

## **METRO; In Brief**

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### **Body**

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#### VIRGINIA

##### Pharmacist Fired Over Dosage Mistake

A pharmacist who authorities said dispensed a lethal dose of a 5-year-old Sterling boy's bed-wetting medication has been fired from his job at Leesburg Pharmacy, store officials said.

Gregory C. Chase, who had worked at the pharmacy for about five years and previously was employed at a CVS drugstore in Vienna, is under investigation by state health officials.

Chase dispensed a solution of imipramine that Kellie Ward gave to her son, Brendan, on April 5, state officials said. She found the boy dead the following morning. State health officials said the dosage was five times as strong as what was prescribed by Brendan's doctor.

The pharmacy owner, Bruce Roberts, said that the medication was prepared by a technician but that state regulations require that a pharmacist review a prescription before it is dispensed. A woman who answered the phone at Chase's Centreville home yesterday said he had no comment.

##### Arlington GOP Picks Board Nominee

Arlington Republicans named Scott Tate yesterday to be their candidate for County Board this fall. Tate, co-founder and CEO of an Internet consulting business, will face County Board Chairman Barbara A. Favola (D) in the November election.

Tate, who faced no Republican opponent, was formally named last night by the party's executive committee.

Last fall, the 17-year county resident took on state Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple (D) and won 30 percent of the vote. He also ran briefly as an independent in the 1999 special election for a County Board seat.

Tate, 39, lives in Arlington's Bluemont neighborhood.

#### THE REGION

##### Metro Procurement Official Is Fired

## METRO; In Brief

**Metro** has fired a mid-level manager who gave a private consultant a full-time **Metro** job at his consultant's rate of \$ 165 an hour without required approval from the board of directors.

The transit agency announced yesterday that it was "reorganizing" the procurement department after an audit by the Federal Transit Administration.

As part of that reorganization, **Metro** eliminated the job held by procurement director Francis X. Watson and did not reassign Watson in the 9,000-employee transit agency. Watson, who has worked for **Metro** for eight years, will be terminated Friday.

Watson had tapped Wayman "Ray" Lytle, a part-time consultant, to fill a full-time job at **Metro** but kept him at his consulting rate, instead of switching him to the \$ 46-an-hour rate the full-time position typically pays. When **Metro** General Manager Richard A. White discovered the terms of Lytle's contract, he terminated it Jan. 14. Lytle had been paid \$ 276,540 in 15 months of work at **Metro**, both full and part time.

Federal officials looked into **Metro**'s procurement practices after news coverage about the Lytle case and **Metro**'s use of 36 consultants from architecture and engineering firms to fill vacant jobs.

#### Treasury Won't Get Land at Harpers Ferry

Agreement has been reached to leave 327 acres at Harpers Ferry, W. Va.--where the Treasury Department wants to build a law enforcement training facility--under the jurisdiction of the Interior Department's National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service, according to a news release from Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W. Va.).

Byrd had inserted language into an appropriations bill last month to transfer the land, which includes the Civil War site of the Battle of School House Ridge, to the Treasury Department. Preservationists were concerned that Treasury, which does not include historic preservation in its mission as does Interior, would sell excess land to a developer.

Under the agreement, the Park and Fish and Wildlife services will retain ownership and lease about 30 acres to Treasury for the training center. Byrd's release said the deal was reached after a meeting with officials and residents of Jefferson County, W. Va., and the agencies.

#### MARYLAND

##### Potomac Boater's Body Found

Rescue workers yesterday found the body of a man who drowned when his boat capsized on the Potomac River in Western Maryland.

Natural Resources Police found Jeffrey Lee Snow, 30, of Forestville, at 8:40 a.m., about a quarter-mile downstream from where the boat capsized Friday off the Washington County shoreline, a spokesman said.

The boat was carrying three people. The boat's operator, Dale Ewell France, of Mount Airy, Md., swam to shore safely.

The body of Ervin Ray Barnes, 28, of Frederick, Md., was recovered Saturday.

Neither of the men who drowned was wearing a life jacket.

#### THE DISTRICT

##### Schools Want Renovation Opinions

The D.C. public school system is holding two "community dialogues" tonight to gather views on school renovations and new construction to be part of a modernization effort for the city's 140-plus school buildings.

## METRO; In Brief

The planning session for Area A will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at P.R. Harris Educational Center, 4600 Livingston Rd. SE. It includes Ballou Senior High School; Douglass and Johnson junior high schools; Hart Middle School; and Birney, Draper, Ferebee-Hope, Green, P.R. Harris, Hendley, King, Leckie, Malcolm X, McGogney, Moten, Patterson, Savoy, Simon, MC Terrell, Turner and Wilkinson elementary schools.

The planning session for Area G will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Columbia's Church, 2200 Champlain St. NW. It includes Wilson and Ellington senior high schools; Deal Junior High; Hardy Middle School; and Eaton, Hearst, Hyde, Janney, Lafayette, Key, Mann, Oyster and Stoddert elementary schools.

#### School Food Center's Condition Faulted

D.C. Council member Phil Mendelson (D-At Large) toured the D.C. school system's food warehouse in Northeast Washington yesterday and complained that the facility was too warm.

Last year, health inspectors found tons of food stored years past their expiration dates there, as well as evidence of insect and rat infestation. School officials say the problems have been corrected. Mendelson said he saw no signs of vermin.

"Most of the space was just a little cooler than the steamy outside temperature," he said. "And while the freezer was freezing, it was well above the zero degrees marked on some boxes."

#### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's just unbelievable that this wonderful person could just be walking down the sidewalk so early in the morning, minding her own business, and get shot. How is that possible?"

-- Marquitta Miller, whose grandmother, 76-year-old Grace Edwards, was shot to death while taking her daily walk near her home in Southeast Washington.

## Classification

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**Subject:** US STATE GOVERNMENT (90%); PHARMACISTS (90%); COUNTY GOVERNMENT (90%); ELECTIONS (89%); FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT (89%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (87%); DISMISSALS (78%); MANAGERS & SUPERVISORS (78%); MIDDLE MANAGEMENT (77%); HEALTH DEPARTMENTS (77%); GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT (76%); PUBLIC CONTRACTING (75%); POLITICAL PARTIES (72%); BOARD CHANGES (72%); BOARDS OF DIRECTORS (72%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (72%); PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (71%); INVESTIGATIONS (71%); PURCHASING & PROCUREMENT (68%); EXECUTIVES (66%)

**Company:** TATE'S CO (55%); TATE'S CO (55%); TREASURY DEPARTMENT (80%); COUNTY BOARD (64%)

**Organization:** TREASURY DEPARTMENT (80%); COUNTY BOARD (64%); TREASURY DEPARTMENT (80%); COUNTY BOARD (64%)

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