

First at States

SPORTS, PAGE 9

Robinson's Jacob Crawford works on Bayside's Michael Chaifant's arm during the 130-pound final at the Virginia AAA State wrestling tournament.

County Executive Releases Budget

NEWS, PAGE 3

Bulova, Petersen Meet Constituents

NEWS, PAGE 3

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PHOTO BY YVONNE LANDIS CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 9 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 12

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County Releases Proposed Budget

Proposal includes cuts to police, schools, libraries, recreation, and virtually everything else.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Christine Niemann likes to check-out workbooks, nonfiction and mysteries from the Sherwood Hall Regional Library. But she also has more unusual reasons for visiting the Mount Vernon facility at least once every couple of weeks. Niemann likes to shop online on the computers at the library.

Niemann, who was browsing Zappos.com for shoes one recent afternoon, understands why the Fairfax County executive Anthony Griffin has proposed cutting back on library branch hours, given Fairfax's budget shortfall next year of more than \$250 million.

In tough times, Niemann knows library patrons like her will be able to adjust to the cuts. But Niemann worries about people who may be relying on the library, particularly its computers, for more pressing matters.

"[A cut to library hours] is not the worst thing except for what it does to all the kids who come here after school because they don't have internet access at home," said Niemann.

In addition to students, the Sherwood Hall staff has also seen more adults with limited Internet access using the library's computers, said branch manager Denise Morgan.

"I have seen more and more people in here applying for jobs. Lots of companies require that you apply online now," said Morgan.

"I think lots of people are using the library to try and find jobs."

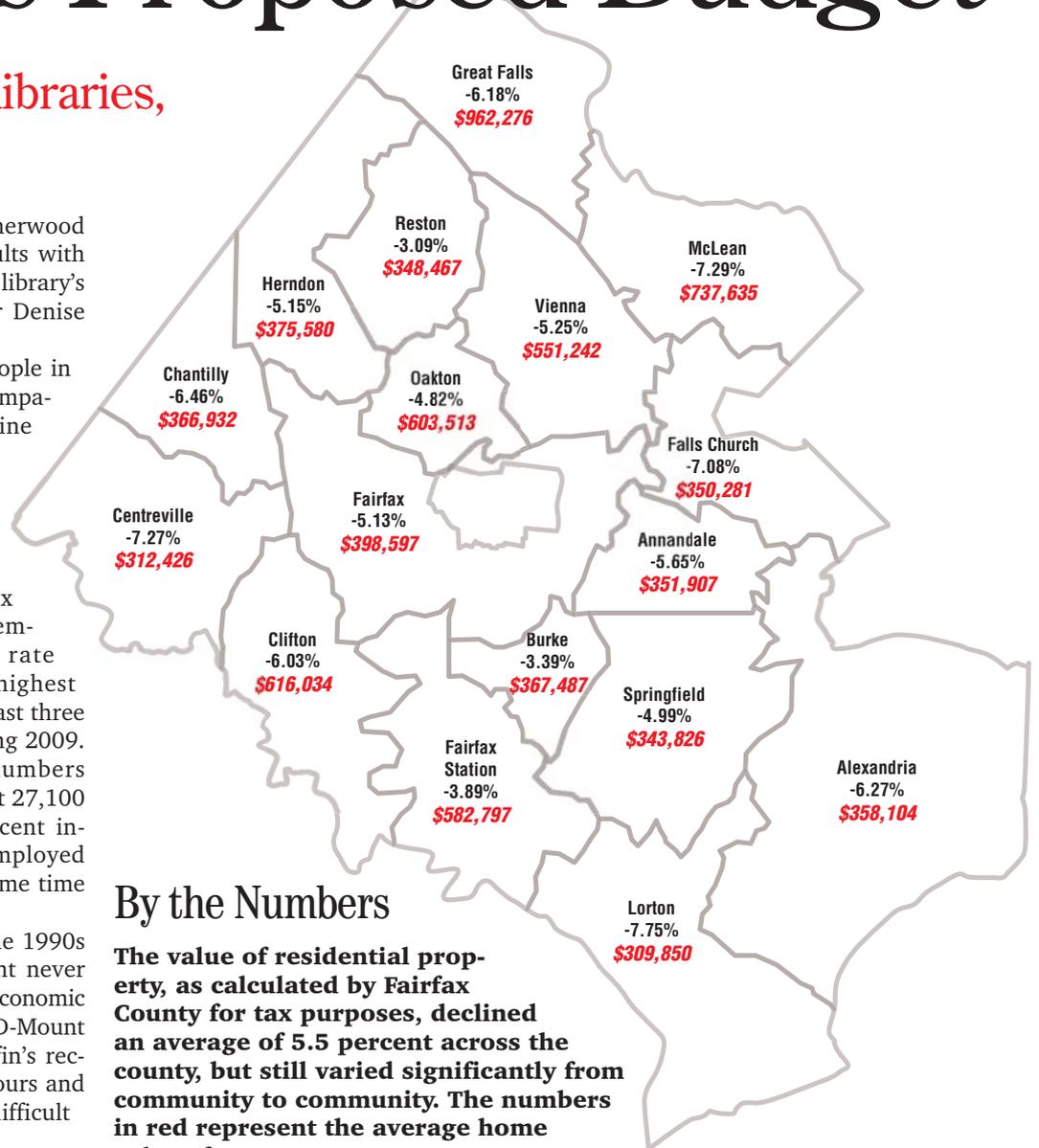
— Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon)

Climbing to over 5 percent last summer, Fairfax County's unemployment rate reached its highest point of the last three decades during 2009. The latest numbers

suggest Fairfax currently has about 27,100 unemployed residents, a 34 percent increase over the number of unemployed people living the county at the same time last year.

In previous recessions during the 1990s and 2001, Fairfax's unemployment never got above four percent. Given that economic climate, Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) seemed skeptical of Griffin's recommendation to reduce library hours and services next year, even during a difficult

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 4



By the Numbers

The value of residential property, as calculated by Fairfax County for tax purposes, declined an average of 5.5 percent across the county, but still varied significantly from community to community. The numbers in red represent the average home values for 2010.

MAP BY LAURENCE FOONG

Petersen: 'Not a Lot of Good News'

State legislators meet with constituents in Feb. 20 Town Hall meeting.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

The looming state budget crisis and subsequent concerns over program and service cuts made for a packed house for Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) and Del. David Bulova's (D-37) Town Hall meeting Saturday, Feb. 20.

The meeting, which took place in the Fairfax City Council Chambers, drew more than 100 people eager to hear Petersen and Bulova's take on the proposed state budget and legislation they are introducing and supporting. While nearly every facet of the proposed budget was touched upon, education was the central topic of discussion at the two-hour meeting.

"I thought that the session went pretty well," Fairfax resident Leon Long said.

"They had a wide range of issues to discuss that appeal to the public, and they did a great job addressing those."

Petersen and Bulova began the meeting with an overview of the state budget situation, and the consequences of the projected \$1.98 billion and \$2.11 billion shortfalls in Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012, respectively. Bulova listed, line by line, all of the state's lost revenue, including decreases in income tax and sales tax revenue, which in turn lead to the gap in the budget. Bulova stressed the gravity of the budget situation, noting that in years past, a precarious budget situation meant that there was slow revenue growth, not loss.

"Two years ago, we stood up here saying that a bad budget year is when revenue is growing but not as fast as it should be," Bulova said. "This year, we're seeing nega-

tive revenue growth. The bottom line is that we've moved past the phase where we're cutting back on programs. Where we are is the governor is cutting entire programs."

The education is just one of the areas facing cuts, but is perhaps the area most significantly impacted, both Petersen and Bulova said. According to Petersen, the budget calls for a \$731 million reduction in the budget for state schools, but the bigger concern, he said, is ensuring that the Local Composite Index (LCI) is not frozen, as proposed by former Gov. Timothy Kaine (D). The LCI is the measure used to determine the state and local shares of K-12 education costs, and is based on data derived from local sources of revenue including adjusted gross income and taxable retail sales.

The LCI is updated every two years, and with a shrinking revenue base due to the decreased tax income, Fairfax County's rating is slated to drop from a rating of .76 to .71. Though the lower rating should mean

that the county receives more funding, Kaine's proposed freeze would keep the rating at 2008 levels, which means that Fairfax County stands to lose \$61.6 million in state funding. Petersen said that if the freeze is upheld by Gov. Bob McDonnell (R), the LCI would actually be using property value and tax revenue numbers from 2005, since the LCI is computed every two years.

"I went ballistic when I heard [about the freeze]," Petersen said. "Freezing it would have locked us into the 2005 numbers and that's grounds for a lawsuit; using false numbers in the equation. Even if we get hammered in other areas, if we can win on the LCI issue, it's a victory."

In addition to fighting the potential LCI freeze, Petersen and Bulova both said that they would do whatever is necessary to lessen the cuts on the school budget. Petersen and Bulova both agreed that the cuts are too severe and would weaken a robust school system that is often a marketing

SEE TOWN HALL, PAGE 12

Concert at Auld Shebeen To Raise Film Money

The Scott Dayton Situation a short, independent film shooting in the Fairfax area, is putting on a fund-raising concert on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 5-9 p.m., at the Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. The concert features the band starring in the film, Fools and Horses [foolsandhorses.net], as well as two other local bands, Lady Palms and The Shields Brothers. A raffle will take place during the concert, with lots of prizes. Tickets are \$15 at the door, with the proceeds going toward financing the production.

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Springfield/Fairfax Land Use

The next meeting of the Springfield District/Fairfax Center Land-Use Committee is Tuesday, March 2, at 7 p.m., in rooms 4 and 5 of the Fairfax County Government Center. Two APR nominations will be discussed. Call Marlae Schnare at 703-451-8873.

Citizens Police Academy Offered for City Residents

The City of Fairfax Police Department is holding the third session of its Citizens Police Academy from March 18, 2010 through May 20, 2010. It offers an opportunity for interested citizens to learn about the role of the Police Department and its many functions, services and capabilities. Initiated in 2007 by Police Chief Richard Rappoport, the objective isn't to train individuals to be police officers, but to produce informed citizens.

Citizens and police officers meet each other face-to-face in a neutral, friendly setting, so each group develops an understanding of the other. By helping citizens learn about its operations and personnel, the Department hopes to reduce fears and misconceptions that may exist and which result in conflicts caused simply by lack of understanding.

Applicants to attend must meet the following minimum requirements: Be a city resident or work in the City of Fairfax, be at least 18, pass a police background check and be a U.S. citizen. Classes are Thursdays from 6:30-9 p.m. For more information, contact Sgt. Pam Nevlund at 703-385-7966 or Capt. Michael Artone at 703-385-7972. To obtain an application, go to <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/Police/CitizenPoliceAcademy.asp>.

Indoor Farmers Market Open

An indoor farmers market has opened in a storefront within the Fairfax Corner shopping center, off Monument Drive in Fairfax. The address is 11895 Grand Commons Ave., between the Lucy and Il Vino stores, and the market will be open every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

A wide selection of products will be offered, including winter fruits and vegetables, meats, dairy products, baked goods, gluten-free products and a large variety of prepared foods. It'll be run by Smart Markets, which operated last summer's farmers market in both Centreville and Fairfax Corner. The market will be there through April, when it will return to its site in the shopping center's parking lot.

County Budget Plan

FROM PAGE 3

budget cycle.

"When I drive by the Sherwood Hall Regional Library in the morning, I see people already lined up to use it when the doors open. I think lots of people are using the library to try and find jobs," said Hyland.

The down economy, driving Fairfax's unemployment, is also behind Griffin's recommendations to cut funding to libraries, parks, public safety, social services and virtually every other department, agency, program or service that gets local dollars.

Fairfax funds approximately 62 percent of its local budget through local real estate property taxes.

In the county, residential home values, which account for more than 80 percent of the county property tax revenue, have declined approximately 5.5 percent this year. Commercial real estate has taken an even bigger dive of 18.2 percent, creating a far weaker revenue stream for Fairfax's 2011 budget.

Griffin proposed that Fairfax County Public Schools should take a reduction in financial assistance from the county in 2011, unprecedented even during other tough economic times.

The county executive made his initial budget proposal for the next fiscal year, which starts in July, on Feb. 22. Griffin closed a \$257.2 million funding gap in Fairfax's \$3 billion-plus general fund by making approximately \$119 million in cuts and raising approximately \$120 million in revenue.

PROPOSED BUDGET cuts would result in the loss of approximately 280 county positions, not including those in the school system, and force the county to lay off approximately 100 employees, said Griffin.

Revenue enhancements include restoring a county vehicle fee of \$33 per car and raising rates for the

School Age Child Care program that the county operates for public school students in the afternoon.

Under Griffin's proposal, Fairfax's real estate property tax rate would also increase from \$1.04 to \$1.09, though declines in home values would mean that Fairfax residents would pay approximately \$48.55 less on their property tax bill than they did last year, even though the rate would be going up.

After a series of public hearings on April 6, 7 and 8, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors will mark up the budget and adopt it formally later that month.

Fairfax schools' funding has traditionally accounted for between 50 percent and 55 percent of the county's government spending each year. With a 3 percent reduction in the county general fund overall next year, Griffin said it would have been very difficult to maintain the school system's funding at least year's level.

He has called for a 1 percent reduction to the schools annual transfer, which typically amounts to approximately \$1.6 billion. But earlier this year, the school system had indicated that they would ask the county to increase their transfer by approximately 5 percent, or \$82 million.

If the Board of Supervisors adopts Griffin's suggestion to reduce school funding, then the School Board would have to cut approximately \$98 million out of its budget for next year.

School superintendent Jack Dale has indicated that programs such as foreign language immersion, elementary band and strings, and most full-day kindergarten classes would be eliminated. He has also said he would have to raise the average number of students in a class significantly.

Several other agencies have been asked to cut far more than 1 percent from their annual spending plans. Fairfax libraries and parks, for example, would take a 15 percent reduction in Griffin's current proposal.



DONATED PHOTO

Members of the Campus Ministry prepare made to order omelets.

Paul VI Enjoys Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

On Tuesday, Feb. 16, the Paul VI Catholic High School community gathered for their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The crowd was festive,

the pancakes delicious and the omelets were popular as always. More than 100 students, teachers, parents and community friends gathered for food, fun and fellowship.

POETRY

After the Blizzard (Well After)

I look out on the street,
pristine, white, neat,
only a moment ago.
Oh, no!
It's one of those VDOT beasts —
ten thousand pounds, at least;
guttural sounds compete
with indiscrete clanks, beeps,
as it banks white into brown,
blocks my drive,
snow-locks my mailbox,
and leaves the Appalachians
where the sidewalk once lay.
Uh oh.
It turns around,
comes back.
Appalachians rise to Himalayas.
Drat!

Finally,
it moves away;
I hear the driver say,
"Gotcha! Gotcha!
Have a nice day!

— ED SADTLER, FAIRFAX



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COMMUNITY

Local Club Hosts Black History Forum

Sixteen students from four schools display knowledge of African American history.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Mount Vernon High School took home the trophy for the 26th annual Black History Month Forum, which may have surprised the four students from that school more than their 12 competitors.

"I thought we lost," said Kenya George. "The autobiography questions were really hard."

"I really thought Lake Braddock was going to win," said Isaiah Floyd. Other members of the winning team were Mfonobong Emah and Christalyn Solomon.

In total, 12 students from four schools — Lake Braddock Secondary, Mount Vernon High, Fairfax High and The Flint Hill School — competed in a new "Jeopardy!"-style

question and answer game. Each school had three contestants and an alternate, and each group of four students, one from each school, competed in a 25-question round in Olsson theater at Flint Hill School in Oakton.

The questions covered a variety of topics, from Eminent Leaders, in which the answers were the names of African American pioneers in the fields of athletics, science, academics and politics, to music, sports, literature, the civil rights movement. The "In Our Backyard" category that featured significant events and landmarks in Virginia and Washington, D.C.

The annual quiz competition is sponsored by the Burke-Fairfax Chapter of Jack and

"We're trying to get our young people excited about our history and take part in learning."

— Carla Mazique

SEE BLACK HISTORY, PAGE 6

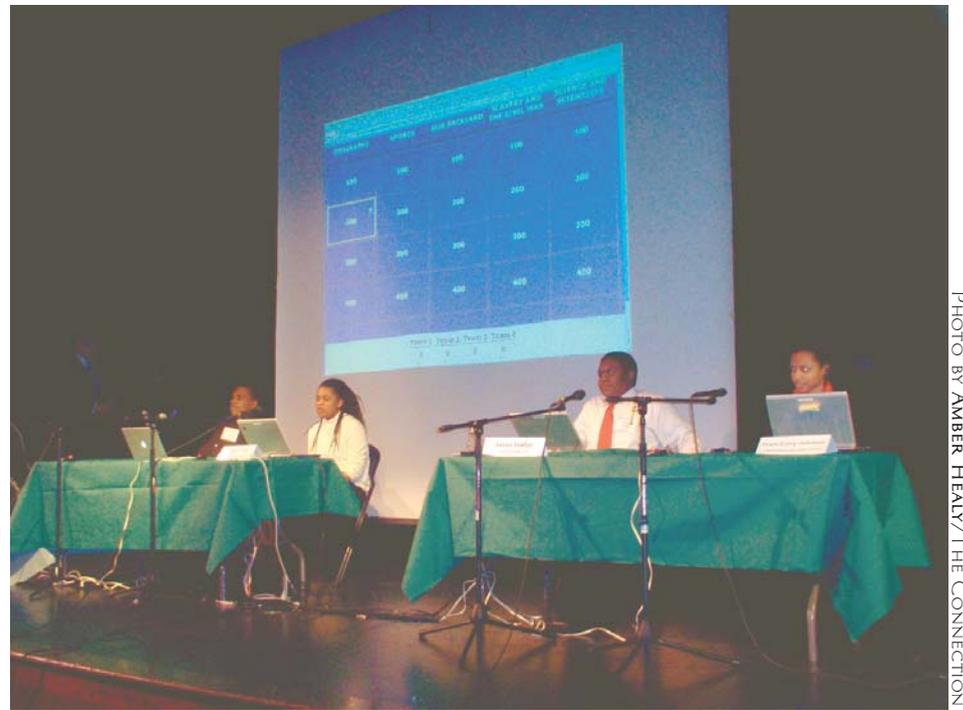


PHOTO BY AMBER HEALY/THE CONNECTION

Students from The Flint Hill School, Fairfax High School, Lake Braddock Secondary School and Mount Vernon High School tried their luck answering questions in a 'Jeopardy!'-style quiz game for the 26th annual Black History Month Forum, held this year at The Flint Hill School in Oakton.

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COLLEGE

Drew University student **Elizabeth Reams** of Fairfax has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2009 semester.

Fairfax residents **Rohini Balakrishna Banavar**, doctor of dental medicine in dentistry, honors; **Stephen M. Law**, bachelor of arts in philosophy; **Matthew J. Negrin**, bachelor of science in journalism, cum laude; **Lindsey R. Dube**, master of science in business administration and management recently graduated from Boston University.

Vanessa Arroyo of Fairfax recently graduated with a bachelor of science in

hotel and restaurant administration from Cornell University.

Ashley Lynn Cagle of Fairfax recently graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor of science in civil engineering.

Ian Llewellyn Kennedy of Fairfax recently graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor of arts in economics.

Jared Mark Sues of Fairfax recently graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering.

Kerone Adelita Jones of Fairfax

recently graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor of science in design and environmental analysis.

Karrar Elrayah of Fairfax was named to the dean's list for the fall 2008 semester at Old Dominion University. To qualify, students must have a grade point average of 3.4 or higher, with no grade below a C. He is an international studies major in the College of Arts and Letters.

Danielle N. Hayler of Fairfax has been named to the spring 2009 dean's list at Georgia Southern University. Hayler is a sophomore, majoring in pre-early childhood education.



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CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY/FEB. 26

The Virginia Opera presents Mozart's Don Giovanni. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.

Lake Braddock Chorus Annual Swing Dance & Silent Auction.

7 p.m. in the Lake Braddock Secondary School Cafeteria, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Swing dancing and lessons, musical performances and refreshments. The auction includes sports and events tickets, dinners out, vacations, gift certificates and more. \$7 per person, \$25 family passes. 703-725-3465.

Brendan's Voyage, 7 p.m., at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

Friends of the Burke Centre

Library Big Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

Jammin' Java's Mid-Atlantic Band Battle II Finals. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 27

Brendan's Voyage, 7-9:30 p.m., at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

Civil War Author Book Mart. 12-4 p.m. at The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Local and

regional Civil War authors and film directors will discuss, sell, and sign their fiction and non-fiction books and film productions. Sales include a 20 percent donation to the preservation of Historic Blenheim. Cash or checks only. Light refreshments served. 703-591-0560.

Inova Blood Drive.

10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Photo ID required. Appointments preferred, call 1-866-256-6372. Adults. 703-644-7333.

Polar Bear Club Polar Bear

Reading Club Party. 2:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Celebrate the end of the Polar Bear Reading Club with cake, juice and fun. All Ages. 703-644-7333.

Friends of the Burke Centre

Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring.

10-11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to use a computer, navigate the Internet, and work with common software applications. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy: Masters of the Fiddle.

8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$22-\$44. Youth through grade 12, half price. Charge at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/FEB. 28

The Virginia Opera presents

Mozart's Don Giovanni. 2 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.

Disney Live Rockin' Road Show.

12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. At the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. \$22-\$55. Tickets available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Beth Rinaldo, Scott Holland & Friends CD Release and The Honey Dewdrops.

2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$8. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Fairfax County Electric Sunday

Recycling Event. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax. Residents can recycle televisions, computers, keyboards, speakers, printers, external drives, unbroken fluorescent light bulbs and tubes and more. Free for Fairfax County residents. 703-324-5052, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling.

MONDAY/MARCH 1

British alternative rock band

Muse with Silversun Pickups. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$55, available online at www.ticketmaster.com or via Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities by calling 703-993-3035. www.muse.mu or www.patriotcenter.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 4

The Guggenheim Grotto and Tiger

Cooke. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Burke Youth Hula Hoops & Halos

Family Musical. 7 p.m. at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5960 Oak

Leather Drive, Burke. Free, reservations required by e-mail to Tickets@BurkePresChurch.org. Donations accepted.

Tennessee Williams' "Orpheus

Descending." 8 p.m. at George Mason University TheatreSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$12. 703-993-8888.

FRIDAY/MARCH 5

Chase Coy. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

That 1 Guy 'Packs a Wallop' Tour.

10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$12 advance, \$15 day of show. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Burke Youth Hula Hoops & Halos

Family Musical. 8 p.m. at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5960 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Free, reservations required by e-mail to Tickets@BurkePresChurch.org. Donations accepted. A complete meat loaf dinner will be served between 6:15 -7:15 p.m. Dinner ticket prices are \$12 per adult and \$6 for children ages 2-12. Children under 2 are free.

Tennessee Williams' "Orpheus

Descending." 8 p.m. at George Mason University TheatreSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$12. 703-993-8888.

SATURDAY/MARCH 6

Indoor Flea Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at City of Fairfax Senior Center, Green Acres Center Cafeteria, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Lunch available for nominal cost. Booth proceeds benefit the Senior Center. 703-359-2487 or jormesher@fairfaxva.gov.

New Zealand Dance Troupe Black

Grace. 8 p.m. at George Mason Center for the Arts, 4500 University Drive, Fairfax. A fusion of traditional Pacific cultures and contemporary dance, thundering stomps and syncopated body slaps, and three-part harmonies with movement that softly curves and sways. Composed of men of Pacific Islander and Maori descent, the ensemble features seven robust dancers who do not fit the American prototype of a dancer. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$21-\$42. Charge at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Jimmy Lange vs. Chase "The

White Tiger" Shields Boxing Card. 7:30 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets are \$30-\$500, available online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Burke Youth Hula Hoops & Halos

Family Musical. 8 p.m. at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5960 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Free, reservations required by e-mail to Tickets@BurkePresChurch.org. Donations accepted. A complete meat loaf dinner will be served between 6:15 -7:15 p.m. Dinner ticket prices are \$12 per adult and \$6 for children ages 2-12. Children under 2 are free.

Women's History Month Program:

Writing Women Back into History, at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Marion Bobbins portrays Jennie Dean, African-American educator and founder of the Manassas Industrial School at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Explore quilting in "Stitching Pretty through Hard Times: Quilts and Sewing Arts of the 1930s" from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Space is limited. 703-385-8415.

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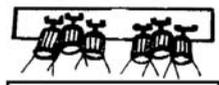
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Lenox's Charge Comes Up Short for Cavs

W.T. Woodson boys' hoops team loses to West Potomac in district title game 70-67.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

At half-time of the Patriot District finals on Feb. 22 at T.C. Williams, West Potomac enjoyed a nine-point lead over Woodson and

Wolverine fans began to fantasize about cutting the net off the hoop.

Defensive breakdowns and poor shot selection put the Cavs in a 37-28 hole, but with 16 minutes left to play, senior Max Lenox still had time to work some basketball magic.

"We always have weak second quarters," Lenox said. "We're a second-half team. It's the third time we've [been behind] in the tournament, but we believed in ourselves."

In the second half, Lenox led a Cavalier charge and brought the game to a 59-59 tie by driving the net and forcing fouls in the paint. The senior finished the game with a team-high 28 points.

"We tried to get to the [hoop] more," he

said. "We got away from outside shots."

With the ball in his hands, the game tied and the final seconds of the fourth quarter ticking away, an unfortunate mishap kept the Cavs from running a game winning play.

"I didn't go off a screen and got picked," Lenox said. "West Potomac got a steal from that."

West Potomac picked up the loose ball and attempted to score a game-winning shot, but time ran out. In the following overtime period, West Potomac built a comfortable lead and the Cavs

couldn't complete their desperate comeback.

The Wolverines went on to win 70-67.

While the loss disappointed the Cavaliers, Woodson head coach Doug Craig noted his team has been playing comeback basketball for most of the tournament.

"We've played from behind a lot and I think that wears on your legs a little bit," he said. "We seem to have little lulls and we just don't play well offensively. That put

"We worked hard and we lost a big player on our team and still made it here."

— Max Lenox



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

The Woodson boys' basketball team lined up after their 70-67 overtime loss to West Potomac to be honored as Patriot District runner-up.

us behind tonight."

Craig also said the final moments of the fourth quarter were a game changer for West Potomac.

"West Potomac is an outstanding team and they deserved to win," Craig said. "But if you let a good team have a second life, this is what happens."

Despite the loss, Lenox found some consolation in the fact his team had reached the district finals without the aid of John Schoof, one of the team's best players who missed the entire season due to an injury.

"We worked hard and we lost a big player on our team and still made it here," Lenox said.

Crawford Takes First at States, Rams Second Overall

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Standing on the mats at the Virginia State AAA wrestling finals Robinson Secondary School sophomore Jacob Crawford glared at his opponent in the 130-pound weight class.

Wearing a yellow, blue and white camouflage wrestling outfit, his intimidating body language and attire suggested this match was part of a greater mission.

"My goal since eighth grade has been to be a four-time state champion," said Crawford who, as a freshman, won a 2009 state title while attending Millbrook High School, an AA program, in Winchester. He got his chance on Feb. 20 as Robinson played hosted to top wrestlers from around the state.

As the match began, Crawford and Michael Chaifant of Frank W. Cox High School in Virginia Beach locked up and each struggled to gain an upper hand. Crawford wrapped up Chaifant for a

Jacob Crawford's hand is raised in victory as he wins his second state wrestling title in two years.

takedown, but the Cox wrestler escaped, setting the score at 2-1 after the first period.

"In the first period, he almost took me down," Crawford said. "I got it into my head to keep going and to keep the pressure on him."

With the home crowd's encouragement, Crawford spent the final two periods controlling his opponent, racking up points and keeping Chaifant from threatening his lead.

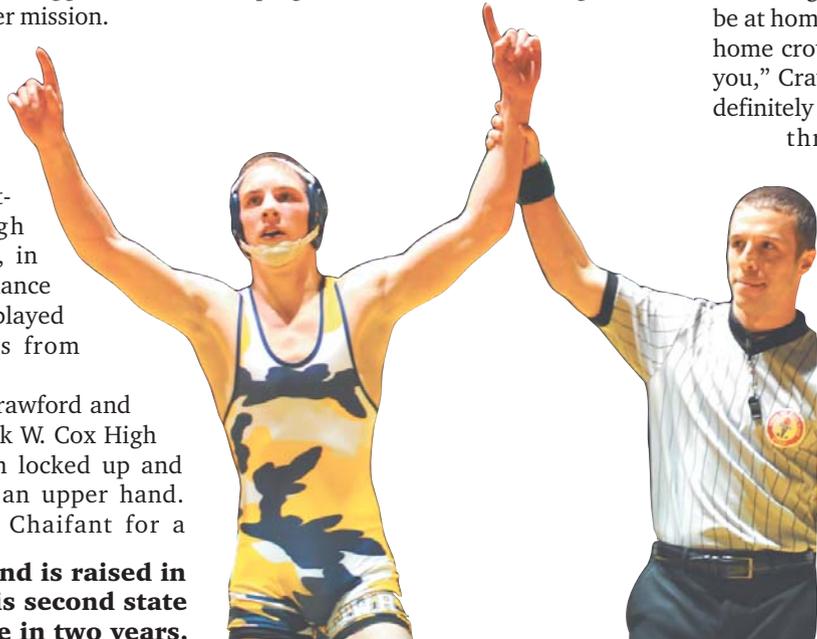


PHOTO BY YOONNE LANDIS

Robinson first Northern Region school since 1994 to finish second at state wrestling meet.

Crawford won the bout by a score of 6-2.

After the match, Robinson wrestling head coach Bryan Hazard lifted his wrestler off his feet with a victory hug while cheers from the home crowd rained down on Crawford.

"It's a great feeling to be at home and have the home crowd rooting for you," Crawford said. "It definitely helped me pull through and achieve my goal."

Crawford's win would be the only state title win for the Rams, who placed second overall at the state tournament.

"You don't see very many [two-time champions]," Hazard said. "You don't get to be with many in your life. He's special."

Hazard said that he knew he was coaching a special talent when Crawford trans-

ferred to Robinson prior to the 2009-2010 season.

"You can push that kid as hard as you need to, and then he just wants more," Hazard said. "He's everything you want in an athlete."

After winning his second state title, Crawford didn't take long to savor the win. Instead, his thoughts turned to the next state title attempt.

"I'm going to improve in every position out on the mat," he said. "If I

work as hard as I can, hopefully I can achieve my goal."

Robinson's accomplishments didn't stop with Crawford. The Rams are the first Northern Region team since Centreville in 1994 to place second at the state meet. Cox High School took first place and the state title.

"We wanted to win it," Hazard said. "But it's nice [to get second]. It's nice to come

"He's everything you want in an athlete."

— Bryan Hazard

SEE CRAWFORD, PAGE 10

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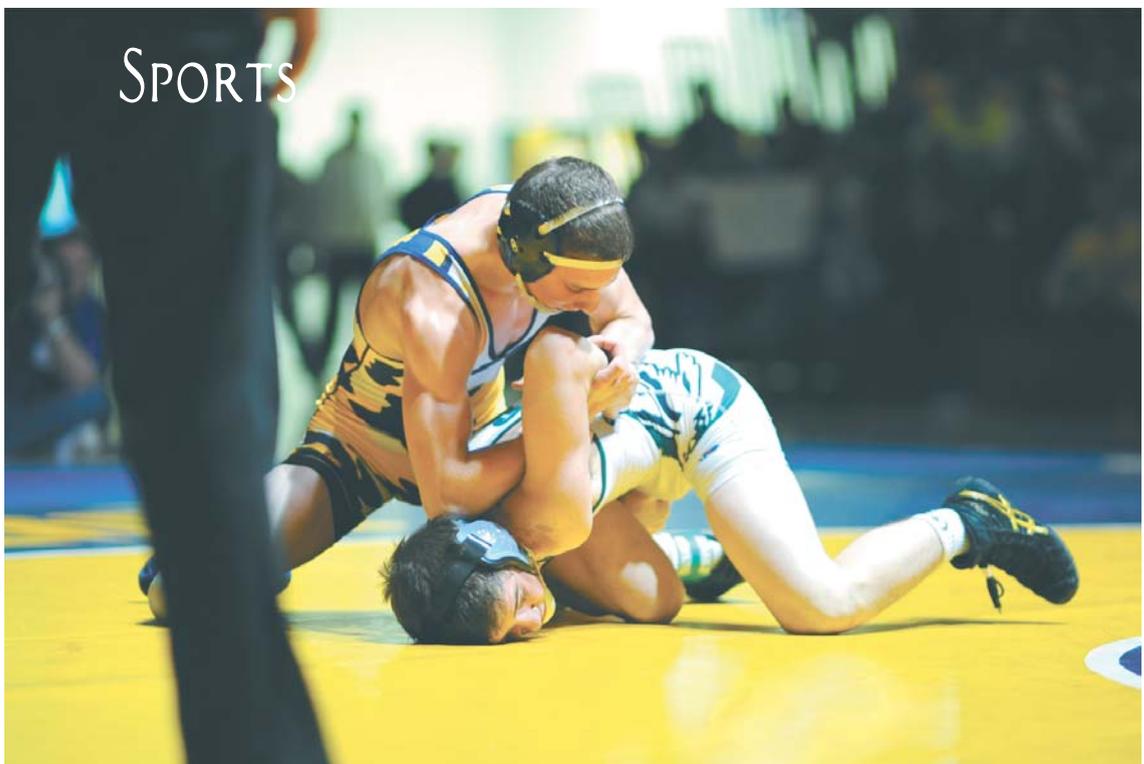


PHOTO BY YVONNE LANDIS

Jacob Crawford works on Michael Chaifant's arm during the 130-pound state final. Crawford defeated Chaifant for the title by a score of 6-2.

Crawford Leads Rams in States

FROM PAGE 9

out of here with some hardware."

Hazard said the short break between the Northern Region tournament, which finished on Feb. 17, and the start of the state finals on Feb. 19, as a possible factor in Robinson second-place finish.

"It is really hard to cut weight for six days," he

said. "Then you have to come back and wrestle with emotion for [two days]."

Robinson's Dallas Smith also competed for a state title in the 103-pound weight class. Deep Run's Kasey Early defeated Smith 8-3 in a match where Smith found himself trailing 5-3 after the first period.

"I just didn't wrestle as well as I planned and gave up a bunch of points early," Smith said.

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SPORTS

Lady Rams Dominate at States

Robinson girls' capture second state title in a row.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

It only took one race for Robinson head swimming coach Clayton Joyner to feel a victory vibe at the Virginia AAA State Swim and Dive finals on Feb. 19 in Virginia Beach.

"As soon as the meet started the girls opened up as state champions in the 200-meter medley relay," he said. "When that happened, I knew we were going to win the state."

Joyner's prediction came true. The girls' went on to capture the 2009-10 state swimming title with 227.5 points, their second state title in a row. Langley finished in second with 166 points, followed by Osbourn in third with 127 points.

"Overall it was a great trip and we came out with the [win]," Joyner said. "We won in dominating fashion and I like that."

The first year head coach felt the team had the ability to repeat as state champs when he took over the team in December.

"I knew in the beginning of the season we had a really good shot to win the state," he said. "As long as we didn't do anything stupid and we stayed focused, we could win it."

Although it was a team victory, individual performances helped buoy the Rams above their competitors.

After earning a time of 2:01.90 in the medley relay, sophomore Rachael Canty spearheaded the Rams push for the state title.

Canty's third place finish in the girls' 100-meter breaststroke padded Robinson's point total, and she also contributed as a member of the 200-meter freestyle relay and 200-meter medley relay.

"She was huge for us," Joyner said. "When the going gets tough and I need someone on the front lines, she's one of the first people I want there."

While one state title winning streak has begun to the Rams, another met an end.

The boys' swim team's seven-year state title streak expired at the hands of Oakton who won the boys' state title with 202 points. Robinson finished in fourth with 152 points. Despite the disappointing loss, Joyner said the team is far from entering a rebuilding year. "We're returning just about every person on the boys' team," Joyner said. "Our guys are going to come out swinging next year."

"I knew in the beginning of the season we had a really good shot to win the state."

— Clayton Joyner, Robinson head coach

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- 3126 Barbara Lane.....\$599,900 ..Sun. 1-4.....Weichert.....Theodosia Dampier.....703-919-2212
- 10202 Scout Dr.....\$449,900 ..Sun. 1-4.....Weichert.....Joan Bentley-Mussen.....703-409-8845
- 9916 Colony Rd.....\$564,900 ..Sun. 1-4.....Weichert.....Tonya Nelson.....703-975-1570

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- 11611 Yates Ford Rd.....\$750,000 ..Sun. 1-4.....Keller Williams Capital.....Karen Paris.....571-220-7503
- 7605 Rustle Ridge Ct.....\$839,950 ..Sun. 1-4.....Weichert.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....703-862-8808

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- 1836 BATTEN HOLLOW Rd...\$849,000 ..Sun. 1-4.....FAIRFAX REALTY.....SANDY LEAF.....703-727-3004

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Town Hall Meeting

FROM PAGE 3

tool to recruit new businesses into the county. Petersen said that he and his fellow senators are determined to restore several hundred million dollars back into the school system's budget, but acknowledged that they do not know exactly how to do so.

"We have made a decision in the Senate that the cuts proposed by the governor that we will fight hardest against is in K-12 education," Petersen said. "We plan to put \$400 million back in to the K-12 budget. Now, we don't know exactly where that money is coming from and we're scrambling, so you may see small fee increases and other things like that."

In the question and answer segment of the meeting, issues such as energy, the car tax and gun legislation were primary areas of interest to the audience. The first question Petersen and Bulova received pertained to offshore oil drilling, and whether it is feasible. Petersen and Bulova both agreed that offshore drilling was not realistic at this point, saying that no proof existed that petroleum was located off of the state's coastline and that exploration would be a waste of time and money until deposits are located.

"I do not think that [offshore drilling] will lead to real revenue," Petersen said. "It will not bring any benefit to the state. If I'm wrong, great, but we haven't identified any petroleum deposits. If there is indeed a resource offshore, then it would be something I'd be interested in."

At the end of the segment, representatives and supporters of The ARC of Northern Virginia made statements to Petersen and Bulova, pleading with them to take a stand against proposed cuts to services for the mentally and physically disabled. According to The ARC, the proposed budget calls for more than \$100 million in cuts to people who receive support from the state through the Individual and Family Developmental Disabilities Support Waiver program. In addition, the budget calls for \$106 million in new funding for state institutions, which the ARC feels will segregate people with disabilities from the general population and negatively affect their development.

"This budget reflects a real lack of fiscal and moral responsibility to Virginians with disabilities and our families," said Christina Kuders, who along with her two brothers has an intellectual disability. "By cutting Medicaid waivers, the state will force people with disabilities back into institutions, like the one that is being rebuilt in southeastern Virginia."

"The revenues at the state level actually run on a 12-month lag," Petersen said. "The numbers we have now are a function of a weak economy in 2008 and 2009, but the real estate market is starting to pick up, and that's an indication that people are getting more confidence. But right now, there's not a lot of good news."

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21 Announcements

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
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Fairfax County

In execution of a Deed of Trust dated October 31, 2007, in the original principal amount of \$167,000.00, recorded as Deed Book 19652 at Page 1717 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will on Friday, March 5, 2010 at 9:30 a.m., by the front main entrance to the Fairfax County Courthouse, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder the following property with improvements thereon commonly known as 10907 Paynes Church Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22032 and more particularly described as follows:

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There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at:
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VADEQ PC #1999-3230

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) required Sunoco, Inc. (R&M) to develop a Corrective Action Plan to address cleanup of petroleum hydrocarbons at the site. The Corrective Action Plan was approved by the VADEQ in 2003. This notice is for the proposed change in remedial endpoints, as outlined in the Corrective Action Plan Addendum. If you have any questions regarding the change in remedial endpoints, please contact:

Sunoco, Inc. (R&M)
Devon Watts
203 South Falkenburg Road
Tampa, FL 33619
(813) 654-7789

The Corrective Action Plan Addendum was submitted to the Northern Virginia Regional Office of the VADEQ on January 14, 2010. If you would like to review or discuss the Corrective Action Plan Addendum with the staff of the VADEQ, please feel free to contact Kurt Kochan at (703) 583-3825. The DEQ Northern Virginia Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the Corrective Action Plan Addendum until March 25, 2010 and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to the VADEQ at the address listed below. The VADEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC #1999-3230

Department of Environmental Quality
Storage Tank Program
Northern Virginia Regional Office
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193-1453

This sale is subject to the lien of that certain first deed of trust dated July 12, 1999, in the original principal amount of \$200,205.00, recorded as Deed Book 11003 at Page 1370 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, and also subject to the lien of that certain subordinate deed of trust dated January 13, 2003, in the original principal amount of \$17,781.17, recorded in Deed Book 14055 at Page 0166 in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia. This sale is also subject to the restrictions, rights of way, conditions, easements, and mechanic's liens, if any, whether of record or not of record, to the extent any of the foregoing apply and take priority over the lien of the Deed of Trust.

Deposit of \$15,000.00, or 10% of the sales price, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check, shall be required to qualify as a bidder prior to the sale, except for the Noteholder.

The deposit, without interest, is applied to the purchase price at settlement. Settlement will be held on or before fifteen (15) days after sale. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser.

The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by certified or cashier's check, or wire transfer. Settlement shall be at the offices of the undersigned Trustee, or other mutually agreed upon location. The property and any improvements thereon shall be sold in "as is" condition without any warranties. The successful bidder shall assume all loss or damage to the property from and after the time of the sale. Purchaser shall be responsible for all costs of the conveyance, which shall be by special warranty including, but not limited to, the preparation of the deed and the grantor's tax. Real estate taxes shall be adjusted as of the sale date. The sale is subject to such additional terms as the Trustee may announce at the time of sale. The purchaser will be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale incorporating all the terms of the sale.

George J. Shapiro, Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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COMMENTARY

Senate Committee Releases Budget

Two-year budget restores \$315 million for education.

BY SEN. CHAP PETERSEN
D-34

This week the Virginia State Senate took action to stabilize public education in the Commonwealth and prevent our school children from being the ultimate budget losers.

On Sunday, Feb. 21, the Senate Finance Committee reported a biennial (or two-year) budget, which restored \$315 million for K-12 education in the state budget from the proposal of Gov. McDonnell (R). This restoration marked a significant break with the Virginia House of Delegates.

The Senate also reversed the notorious "LCI freeze" which threatened to take over \$60 million annually in school funding from Fairfax County by using obsolete economic data in calculating local wealth. The Senate budget restored the Fairfax County funds, albeit with a "hold harmless" provision that limited LCI-driven losses for downstate school divisions.

As a result, the Senate budget actually adds funding (\$56 million in 2011) for Fairfax County Public Schools from the original proposal of Gov. Kaine (D) in December 2009. Considering the state of the economy, that is a remarkable achievement and I'm proud of our Fairfax legislators for making it happen.

These restorations are not free. The Senate budget relies on a number of new state fees and other revenue increases. It also reduces payments for the next two years into the Virginia Retirement System (VRS), which holds the retirement accounts for all current state employees. Because of that reduction, it is very likely that the benefits from VRS for new state employees will change substantially if they are hired after July 1, 2010.

In reaching its budget outcome, the Senate used an open and transparent process which allowed all members to participate. Both Republican and Democratic members served on the Senate subcommittees which determined the details of the budget, and all but one member (14-1) voted to approve the Senate budget.

In addition, the Senate Democratic Caucus has met every Monday evening in Richmond for the past month to discuss the details of the budget. The members of our Caucus — white and black, urban and rural, liberal and conservative — made the consensus decision to not advocate a general tax increase during this recession. That consensus was reflected in the Senate budget. On the other hand, we did decide to concentrate available resources in primary education.

In conclusion, I'm well aware of the shortcoming of this budget, including the substantial cutback in Medicaid eligibility, community services and higher education support. In making a targeted restoration for K-12 education, the Senate is aware that other areas are suffering. Hopefully, as the economy improves, we can restore those funds in FY 2012. At present, we simply don't have the funds.

The Senate budget must be reconciled with the House of Delegates budget in a process known as "budget conference," which will begin in the next few days. The combined product will then be presented to the governor for his signature.

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process: Public Participation

Clearwire Wireless Broadband is proposing a telecommunication facility at the following address in Fairfax County, Virginia: 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA, 22030. The proposed developments will include attaching panel antennas and microwave dishes to an existing building rooftop and connecting to existing on-site utilities. Members of the public interested in submitting comments on the possible effects that these proposed projects may have on historic properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places may send their comments to Alex Bos, RESCOM Environmental Corp., P.O. Box 6225, Traverse City, MI 49696 or call 1.231.947.4454. Project Reference #: 0912016

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Black History Forum

FROM PAGE 6

Jill of America, an organization started in Pennsylvania by African American mothers in 1938, a fun fact that was one of the many questions posed to the students.

"We're trying to get our young people excited about our history and take part in learning," said Carla Mazique, a Jack and Jill Committee member. Her husband, Arman Mazique, played moderator for the quiz and asked the students to call him Alex Tre-Black, a play off of Alex Trebek, the host of the real "Jeopardy!" television game show for 26 years, just as many years as the local Jack and Jill of America chapter has been hosting the tournament.

"Sometimes the kids aren't as excited about Black History Month as they could be and sometimes our history isn't taught as much as we'd like."

The students began studying for the quiz tournament back in November, Carla Mazique said, memorizing facts and historic figures in preparation for their big day.

The quiz ended in the form of a surprise two-part question asked by Abraham Scott, whose wife, Janice, was killed in the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. He offered a \$500 scholarship for the entire team for the student who correctly answered a two-part question about Motown, the famous label that launched such legendary artists as Smokey Robinson, The Miracles, The Supremes, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder and the Jackson 5.

Jason Dodge, a representative of the Fairfax High

School team, correctly answered that Motown was founded in Detroit, but could not name the founder, Barry Gordy Jr. Scott overlooked the second half of the question and promised to award four \$500 scholarships to Dodge and his teammates, Vivian Bornell, Lindsay Hopkins and Monique Hopkins.

During the afternoon-long event, the winner and runner-up of Jack and Jill's local oratorical contest, Lauren Porter and Joshua Mann, presented their winning speeches, which Porter said is a kind of preparation for the Teen Conference next month.

While she did not compete in the quiz, Porter said she enjoyed the afternoon and "learned so much" from her fellow students.

"I've never seen anything like this before," she said. "It was really interesting to me."

Those in the audience were also treated to a presentation by Dr. Greg E. Carr, associate professor of Africana Studies and chair of the Department of Afro-American studies at Howard University. He told how the leaders the students have learned about, from Mohandas Ghandi to Barack Obama, were not trail-blazers as much as the students may believe.

"What you are doing is reconnecting to something," he said to the students, many of whom are seniors preparing to leave their homes and head off to college. "There is no traveling roads that haven't been traveled before. Harriet Tubman, when she was walking the tobacco fields her parents and grandparents had worked, she knew that she was somewhat better than what had come before, but she knew something better was on the way."



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