

Oakton senior guard Sasha Borojeni (22) makes her move with the ball during the Cougars' state AAA championship game versus Princess Anne of Virginia Beach. The exciting finals contest, won by Princess Anne, took place last Friday night at Virginia Commonwealth University's Siegel Center in Richmond. It was the first loss experienced by the Cougars (30-1) all season.

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ FAITH, PAGE 11 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 13

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Princess Anne Rules in Richmond

SPORTS, PAGE 12

Gov. Holton Speaks At Shepherd's Center

NEWS, PAGE 4

Teacher Publishes Timely Story

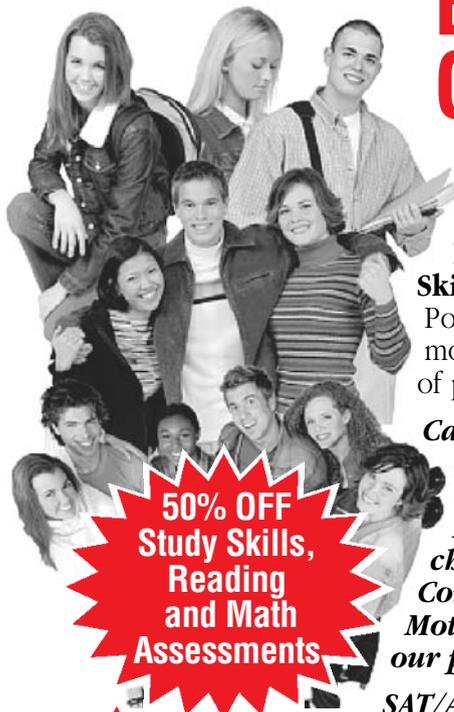
NEWS, PAGE 5

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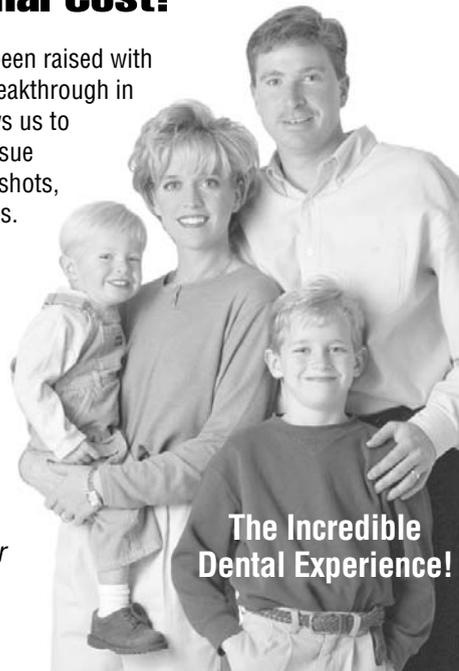
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Sailor Sentenced to 41 Months

Navy sailor Daniel Joseph Sweeney, 28, was arrested for possession of child pornography while stationed on a Navy vessel in Norfolk last October.

Special agents with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) executed a search warrant at his Vienna residence and seized his computers. Sweeney had downloaded hundreds of photos of young children in sexually explicit conduct, according to Dana J. Boente, acting U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Mark X. McGraw, deputy special agent with ICE's Office of Investigations.

U.S. District Court Judge James C. Cacheris sentenced Sweeney, who pleaded guilty last December, to 41 months in prison. Sweeney will serve 20 years on supervised release following his prison term and will be required to register as a sex offender, according to Boente and McGraw.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agent Marisa Robinson investigated the case, which was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gerald J. Smagala.

— KEN MOORE



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“Today, I learned sometimes ethical issues go beyond just right and wrong. It’s OK to disagree.”

— Ashley Brigham

Debating Ethics Dilemmas



PHOTO BY JACQUELINE LEEKER

West Point Senior John Kreitler leads a discussion on ethics in regards to cheating.

West Point cadets lead 108 area juniors’ discussion.

BY JACQUELINE LEEKER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS INTERN, FORT BELVOIR

A recent survey on high school ethics found that within the preceding year, 30 percent of students had stolen from a store and 64 percent had cheated on a test. To confront this problem, 11 West Point cadets lead 108 juniors, chosen for their leadership qualities, from 33 area high schools in the second annual Leadership and Ethics Confer-

ence at George Mason University.

In the keynote speech, Lt. Gen. Dave Palmer presented the history of George Washington and Benedict Arnold.

“For two people so similar, why were their legacies so different? One was a traitor, and the other the father of our nation. The answer is character. Your destiny is determined by the strength of your character,” said Palmer.

The students then broke off into eight groups, each led by a cadet. “I liked that the cadets led the discussion. They were very engaging, nice, and we could really relate to them because of their age,” said Corinthia Evans from Mount Vernon High School.

Each group discussed four vignettes taken from recent news events or everyday school

life. Should you turn in a friend who cheated on a test? “Is someone really your friend if they ask you to jeopardize your morals?” asked Steve Hojnicky, a senior at West Point.

With no “approved solutions,” only principles, each group presented a skit based on the vignettes, showing how to apply what they had learned to make ethical decisions every day.

“Today, I learned sometimes ethical issues go beyond just right and wrong. It’s OK to disagree,” said Ashley Brigham, of West Springfield High School.

The West Point class of 1979 hosts the event annually. “We want to send seeds out to the schools. These students will be able lead by example,” said Carl Cecil, co-chairman of the conference.



John Horejsi

Horejsi Honored

Vienna resident named Social Work Public Citizen of the Year.

John Horejsi of Vienna has been honored as the 2009 Public Citizen of the Year at the annual National Association of Social Workers (NASW) – Virginia Chapter awards luncheon in Richmond on Saturday, March 14. Horejsi was cited for many years of dedication to helping those in need. He has volunteered his services with Fairfax County’s Advisory Social Services Board, with the Fairfax Alliance for Human Services and with charitable activities, such as Catholic charities.

During the last twenty-five years, Horejsi has demonstrated leadership, persistence, forbearance, tolerance, charity of spirit and extraordinary effectiveness through Social Action Linking Together (SALT), the organization he founded in 1983. SALT began as a small group of concerned citizens and has grown to a network of over 1,000 social justice volunteers with membership open to any person who wants to join in state and local faith-based advocacy.

SALT’s focus is to seek legislation to aid Virginia’s welfare-dependent families, the elderly poor, the incarcerated, the homeless, the working poor, and their children.

Receiving the award, Horejsi said, “To those of us in SALT, this award is most significant because it honors SALT legislative advocacy and community activism, which I recommend to all as part of your job descriptions. Motivating our advocacy is the belief that faith and action are linked together. It is through our SALT advocacy that we make our legislators aware and remind them of their responsibility to those in need.

VIEWPOINTS

What is the ethical issue of the day, what have you learned today?

— DANIELLE LANDAU & MERRILL ROTH



Colin Cannon,
McLean High School

“Cheating has become the norm in this area. Competition in Northern Virginia to get into colleges is so high that people do whatever it takes. It’s become regular, and everyone just lets it go.”

“Today I learned not to be afraid to talk about things, to meet new people, and share your opinion. Don’t feel guilty, come clean. You don’t want to live with a bad decision even if there are consequences.”

Elizabeth Gauf,
Madison High School

“A big issue is the decision between staying loyal to your friends versus what’s legal. For instance, if you saw your friends cheating. I think a lot of teens face that controversy.”

“I learned the importance of character and staying true to what you value in your decisions so that you can make the right one.”



Lauren Hurlburt, 16,
Marshall High School

“I also feel that substance abuse is the most relevant ethics issue right now. As people get older drugs become more available; you need to stand up for what you believe in

even if doing so pulls you out of your comfort zone. I have learned how to be a strong leader. I know how to go through the whole decision making process.”

Caroline Beury, 16,
Oakton High School

“The current drinking laws are a big issue for people in our area. Teenagers are having trouble deciding when to step into difficult situations. Many kids are comfortable going to a party where there is drinking but drinking and driving then becomes an issue. Today’s program forced me to question my morals and re-think what I would do in pressure-centered circumstances.”



Paula Novacki,
Langley High School

“Lying is a big issue, because I feel like it can be so broad, from a white lie to something that can put someone in imminent danger. One lie leads to another, leads to another.”

“I’ve learned that leadership and ethics are two different things. One can be a leader without ethics. There are bad people in the world that can still be considered good leaders.”

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NEWS

Gov. Holton Speaks at Shepherd's Center

**Linwood Holton
talks about
his journey to
State Capitol.**

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

The first Republican governor in 100 years, Linwood Holton, reminisced about his journey to the Virginia governor's mansion and his achievements in office, during a luncheon presentation hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna [SCOV] on March 9. Holton highlighted excerpts from his book, "Opportunity Time," and incorporated allusions to the state of party affairs. His speech, peppered with humor and light-heartedness, was a series of anecdotes and analysis.

Michelle Scott, SCOV executive director, called "Opportunity Time" an "insightful historical narrative" written by the man once called the "first governor of all the people."

Many of the 80-plus guests were regulars of SCOV luncheons, but some came specifically to hear Virginia's 71st governor, father of the current First Lady of Virginia, speak.

"I saw in a church bulletin that Linwood Holton was going to be here today, and I always liked him," said Pat Levins of Vienna, who came with her husband to the event. "This is my first time here."

HOLTON LEFT Washington and Lee University after his sophomore year to join the World War II war effort. By 1950, Holton had resolved to break the Byrd political machine in Virginia and to create a true two-party system in the Commonwealth.

After he returned to civilian life, he became part of a small group dedicated to building the Republican Party in Virginia. "The appeal of Eisenhower made it the right time," Holton said.

Upon graduation from Harvard Law School, Holton applied for a position in the largest law firm in Roanoke. The principal of the firm was looking for a University of Virginia graduate, no interest in a Harvard man. "I got even with him," Holton said. "I married his daughter." The Holtons have been

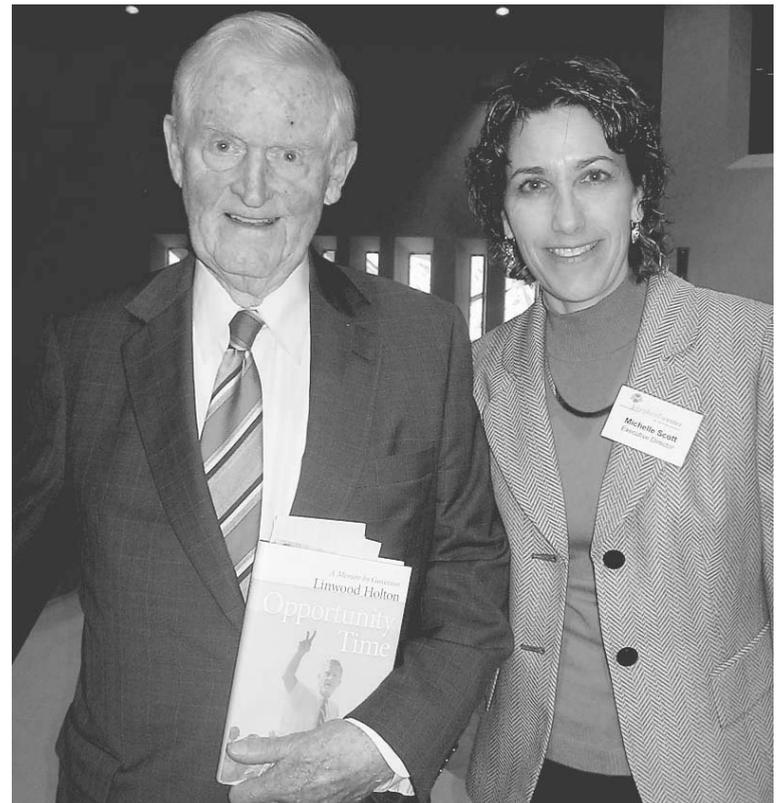


PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Former Gov. Linwood Holton spoke of his journey from law student to Virginia governor in 1970 at Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. Michelle Scott is SCOV's executive director.

married for 59 years and raised four children, all of whom, said Holton, are Democrats. Holton and his wife, Jinks, live in Weems, Va. in the Northern Neck, but keep an apartment in McLean.

He thanked his McLean neighbor for arranging his presence at the SCOV luncheon.

HE REMINDED listeners of the time when the Potomac River was a "sewage" dump, and in his gubernatorial term, he focused on cleaning up the Potomac and all Virginia rivers. He said he vowed, at that time, that "every river in Virginia will be swimmable again." He calls this success a "major accomplishment."

"The Potomac has the best bass fishing in the state," said John Tate, SCOV founding member, from the audience.

In his inaugural address of 1970, Holton called on Virginia to become a model for race relations in the country, and feels Virginia succeeded there.

The title of his book was inspired by his earlier days, when he would awaken his children for school with the words, "opportunity time."

Holton said he always encouraged his children to make up their

More

The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) is a non-profit, volunteer-based, interfaith organization sponsored by area congregations and community groups to serve older persons in the Vienna/Oakton area. SCOV's mission is to provide services that help older persons to continue to "live a life that matters." Volunteers conduct programming to enrich senior adults, particularly through the center's Adventures in Learning series. Volunteer opportunities allow individuals to feel needed by reaching out to other older adults. For more, call 703-281-0538 or visit www.scov.org.

own minds, and to vote for the best candidate. Here, he included Gov. Tim Kaine (D). The Republican Party, Holton believes, needs to "broaden its scope."

"I created a party resolved to solving problems, not engaged in ideology," said Holton. "I'm sorry the Republican Party is in the state it's in now."

He did not write his memoir for the money, Holton said, but for preservation of events. Dumas Malone, Thomas Jefferson's biographer, told Holton, "Write your memoir. Otherwise, your perspective on the issues will never be known."

"The advance check is nice, though," said Holton.

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ADVERTISING MATERIAL

Teacher Publishes Timely Story

Louise Archer Elementary author presents 'realistic' view of pre-teen bully.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Kevin D. Garrahan

"Bullying's not always about the kid who takes your lunch money," says Garrahan. "The book is about someone thinking he's better than you are, that 'might makes right.'"

Kevin Garrahan always liked writing, especially as a Navy dependent uprooted periodically as a child. He felt then, as now, that he made his voice heard when he wrote. The Louise Archer Elementary School sixth grade teacher is making his voice heard nationally with the publication of his newly published young-reader novel, "Third House Down Hidden Cove."

The story centers on the conflict 12-year-old Dan faces as he distances himself from the bully who had been his friend and befriends the victim whose flaw is that he is "poor." Jim lives in the third house down shabby Hidden Cove.

Garrahan came to Louise Archer almost 13 years ago, and the story was born a year later on a school "snow day." He was watching "garbage" on television when story ideas came into his head and he began to write, longhand, the story of a pre-teen boy examining his own conscience. He finished

the book two years after he had begun it, and until last summer, the book sat, lifeless, on his computer.

"I always wanted it to be public, but there's something about putting yourself out there like that." When he did approach a publisher directly in late fall, it was a quick turnaround to publication. "Third House Down Hidden Cove" went on the market in late February.

DANNI NICHOLLS, 12, said that Louise Archer has "no big bullying situations," but she's witnessed students saying "mean things, going back and forth, putting other friends in the middle. Some of them take one side, and some take the other side."

"It never turns out well," Danni said.

Dylan Miks, 11, read through the book quickly because he enjoyed. Danni wanted to hear the ending, which Dylan shared. "I think it ended a good way. It is realistic. It does make sense and it's a pretty happy ending all-in-all."

SEE BOOK, PAGE 15

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Fair Market Value?

Many concerns about assessing properties in Northern Virginia this year.

Less than a month ago, Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun counties, and the City of Alexandria, like other local governments, mailed each property owner a new assessment of the fair market value of the property.

What is your home's fair market value?

Most homeowners probably believe that the fair market value of their home is what they could sell it for in a reasonable period of time right now — say putting it on the market this week and allowing 30-60 days. How much would that be?

It's a tough question this year, with values dropping by more than 12 percent on average in Fairfax, nearly 15 percent in Loudoun, less than 5 percent in Alexandria

EDITORIAL

and about 2 percent in Arlington.

The tax assessors base their decisions on the sales of "comparable" properties that sold in 2008, sometimes earlier. But with the number of sales down dramatically, there are sometimes very few "comparable" sales. In Fairfax County, the majority of sales are foreclosures.

But the assessors have decided that foreclosures should not be taken into consideration

as a comparable sale.

This is questionable, and the exclusion of foreclosure sales likely inflates the value of many, if not most, properties. If houses in your neighborhood have sold in foreclosure for dramatically reduced prices, does that affect the value of your house? You know it does.

The value on the piece of paper sent to your house will determine the amount of property tax you owe this year, based on the tax rate which in most places will not be precisely set until April.

Local governments' budgets, the amount of money they have to fund schools, public safety, libraries and many other services, depend directly on how much the homes in each jurisdiction are worth, based on the tax rate. This is more so in Virginia than in many other states where localities have more leeway in choosing sources of revenue. Localities in Virginia are more dependent on property taxes because the General Assembly has strictly limited their access to other taxes. In Virginia, because it is a "Dillon Rule" state, localities only have exactly the power that the General Assembly has bestowed on them.

YOU CAN APPEAL your assessment, but the deadlines are fast approaching and the bur-

den of proof is entirely on the homeowner. You will need to be prepared to cite comparable sales from 2008 that justify your view of your home's fair market value. There are two possible steps to appeal, first to the local department of tax administration, then to each locality's Board of Equalization. The Board of Equalization is independent of the tax assessors office; it is made up of citizens appointed by the governing board.

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, the deadline to appeal to the Department of Tax Administration is April 3, and appeals to the next level must be postmarked no later than June 1. The second deadline could well roll around before a homeowner gets an answer to the administrative appeal, so it's important to engage in both processes at once. See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/> for instructions and information.

We want to hear from you; please share your opinion of your assessment, or any experiences you have in appealing your assessment.

— MARY KIMM.
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Illusion of A Free Lunch

To the Editor:

The editorial "A Million Trees?" [Connection, March 11-17, 2009] comments on the destruction of over 2 square miles of mature trees and wildlife habitat caused by the HOT-lanes project, and remarks that local residents as well as elected officials were surprised at the extent of the tree clearing and other work. Small wonder that they were surprised. This, like all other Public-Private Partnerships, has been hurried through without public hearings, without an Environmental Impact Statement and without financial transparency. VDOT and its partner, in this case Fluor-Transurban, were able to move very quickly, unencumbered by requirements for consultation and environmental analyses.

While this and other Public-Private Partnerships side-step many honored processes in our government, they are actually legal, based on legislation passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 1995 as a way to entice private companies to pay for construction projects instead of using tax revenue. Now, in retrospect, we may want to reconsider this illusion of

a free lunch. We were unpleasantly surprised by the extent of damage to our environment, but more surprises loom ahead. In the event of cost-overruns, or lack of sufficient profit for the private partner, Virginia taxpayers will pay. When developers and VDOT alone make all construction and financing decisions, we citizen taxpayers may not like what they decide. This could be the time to reconsider the Public-Private Transportation Act.

Linda Burchfiel
McLean

Helping Contain Hot Lanes Noise

To the Editor:

It's not that area residents don't have enough to shoulder with the chaos we'll be living with for years to come with Dulles Rail and Tysons redevelopment, but the addition of 495 Hot Lanes would be disastrous to a number of neighborhoods whose residents were getting the runaround by VDOT over sound barrier walls.

Enter Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and his indefatigable aide, Cheryl Patten, who, along with Del. Margi Vanderhye (D-34), worked tirelessly on this issue,

meeting with residents, calling meetings with VDOT officials and holding their feet to the fire on the flaws in their computer model for neighborhood noise testing. VDOT Secretary Homer Pierce has announced the approval of sound barrier walls along the entire Dranesville corridor impacted by the increased noise and pollution of the Hot Lanes. We thank Secretary Pierce for granting us our walls, but even more so, we thank our local elected officials who are working on our behalf.

Trish Butler
McLean

Call To Join Vanderhye

To the Editor:

I was happy to read about Del. Margi Vanderhye's (D-34) work to expand cancer screening and treatment for uninsured women in Virginia ["Vanderhye's 'Labor of Love' Meets Success in Richmond," McLean Connection, March 4-10, 2009]. This sort of innovative problem solving is what we need at a time when state funding is limited by the economic downturn.

Margi saw that many low-in-

come women in Virginia did not have access to screening, diagnoses and treatment for breast and cervical cancer, so she identified existing federal funding and sponsored legislation to set up a special fund that would allow private contributions to be used as a match for federal funds. As a result, hundreds of women can now become eligible for services without increasing the cost to Virginia taxpayers.

The bill Margi worked to get passed will not only help these women but will also save money by treating cancer in the very early stages. We should all join Margi in the effort to raise money for the fund by considering a contribution from our state income tax refund next year.

Doris Cheely
McLean

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NEWS

Business Celebrates 30th Anniversary

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CALENDAR

Send announcements to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

THURSDAY/MARCH 19

Battlefield Band, 8 p.m. at The Barns. Traditional and contemporary Scottish music. \$22. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Old School Freight Train CD Release. 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

V.I.P. Vienna, 10 a.m. at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Support group for adults with vision loss. 703-938-0405.

Teens in Turmoil. 7:30 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Dr. Carol Maxym, author of "Teens in Turmoil," will speak about dealing and working with troubled teens. Suggested donation of \$5. Call 703-281-3987 or visit www.GoodShepherdVa.com.

Memoir Writing. 8:45-10 a.m., Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Instructor Cheryl Somers Aubin, who holds an MA in writing from Johns Hopkins University, will lead participants in weekly writing exercises and share the results in a supportive atmosphere. Class held Thursdays through April 30. \$57.60/Town of Vienna residents, \$72/out-of-town participants. Call 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

FRIDAY/MARCH 20

Lara St. John, violinist, 8 p.m. at The Barns. \$35. Wolf Trap



The Russian National Ballet Theatre will perform twice at the George Mason Center for the Arts, dancing in 'Cinderella' on Friday, March 20 and 'Sleeping Beauty' on Saturday, March 21.

Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

The Russian National Ballet Theatre in "Cinderella," 8 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$27-\$54. Age 12 and under, half price Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Family Skate Nights, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center. \$1 per skater; bring your own skates and safety equipment.

English Conversation, 10 a.m. at the

Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Group for non-native English speakers. Adults. 703-938-0405.

Pokemon League, 3 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-18. 703-938-0405.

Game On, 6 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Runescape, DDR, Wii, Rock Band, pizza and soda at the library. Age 10-18. 703-938-0405.

Valery Lloyd Watts. 7 p.m., at Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road S.W., Vienna. Valery Lloyd-Watts, who has been hailed as the "world's most listened-to pianist," will perform live. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/seniors and students, free/children 2 and



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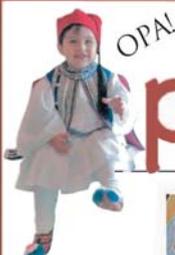


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SATURDAY/MARCH 21

HAPA, contemporary Hawaiian duo. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

The Russian National Ballet Theatre in "Sleeping Beauty," 8 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$27-\$54. Age 12 and under, half price Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Amateur Photography Contest. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. The Vienna Parks and Recreation Department's annual Amateur Photography Contest and Exhibit will be held. Photos will be judged by local professional photographers and ribbons awarded in eight categories: animals, architecture, nature, pictorial, scenic, photojournalism, portraiture and digitally enhanced. Entries will be accepted Thursday, March 19, 5-9 p.m. and Friday, March 20, 12-3:45 p.m. Entry fee: \$10 per person. Call Vienna Parks and Recreation at 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

SUNDAY/MARCH 22

HAPA, contemporary Hawaiian duo. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

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A Fairfax County, Va., publication
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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Todesbonden, Ephemeral Sun and Origin Theory, 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Academy of Ancient Music, 4 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 3:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$24-\$48. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon. 12:30 p.m., Le Mistral Restaurant, 6641 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Bloomingdale's unveils their Spring Collection and a representative from Estée Lauder presents the latest trends in skin care and make-up, door prizes will be raffled and the McLean Youth Orchestra will perform. Tickets: \$50; call 703-821-6646.

'What's the truth About Islam?' 3 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Dr. Laurent Murawiec of the Hudson Institute offers his views on militant Islamic elements. Free. 703-587-0751.

Music from Oberlin. 7:30 p.m., Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The Darwin String Quartet will perform works by Beethoven and Mozart. Free. Call 703-893-9072 or visit www.oberlin.edu/alumni.

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe. 3 p.m., Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Watch local talent present this classic story. To purchase tickets, stop by the Alden Theatre Box Office, call 703-573-SEAT or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Daylilies. 1 p.m., McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. The Northern Virginia Daylily Society will host a presentation on Meadowlark's history by Meadowlark's Chief Horticulturalist Doris Rodriguez. She will focus on the daylily collection and other major collections that can be seen when visiting the gardens. Free. Call 703-534-7729.

The Washington Moroccan Club Youth Art Event: To celebrate President Obama's Inauguration and to honor the First Family, youth, ages 5-15, are invited to create a picture at the event inspired by the theme, "Welcome the Obama Family to the White House." Pictures will then be selected to present to the First Family. Refreshments and art supplies provided. Every artist awarded. 3-6 p.m. at the McLean

Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

MONDAY/MARCH 23

Open Mic Showcase Hosted by Ron Goad. 7-10 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$2. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 24

That 1 Guy: unlike anything you have heard before. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Great Decisions Seminar, 2 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Roundtable discussion of U.S. foreign policy. Adults. 703-938-0405.

Good Night Sleep Tight, 7 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Bedtime stories and songs. Age 2-4 with adult. 703-938-0405.

Jazz Night at James Madison High School Auditorium, 7 p.m. Featuring: The James Madison and McLean High School Jazz Bands and The US Army Field Band Jazz Ambassadors.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 25

Taylor Carson, Matt York and Andrew Hoover, 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Rock-a-Bye Baby, 10:30 a.m. at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Rhymes, stories and songs. Birth-12 months with adult. 703-938-0405.

Buddy Hatton. 7 p.m., Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Watch "In Search of Shangri-La" with Alden favorite Buddy Hatton. \$8/district residents, \$10/others. Call 703-790-9223.

Cuvasion Wine Dinner. 6:30 p.m., Wildfire Tysons Galleria, 1714U International Drive, McLean. Guest speaker Don Clemens joins with Wildfire's Executive Chef Steven Lukis. \$95/person. To view the menu, visit wildfirerestaurant.com or for reservations contact Michelle Bringham at 703-442-9110.

THURSDAY/MARCH 26

Paul Thorn, gospel-inspired Americana. 8 p.m. at The Barns. \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

White Burgundy and Pinot Noir. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. A wine tour of France. Experience one of the most delicate grape varietals.

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St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100

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Andrew Chapel United Methodist ... 703-759-3509
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Oakton United Methodist ... 703-938-1233
Vale United Methodist ... 703-620-2594
Wesley United Methodist ... 703-938-8700
Smith Chapel United Methodist... 571-434-9680

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Christian Assembly Church ... 703-698-9777

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Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church... 703-560-6336
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FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Over 1,000 eighth graders, including students from McLean-based schools Saint **John the Beloved and Saint Luke**, will be encouraged to consider the Lord's call at the 14th Annual Eighth Grade Vocations Mass. The Mass encourages students to prayerfully seek their vocation as a religious, priest, consecrated or married person. "A vocation begins with Christ's love for you," said Father Brian Bashista, diocesan vocations director, "and that love for you is calling you — each of you — to a particular form of life." The Eighth Grade

Vocations Mass will be held at Holy Spirit, Annandale on March 18. There are currently 32 seminarian and 56 men and women religious in formation from the Diocese of Arlington.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or www.meditation-dc.org.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, at 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton chorale, a 60-voice adult choir, welcomes new members any time and meets Thursdays, 7:15 p.m.

The Circle of Music Makers meets the first Monday of the month, for those who can share a vocal or instrumental solo. Contact Judy Harrison at 703-281-4230, ext. 26, or jharrison@uucf.org. Joint Activities in Music at Sunrise is for preschoolers, kindergarteners, parents and residents of Hunter Mill Sunrise Assisted Living Center, on Wednesdays, 1-1:30 p.m. Contact Marsha Giusti at 703-425-1902 or giustim@juno.com.

Vienna Assembly of God has a ministry to children on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Center N and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E. Children's Church on Sundays also available. 703-938-7736 or www.ViennaAG.com.



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Almost Perfect: Oakton Girls Fall in State Finals

Cougars finish spectacular season at 30-1.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

A moment occurred during Oakton's 71-61 state AAA championship game loss to Princess Anne (Virginia Beach) Friday night, March 13, when it seemed almost inevitable that the Cougars would find a way to win and complete their remarkable season unbeaten.

In the end, it wasn't to be. But the never-say-die Cougars, in the title game played at Virginia Commonwealth University's Siegel Center in Richmond, gave the Cavaliers a fourth-quarter scare. Oakton, trailing by 11 points early in the second half, had fought back and, to the delight of its frenzied fan base, tied the game at 47-47 on a three-point shot by freshmen backup guard Katherine Coyer with seven minutes, 12 seconds remaining in the final quarter.

A few minutes later, Oakton nearly brought the house down when senior shooting guard Sasha Borojeni, with her team trailing 49-47, pumped in a three-pointer from the left wing to give the Cougars their first lead, 50-49, since early in the game when senior star Erin McGartland had opened the contest's scoring with a trey of her own.

When Borojeni's shot landed, the Cougars' faithful erupted. Oakton, which over the course of the postseason had come back from large deficits to defeat both Mount Vernon (19-point deficit) and T.C. Williams (11-points down) in the Northern Region semifinals and finals, respectively, appeared to perhaps be on way to another come-from-behind win in the final and most important game of the season.

"Being down before [in prior games] made us believe we could come back," said McGartland, a team tri-captain along with Borojeni and Brianna Johnson. "But once we got the lead, I didn't think we had them. We had to keep it going."

But the Cougars could not sustain the momentum following Borojeni's big shot. Princess Anne, following that basket, scored the game's next five points and never lost the lead thereafter. The Cougars did draw within 54-53 on sophomore Zora Stephenson's trey from the right wing with 3:50 remaining. Later, after the Cavaliers had scored four consecutive points to increase their lead to 58-53, Oakton freshmen sensation Caroline Coyer pulled the Cougars within 58-55 with a pair of free throws with 2:46 left. But Oakton could get no closer as Princess Anne finished the game

with a 13-6 streak to win.

During post-game ceremonies, the Oakton players gracefully accepted runner-up medals, and head coach Fred Priester was called out to take possession of the second place team trophy.

"Congratulations to the Oakton Cougars for a tremendous season, with a record of 30-1," the public address announcer told the crowd.

Naturally, the loss, the Cougars' only one of the season, was a blow. But it was hardly devastating.

"Everybody doubted them except themselves and me," said Priester, of the region rumblings throughout the season that the Cougars were bound to fall back to earth as the wins kept piling up. "They didn't disappoint anybody tonight. People said we're too small and too slow. But we're 30-1 and people should remember that."

OAKTON LOST the finals game, but it did so in style. The Cougars, through three-quarters, had already broken a state championship game record by converting 10, three-pointers. They would finish the game with 14 treys.

"Our hats off to Oakton," said Princess Anne coach Darnell Dozier. "They played very well. I've never seen a team shoot like that."

Oakton made 14-of-27 shots from three-point territory. Princess Anne (31-1) converted five-of-12 from long range. Oakton's McGartland (team-high 18 points), the team's emotional leader, made five treys, four coming in the first half. Borojeni (14 points, 8 rebounds) nailed four treys, while Stephenson (11

points) had two. The other three-pointers came from Caroline Coyer (8 total points, all in the second half), Katherine Coyer (5 points) and senior backup guard Jenna Cahill, who closed the game with a trey.

Oakton utilized the three-point shot all season long, but the 14 treys made in the championship game were the most for the Cougars all winter.

"It's definitely a big strategy for us - to knock down out three's," said Borojeni. "It's a big part of our game."

"You have to play 32 minutes of solid defense because all five of [Oakton's starters] can really shoot," said Dozier. "We had hands in their faces and they still made their shots. Fred's a great coach and had those kids ready to play."

While the Cougars were outstanding in their long range shooting, they could not convert their other shots, making just 3-of-32 tries from inside the three-point line.

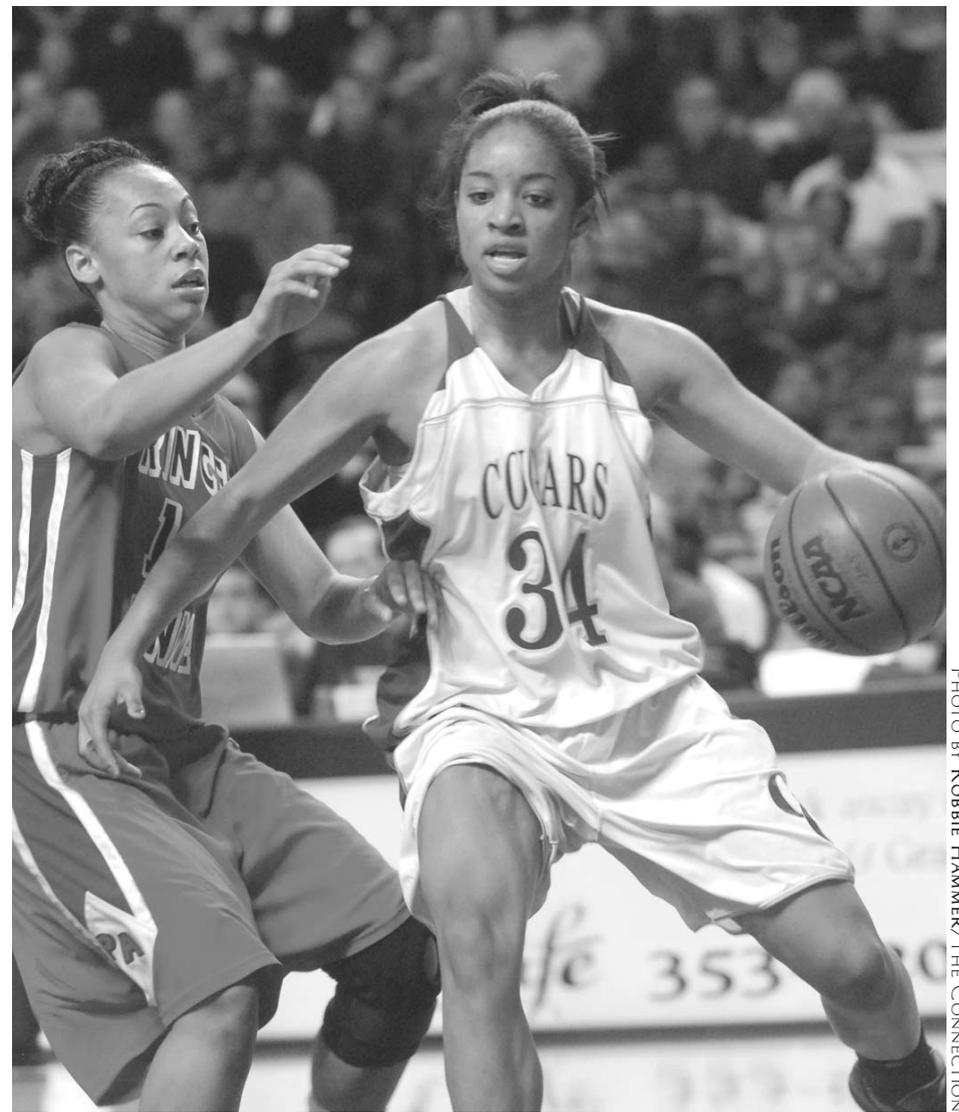


PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Oakton's Zora Stephenson (34), a sophomore guard, looks for an opening in the Princess Anne defense. Stephenson finished the night with 11 points.

Princess Anne 6-foot-3 inch sophomore center Elizabeth Williams (17 points, 7 rebounds, 2 blocked shots) was an intimidating defensive presence inside the paint. When Oakton players went to the hoop or got the ball inside, Williams forced awkward shots.

Oakton's outside shooting prowess nearly was enough to make up for the poor shooting from inside the stripe.

"I think they knew they were going to try to win the game on three's. It got kind of frustrating," said Williams, of Oakton's scorching outside touch. "But we kept our composure."

WHILE WILLIAMS was a key factor in her team's win, Princess Anne junior guard Samisha Powell was her team's best player. She finished the night with 34 points, including four, three-pointers, all in the first half. Her buzzer-beater, three-pointer off an inbound pass to close the first half gave Princess Anne a rush of momentum and a 38-29 halftime lead.

"I don't really shoot threes, so when I kept making them I was kind of excited," said Powell.

Oakton, in the latter minutes of the third

quarter, trailed 45-35 following a conventional three-point play by Williams with 2:41 left in the stanza. But the Cougars scored the final nine points of the quarter, highlighted on three-point shots by both McGartland and Caroline Coyer, to pull within 45-44 going into the fourth quarter.

Oakton continued to play well before faltering in the game's final minutes.

"We were probably rushing a little bit," said Priester, of his team's struggles in the final minutes. "We were excited and played with unbridled enthusiasm the whole game."

"Princess Anne is a very talented team and I thought we did real well," said Priester. "We had to come back a few times and the kids kept coming back. We knew we were going to shoot threes [throughout the night]. Our tallest kid is 5-8. It's the way we wanted to play. Miss Powell played a great game [for them]."

McGartland said playing in a state finals game in front of the feverish Oakton crowd was a lifetime memory. The fans encouraged their heroes at game's end.

"To see so many fans out there chanting, 'We still love you,' that meant a lot," said McGartland. "I'll never forget [the season]. It was real fun."

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Time Out Of Mind



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Time Out Of Mind
After my mother's death, it took me over two months to finally write and send thank you notes to the friends who remembered my mother by making charitable donations in her name. And though I'm not particularly proud of the lack of initiative I showed in taking as long as I did to properly respond, I am still most appreciative of the extra effort and thoughtfulness these friends exhibited. As I wrote in the thank yous that I sent, it seemed like the loss of a second parent in two years sort of knocked the initiative right out of me (or maybe that was simply my mother not being around to remind me to do something). I remember experiencing a similar malaise after my father died in Dec., 2006. And though my mother was most definitely alive and well back then, I recall feeling a little unmotivated, a little empty, and not really seeing the point and/or significance in much as I tried to find a new routine now that my father was gone.

Moreover, given the fact that our mother was now widowed, without my father as her companion for the first time in over 65 years, my brother and I knew we still had major responsibilities, not exactly care and feeding since my father's caregiver, Maria, stayed on, but life full-filling nevertheless. And not that we were the least bit put off — or put upon, quite frankly — by the task at hand, it was more that we were fulfilling a role that, unbeknownst to us, we had been preparing for — and prepared for, our whole lives.

And for most of these past two years, we had fun doing it. As difficult as I know it was for my mother to live on without my father alive and in her life, it was really quite remarkable how she adjusted to the loss. Not exactly ambulatory and almost totally hearing impaired, she persevered, and almost always with good humor. Surrounded by pictures of my father as well as pictures of the two of them at various stops in their life, she was never far removed, physically, from reminders of what, for her, had been the most important responsibility in her life: her husband (my father) and her family. Yet, she was rarely morose; sad of course, in tears occasionally, but overall, happy to be alive and not "wowing" at all about her loss or physical limitations.

Mentally, she was as sharp at the end as she had been her entire life (so far as we ever saw) and as concerned about others (my brother and I) even as she lay in the bed in which she would eventually die, as she had ever been; still concerned about my brother's comfort (sitting vs. standing by the side of her bed) and whether or not we had eaten or were hungry. Amazing!

This was the second time that my brother and I have been witness to acts of love and unselfishness by our parents as they lie dying. Whatever lessons they sought to impart to us while they were alive pale in comparison to the lessons they taught us while they were dying.

My parents both died with dignity, class and concern for their family. At a time in their lives when it most assuredly should have been about them, they continued to try and make it about us. No wonder we miss them so much.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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SCHOOLS

Celebrating 11,741 books

Vienna ES students exceed Readathon goal.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

After three weeks and 11,741 books, the students at Vienna Elementary School earned the appellation of booklovers. On behalf of the students there who would rather read than watch television, fourth-grader Samantha Collings summed it up, "If you watch a lot of TV, you won't be very smart."

"My mom says TV fries your mind."

On March 9, Vienna Elementary celebrated the conclusion of its Readathon with a story read by Vienna's mayor, line dances and lunch treats. In honor of the occasion in which the 400-plus student body exceeded its Readathon goal of 10,000 books, the school's PTA will raffle off a book for each classroom at the annual book fair.

Vienna Elementary Principal Jeannette Black dressed as Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat, and Mayor M. Jane Seeman read an animated "Amelia Bedelia for Mayor." Music teacher David Reynolds led off rousing line dances that resembled late 1980s



Mayor M. Jane Seeman and Vienna Elementary School Principal Jeannette Black congratulate the school's students on their Readathon accomplishment.

breakdancing, eliciting cheers from the crowd. The Vienna Elementary School Staff All-Star Dancers followed along.

Courtney Moffitt, fourth grade, offered yet another reason why reading beats television: "A lot of times when you're watching TV, you start eating and don't pay attention to what you're eating, so, you eat a lot of junk food and that can be bad for your health."



Courtney Moffitt, fourth grade:

"I read because it's fun to do instead of having to watch TV. You get to learn about stuff and it's fun and relaxing to do. I read a biography on Abigail Adams and that was very interesting."



Charis McClain, fourth grade

"I think reading is calming. It's a good thing to do when you're mad. I normally go outside to read, but not in the winter. I liked all the books I read. I thought of my favorite ... 'Because of Winn Dixie.'"



Hannah Hibbs, fourth grade

"It's relaxing. If I get a good book, I can read forever. 'Escaping the Giant Wave' is my favorite."



Samantha Collings, fourth grade

"The Seekers' is my favorite book. I read because it's calming and it's a lot better than sitting around watching TV. And it's really interesting when you find a good book and you kind of get stuck in it, and you don't want to stop reading it. And your first priority is finishing it."

Book Offers Lessons on Life

FROM PAGE 5

"TO ME, what a kid is looking for in his life is equilibrium," Garrahan said. He reads excerpts of his original stories to his classes and they discuss the lessons within.

Assistant Principal Lisa Pilson, who ordered a personal copy of the book, said, "Mr. Garrahan is a phenomenal orator. ... An incredibly talented man. I think his talent is that he is able to relate historical situations to current situations. He is so worth celebrating."

Garrahan, the son of a career Navy man, comes from a family of five boys and one

girl. He's the father of 10-year-old fraternal twins, a boy and a girl. His wife and siblings, he said, are big supporters.

"I tell my students that when you write, you get to create characters, situations, and settings that don't exist until you say they can," said Garrahan.

"THIRD HOUSE DOWN HIDDEN COVE" is available at www.PublishAmerica.com, www.Barnesandnoble.com, and www.Amazon.com, and is priced between \$22.45 and \$24.99, plus shipping.

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE

OF VALUABLE

IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as

3533 Valeview Drive, Oakton, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Michael Cole and Susan Benikas, dated July 24, 2002, and recorded August 5, 2002, in Deed Book 13181 at page 1017 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 30, 2009 At 11:00 a.m.

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

Lot 36, Section 4-C, Valewood Manor Subdivision, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 5534 at page 1575, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 3533 Valeview Drive, Oakton, Virginia 22124.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$5,000.00 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 3.25 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 be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

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

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 materialman'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 agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

This sale is being made subject to a superior trust.

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 the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

David N. Prenskey
Chasen & Chasen
Suite 500
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.
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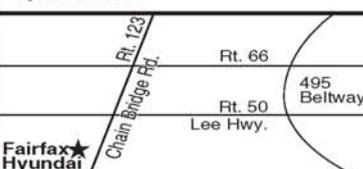
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