

Fairfax Station ❖ Clifton ❖ Lorton
CONNECTION

Rams Win State

SPORTS, PAGE 10

Dallas Smith, standing, reached the 112-weight class finals at last weekend's Virginia State AAA wrestling championships, on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 18-19, at Robinson Secondary.

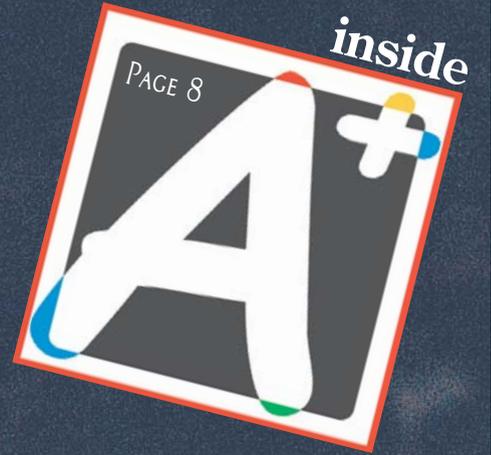


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION SPORTS, PAGE 10 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 13

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FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 2, 2011

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Fairfax County Asks Covanta To Meet Its Demands

Supervisors likely to purchase incinerator if company does agree to certain terms.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

If the private company that owns a trash incinerator in Lorton agrees to a preset list of demands, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors would drop a proposal to purchase the waste facility for \$432 million next month.

After a public hearing on Feb. 22, the supervisors unanimously voted to develop a list of "must haves" for a new public-private contract with Covanta Energy, the incinerator's owner, behind closed doors. If Covanta does not accept these terms, then Fairfax County would likely move forward with the purchase of the waste management plant on March 8.

Though Covanta owns the incinerator, Fairfax County owns the land on which the facility sits. The supervisors have the ability to buy the facility outright rather than continue its current rental agreement, even over the private company's objections.

While it is drawing up a list of demands, the county board also wants staff to make the necessary preparations for the purchase of the facility, in case the board ends up supporting the acquisition next month.

Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon), who sponsored the resolution,

gave no indication of what terms Fairfax might present to Covanta as non-negotiable.

If the county bought the incinerator, it would use revenue generated through tipping fees — the payment haulers pay to the facility per ton of trash — to pay for the plant's purchase. The money would not come from the county's general fund that supports government functions like education and public safety, according to Fairfax County Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

THE VAST MAJORITY of trash in Fairfax ends up at the incinerator, which has been privately operated since it opened in 1990. This is the first time that the contract between Covanta and Fairfax, which expires in 2016, has come up for renewal.

County staff recommended that the county buy the facility, in part, because it felt the current proposal Covanta asked for too much from Fairfax.

"Staff believes it is still negotiating with Covanta but [the agreement] is not to a level that we should continue a long-term relationship with them. That could change, depending on whether Covanta moves at all," said Fairfax County Executive Tony Griffin before the public hearing.

Paul Gilman, who spoke on behalf of



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors may vote to purchase this trash incinerator in Lorton from a private operating during a March 8 meeting.

Covanta during the public hearing, presented a different picture of the negotiations with Fairfax.

He said the company's discussions with county staff had been "difficult" for several months. He insisted that Fairfax, not Covanta, had made it hard to come to an agreement.

"Covanta has consistently worked to renew our agreement. ... Covanta has been

responsive to staff," said Gilman in his testimony to the supervisors.

Though the supervisors will make the final decision whether to purchase the incinerator, they do not participate directly in negotiations. Fairfax County's Department of Public Works, which would over the incinerator if it was purchased by the county,

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 7

County Executive Proposes \$3.38 Billion Budget

Does not include raises for county employees, cuts funds for school raises.

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Executive Anthony H. Griffin proposed a \$3.38 billion budget to the Board of Supervisors Tuesday which if adopted would bar pay raises for county employees and school teachers for another year and could cost an average home owner some \$110 a year in increased real estate taxes.

Griffin told the supervisors that the budget still has a shortfall of some \$50 million, but this far less than the \$350 million shortfall in the current 2011 budget and was designed to maintain "the quality of life" in Fairfax County, he said.

The board voted Tuesday to "advertise" the tax rate at \$1.09 in the 2012 budget, beginning on July 1, which on a home valued at \$443,511 (the mean assessed value in the county) would cost the tax payer an additional \$110 a year.

Three members of the board refused to back the \$1.09 figure, offering an amend-

ment to advertise a figure of \$1.065, which would further tighten the amount of money the county would have to spend.

The board's three Republican supervisors John Cook (Braddock), Michael R. Frey (Sully) and Pat Herrity of the Springfield District said the lower rate would force cuts in services rather than an actual increase in county revenue. Herrity said it was time to drop the tax rate. "We doubled people's taxes between 2000 and 2007, and its past time we give them some relief."

But Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said the \$1.09 figure gives the people of Fairfax a chance to present their ideas of what programs they want in public hearings and budget meetings over the next two months. "The lower figure looks like we have already decided," he said.

When the Board votes to advertise a rate, it can lower the rate in the final adopted budget, but it cannot raise the tax rate without starting all over. Board chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) and Supervisors McKay, John W. Foust (D-Dranesville), Catherine M. Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill),

Penelope Gross (D-Mason) and Linda Q. Smyth (D-Providence) voted to advertise the \$1.09 rate. The Board may still vote to lower it on April 12.

The total recommended 2012 budget of all funds is \$6.1 billion.

Fairfax County can anticipate less money from Richmond. Staff analysis showed that the Virginia Senate might approve a package with a \$6.9 million loss for fiscal 2012 and that the House of Delegates version could mean a \$10.2 million reduction.

Though the Board of Supervisors does not control the school budgets, it can effectively veto increases the school board seeks. The Fairfax County Public Schools has sought a county "transfer" of \$1,659 billion, an increase of \$48.8 million, and most of which would go to increase school salaries. But Griffin said that the county cannot have school employees getting an increase when county employees are not and he has proposed \$1.61 billion for schools.

Griffin said his budget plan results in an "available balance" of \$30 million, which the board of supervisors can utilize in several ways including pay increases for county employees or a reduction in the real estate tax rate. Griffin said it could be "saved" for the "critical needs" in 2013.

Both Griffin and Bulova see continued bleak economic times in Fairfax. Though the average price of homes sold through the Multiple Listing Service increased 8.9 percent in 2010, the number of homes sold declined some 7.8 percent to 14,100. Foreclosures in Fairfax totaled 842 in December 2010, a 5.8 per cent increase over December 2009.

Even though the Department of Defense transfer of some 19,000 workers to Fairfax in 2011 will increase revenues and investment, several members of the Board see budget tightening in Washington as ominous for Fairfax.

Gross said the county will have to learn more about a crisis in Virginia's ancient system of institutional care for people with mental or developmental disabilities.

The Department of Justice found Virginia needlessly institutionalizes many people with intellectual disabilities and provides too little community based care. The state has 40 days to address the Justice Department report.

Gross wants to find out whether Fairfax and other counties will be called upon to provide community based care. The Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on the budget in March.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

On Saturday, Feb. 19, a fire caused \$50,000 in damages to the playground at Levelle W. Dupell Park.

Arson Destroys Lorton Playground

Damage estimated at \$50,000.

The Levelle W. Dupell Park playground in Lorton was completely destroyed by fire on Saturday, Feb. 19, at approximately 3:10 a.m. The playground, part of a 27-acre park in the Mount Vernon district, is located at 6812 Newington Road.

"The equipment loss is about \$50,000," said Judy Pedersen, public information officer for the Fairfax County Park Authority, on Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 22. "Our park operations crews were out there this morn-

ing and determined everything was beyond repair. If they can save some of it they will, but it's not too promising."

She said most of the playground's equipment, which was approximately 10-years old, was plastic and had melted. The rubber tile that covered the floor of the playground was also burned.

"The park will remain open, and we will make it safe right away," Pedersen said. "Funding, material and manpower drive how quickly we replace the equipment.

Certainly, by the end of this year, and hopefully much sooner, we'll be able to replace the playground equipment," Pedersen said.

According to firefighters with the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department, the fire broke out on the composite flooring on the playground. No injuries were reported.

"When firefighters arrived on the scene, the playground equipment was on fire and we were able to extinguish the flames very quickly and contain it to the immediate playground area equipment," said Dan Schmidt, spokesman for the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department. According to

investigators, the fire was intentionally set and is under investigation.

"Every time we have vandalism, it takes away from our ability to provide for new facilities because we have to replace old facilities," Pedersen said. "I don't think people realize how expensive those pieces are, but we are going to work hard to get in there and do replace as quickly as possible."

Anyone with information about this fire is asked to call the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department at 703-246-4741.

— VICTORIA ROSS

Fairfax County School Discipline: Broken or Perfect?

Jack Dale criticizes concerns linking recent teen suicides to suspensions.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

In the last 22 months, two Fairfax County students have died of suicide while coping with their removal from their local high school for disciplinary matters.

When the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Feb. 8 to "make outreach efforts" to the local school system about student disciplinary tactics, members hoped to begin a friendly and ongoing discussion about possible reforms to the schools' current system.

"I want us to come together and ask 'Can we find a better way to do this?'" said Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), one of two sponsors of the county measure.

Hudgins is concerned that the school's current disciplinary process may have caused these students to feel more isolated and could have contributed to their deaths.

"Many parents and students are asking

whether the Zero Tolerance disciplinary policy of FCPS lacks the ability to recognize the emotional difficulties students experience," she said in a written statement.

Supervisors plan to invite the Fairfax Partnership for Youth and parent groups to put together a forum about student discipline, including how expulsions and suspensions are handled, for both county and school system officials.

THREE DAYS LATER,

Fairfax County Superintendent Jack Dale made it clear he had no intention of discussing the disciplinary system with the county. Dale said in a statement that Hudgins' resolution demonstrated a "serious misunderstanding" among the supervisors of the school system's current disciplinary policies.

Instead, he suggested a broader approach

of tackling teen depression in general.

"I believe our efforts would be far more productive if we focused on the incidence of depression among our county youth and how our agencies can work together to tackle this problem," wrote Dale in his statement.

Dale said Fairfax County schools do not have a "zero tolerance" approach to discipline and consider every proposal for ex-

Hudgins' link of two teenage suicides to the school disciplinary process.

"For Supervisor Hudgins to link the two tragic student deaths to their disciplinary processes for the purpose of furthering a falsehood is unconscionable and a blow to those who have already suffered great pain and loss," wrote Dale.

Dale and Hudgins did not speak to each other directly; each issued public statements.

Last month, sophomore Nick Stuban died a few weeks after he had been forced to leave Woodson High School for Fairfax High School because of an infraction. In 2009, South Lakes High School junior Josh Anderson took his life a few hours before he expected to be

expelled from the entire Fairfax County school system at disciplinary hearing.

According to last year's Fairfax County Youth Survey, 14 percent of local students had considered suicide and 3.6 percent had attempted suicide at least once. The youth survey shows that students who report abus-

"I strongly recommend that all members of the Board of Supervisors learn more about FCPS' practices and policies ..."

— FCPS Superintendent Jack Dale

pulsion or suspension on an individual basis.

"I strongly recommend that all members of the Board of Supervisors learn more about FCPS' practices and policies before making public statements that are misinformed and damaging to our students, families and community," wrote Dale.

Dale also objected in strong language to

SEE FCPS, PAGE 4

Elizabeth Bradsher To Become a Democrat?

Fairfax County School Board Member Elizabeth Bradsher (Springfield) is considering joining the Democratic Party and attended a recent meeting of the Springfield District Democratic Committee, she said in an interview.

The School Board office is nonpartisan, but the Fairfax County Republican Committee endorsed Bradsher when she ran for the School Board in 2007. Since then, Bradsher said she has had a fall out with some Springfield Republicans, particularly Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield).

Over the past two years, Herrity has questioned how the School Board allocates money within the Fairfax County Public Schools system. He has also fought the closing of Clifton Elementary School, a proposal that Bradsher backed.

Bradsher has repeatedly said that Herrity has spread misinformation to the public about Clifton's closing.

"I really don't like the leadership of the Springfield District at this time. It lacks integrity and courage," said Bradsher of why she was considering joining the Democratic Party.

Bradsher is contemplating a run against Herrity for the Springfield supervisor seat as a Democrat this year. She said she would make a final decision whether to jump into the race in the next two weeks, following the School Board's vote on the county's southwestern elementary school boundary study Feb. 24.

If Bradsher decides to run for School Board again, it may also be beneficial for her to join the Democratic Party.

A Republican Party activist, Clifton resident Elizabeth Schultz, has said she will run for Bradsher's School Board seat in November. Bradsher would likely have a fight with Schultz on her hands for the Republican endorsement for School Board.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Electric Sunday, Feb. 27

Residents may recycle old TVs, computers, peripheral electronic devices – such as keyboards, speakers, printers and scanners, as well as household hazardous wastes – including fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, for free, during Fairfax County's "Electric Sunday" events. The next one is slated for Sunday, Feb. 27, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road in Fairfax. For more information, call 703-324-5052.

Chamber, Schools Team Up

The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and Fairfax County Public Schools have teamed up to launch a new non-profit foundation that supports initiatives to help students acquire 21st century skills. All donations go directly to the foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, and are tax deductible. Among the opportunities for donations are programs in elementary, middle and high school that prepare underrepresented students for college; teacher grants and training; and support of an all-electronic learning environment, including 24/7 Internet access, for all students.

For more information about the Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools or to make a donation, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/educationfoundation/index.html>.

BULLETIN BOARD

MONDAY/FEB. 28

Republican Women of Clifton Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Clifton Elementary, 7010 Clifton Road, Clifton. Dr. Stefan Gorzula will speak about global warming fraud. 703-866-3707 or www.stevegorzulapresents.com.

FCPS Disciplinary Policies

FROM PAGE 3

ing substances also tend to report considering suicide and attempting suicide at a higher rate, according to Dale.

"There is no link between the tragic suicides that we have had and the disciplinary process. ... I have knowledge of both cases that I can't share with you and there is zero evidence to support that. None," said Dale in an interview.

JOSH'S PARENTS disagree with Dale's assessment.

"Honestly, the superintendent's response was very mystifying to me," said Tim Anderson, Josh's father. "To say there is nothing that connects the suicide and depression to the disciplinary procedure, we believe it is unconscionable to say that. We believe it is unconscionable to not look [at the disciplinary process]."

Tim Anderson said his family and other people close to Josh believe the emotional strain of the disciplinary hearing and facing expulsion from all Fairfax schools contributed to the teenager's death.

"Obviously it happened on the eve of his second hearing. Whether it was the number one cause or the number five cause, I don't know. But it got him closer than he needed to be to that place. I don't think it is by coincidence that it happened the day before his second hearing," said Tim Anderson in an interview Feb. 15.

The Andersons wonder how Dale might have acquired enough "knowledge" about their son to make any conclusion about the impact of the disciplinary process on Josh's suicide.

"No one from Fairfax County [schools] has ever talked to us about Josh's death. No one from the superintendent's office has ever discussed it with us. If you are really concerned about kids and families in Fairfax County, wouldn't it be the right thing to at least send a condolence card in these cases?" said Tim Anderson.

He added that Dale appears to be more concerned with protecting the school system from liability or a class action lawsuit than addressing the shortfalls of the disciplinary process.

The Andersons' limited contact with the county board on this issue has been a much more positive experience. Hudgins contacted the family before she

made her proposal to the county board, asking for input on the issue from Tim Anderson and to make sure he was comfortable with a reference to Josh's death in her written statement.

"Cathy Hudgins — I really appreciate all the things she said. I don't appreciate the approach that Jack Dale took," said Tim Anderson.

School Board Member Tina Hone (At-large) started pushing for a detailed examination of the process last October.

Hone said it is difficult for her to even deduce what problems might exist in the current system because the administration has never provided her with comprehensive data related to student suspensions and expulsions. Other school board members have also been reluctant to spend time looking potential reforms until they have more information about the effectiveness of the current system, she said.

"We need to see the data. But what I have gotten is stonewalling and stalling on this [from school staff]," said Hone.

Hone first started focusing on disciplinary policies and procedures when a parent contacted her to say that her son had been removed from his base school and placed on "long-term suspension" at an alternative high school for over 400 days.

"That student wasn't suspended. He was reassigned to a new school. He received the exact same penalty he would have gotten if he had been expelled from his base school. ... I had hoped to achieve an agreement that no child would be reassigned to one of our alternative high schools for more than 365 days unless he had been expelled from his base school," said Hone.

Among the data that Hone requested was a count how many students receive five-day suspensions, 10-day suspensions, and longer-term suspensions. She also wanted to know what, if any, the suspensions had on students' academic achievement when they returned to class.

Hone also wants evidence that transferring a student from one general education high school to another, which is done often for minor drug offenses, has any discernable positive effects.

"Kids get shuffled a lot and we have no idea what it does for them. We don't know what it does for their base school. It might even be better to have the student come back. We don't know," said Hone.



New Officers Sworn In

Donated the 2011 Masonic Lodge Officers of Acacia Lodge 16 AF & AM in Clifton were recently sworn in. The officers are, from left, Larry Parks, Robert Rudolph, Arsenio Cabanas Jr., Charles Selby, Scott Springer, James G. Kincheloe III, Bobby New, Bill May, David Hill, David Morris and Jon Shelton

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOBBY NEW

OPINION

Time to Talk about 'Discipline'

Schools need to consider the best interests of the student.

Our hearts go out to the parents of Nick Stuben, a student at Woodson who died of suicide last month after an ordeal of navigating a suspension and disciplinary process that clearly has gone awry.

Nick was not the first local student to suffer from the process. In March 2009, Josh Anderson, then a junior at South Lakes High School, died of suicide the day before he was to face expulsion from the Fairfax County school system at a disciplinary hearing.

It is true that a teenage suicide never has only one cause; the students' deaths are not the "fault" of disciplinary policies. But no one can deny that the disciplinary process contributed to the unhappiness that these two students experienced.

We have heard now from many parents whose teenagers (and even younger children) have suffered through an inflexible and adversarial process that separates students from support systems and healthy activities and even schoolwork at exactly the moment that they need them the most.

Students who have not been in serious trouble before suddenly find themselves isolated at home, unable to participate in sports or clubs, unable to interact with peers or teachers on a regular basis. The results have been

devastating for many families.

Many people are seeking a dialogue to understand and hopefully modify the current approach.

Del. Kaye Kory introduced legislation in the Virginia House of Delegates that would have required schools to notify parents if their student was in trouble that might lead to suspension. The bill failed, but the idea that such legislation might be needed is eye-opening. Fairfax schools opposed it.

Caroline Hemenway founded Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform, a community group that advocates for changes to Fairfax's approach to disciplinary matters, years ago after her family's ordeal with suspension years ago.

School board member Tina Hone (At-large) has been asking for data about suspensions and expulsions from schools staff, but reports that she has been unable to get good answers, leaving open questions about minority students being over-represented in students who have been suspended, among other issues.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Feb. 8 to "make outreach efforts" to the local school system about student disciplinary tactics, hoping to begin a friendly and ongoing discussion about possible reforms to the schools' current system.

Fairfax County Superintendent Jack Dale made it clear he had no intention of discussing the disciplinary system with the county. Dale said in a statement that the resolution demonstrated a "serious misunderstanding" of the school system's current disciplinary policies.

Note that this exchange involved dueling

Read On

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE: BROKEN OR PERFECT?

Jack Dale criticizes concerns linking teen suicides to suspensions.

MONDAY, FEB. 21, 2011

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=348482&paper=72&cat=104>

MANTUA TEENAGER REMEMBERED

Nick Stuben, 15, participated in Woodson football, Boy Scouts.

THURSDAY, JAN. 27, 2011

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=347811&paper=63&cat=104>

ONE STRIKE, THEY'RE OUT

Some families call the school system's policies on marijuana punitive and ineffective.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 17, 2010

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=344330&paper=82&cat=104>

"statements," not discussion.

Dale is correct when he suggests a broader approach of tackling teen depression in general, but this must be in addition to grappling with the challenges in the disciplinary process.

"I believe our efforts would be far more productive if we focused on the incidence of depression among our county youth and how our agencies can work together to tackle this problem," wrote Dale in his statement.

In the meantime, if you have a teenager in your family, it might be worth letting him or her know that they shouldn't sign any statements admitting they've done anything wrong at school without having the school call you first.

—MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Marsden's Beltway safety bill dies in committee.

want to tinker with the hit and run statute. They do not have to drive the Beltway.

I was also disappointed that my and Del. Eileen Filler-Corn's (D-41) bill to allow the Burke Centre Conservancy to install "flashing yellow lights" at Terra Centre School at their own expense was defeated. The school system would not do it for a variety of reasons and I disagreed. Del. Joe May (R-33), who chairs House Transportation, offered to write a letter to Fairfax County Public Schools in an effort to resolve the matter. I really appreciated that and I hope it is effective.

It looks like I will pass seven bills this year with my bill allowing tax deductions for trusts established for disabled children to be referred to the Disability Commission. Del. Bobby Orrock (R-54), the commission chairman, will explore the proposal in greater detail this summer to see if it is an idea the commission can sponsor next year. Proposals from commissions have great weight with legislators. Four other bills of mine were resolved by committee chairs in the House and Senate by writing letters to state agencies to ask that they take action to accomplish the purpose of my bills.

EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

Big To-Do Over Hotel Tax

BY DAVE MARSDEN
THE CONNECTION

The late Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina once declared, "All farm subsidies were a waste of money ... except for the ones for tobacco because they really help people." Needless to say, North Carolina was a leading tobacco state.

A similar situation was occurring in Virginia this past week. A number of state senators were voting against other senator's requests to establish a "Transient Occupancy (Hotel) Tax" in their districts. They were secure in the knowledge that their localities already had these taxes authorized, so they could appear fiscally conservative at someone else's expense. Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw (D-35) decided enough was enough. He put in an amendment to remove authority for these taxes from the districts of those senators that had voted to deprive others from receiving their fair share. Well, you should have heard the howling from one senator. He was put in a situation where he had to either vote to remove revenue from his district or vote not to eliminate \$300 million in taxes statewide. He has always maintained that we pay too many taxes. We gave

him a chance to do something about it and he wouldn't do it.

In the end, the amendment and bill were approved and sent back to the House of Delegates where I am sure it will be rejected. The matter will then be taken up in the budget conference held between the Senate and House to resolve differences. The taxes will be restored but a number of senators will have been shown that you can't be that blatantly hypocritical.

In other news, my bill to require drivers involved in fender benders on the Beltway during HOT Lane construction to advance their vehicles to the next available shoulder or pull off area to exchange information or wait for police was passed in the House Transportation Committee was then referred to the House Courts of Justice Committee because it involved a fine. It died there in a close vote because most members felt it was already covered by the hit and run statute that requires drivers to get their vehicles off the road after an accident. Most people would not think they were authorized to move their vehicle a half-mile to accomplish this. This is what I was trying to clarify to get our traffic moving in Fairfax County. But the committee members did not

THE CONNECTION

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/FEB. 24

Friends of Burke Centre Blizzard of Books Sale. 3 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stock up on great books. 703-249-1520.

Practice Your English. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. Adults. 703-339-4610.

Chinese Scrolls from the Dr. Chi Wang Collection. Mason Hall Alumni Atrium Gallery at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive in Fairfax. Panel discussion at 5 p.m., and Opening Reception 6-8 p.m. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

FRIDAY/FEB. 25

Workhouse Film Institute: "Herb and Dorothy." 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The story of Herbert Vogel, a postal clerk, and Dorothy Vogel, a librarian, who managed to build one of the most important contemporary art collections in history with very modest means. Free. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Sex Slaves, Cab Ride Home and more. 6:30 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. All ages. \$10 advance, \$12 day of show. www.Jaxxroxx.com.

"Gianni Schicchi." 8 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The GMU School of Music presents the Mason Opera & Chamber Orchestra performing Giacomo Puccini's satirical one-act opera. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors, and a limited number of tickets are free for students with a valid Mason ID. Charge at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/FEB. 26

TobyMac Winter Wonder Slam Tour. 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. With Brandon Heath and House of Heroes. Tickets \$15-\$50, available through www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

Simple Gifts. 7 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The trio performs Irish jigs, American reels, Klezmer frailachs, Gypsy melodies, Balkan dance music and more. \$15-\$20. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Battle of the Bands with Halcyon, Crash Concept, Amethyst Heart, Katabasis and more. 12 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$1000 Grand Prize. All ages. \$10 advance, \$12 day of show. www.Jaxxroxx.com.

VITA Tax Assistance. 10 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$49,000. Adults. 703-451-8055.

"Gianni Schicchi." 8 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The GMU School of Music presents the Mason Opera & Chamber Orchestra performing Giacomo Puccini's satirical one-act opera. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors, and a limited number of tickets are free for students with a valid Mason ID. Charge at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Get Abuzz About Bees at Huntley Meadows. 4 p.m. Huntley Meadows Park and Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Learn



Drumline Live performs Sunday, Feb. 26, at GMU's Center for the Arts.

Listen to the Beat

Drumline Live will perform on Sunday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring a 39-member cast of energetic and flamboyant performers, the production includes a roster of musicians and dancers performing to the sounds of Motown, gospel, African rhythms, classic and contemporary R&B and hip-hop and even a number featuring the music of Michael Jackson. The heart of the show is the talented percussionists whose spectacular showdown astounds with rhythmic sounds, choreography and athleticism. Tickets are \$23-\$46, youth through grade 12 half-price when accompanied by adult. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

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TUESDAY/MARCH 1

Straight Line Stitch, War of Ages and more. 5 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. www.Jaxxroxx.com.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 2

Ensiferum, Finntroll, Rotten Sound, Barren Earth and more. 6:15 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$22 advance, \$25 at the door, \$50 VIP tickets with a Meet and Greet with Rotting Christ. www.Jaxxroxx.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 3

Peter Shaffer's "Equus." 8 p.m. George Mason University TheaterSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A psychosexual crime drama about a disturbed 17-year-old. This production contains explicit scenes and nudity. \$12 adults, \$8 students, seniors and groups. Charge at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Moms Club of Springfield Fund Raiser. 7:30 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Pampering, shopping and food for moms, with proceeds benefiting the Fairfax Hospital for Children NICU, PICU and children's cancer center. tjwilson0720@yahoo.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 4

Epitome of the Weak, All Out Chaos, Upper 90. The Chuck Fenech Band, Rising Chaos, Silence the Blind, Abandoning Arborland and Proper Addiction. 5 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. www.Jaxxroxx.com.

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County May Buy Incinerator

FROM PAGE 2

has handled discussions with Covanta.

Most people who spoke at the supervisors' public hearing opposed the county's recommendation to purchase the incinerator.

By county staff's own estimates, Fairfax would not see any financial benefit from buying the incinerator until 2029. During the intervening 20 years, new technology and innovation may dramatically change the waste disposal industry, said Jim Corcoran, president and chief executive officer of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

"I don't see technology changes built into this proposal [for the plant's purchase]," said Corcoran.

As part of its cost-benefit analysis, Fairfax also assumed that it would make a large amount of money off of the sale of energy produced by the incinerator if it bought the plant. The facility converts steam produced by the trash-burning operation into usable energy, which the county currently sells to Dominion Power.

According to Corcoran, the county has assumed that the price of energy would rise steadily over the next two decades and the county would be able to offset the cost of owning the facility through lucrative power sales. But the type of energy produced at the plant could prove less desirable in the future, especially if a new, cheaper way to produce power comes into the market, he said.

"You have an extraordinarily long planning window of 40 years [for purchasing the plant.] ... We could not see where the Internet was going 20 years ago," said Mike Lewis, a McLean resident from the Virginia Waste Industries Association.

Lewis, who represents trash haulers that use the incinerator, said his professionally community is also likely to get hurt if the county has to increase tipping fees to pay for the incinerator's purchase.

A FEW LORTON area residents spoke against the county purchase, saying they were wary of the Department of Public Works taking over the facility.

Neal McBride, a member of the South Run Coalition and activist with the South County Federation, said the Department of Public Works has a history of being unresponsive to the concerns of citizens in Lorton.

According to McBride, the Lorton community had to force the public works department to manage truck traffic to and from its current facilities in the area. He also said the department only addressed a local sewage plant's odor problems after coming under intense pressure from the community.

"My [opposition] is based on [the Department of Public Work's] extensive history of mismanaging projects, ignoring or circumventing the community's welfare and input, not operating transparently and otherwise acting in its own self-interest," said McBride during the public hearing.

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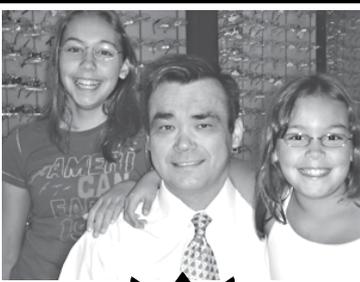
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Rams Stage 'Funny as a Crutch'

Nine humorous sketches show disabilities in a new light.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Robinson Secondary thespians will perform their latest show, "Funny as a Crutch," this summer, in New York and at Scotland's Fringe Festival. First, though, they'll premiere it in the school theater, Friday, March 4, at 8 p.m.

This performance is a fund raiser to help offset the \$4,000 per person cost of the Scotland trip. Tickets are \$20 in advance for early seating, via www.robinsondrama.org, or people may pay what they like at the door.

"'Funny as a Crutch' is a series of nine, totally accessible comedy sketches," said Director Chip Rome. "It's about people with disabilities trying to make their way through their world, despite the rest of us."

RAMbunctious Theatre is the group of 14 students producing the show and, afterward, the actors will do a talkback with audience members to get their feedback and reaction.

"This is a wonderful combination of humor for any audience about issues much of the public seems to shy away from," said Rome. "This show brings them

to the forefront in a humorous vein, reduces the tension and makes the audience more comfortable about people with disabilities. It also makes them more aware of their own attitudes; it's been an education for our cast."

Written by Rich Orloff, "Funny as a Crutch" presents the world as seen by those with disabilities. The sketches include:

❖ "The New Land" – Some Mayflower-type adventurers arrive looking for freedom and opportunity in the new land. But they're not sure they want to share it with "other" new adventurers.

❖ "Position Available" – An over-zealous member of C.L.I.C.H.E. (Citizens for Liberal Inclusion of Car-ing Handicapped Employment) trying to turn an ordinary woman in a wheelchair into a new, liberal icon.

❖ "Toes" – On her 21st birthday, a young woman and her boyfriend announce their engagement to her parents. But the parents disapprove because her fiancé has only nine toes. How would they play This Little Piggie?

❖ "Dutch Treat" – Two women on their last day of vacation in Amsterdam meet a handsome Frenchman. To Tina's surprise, he's more interested in hooking up with her companion Olivia, who uses a wheelchair, than with her.

SEE ROBINSON, PAGE 9

Jackson Viccora, as the prince, is about to dance with 'Cripperella,' portrayed by Allison Poms



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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Robinson Show Heading To Off-Broadway, Scotland

FROM PAGE 8

❖ “Just One of Those Things” – During a job interview, the applicant’s “thing” seems to be a continual distraction. But doesn’t everyone have one sort of “thing” or another?

❖ “Nellie” – Nellie is bemoaning her recent breakup when Mr. Puppet and his puppet friends, each with a disability – Captain Hook, Quasimodo, Tiny Tim and Oedipus – try to make her see the light.

❖ “All That He Can Be” – Will the Army be willing to enlist a totally capable young man, even if one of his legs is artificial? “Your regular guy, he gets hit, yells, ‘Medic,’ and he’s out,” says the hopeful. “Me? I get hit, hand me the duct tape. I keep on going.”

❖ “Totally Accessible” – a husband and wife try to surmount the difficulties their disabilities pose to both their vacation plans and their marriage.

❖ “Cripplerella” – In this version of Cinderella, the Fairy Godmother’s magic makes Cripplerella’s wheelchair invisible to everyone at the ball. But when the prince finds her the next day, will his integrity or image prevail?

“Our drama booster president, Jane Rath, works on disability issues professionally, so she’s been a terrific resource,” said Rome.

“We’ve also had consultants — Melody Goodspeed, a former teacher who’s now blind, and Ben Spangenberg, who’s been in a wheelchair his whole life. They were upbeat and candid about answering a wide range of questions from the cast.”

In “Cripplerella,” sophomore Hannah Bunting portrays an ugly stepsister, along with Carys Meyer. “We’re constantly fighting with each other and make fun of Cripplerella for her disability,” said Bunting. “We’re wild and nasty, and it’s fun to play something you’re not. I’ve learned that there’s so much depth to a person besides a disability. And it’s not the end of the world for them. They learn about their own character from facing their challenges, and most of them have a good sense of humor about it.”

Calling people with disabilities “heroes,” Bunting said everyone has disabilities, to some extent, so “people who are ‘normal’ shouldn’t think they’re better than others and shouldn’t judge them by their disabili-

ties.”

The actors play several roles, and junior Allison Poms plays Cripplerella and also the girl’s mother in “Toes.” Her character is over-protective of her only child and wants the best husband possible for her. “But her fiancé only has nine toes, and that’s unacceptable because I want him to be perfect,” said Poms. “But it’s ironic because I’m in a wheelchair and my husband is blind.”

She said the show’s content is important because “it’s out of our comfort zone and is almost glossed over in everyday life. We’re taught not to point and stare at people with disabilities, and now we’re playing them. I have so much more empathy and respect now for people in wheelchairs. And after meeting the consultants, we see people with disabilities as more human — cool, normal people we can relate to and feel comfortable around.”

In “The New Land,” sophomore Jackson Viccora portrays Uriah, who’s sailed to 1600s America as a settler and clashes with

other settlers not as physically able as him. “These characters aren’t very nice to people with disabilities, so it’s important to raise awareness about how they’re treated,” said Viccora. “Doing it with humor is a good way to show that. I’ve learned a lot. At school, I’d notice disabled students for a second and go back to my life, but I never thought about how they felt.”

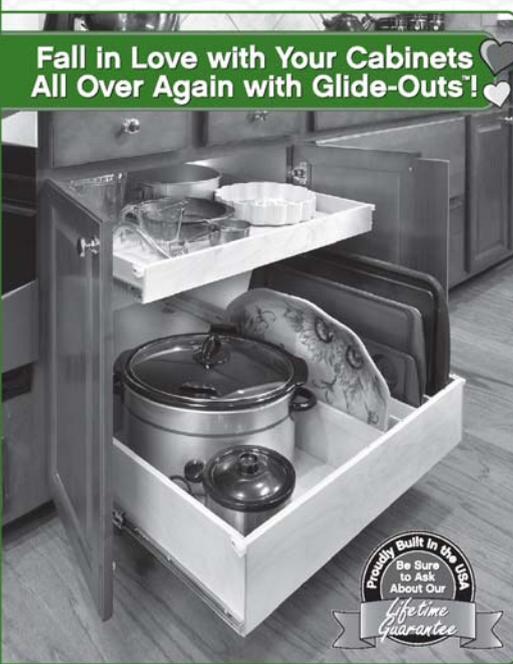
He’s also in “Just One of Those Things,” about a disabled man in a job interview. “He’s qualified for the job, but external factors that shouldn’t influence the interviewer’s impression of him, do,” said Viccora. “It’s probably the most abstract of the sketches, but also one of the most relatable because it lets the audience know how someone with a disability feels when he’s slighted like that.”

Chris Keihl operates Mr. Puppet in “Nellie,” and his character ridicules other puppets with disabilities. “But the puppeteer, himself, is in a wheelchair, so he’s hypocritical,” said Keihl. “He wants to be loved and hates being in a wheelchair, so he’s happy when a young girl talks to him. Instead of pitying or avoiding someone who’s disabled, this sketch makes people think of them as a person and consider what they want.”

The cast’s next stop will be off-Broadway, in late July, and Scotland in August.

“This is a wonderful combination of humor for any audience about issues much of the public seems to shy away from.”

— Chip Rome



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Robinson Wrestling Rolls to State Title

Rams, for first time since 1985, take possession of the state AAA crown.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Throughout the postseason, the Robinson Secondary wrestling team has had one prevailing thought in mind — to capture the program's first state title since 1985. The Rams, under longtime head coach and former Robinson standout wrestler Bryan Hazard, realized all season long that they had the talent, experience and desire to achieve such heights. Following Concorde District and Northern Region team championships in recent weeks, all that was left for the team to accomplish was its original goal of taking the title at states.

Last weekend, Robinson left no room for question as to who is the best team in the state as the Rams, in typical dominant fashion, captured first place running away at the Virginia State AAA championships. Making the team title extra special was the fact that the two-day postseason meet, on Feb. 25-26, took place at Robinson's own Henry M. Smith Field House.

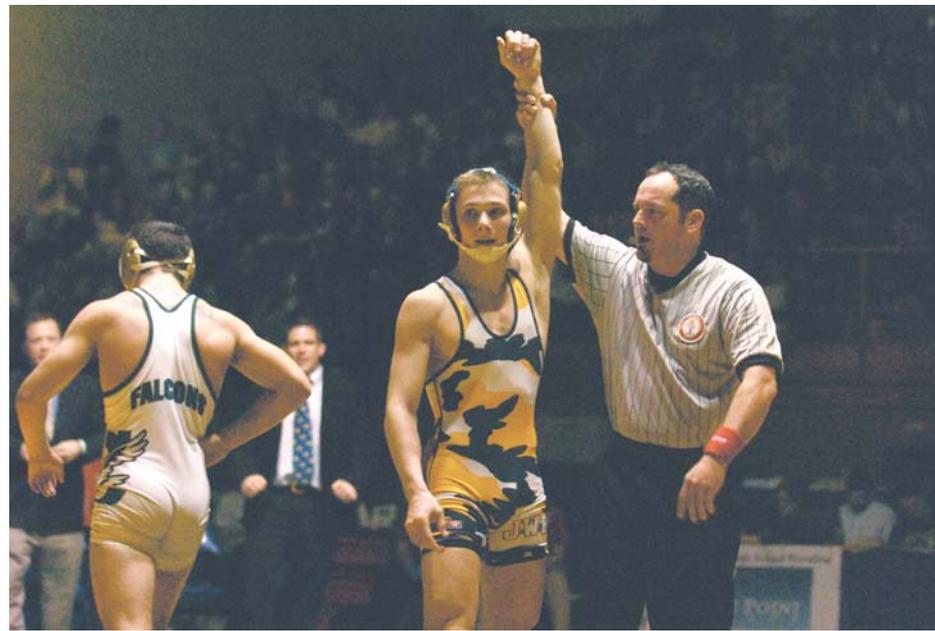
"Now we get to put a 2011 [state championship] banner in our gym," said a joyful Hazard, during Robinson's celebratory moments following Saturday's championship round matches. "Our kids worked so hard and believed. To win a tournament like this you have to believe it."

During post meet ceremonies, former Robinson head coach — John Epperly, of whom Robinson's wrestling room is named after — was the individual who presented the state championship trophy to the Rams.

"It was amazing that Coach Epperly gave us the trophy," said Hazard, a 1991 Robinson graduate who was a part of the Rams' region title winning team that same year. "He's my mentor."

Under Epperly, Robinson won state titles in both 1981 and 1985. The 1985 state crown marked the last time before this year that a team from the Northern Region won the team championship. Over the years, state high school wrestling has, for the most part, been dominated by schools from around the Tidewater/Virginia Beach area.

THERE WAS LITTLE suspense going into Saturday night's championship finals matches regarding who would win the team title. Robinson, over the most part of the two days of tournament wrestling up to that point, had easily had the most success. So for the five Robinson wrestlers who were competing in the finals, the pressure of having to win in order to boost the teams' chances was a non-factor. The Rams, they realized, had first place clinched and could



Robinson's Brooks Martino has the look of a state champion after his 135-weight class wrestling finals win over Cox High School's CJ Jablonski last Saturday night.

focus on garnering some individual championships.

Robinson's individual state champions were Brooks Martino (135-division) and Jake Smith (119). Rams who reached the finals before losing were Dallas Smith (112), Jack Bass (125), and Jake Pinkston (heavyweight).

Robinson won the team title with 155.5 points, besting runner-up Cox High (125) of Virginia Beach and third place Colonial Forge (98.5) of Stafford. Forest Park (76) of Woodbridge took fourth place and Westfield High (69) from the Northern Region was fifth. Annandale High, also from the Northern Region, finished 11th place at the 20-team meet.

Some of the evening's most drama came at the 119 finals where Jake Smith, in overtime, defeated Jerelle McCabe of Bayside High (Virginia Beach), 6-5. Smith (43-6) led 3-0

after two periods and held a 5-0 advantage following a take down at the edge of the mat with 1 minute, 18 seconds remaining in the third period. But, following a one-point escape point that got McCabe within 5-1 with 20 seconds left, things fell apart for Smith in the closing seconds when his opponent got him onto his back and scored four points. Incredibly when the buzzer sounded, the match was tied at 5-5 and headed into overtime.

"I was wrestling a perfect match until the last couple of seconds," said Smith. "I went in shock [after he tied it] because I thought I'd had the match won. I was a little surprised and flustered going into overtime and tried to keep my head."

The score remained tied following the first 1-minute overtime. In the second OT, Smith, beginning the session in the down position, earned an escape point to take a 6-5 lead with 50 seconds left. Moments later, it appeared McCabe had scored points when he momentarily got Smith onto his

back. But no points were given and Smith still led. Over the final 20 seconds, Smith was on top of McCabe, who nearly got away from the Robinson wrestlers grip as time ran out.

In the end, Smith had held on and gotten the dramatic win.

"I'm just glad I was able to fight it out and win," said Smith. "I fought hard and did what I needed to do. [Winning the title] means everything to me. And winning at

"I'm so happy for coach Hazard. The championship shows how hard we've worked. And to win it at home, I love it."

— Robinson Wrestler Brooks Martino

home is an even greater feeling. I couldn't have done it without coach Hazard."

In the moments following the 119 match, a loud, large contingent of beach area fans, frustrated that McCabe had not been awarded overtime points earlier in the second OT, vehemently booed the officials and, seemingly, Smith, whose arm had been raised by an official as the winning wrestler.

Later, Smith would be booed again as he took the medal stand. He took it in stride, smiling as he walked up to his first place standing at the podium.

Of course, the numerous partisan Robinson fans were trying to drown out the boo birds with loud cheers for their champion.

"It was kind of poor for the [beach] fans to boo like that, but a win's a win. I'm real glad I have a state title," said Smith.

He went on to say there was a fairly large part of the close-to-capacity crowd, made up of fans from all across the state that

wanted to see the Rams falter because of their dominance throughout the weekend.

"Everyone is going to want to see the No. 1 team lose," said Smith. "I was ranked No. 1 [going into states] so [that same group] wanted to see me lose."

Smith made it to the finals with wins over Brian Lee of Norview (Chesapeake) by pin; Connor Mairena of Colonia Forge (Stafford), 1-0; and Austin Hurst of Great Bridge (Chesapeake), 5-0.

Martino, at 135, was Robinson's other champion, winning his finals match, 8-4, over CJ Jablonski of Cox High. The Robinson junior trailed in the championship match 4-3 with 48 seconds remaining in the second period before, moments later, earning reverse points to go ahead, 5-4. Early in the third period, Martino got an escape point for a 6-4 advantage. Jablonski, a junior with 130 career wins, required a blood timeout with 1:31 remaining. Thereafter, when the match resumed, Martino was in control of the action. Two late points in the final seconds wrapped up the win and title. At the final buzzer, Martino triumphantly raised his arms into the air.

"It was a tough match," said Martino (43-6). "He came out hard and started very strong. [Late in the match] when I looked at the clock with one second left I just felt joy. Individually, it's such a great feeling."

Of the Rams winning the team title, Martino was even more thrilled.

"Any state championship is huge," he said. "I'm so happy for coach Hazard. The championship shows how hard we've worked. And to win it at home, I love it."

Martino opened the state tournament with a second round pin win over Stuart Jefferson of Matoaca High (Chesapeake) on Friday afternoon. That evening, he was also a pin winner over Timmy Antonelli of Kellam High (Virginia Beach). That advanced Martino into an early Saturday afternoon semifinals match and a 7-1 win over Gabe LaVey of Hanover (Mechanicsville).

One of the best matches of the finals came at heavyweight where Robinson freshmen Jake Pinkston pushed bigger opponent Taylor Horner, a senior from Franklin County (Rocky Mount), to the final seconds before being pinned with three seconds remaining in the match.

Pinkston, the sensational underclassman who, in his first high school postseason, captured both Concorde District and Northern Region titles, made a great showing in the state finals. Following a scoreless first period, Horner (51-5) earned an escape point for a 1-0 lead early in the second period. On two occasions throughout the second period, it appeared Pinkston was going to earn take down points. But the action, during both sequences, led to the wrestlers falling out of bounds and Pinkston still trailed after two periods.

SEE ROBINSON, PAGE 13

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8952 CROSS CHASE CIR	4	4	1		LORTON		\$769,000	Detached	0.29		CROSSPOINTE
8123 BLUEBONNET DR	6	5	1		LORTON		\$730,000	Detached	0.24		LAUREL HILL LANDBAY
6213 MILITIA CT	5	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION		\$701,055	Detached	1.76		FAIRFAX STATION
8522 OAK POINTE WAY	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION		\$683,000	Detached	0.32		CROSSPOINTE
9800 VIEWCREST DR	5	4	1		FAIRFAX STATION		\$667,000	Detached	0.36		LEE CHAPEL GROVE
6833 CORDER LN	4	3	1		LORTON		\$664,900	Detached	0.36		MOUNT AIR
8899 LAUREL OVERLOOK DR	4	4	1		LORTON		\$650,620	Detached	0.83		LAUREL OVERLOOK
13836 LAUREL ROCK CT	5	3	1		CLIFTON		\$650,000	Detached	0.29		LITTLE ROCKY RUN
9104 AUTUMN OAK CT	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION		\$640,000	Detached	0.45		CROSSPOINTE
5946 INNISVALE DR	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION		\$623,000	Detached	0.59		INNISVALE
7907 GLENBARR CT	4	2	1		FAIRFAX STATION		\$615,000	Detached	0.26		BARRINGTON
11819 CLARA WAY	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION		\$615,000	Detached	0.95		INNISVALE
6824 COMPTON HEIGHTS CIR	5	3	1		CLIFTON		\$595,000	Detached	0.36		COMPTON HEIGHTS
8196 PAPER BIRCH DR	5	3	0		LORTON		\$585,000	Detached	0.15		LAUREL HILL LANDBAY
6006 MOSS GLEN CT	4	3	1		CLIFTON		\$562,000	Detached	0.20		LITTLE ROCKY RUN
8316 THWAITE HOWE DR	4	4	1		LORTON		\$535,000	Detached	0.09		LORTON VALLEY NORTH
9716 OAK BRIDGE PL	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION		\$520,000	Detached	0.24		SOUTH RUN OAKS
8541 BARRROW FURNACE LN	4	3	1		LORTON		\$510,000	Detached	0.08		LORTON VALLEY NORTH
8405 WHITEHAVEN CT	4	2	1		LORTON		\$506,500	Detached	0.11		VILLAGE AT LORTON VALLEY
9239 LEE MASEY DR	4	3	1		LORTON		\$490,000	Detached	0.06		LORTON TOWN CNTR LANDBAY
7981 ALMEDA CT	5	4	1		LORTON		\$480,000	Detached	0.09		EVANS
9608 OAKINGTON DR	4	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION		\$475,000	Detached	0.25		SOUTH RUN OAKS
9219 LEE MASEY DR	5	3	1		LORTON		\$470,000	Detached	0.09		LORTON TOWN CNTR LANDBAY
8352 MIDDLE RUDDINGS DR	4	3	1		LORTON		\$450,000	Detached	0.08		VILLAGE AT LORTON VALLEY
8203 SINGLELEAF LN	3	3	1		LORTON		\$401,279	Townhouse	0.04		LAUREL HILL LANDBAY
8022 SAMUEL WALLIS ST	3	2	2		LORTON		\$370,000	Townhouse	0.05		LORTON STATION SOUTH
6755 CARDINAL WOODS CT	4	3	1		LORTON		\$365,000	Townhouse	0.05		VILLAGE OF MOUNT AIR
8318 SOUTHERN OAKS CT	3	2	2		LORTON		\$360,000	Townhouse	0.09		SOUTHERN OAKS
7805 KOOPMAN CT	4	3	1		LORTON		\$325,000	Townhouse	0.04		OVERLOOK POINTE
8108 DOVE COTTAGE CT	3	3	0		LORTON		\$310,000	Townhouse	0.04		LORTON STATION
9636 EATON WOODS PL	4	3	1		LORTON		\$290,000	Townhouse	0.05		GUNSTON SQUARE
7750 MILFORD HAVEN DR #50C	3	2	1		LORTON		\$286,000	Townhouse			LORTON STATION NORTH
9105 COLGROVE CT	3	2	1		LORTON		\$285,600	Detached	0.12		SUMMERHILL
7834 STOVALL CT	3	2	2		LORTON		\$280,000	Townhouse	0.04		WILLIAMSBURG SQ
8939 MILFORD HAVEN CT #39C	3	2	1		LORTON		\$262,000	Townhouse			LORTON STATION NORTH
13526 MALLARD WATCH WAY	4	3	1		CLIFTON		\$260,000	Townhouse	0.03		CENTREVILLE GREEN
7680 SHEFFIELD VILLAGE LN	3	2	1		LORTON		\$257,500	Townhouse	0.06		SUMMERHILL
8406 CACAPON CT	3	2	1		LORTON		\$250,000	Townhouse	0.03		NEWINGTON COMMONS
8355 STATIONHOUSE CT	3	1	1		LORTON		\$220,000	Townhouse	0.03		PINEWOOD STATION
8566 BLACKFOOT CT	2	1	1		LORTON		\$206,000	Townhouse	0.04		NEWINGTON HEIGHTS
13643 ORCHARD DR #3643	2	2	0		CLIFTON		\$189,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			PONDS AT CENTREVILLE
7464 WOUNDED KNEE RD	2	1	1		LORTON		\$185,000	Townhouse	0.05		POHICK VILLAGE
5847 ORCHARD HILL LN #5847	2	2	0		CLIFTON		\$154,000	Other			PONDS AT CENTREVILLE

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SPORTS

Robinson Girls Fall to Oakton in District Finals

But Rams bounce back with region basketball playoff win versus South County.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

For a while, the Robinson Secondary girls' basketball team was able to stay with Northern Region power Oakton during last Friday night's Concorde District tournament championship game, which took place at Chantilly High School.

But Oakton, behind District Player of the Year Caroline Coyer, took control of the game during an outstanding second quarter of play and went on to successfully defend their title as district champions with a 47-33 victory.

Both Oakton and Robinson won first round Northern Region tournament games earlier this week on Monday, Feb. 21. The Rams defeated visiting South County, 53-30, to advance to the region quarterfinals on Wednesday, Feb. 23 at Stone Bridge, and the Cougars handled guest Annandale, 66-38, to move on to a Wednesday meeting versus Madison.

In Friday's district title game, Robinson struggled to keep Coyer in check. The

Oakton sharp-shooter, whose twin sister, Katherine, was unavailable after injuring an ankle during Oakton's 53-47 semifinals win over host Westfield two nights earlier on Wednesday, Feb. 16, converted three, long range 3-point shots during the decisive second quarter and scored 11 of her game-high 22 points during the stanza as the Cougars (23-1), who trailed Robinson 8-7 after one quarter, built a 24-12 lead by halftime.

Oakton's lead ultimately reached 17 points at 35-18 in the third quarter and the tough Rams (17-6), the tournament's No. 2-seed behind top seeded Oakton, could never get within striking range thereafter.

Coyer, a junior guard, opened the second quarter with a 3-pointer from the right wing area to give Oakton a 10-8 lead. Later in the quarter, she nailed consecutive treys —

the first from the right corner and the latter from the right of the top of the key — to put the Cougars ahead 18-10. For good measure, the sharp-shooter drained a close-range shot at the first half buzzer to give Oakton its 12-point halftime advantage.

"We kind of played straight up against her [defensively]," said Robinson junior guard Megan Green, of defending Coyer. "But she's very good."

"It's always a little bit more intense in a championship game because you don't want to get beat."

— Caroline Coyer

Coyer earned tournament MVP honors. Other Cougars named to the all-tournament team were sophomore center Elizabeth Manner (nine points, seven rebounds) and senior shooting guard Zora Stephenson. For Robinson,

Green (10 points) made the all-tourney team.

Coyer's sibling, Katherine, a Second Team All-District selection this season and the District's Co-Defensive Player of the Year, had scored 10 points before her injury in Oakton's semifinals win over Westfield. Against Robinson, other players picked up

the slack with her not being able to play.

A huge factor in Oakton's strong showing against Robinson was the Cougars' stellar team defensive play. Even with Katherine Coyer, considered to be one of the region's top defenders, missing the game, Oakton played exceptional defense.

"It's always a little bit more intense in a championship game because you don't want to get beat," said Caroline Coyer. "With Katherine out, we didn't have our defensive stopper. The keys [tonight] were stopping their inside game and valuing every [offensive] possession."

Green was the lone Robinson player to score in double digits with her 10 points. Robinson's next top scorers in the loss were junior guard Tyler Hansen (six points), who made two 3-pointers, junior forward Brigitte Kuter (five points) and senior guard Lauren Denham (five).

"It was tough tonight," said Robinson's Green. "We didn't play as good as we should have. We played scared at first. We needed to attack the basket more."

Green said the Rams, even with the title game loss, still accomplished a lot going into this week's regionals. Robinson defeated Centreville on Wednesday, Feb. 16 in a dis-

SEE GIRLS' HOOPS, PAGE 12

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FAITH NOTES

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

The Messiah United Methodist Church Festival Chorus will offer "Requiem" and "Revelations" by Bradley Ellingboe, on Sunday, March 27 at 3 p.m. at Messiah UMC, 6215 Rolling Road in Springfield. 703-569-9862, ext. 205.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive in Clifton, offers three levels of ESL Classes every Tuesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. Cost for semester is \$35, including student book. To register, come to the next class. www.lordoflifelutheran.com or 703-323-9500.

Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road in Fairfax, will have a new Bible Study on Tuesdays through March 8 at 9:45 a.m. entitled "Discovering Who We Are in Christ." \$15. Child care available. Register at 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

Interested in the Catholic Faith? Classes will be held at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church in the Guadalupe Room in the Parish Center, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Contact Carolyn Smith at carolynsmith.stleoes@gmail.com or 703-273-5369.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, offers services on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m., in addition to Sunday services at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. www.uucf.org.

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Robinson

FROM PAGE 10

However, he earned an escape point early in the third period to make it 1-1. From that point on, both wrestlers, as they had done much of the match, competed head to head on their feet, looking for chances to score. Horner finally got the big move late in the match when he scored a takedown with 15 seconds left. Moments later, he got the pin — the first pin win of the finals matches that evening.

Following the match, the Robinson faithful gave Pinkston a rousing ovation. He had gotten to the finals with Friday wins over Dominique Hannibal of Deep Creek (Chesapeake) and Keenan Hughes of Patrick Henry, and then a Saturday semifinals match win over Marcus Matthews of Osbourn High (Manassas), 9-3.

Robinson's other two finalists were Dallas Smith (112) and Bass (125). Smith (30-6) won matches over Sawyer Barksdale of Lee-Davis (Mechanicsville); Dieguito Pritchett of Phoebus (Hampton); and Cam Tomok of Hermitage (Richmond) to reach the finals. In the title match, he lost to Cody Stageberg of Cox High, 9-7.

Smith opened the finals match with an early two-point takedown. The score was tied at 3-3 after one period. Late in the second period, Stageberg, trailing 4-3, scored a takedown to go ahead 5-4. His lead increased to 9-4 in the third period before Smith rallied, getting a reversal with one minute remaining to get within 9-6. In the final seconds, Smith was awarded a stall point to get within 9-7. That's how the match ended.

Bass, in his 125 finals match, lost a 4-1 decision to Annandale's Dane Harlowe. The match was tied at 1-1 before Harlowe (33-5), from the ground, scored a takedown to go up, 3-1, with 1:30 left in the second period. He went on to win the match and garner the state title after finishing second at states last year. Bass, a freshman, finished the season 41-7. His three wins leading up to the finals came over Christian Olanowski of First Colonial (Virginia Beach), 6-4; Donte Henderson of Stafford, 21-5; and Zach Isenhour of Kempsville (Virginia Beach), 2-1.

Other Robinson wrestlers to place at states were: Tim Fitzpatrick (eighth place at 171); Wes Jones (third at 160); Zaq Depasquale (eighth at 145); and Santiago Valdez (third at 130) of Robinson.

Girls' Hoops

FROM PAGE 12

istrict semifinals game to reach the district finals. Denham and sophomore Dhyamond Crenshaw both scored 13 points in the win over the Wildcats, while Green scored seven and Hansen six.

"Our goal was to get to the district championship game and to get a first round [region playoff] bye," said Green.

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McLean, VA. 22101. The
above establishment is apply-
ing to the VIRGINIA DE-
PARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGE CONTROL for a
catering and mixed beverage
license to sell or manufacture
alcoholic beverages. Michael
Juliano, Owner

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
SL & HJ, LLC trading as
Hunan Deli, 7200-V Telegraph
Square Drive, Lorton, VA
22079. The above establish-
ment is applying to the
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
CONTROL for a Beer & Wine
on and off premises license to
sell or manufacture alcoholic
beverages. Hyun-Jung Yi,
Vice President

ABC LICENSE
Pablo E. Perez trading as
Pablito's, 10901 Main Street,
Fairfax, VA 22030. The above
establishment is applying to
the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
CONTROL for a Restaurant
for a Beer and Wine License to
sell or manufacture alcoholic
beverages. Pablo E. Perez, owner

ABC LICENSE
Tess, LLC trading as Tess,
LLC, 7203 Little River Turn-
pike, Annandale, VA 22003.
The above establishment is
applying to the VIRGINIA DE-
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Public Notice

Availability of Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft
Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for Implementation
of the Privatization of Army Lodging Program at Fort
Belvoir, Virginia

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District,
has prepared an EA that considers the proposed implementa-
tion of the Privatization of Army Lodging (PAL) program at Fort
Belvoir, Virginia. Implementation of the proposed action to
transfer ownership and operation of Fort Belvoir's lodging facili-
ties and to lease the land underlying the existing facilities, as
well as other previously developed land where new lodging fa-
cilities will be constructed, to a private-sector development
company is not expected to result in significant adverse envi-
ronmental impacts. Therefore, in accordance with the National
Environmental Policy Act, preparation of an environmental im-
pact statement is not required. Copies of the EA and draft
FNSI are available for review and comment at the Fort Belvoir
Van Noy Library and the following Fairfax County, Virginia li-
braries: City of Fairfax Regional Branch, John Marshall Branch,
Kingstowne Branch, Lorton Branch, and Sherwood Regional
Branch, and have been posted on the Fort Belvoir website:
<http://www.belvoir.army.mil>. Comments on the EA and draft
FNSI should be submitted to: Mr. Patrick McLaughlin, Chief of
Environmental and Natural Resources Division, Directorate of
Public Work, 9430 Jackson Loop Suite 200, Fort Belvoir, VA
22060-5116 (or by e-mail to environmental-fb-dpw@conus.army.mil).
Comments must be received no later than 30 days after
publication of this Notice of Availability. Subject to review
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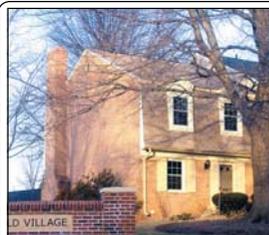
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