection has done yeoman's work in keeping this tragedy in front of the public, unlike other newspapers which are johnnie-come-latelies.

Our chairman and county Board of Supervisors have failed in their

duty to oversee the Fairfax County Poice Department, except Pat Herrity who seems to have spoken out against this scandal early. The "blanket approach" to deny FOIA requests you mention is simply a policy. Policies are guidelines for what should normally be done; they are not a legal requirement and can be changed with a stroke of the pen by the FCPD either on its own or at the direction of the Board of Supervisors.

I hope you will call for the resignation of the chief of FCPD; oppose re-election of the chairman and Board of Supervisors, less

Herrity; oppose re-election of our Commonwealth's Attorney; and payment of the \$12M to Geer's estate. The chief has condoned a cover-up and our elected officials have failed in their duties. The \$12M should come from the budget of the FCPD and our Commonwealth's Attorney, and foreclose raising the pay of the chairman and Board of Supervisors based on their inexcusable handling of this affair.

Mike Shumaker
Fairfax

Write

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

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December, 2014 Top Sales



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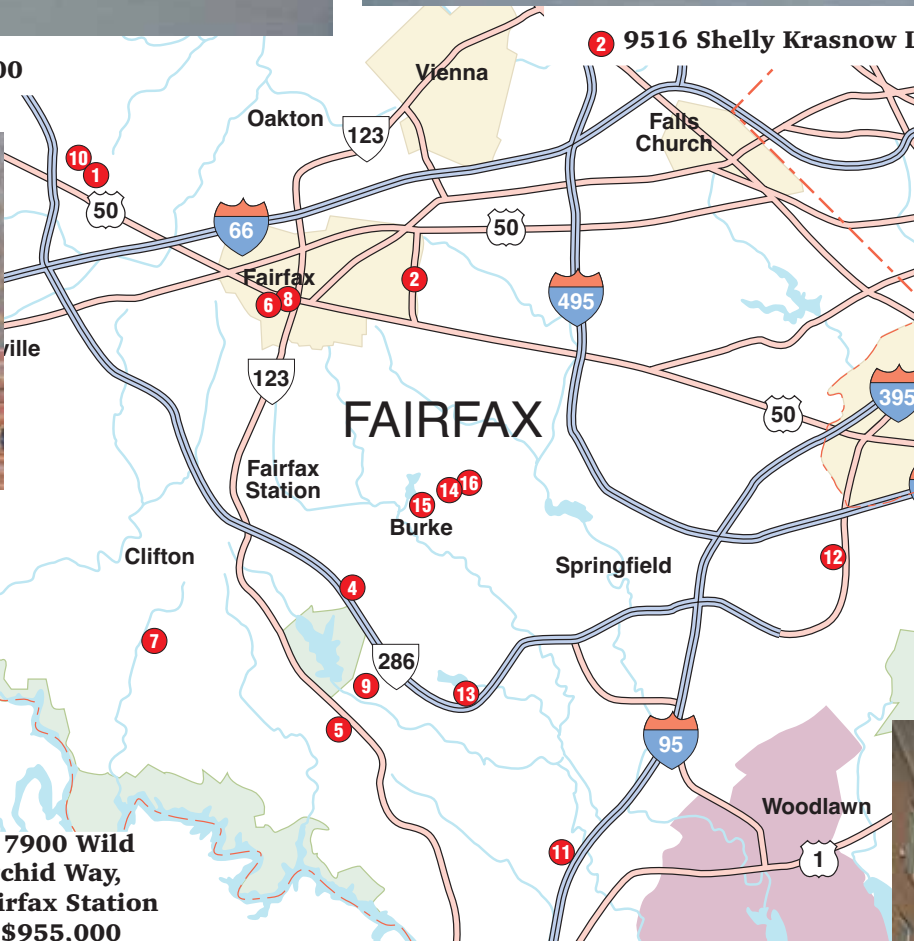
2 9516 Shelly Krasnow Lane, Fairfax — \$1,155,000



3 7400 Union Ridge Road, Clifton — \$965,000



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Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold	On
1 3208 WEST OX RD	5	6	1		FAIRFAX	\$1,200,000	Detached	0.50	22033	NONE	12/17/14	
2 9516 SHELLY KRASNOW LN	5	4	1		FAIRFAX	\$1,155,000	Detached	0.19	22031	PICKETT'S RESERVE	12/12/14	
3 7400 UNION RIDGE RD	4	5	2		CLIFTON	\$965,000	Detached	1.60	20124	BALMORAL GREENS	12/08/14	
4 6462 LAKE MEADOW DR	5	4	1		BURKE	\$959,999	Detached	0.58	22015	EDGEWATER	12/19/14	
5 7900 WILD ORCHID WAY	5	4	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$955,000	Detached	5.00	22039	DOMINION VALLEY HUNT	12/29/14	
6 10693 YORKTOWN CT	3	3	2		FAIRFAX	\$945,065	Townhouse	0.04	22030	JAGUAR/YORKTOWN	12/09/14	
7 7110 TWELVE OAKS DR	5	4	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$940,000	Detached	5.00	22039	TWELVE OAKS	12/25/14	
8 10689 YORKTOWN CT	3	3	2		FAIRFAX	\$881,960	Townhouse	0.05	22030	JAGUAR/YORKTOWN	12/18/14	
9 9736 ROLLING RIDGE DR	5	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$855,000	Detached	0.61	22039	SOUTH RUN	12/29/14	
10 3589 ROCKY MEADOW CT	5	3	1		FAIRFAX	\$850,000	Detached	0.29	22033	WESTVALE	12/19/14	
11 8943 RHODODENDRON CIR	5	5	0		LORTON	\$844,000	Detached	0.31	22079	LAUREL HILL LANDBAY	12/24/14	
12 5929 EMBRY SPRING LN	4	4	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$816,000	Detached	0.09	22315	NORTHAMPTON	12/18/14	
13 7406 ARUNDEL PL	5	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$771,000	Detached	0.20	22153	MIDDLEFORD	12/12/14	
14 5311 RENAISSANCE CT	4	4	1		BURKE	\$765,000	Detached	0.22	22015	SIGNAL HILL CARRS	12/15/14	
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16 5314 RENAISSANCE CT	4	3	1		BURKE	\$727,500	Detached	0.22	22015	SIGNAL HILL CARRS	12/15/14	

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13 7406 Arundel Place, Springfield — \$771,000

Home LifeStyle

A Contemporary Kitchen

Local family transforms their home with a red, black and white kitchen.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When a Springfield couple decided to remodel their 1960s home, they wanted to think outside the box, especially when it came to the kitchen.

“Originally confined to a small kitchen ‘box,’ crunched in the back of their house, this couple wanted to expand and modernize their ... house to a contemporary, European design,” said Stephanie Brick, associate architectural designer at Nicely Done Kitchens in Springfield.

In what Brick describes as a “bold move,” walls to the kitchen and dining room were removed, and the kitchen was relocated to the opposite side of the home. The result was an open, free-flowing,

light-filled space that suites the couple's lifestyle.

“With their cook top and generous prep space on the island in front of their bar-height seating, they can now cook, serve and enjoy company all from the comfort of their new kitchen design,” said Brick.

Simultaneously bold and sleek, red, white and black cabinetry is softened by a muted gray backsplash and coordinating paint color for the walls.

“The black perimeter countertops are expertly contrasted by the bold white quartz waterfall countertop, cascading elegantly over the sides of the bar-height seating area,” said Brick.

Glossy cabinet front paneling hides the kitchen's modern appliances and helps maintain the sleek design. “The ruby-red cabinets on both sides of the kitchen are float-

ing, anchored to neither the ceiling nor the floor for a subtle yet distinctly modern aesthetic,” said Brick.

Design options are plentiful. “Today, homeowners have a wider variety of style choices than they did even a couple of years ago,” said Evelyn Nicely, president of Nicely Done Kitchens. “Contemporary kitchens have certainly gained popularity all over the country, and also in Northern Virginia. Contemporary kitchens offer the clean, streamlined look that a lot of homeowners are after.”

Before deciding on a daring design, there are factors to consider. “It is acceptable to put a traditional, transitional or contemporary kitchen in a traditional or even colonial house,” said Rich Caswell, project manager at Nicely Done Kitchens. “If you're talking about stark modern, its more of a bold move in terms of resale or what a realtor might think.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS

This ultra-modern kitchen, designed by Nicely Done Kitchens in Springfield, features red, white and black cabinetry and a muted gray backsplash.

“However, in our area, we have a mix of clients,” said Nicely. “Traditional and transitional kitchens

are just as popular as the contemporary kitchens. We pay close attention to our clients' preferences



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS

An island with a cook top and generous counter space, as well as bar-height seating, allows the family to cook, serve and enjoy the company of their guests simultaneously.

and tastes, as well as the entire style of the home, to be able to provide them with a kitchen that will increase and hold its value. The homeowner and the designer determine the perfect style of kitchen that will be chosen, be it,

contemporary, traditional or transitional.”

The bottom line, said Brick, is that homeowners should create a design that appeals to them most. “By large and by far, anytime you're redoing your



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS

Red, white and black cabinetry makes a bold statement that is softened by a muted gray backsplash and coordinating paint color in this Springfield kitchen.

home, it's a huge investment of time and money,” she said. “Go with your heart. If modern is what you love, then that's what you should go with. You're going to be using your kitchen day in and day out.”

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Fairfax County Hosts Online Auction

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Barbara Feder resolved to set up an office in the unfinished basement of her Del Ray home this year, a project that she has delayed for months. That's in part because while the white-washed cinderblock walls and mechanical gray cement floor are functional, they're not aesthetically appealing. Feder wants to create a comfortable workspace with a minimal amount of money.

"All is need is a desk, chair and a lamp," said Feder. "I'll probably get a book case and a filing cabinet just so I don't have piles of paper and books everywhere."

Feder estimates that she can furnish the space for about \$20. And she's not dreaming. She's eyeing a \$5 desk as well as an office chair and filing cabinet, each priced at \$1.

Her merchant is the Fairfax County Surplus Property Auction. Fairfax County government generates a variety of surplus equipment, everything from former police cruisers (usually Ford Crown Victoria sedans), ambulances and luxury cars to tools, exercise equipment and office supplies like chairs, desks, filing cabinets, printers and fax machines. When the county no longer needs these items, officials put them up for auction on a rolling basis to generate revenue



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

and minimize waste.

"It generates about \$2.3 million dollars," said Chris McGough, a Fairfax County management analyst who is responsible for overseeing the public auction surplus program. "We're like IKEA in pricing, but with better stuff. You can find a dresser for \$30 and a table for \$8. Add a filing cabinet and for \$60 you can furnish a dorm room or at least have enough furniture to get you going."

The county contracts PublicSurplus.com to house a direct auction website listing all of the items that are up for auction, as well as instructions on bidding. Registration is free and required in order to bid.

The county sells variety of surplus goods for low prices.

Surplus goods such as sofas, chairs, televisions and bookcases are auctioned by Fairfax County, Virginia, for low prices.

Details

For information on the Fairfax County auction, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpsm/surplus.htm. All sales are final (no refunds and no returns) and are made on an "as is, where is" basis.

"The challenge for us is that this is a hidden gem that residents might not be aware of," said Lisa Connors, Fairfax County public information officer. "The site can be overwhelming, but there are videos on the site that give people ideas of how to use the things that we have and help them see how it can be used."

Not all of the items are in great condi-

tion, however. It's not uncommon to see an elliptical machine with rust and duct tape or a former police cruiser with a bad transmission. "We try to put as much information [as possible] about the items on the auction website," said McGough. "We're as honest with the public as possible so they know what they're getting."

Examples of the most desirable items that have been up for auction are a hockey scoreboard as well as a Porsche Boxster, and a Ducati motorcycle which officials say had been stolen and recovered by police.

"We make every effort to find the owners of these items," said McGough.

Not all of the bidders are private residents. For example, a California-based tour company purchased a helicopter. In addition, "cab companies will buy our Crown Victorias, fix them up and put them into use," said Tyler Carey, surplus program administrator. "Companies will buy our buses, fix them up and turn them into party buses."

Not all of the surplus items are sold either. "We've made a few donations," said McGough. "We donated one of our ambulances that was in functional condition to one of the schools for the [Emergency Medical Technician] training program. Some of the trainees have become Fairfax County employees."

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2ND ANNUAL Boys & Girls Club Fairfax Casino Night

Friday, March 6, 2015
The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner



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NEWS

Virginia Opera's Special Gift for Valentine's Weekend

"Salome" at George Mason University Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Salome, a name that conjures unforgettable impressions: passion, desire, murder. The opera "Salome" is based upon a once shocking Oscar Wilde literary work. This Valentine's weekend the Virginia Opera is presenting a production about how love's obsession in the wrong hands can lead to the most unfortunate, unforeseen consequences.

With "Salome" a key figure is a *femme fatale* young woman who uses her femininity to get her way. She even demands the head of Jochanaan on a silver platter. The production is propelled by the rich score of German composer Richard Strauss. The music triggers chilling emotions and highlights the drama of the story. The opera is world famous for its "Dance of the Seven Veils."

"Scandalous in every way, the work includes some of the most glorious music and some of the craziest, most debauched moments in all opera," said conductor Ari Pelto. "It is fantastically exciting that Virginia Opera is able, and has the courage, to mount this production offering an unusually special night of theatre."

Directed by Stephen Lawless, "Salome" will feature Kelly Cae Hogan leading an eminent cast. Hogan was not long ago seen as Blanche DuBois in Virginia Opera's sultry "A Streetcar Named Desire." Alan Woodrow sings the key role



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA OPERA

Kelly Cae Hogan as Salome in Virginia Opera's production of "Salome."

When and Where

Virginia Opera's "Salome" George Mason University Center for the Arts, at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances Sat., Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 15 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$44 to \$98. Call 888.945.2468 or visit <http://cfa.gmu.edu/tickets/> Note: "Salome" will be performed in German with English subtitles. Each performance will feature a free pre-opera discussion lead by Virginia Opera's Dr. Glenn "Dr. Opera" Winters starting 45 minutes before the curtain.

of King Herod. Herod's promise to Salome sets things in motion to a spectacular finale. Woodrow spoke of the character of Salome as "almost a bored school girl, who only knows that she wants; when told 'no' she seeks out retribution."

Woodrow added that "Salome doesn't know how powerful she is. She is not aware of her powers of seduction over some men." The outcomes of her impetuous nature

are not good.

To Woodrow, his Herod character is interesting in its complexity. Herod recognizes that Jochanaan is someone very special. He understands that Jochanaan should not be killed; there will be considerable consequences. But, since Salome has danced for Herod he must grant her wish. Woodrow made it clear that the last few minutes of the opera are something special to behold.

Virginia Opera partnered with Portland, Ore. Opera to produce "Salome." The production has a set design by Benoit Dudardyn and costumes from Ingeborg Bernerth that depict modern times in the Middle East. Virginia Opera President and CEO, Russell P. Allen, said, "With this production of 'Salome,' our audiences are receiving one of the most highly dramatic and intense operas ever written."

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ENTERTAINMENT

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THROUGH SUNDAY/APRIL 5

Reference. W-16 - Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Reference is a multi-media exploration of the various modes of influence that inform visual artists in both content and process. In Reference, participating artists incorporate performance, sound, process, and imagery to address the strong influence of other artists, visual and otherwise, upon their creative output as well as their deepest philosophical and spiritual understandings. No ticket required. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

THROUGH SUNDAY/MARCH 8

Julia Galloway. Building W-8, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Julia Galloway is a utilitarian potter and professor. She is currently the Director of the School of Art and Professor at the University of Montana, Missoula. Julia makes useful pottery working at a mid-range firing at c6 in a soda kiln and re-firing her pottery at low temperatures to develop rich glaze surfaces. She combines wheel throwing and hand building techniques to make her pottery. No ticket required. 703-584-2900.

FRIDAY/FEB. 13 - SUNDAY/FEB. 15

Cabaret Series: Dreams of New Orleans. 8 p.m. Fri., Sat. 1 p.m. Sun. W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Our musical romp through the Big Easy celebrates the Golden Age of Jazz! Just in time for Mardi Gras! Join our cabaret 'krewe' on a virtual parade down Bourbon Street, with both classic and contemporary songs from the stage and screen that evoke the spirit of the famed French Quarter. \$30 general, \$25 students, seniors, military. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

FRIDAY/FEB. 13

A Tribute to Black History Month. South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. \$5.

Julia Galloway. W-16-McGuireWoods Gallery, Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Julia makes useful pottery working at a mid-range firing at c6 in a soda kiln and re-firing her pottery at low temperatures to develop rich glaze surfaces. She combines wheel throwing and handbuilding techniques to make her pottery. 703-548-2900.

Bingo. 7 p.m. Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Benefits the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department. 703-273-3638.

FRIDAY - SUNDAY/FEB. 13 - 15.

Workhouse Cabaret Series:

Dreams of New Orleans. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m., Sunday, 1 p.m. W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Join the cabaret 'krewe' of Mary Payne, Calvin Register, Christopher Shaw and Karissa Swanigan-Upchurch on a virtual parade down Bourbon Street led by pianist Jacob Kidder and percussionist James Lawson, featuring both classic and contemporary songs from the stage and screen that evoke the spirit of the famed French Quarter! Ticket price includes planche campagnarde. A la carte cash bar available in venue. Ticket price includes planche campagnarde. \$30, \$25. 703-548-2900.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/FEB. 13-28

"Christos' Orange - Ten Years

Later." Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center presents an exhibit by the artists in Gallery 5 Studio commemorating the ten year anniversary of the installation of "The Gates" in Central Park in New York City.

SATURDAY/FEB. 14

Partner's Yoga. 1-2 p.m. Studio A. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Let's celebrate Valentine's Day with Partner's Yoga! A heartfelt and celebratory workshop of breath, partner yoga and just being together. Bring your sweetheart or a special friend! No prior Yoga experience necessary! Reservations required. \$20 per couple. 703-548-2900.

A Mug-Throwing Extravaganza. 6-9 p.m. Building W-8, Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Watch resident ceramic artist Brian Grow turn pounds of clay into mugs in three hours. Mugs will be available for purchase. 703-548-2900.

"The Sixth Generation"

Valentine's Day Dance. 8 p.m. W-16-McGuireWoods Gallery, Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Join The Sixth Generation for a Valentine's Day concert in 60's Dance Hall Style at the Workhouse Arts Center! Award-winning rock-n-rollers, The Sixth Generation, perform live in the McGuireWoods gallery with plenty of room to dance the night away. \$20 to \$30. 703-548-2900.

I Love You Just Like This!

Valentine's Day Storytime. 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Special event storytime. Children's event. 703-278-0300.

Homecoming Block Party and

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6 to 9 p.m. Worhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The 2nd Saturday Art Walk at the Workhouse showcases the diverse work of more than 100 visual artists in a unique historic venue. Guests can tour seven unique studio buildings, mix and mingle with artists, buy original works of art, experience ever-changing exhibitions and meet featured artists, all while enjoying light refreshments and music. Free. 703-584-2900.

SUNDAY/FEB. 15

N Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org phone 703-425-9225.

Workhouse Cabaret Series:

Dreams of New Orleans. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Matinee performance at 1 p.m. Just in time for Mardi Gras! Our musical romp through the Big Easy celebrates the Golden Age of Jazz!

SATURDAY/FEB. 17

Date Night: Chef's Table. 7 - 9 p.m. W-3 Classroom 302, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Date Night cooking classes are designed to be fun, relaxing and an escape from the daily grind. They are great way to learn some basic cooking techniques while enjoying your company and making new friends. The menu items will be prepared by participants working together at each of the cooking islands. Participants will be served a tasting portion of all the entrees and a pre-chef-selected drink of choice. No one will leave hungry! Reservations required. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

Ash Wednesday Spaghetti Dinner. 6 p.m. Pender United Methodist Church, 12401 Alder Woods Drive, Fairfax. Fairfax American Heritage Girls Troop VA1907 will host an Ash Wednesday Spaghetti Dinner. Proceeds from donations to the dinner will help support the needy in our community. The dinner includes a choice of white or wheat pasta and meat or vegetarian sauce, garlic bread, salad and dessert. A gluten-free option is also available. Reservations requested to help with planning. Call 703-815-6197 or email ahg1907@gmail.com by Feb. 15 to reserve your spot. An Ash Wednesday service will follow the dinner at 7:30 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

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/FEB. 14

NAACP Branch Membership

Meeting. 10 a.m. - Noon. 9002 Burke Lake Rd., Burke. (Supervisor Cook's conference room, attached to Kings Park Library). Your involvement is key to our success. Bring your ideas and support. See you there.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

Diagnosis Dementia...Now

What? 1:30 pm. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. This discussion will help you start planning for the future, while also adjusting to a new life with someone who has dementia. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

ONGOING

Volunteer Fairfax seeks individuals, families, youth and corporate groups for service opportunities at a variety of nonprofit agencies. One-time special events or ongoing activities are available at www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

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.

Online Scavenger Hunt. Visit Fairfax tasks those interested in becoming "citizen ambassadors" to the county (those informed on fun, creative weekend outings in the area) to find two Fairfax County Ambassador icons hidden throughout the fxva.com website in order to join the ambassador team; those who find all five hidden pins will receive a complimentary gift. www.fxva.com/online-ambassador.

Senior Fall Prevention Classes.

1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Tuesday and/or Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to work on balance and core muscles for injury prevention. \$10. 703-667-9800.

American Red Cross CPR, First

Aid and AED. Various times, at 2720 State Route 699, Suite 200, Fairfax. One-year certification, digital or print materials and continued education on Mondays through Thursday and Saturday. \$70-110. www.redcrossnca.org.

Dementia Care Givers Support

Groups. Various times, at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The groups are for those caring for someone with dementia or for those interested in learning more about providing care giving to a person with a disorder that affects memory and cognition and may impact behavior and physical abilities. 703-451-8626 or Eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

FAITH NOTES

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

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist

Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.



Be Part of The Pet Connection in February

Send Your Photos & Stories Now to springfield@connectionnewspapers.com or complete our online form at springfieldconnection.com

Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is February 18.

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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION
Robinson gymnast Bailey Young won the Conference 5 vault title on Feb. 5 at Centreville High School.



Robinson gymnast Caroline Burda competes on beam during the Conference 5 championship meet on Feb. 5 at Centreville High School.

Young, Burda Lead Robinson Gymnastics to Conference 5 Title

Rams win second straight championship, third in four years.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The pain in Bailey Young's ankles is severe enough that she chose end a decade-long club gymnastics career, despite training to be a Level 10.

As a junior at Robinson last year, she competed for the school's gymnastics team, but only participated in two events.

Now a senior, Young decided to push through the pain and compete in the all-around. Despite tendonitis in both ankles from years of wear and tear, she participated in each of the four events during the Conference 5 championship meet, culminating with vault.

"Everyone else gets two chances to vault, but I know I (usually) only get one," said Young, referring to limitations resulting from ankle pain. "It's a lot of pressure [to] just [have] one vault that a lot of girls don't have."

Young landed her one vault attempt during the conference meet, held it long enough to appease the judges, and then had to be carried by a teammate back to Robinson's seating area, where she iced her left ankle.

YOUNG'S EFFORT on vault showed toughness. It also showed talent.

Young recorded a score of 9.2, earning an individual conference title while helping Robinson repeat as Conference 5 team champion on Feb. 5 at Centreville High School.

It was Robinson's third title in four years, including a Concorde District championship in 2012.

The Rams finished with a score of 136.55, well ahead of second-place Herndon (131.925). The two teams earned regional berths.

Oakton finished third with a score of 130.225, fol-

lowed by Westfield (119.75), Chantilly (119.6) and Centreville (90.425).

"It feels really good," Young said. "Obviously it hurts, but it's good to know the pain was worth it for today."

Young placed fourth in the all-around with a score of 33.975, earning a regional berth (top four all-arounds advance). Along with her win on vault, Young placed fourth on bars (8.35), tied for fourth on floor (9) and finished 12th on beam (7.425).

"She's a tough one," Robinson head coach Megan Smiley said. "I think it just shows how committed she is to Robinson and the program. She loves the girls, she loves the team. We're going to miss her next year."

Young wasn't the only Robinson gymnast overcoming an injury. Caroline Burda hurt her left knee during the regular season and wore a brace during the Conference 5 meet. She wasn't listed as a vault competitor in the meet program, but decided during the week to compete in the all-around.

BURDA, a sophomore, finished runner-up in the all-around for the second year in a row, this time recording a score of 34.05. She tied for second on bars (8.45), tied for third on beam (8.35), placed sixth on floor (8.95) and finished 22nd on vault (8.3).

"I thought that I did the best I could," Burda said. "I wish beam had gone a little bit better. It was a pretty low score for me, but I hope to work hard this next week and prepare for regionals and hopefully do better."

Robinson's Emily Gross placed second on vault (9.125). Britnie Sullins tied for fourth on floor (9), placed fifth on vault (9.075) and took sixth on bars (8.225). Kayla Mathews tied for third on beam (8.35), and Jennifer Groth tied for sixth on vault (8.9) and finished seventh on beam (7.825).

Herndon's Alexa Bradley won the all-around title (36.175), including first-place finishes on floor (9.575), bars (9) and beam (8.5). Oakton's Natalie Weaver placed third in the all-around (34).

The 6A North region meet was scheduled for Feb. 11, after The Connection's deadline. The state meet will be held Feb. 20-21 at Patriot High School.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

A Game-Winning Effort

Lake Braddock sophomore Bailey Edwards drives through the West Potomac defense during the Bruins' 41-40 overtime victory on Tuesday at West Potomac High School. Edwards finished with 12 points and knocked down 10 of 12 free-throw attempts, including the game-winner with 2.2 seconds remaining in OT. Lake Braddock made 20 of 23 attempts from the line. The Bruins will host South County at 5:45 p.m. on Friday.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Participating in Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints

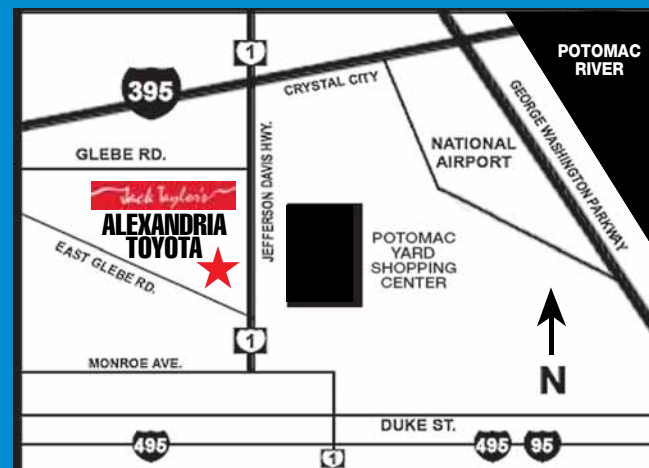
Thousands of spectators, rowers, coaches, volunteers and vendors filled the gym and the hallways at T.C. Williams on Jan. 31 for the 30th annual Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints. Pictured on the right is W.T. Woodson rower Jack Ning.

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