

ROUNDUP

OF OUR AREA

Roasters robbed

Someone broke into Roasters ... A Place For Coffee, in the Centreville Square Shopping Center, between Monday at 10:30 p.m. and Tuesday at 6:30 a.m., according to Fairfax County police. When the manager arrived for work Tuesday morning, he discovered the broken glass and called the police. Officer Vincenta Call said someone "pried and tried to break the glass on the front door." Stolen were a fax machine, a cash box and some change.

When Sully Station resident Denise Kempton went to Roasters around 8 a.m. for coffee Tuesday, she was amazed to learn what had happened. She said the glass in the door was smashed, and store employees were taking out what remained and covering up the hole with plastic. She called it a sad situation where there's such a disregard for people's property nowadays, adding, "Whoever's done this is so self-centered that they don't consider how it affects other people."

Kempton said she and "a bunch" of acquaintances have coffee there every day, chat and relax. "Then a thing like this happens, and you feel kind of violated," she said. But she said she'll still keep going to Roasters "because it's where all our friends and business associates go, and I like the people I meet there."

Centreville men arrested

Fairfax County police arrested a trio of Centreville men early Saturday morning after a police officer observed a weapon being discharged from their vehicle in the area of Airline Parkway and Route 50 in Chantilly. The officer followed the car and apprehended the men around 1:30 a.m. at Willard and Lee roads. The officer confiscated a .22-caliber handgun from the vehicle and, while inventorying it for towing, allegedly found a small quantity of marijuana.

Police charged Robert Green, 23, of 14920 Lampec St., with possession of marijuana, discharge of a firearm from a vehicle and being drunk in public. Steven Pennington, 22, of 14822 Cranoke St., was charged with being drunk in public. Steven Tannenbaum, 23, of 14830 Woodhome Road, was charged with concealment of a weapon and being drunk in public.

Green was released Saturday on \$2,500 bond; Pennington and Tannenbaum were released on their personal recognizance. Green's preliminary hearing is set for March 19; Pennington and Tannenbaum have March 22 court dates.

Chamber of Commerce

The Dulles Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its February mixer Thursday, Feb. 1, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Centreville Florist in Centreville Plaza.

Drivers needed

The Western Fairfax Christian Ministries needs drivers on weekdays to transport people to medical appointments, especially to dialysis centers and chemotherapy treatments. Call 378-3045.

Aircraft-noise seminar

A seminar on the interrelationship of "Aircraft Noise, Land Use, Transportation and Economic Development" is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 3, from 8 a.m. to noon, at Virginia's Center for Innovative Tech-

See **ROUNDUP**, Page 18

Chantilly approves block scheduling

By **BONNIE HOBBS**
Centre View

It's official: Block scheduling will begin at Chantilly High in September.

Following 10 1/2 months of research, discussion and investigation, on Monday teachers there voted 120-75 in favor of changing their current 45-minute classes to 90-minute blocks.

A block-scheduling committee composed of a subschool principal and nine teachers representing various departments chose an A/B pattern meaning that, one week, students will have three A days with certain classes and two B days with their other classes. The next week, they'll have two A days and three B days.

Furthermore, no matter what, B will also follow A. For example, if students had an A day and then a snowstorm closed the school, whenever the stu-

dents came back again, it would be a B day. The plan is similar in many ways to the one approved by Centreville High teachers in December.

Chantilly will also have a constant third period meeting daily to provide needed transportation time for students attending the second of three two-hour blocks of classes in the school's professional technical center.

Principal Dale Rumberger said Tuesday he was pleased with the level of conversation he witnessed, both for and against block scheduling, en route to the decision. He said it also taught school personnel more about their own school.



Rumberger

"When you restructure the school day, it crystallizes the strengths and weaknesses of the programs and underscores our communication process at Chantilly," he said.

For example, matters such as the amount of technology or space might need to be re-thought in order to more successfully implement the new schedule. Rumberger plans to meet next week with department chairs, the block-scheduling committee and school administrators to put together a plan to implement the new block schedule.

"In the vote, we left blanks for people to comment, so I have 195 comments to read," he said. Then, at certain times during this year, teachers will receive four hours of intense training to prepare them for the new scheduling. What students seem to dread the most about the new plan is the possibility that it will mean they'll have to endure 90-minute

lectures, and they don't want any part of it.

"I don't think I could sit through hour-and-a-half lectures," said junior Carolyn Haynes. Agreeing, sophomore Sarah Parnes said she believes "the teachers aren't going to change the way they teach. They lecture, but you need to do more hands-on things. It'll probably take them a couple years to change, and we'll have to go through that horrible transition period."

But Rumberger said Chantilly will do what it can to guard against it. "The teacher that consciously elects not to change the way [he or she] teaches probably isn't looking at the best way to deliver that material," he said. "Every single staff member will have to evaluate and prioritize what they do and how they do it."

See **BLOCK**, Page 28

Police probe possible robbery link in area

Fairfax County police are looking at the possibility that the man who robbed the Great Expectations maternity shop in Centreville Square Jan. 22 may also be the same person who has committed at least three other area robberies since Nov. 5.

Although police spokeswoman Sharon Smith said Monday there's "nothing conclusive" at this time to link the four crimes, she said police are looking at all the cases and "there are some similarities with regard to the suspect," as well as disparities.

On Nov. 5, a man robbed the Mobil station at 14048 Lee Highway in Centreville. Police say the man entered the station around 6:10 a.m., displayed a handgun, grabbed cash from the reg-

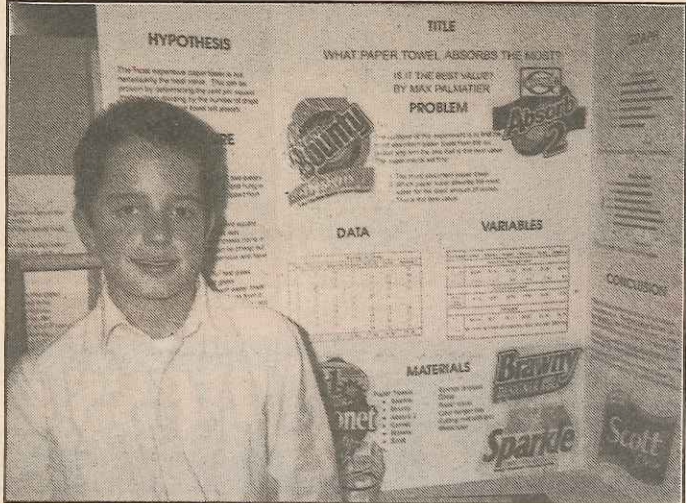
ister and fled on foot.

The suspect is white, 38-42 years old, 6 feet tall and 160 pounds, with glasses and a thick mustache. He wore a black knit cap, a Navy blue jacket and blue jeans.

On Dec. 23 around 5:30 p.m., and Dec. 28 around 7:05 p.m., police say a white man, 6 feet tall and 180 pounds, with a "walrus-style mustache, robbed Joy's Party Shop at 5651 Stone Road. Police say the man indicated he had a gun and then stole money from the cash register.

During his second visit to the store, police say he made the clerk — the same one he'd robbed days earlier — lie

See **ROBBERY**, Page 28



BONNIE HOBBS/Centre View

SUPER PICKER-UPPER: Max Palmatier demonstrates which paper towel is most absorbent.

Budding scientists sprout at London Towne Elem.

By **BONNIE HOBBS**
Centre View

London Towne Elementary held its own science fair last week, and students got to show off both their creativity and knowledge of the scientific method.

It was part of the school's first-ever, Science-Fair Week, and students in all grade levels participated. Representatives from London Towne's business partner, Aetna Casualty and Surety of Chantilly, listened as the children explained their projects.

Science-fair projects were not judged; all participants got certificates, and those able to explain the scientific method got ribbons. In addition, Tom Swenson of Mobile Productions Inc. of Michigan presented robotics assemblies for both parents and children, and each morning dur-

ing the school's TV news program last week, sixth graders who had researched inventors gave reports about them.

"One of our goals for London Towne is to encourage more student participation in science and math, give them knowledge and allay their fears," explained fourth-grade teacher Beth Lilly. She said the school also wants to encourage girls that science is something they can continue to pursue throughout their lives, and that it is not something aimed only at boys.

Illustrating her point, on Thursday Shawn Styles, 10, demonstrated how her project on hydraulics worked. Investigating how water can lift heavy things, she used a funnel, tube and balloon to prove her point. In her experiment, a book was lifted.

See **LONDON**, Page 18

Flasher exposes self near Centreville High

Centreville High is mailing letters to parents this week, describing a person believed to have exposed himself twice last week in the vicinity of the school, and urging parents not to let their children go places alone.

"We need to inform the community and make the kids aware [of what happened] and the adults conscious of it," said Centreville Principal Pam Latt. "We've had extra security, [and] the police are working very closely with us."

Fairfax County police are investigating two incidents of indecent exposure, and both they and Latt say it appears the same man may have been responsible. Although witnesses' descriptions have varied somewhat, he is basically described as white, in his early 20s, 6 feet, 150-165 pounds, with unkempt light brown hair. Both times he wore a

sweatshirt and blue jeans.

Said Latt, "We've gotten everything from 'a guy in his 20s' to 'a 50-year-old in a derby' but, when something like this happens, you're not exactly looking at the color of his eyes."

Police say members of the girls' track team were jogging on a path near the intersection of Braddock and Clifton roads Jan. 24, around 4:45 p.m., when a man ran out from a wooded area and exposed himself to six girls. They ran back to the school and the man fled.

The next evening, around 6:30 p.m., police say a 25-year-old Clifton woman was waiting in the school's parking lot on the north side of the building when a man entered the school, exited and exposed himself to her. She chased him in her car, and he fled toward Braddock Park.

See **EXPOSE**, Page 28