

Children are unleashed in Brown's Chapel Park during the annual Eggnormous Egg Hunt Saturday, March 31. More than 100 children participated in the event, which was hosted by the Reston Community Center.

Egg Hunting In Brown's Chapel Park

Future of Silver

Line Discussed

NEWS, PAGE

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Classifieds, Page 15

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SPORTS, PAGE 17

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Real World Comes To South Lakes

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April 4-10, 2012

News, Page 19

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NEWS



From left, Sophia, Isabella and Amelie Clarke of Reston model the "twirlability" of the Clarke Collection reversible skirts at The Campagna Center's 13th annual Toast to Fashion fundraiser, held Thursday, March 22 at the Belle Haven country Club. Mom Veronica Clarke launched the children's apparel and accessories business last year.



From left, Allison Priebe Brooks, owner of Queen Bee Jewelry Designs in Alexandria, her father, Louis Victor Priebe of Springfield, and Kate Michael, former Miss D.C. 2006 and president of K Street Kate, during the 13th annual Toast to Fashion fundraiser for The Campagna Center, held Thursday, March 22 at the Belle Haven **Country Club.**

All That Glitters

The Campagna Center's annual Toast to Fashion fundraiser sparkles with fashion, food and fun.

ith glittering displays of spring's hottest fashion trends and most coveted accessories, the ballroom of the Belle Haven Country Club was transformed into a fashion-lover's dream during the Campagna Center's 13th annual Toast to Fashion on Thursday, March 22.

The Toast to Fashion, the Campagna Center's premier fundraiser, combines a fashion show, marketplace, raffle, and reception with all proceeds supporting the center's childhood-development programs. Guests got a peek at some of the hottest spring trends (think pink and rainbow-brights) from local boutiques, including Haute Papier, Queen Bee Designs, Skinfinity and The Dressed Up Nut.

"We had well over 200 guests and great participation from numerous local business establishments," said Tammy Mann, president and CEO of the Campagna Center. "The Toast to Fashion provides an opportunity for the community to learn about programs of the center, and the volunteers we rely on to help raise funds for our work."

The Campagna Center, which has been serving children in Alexandria since 1945, operates a range of childhood-development programs, including Early Head Start, Afternoon Adventures and Summer Safari. as well as adult and family literacy programs. Each year, the center's teachers, staff and volunteers help more than 1,700 children and families.

Many of the center's programs, such as Head Start and Early Head Start, are federally-funded programs that also require a local match.

"Every bit helps us close the gaps we have to fund

2 * Reston Connection * April 4-10, 2012

2012 Toast to Fashion Award Honorees

The Golden Halo Award, which recognizes a member of the Campagna Center who has demonstrated a selfless commitment to fundraising. Honoree: Allison Priebe Brooks, owner of the Alexandria jewelry-design firm Queen Bee Designs.

The Barbara Pratt Lee Heart of Gold Award, which recognizes a member of The Campagna Center who has demonstrated leadership and personal dedication to the advancement of the center's mission. Winner: Nicole Duncan, catering and special events director of the Belle Haven Country Club.

The Anne Culbert Legacy of Service Award, which recognizes a member of the community who has supported the center through a sustained legacy of dedication, spirit and influence: Carrie Owens Garland.

The Unsung Hero Award, created to honor those who have given their time and expertise as a Junior Friends volunteer. The first Unsung Hero Award was presented posthumously to Elizabeth Pignatello, 39, who died in August 2011, in a small aircraft accident. Her mother, Enid Robinson, and her daughter, Bella Pignatello, accepted the award in her honor.

these much-needed services. Just this week we had hundreds of parents show up to register their child for a space in Head Start this coming fall," Mann said.

The event was hosted by the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center, and featured a fashion show emceed by ABC7 Sports reporter Britt McHenry. Laura Hartman and Jeannine Hyde co-chaired the event.

"This is not only a fun event, but a special event, because everyone here is helping make the future a little brighter for the children and families served by The Campagna Center," said Kate Michael, former Miss D.C. and president of K Street Kate, an online lifestyle magazine and talk show.

For more information on The Campagna Center's programs, go to www.campagnacenter.org.

- Victoria Ross



Lt. Rodney Vaughn, Master Technician Anthony Doran, Technician Lawrence Mullin and Master **Technician Christopher Williams of Fire Station 18** were presented the Bronze Medal of Valor Award March 21 for their rescue efforts last September during flash flooding at the intersection of Stuart Mill Road and Birdfoot Lane in Reston.

Above and Beyond Firefighters honored for Reston rescue efforts.

By Jeanne Theismann and Alex McVeigh The Connection

he water was swiftly rising at the intersection of Reston's Stuart Mill Road and Birdfoot Lane as deadly flash flooding surged throughout Fairfax County on Sept. 8, 2011. Two vehicles stranded at the intersection were quickly swept out to a tree line 150 feet into the water with a family of three and a single driver still inside.

With no safety lines or rescue boats available, Fire Station 18 first responders Lt. Rodney Vaughn, Master Technician Anthony Doran, Technician Lawrence Mullin and Master Technician Christopher Williams battled the waist deep and rapidly rising water and debris to bring the occupants to safety. On March 21, the four were recognized for their heroism with Bronze Medals of Honor at the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards.

At the event held at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, the 34th Annual Valor Awards. Members of the Fairfax County Police Department, Sheriff's Office, Fire and Rescue Depart-

ment, as well as from the Towns of Herndon and Vienna, were given awards.

Thirty-five responders were given Bronze or Silver Medals of Valor, and their children will receive post-secondary education scholarships from the Valor Scholarship Fund, a 501(c)3 foundation. To date, more than \$250,000 in scholarships has been awarded.

The flash flooding of Sept. 8, a result of 6 to 10 inches of rain that deluged the area, brought numerous calls for water-related rescues and 18 Fairfax County Fire and Rescue personnel were honored for their efforts that day. The firefighters saved dozens of lives by rescuing people who were trapped by rising water, in danger of washing downstream or were otherwise trapped by the severe weather conditions.

The Chamber also awarded 48 lifesaving awards and 25 certificates of valor during the ceremony.

"We have heard some remarkable accounts of heroism today," said Doug Brammer, the Chamber recognized 108 of chair of the Valor Scholarship the county's first responders at Fund. "Having done this for a number of years, it just reinforces that when things are at their worst, our first responders are at their best."

Future of Silver Line Discussed

"Yes, it is going

today, but it's

going to cost

us a heck of a

future years."

— Supervisors Chair

Scott York

lot more in

to cost us

Panel discusses labor agreements, Loudoun County's decision.

By Alex McVeigh The Connection

he Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce hosted a panel discussion in Reston Wednesday, March 28 about the future of Phase Two of the Metrorail Silver Line. The discussion featured Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Scott York and Metropolitan Washington Airports

Authority President Jack Potter. Connaughton said the subject of

a Project Labor Agreement, which would put conditions on the companies and employees building the rail, has been a point of contention during the process.

"There's a great deal of concern that Virginia companies could be excluded from being able to competitively participate in the procurement," he said. "In Virginia, we have some fairly large project going on, the 495 HOT lanes has a PLA on it. But what

happens after the procurement is awarded is essentially between those contractors and their employees about how they move the project forward. But the government mandating it up front is something we just did not find acceptable."

Potter said he was confident that MWAA would adapt to changes as needed, and pointed to recent examples.

"The MWAA board has made decisions that I think are indicative that they are listening. They went from a below-ground to aboveground station, there were concerns raised about a mandatory project labor agreement, we worked very hard... to fashion a

mandatory PLA that at the time was compliant with Virginia law," Potter said. "It was suggested that a mandatory PLA was not the desire of the commonwealth and the board reacted to that and followed through with a voluntary PLA with incentives."

IN LOUDOUN COUNTY, seven of the nine supervisors are newly elected. The Loudoun board has been given extra time before their vote so their members can get themselves up to speed. York said he hoped that the plan will pass.

"If we fail to invest in this project to get it into Loudoun County then we will not become what we have planned to be in our comprehensive plan," said York, who is in his fourth term as chair. "This is our pipeline to Washington, D.C., to bring employees in, to take our constituents who work all the way in Washington in and out quicker and not have to be stuck in traffic. This is a huge quality of life issue. Yes, it is going to cost us today, but it's going to cost www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



From left, Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Scott York and Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority President Jack Potter speak at a Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce event Wednesday, March 28.

> us a heck of a lot more in future years." Bulova said that Loudoun's decision will have an

impact on how Fairfax County moves forward.

"I hope that Loudoun County's decision is positive, they've been a partner with us from the beginning of the project," she said. "If that turns out not to be the case we'll have to go back to the drawing board and look at the project and how things might change. It would be a less expensive project because there

> would be fewer stations, and the project would not extend all the way into Loudoun, but we'd have to take another look at the funding agreements and the legality of any changes that would need to happen."

Potter echoed Bulova's optimistic tone.

"We at MWAA are very hopeful that we'll be able to take the rail all the way out to Loudoun. Should they opt out, and we hope that would not be the case, we would get together with our partners and look at what options are out there. But we made a commitment, long before I got here, that we were going to take the rail to Loudoun, and that's my first priority."

MARK INGRAO, president of the chamber, said he and its members remain committed to seeing the Silver Line finished.

"This is one of the most important development projects in this region in decades, and will have lasting implications for years to come," he said. "All the businesses I speak to, who have invested in the special tax district in Reston, believe this project was never intended to be rail to Reston, it was intended to be Rail to Dulles and beyond."

Bulova said Fairfax County is prepared if the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors decide to move forward. "Assuming that Loudoun indicated their willingness to continue participating in the project, Fairfax

County will have this on our April 10 meeting," she said. "Assuming all those positive things happen, we expect to be ready to start negotiating with developers and folks who are interested in partnering with us probably in the summer, starting June or July."



Sumaiya Sharieff and Mahrukh Chowhan talk with John Higbee and Willis Twum of Dominion Power about a career with the electric utility company. Both students said they were just exploring different career options.

Real World Comes to South Lakes More than 55 careers represented at Career Expo.

areer Expo

By Amiee Freeman The Connection

ore than 55 careers were represented Monday, March 19 at South Lakes High's Second Annual 10th Grade Career Expo. The careers represented ranged from electricians to Internet technology, said Elizabeth Vandenburg, South Lake's PTSA community outreach representative.

"The goal of this activity is to bring the real world into the building. It is also to show the students that, yes, you do have to study math and English and this is why. It is also to have them thinking about two years from now when they will be entering this world and making sure they know now what skills they will need," said Vandenburg.

The students participating in this career fair began thinking of potential careers years ago. "The push now is in kindergarten to really start talking about careers," said Davina Johnson, director of student services.

Despite this early push many South Lakes sophomores said they weren't really sure of what kind of career they are interested in pursuing.

Tyler Hutson, Tyler Chronister, Tyler Gallagher and Adam Gorgos checked out the table hosted by the Fairfax County Police Department. Officer Matthew Willert shared with the students information about the Police Department's Explorer Program which "works with youths 15 to 20 year olds to give them a glimpse of what law enforcement is like," said Willert. The boys listened attentively, then moved on saying

they weren't really sure what kind of career they were interested in.

At a table hosted by Dominion Power, Sumiya Sharieff and Mahrukh Chowhan said they were "just exploring and looking at different careers."

Willis Twum, a designer for Dominion, said he and his corepresentative, John Higbee, a serviceman, had been "getting a lot of interest, but mostly for him," said Twum, referring to Higbee. "He does all the cool stuff." Students who stopped by the table were sure to try on the heavy rubber gloves that linemen use when working on the electric lines.

At a table for Mitre, a cyber security company with offices in McLean, Brett Kreider had posted a chart with entry level salaries, mid-range salaries and top salaries, which exceed \$100,000 per year. The numbers seemed to catch many students' eyes and groups of students stopped to talk with Kreider.

"Cyber security is a hot topic. I can tell them stories to get them interested, not to mention I posted potential salaries. If you work hard, you get rewarded for it in this field," said Kreider.

Logan Nasr summed up his classmates situation. "Most people don't really know what is out there. This shows them what is out there. They can see what skills are needed to get better jobs. Something interesting that I learned today is that 65 percent of jobs that we will be doing in the future don't exist today." Nasr suggested that the career fair was helpful, but is just the beginning of a potentially long and continually changing career search.





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Directions: NORTH on the Beltway, take Exit 46B onto Rt. 123N-McLean. Go 3 miles & turn right onto Old Dominion Dr. (Rt. 309). Go 1/2 mile through 2 traffic lights. Mae's Dress Boutique in on the right just past Shell Gas.

SOUTH from MD., Cross the American Legion Bridge. Take the first Exit on the left, Exit 45B. Go 1/2 mile. Take Exit 19B onto Rt. 123 North for 1.4 miles. Right on Rt. 309. Go 1/2 mile. Mae's Dress Boutique is on the right.



Week in Reston

Holocaust Remembrance Program to be Held

The United Christian Parish of Reston will hold an evening of remembrance and witness for the victims of Nazi Germany on Thursday, April 19, which is 69 years to the day after the start of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The program, open to all, will take place at 7 p.m. at the church, 11508 North Shore Drive, in Reston. Kay Rodgers, a parish member and a seminarian at Wesley Theological Seminary, visited Poland, including the camps of Auschwitz, Birkenau and Treblinka, with a group from Wesley Seminary. She will narrate a slide show describing ghetto life, instances of resistance, and seeds of hope. Child care will be available.

The United Christian Parish is an ecumenical church uniting four denominations: United Methodist, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

For more information, call the church office at 703-620-3065.

Skate Park on Wheels

Skateboarding will be the theme at the free Skate Park on Wheels event for all ages on Saturday. April 7, 1 to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, the Town of Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation, and American Inline Skating, a portable skateboard park complete with ramps, jumps and rails, will be open for novice through experienced skateboarders aged 6 and older. The course will be set up in the parking lot of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department at 700 Center Street in Vienna.

All skaters are required to wear a helmet. Additionally, wrist guards, elbow and knee pads are recommended for inexperienced skaters and those under 16 years of age. For information, contact the Hunter Mill District office at 703-478-0283, or the Department of Parks and Recreation at 703-255-5721.

12th Annual Hopecam 5K Run/Walk

Come and join the Reston community on Sunday, May 6 for the 12th Annual Hopecam 5K Run/

SEE WEEK, PAGE 7

4 * Reston Connection * April 4-10, 2012

Heroes of Mount St. Helens

Reston resident writes about role of gophers.

By Amiee Freeman The Connection

mong the smallest of the animals that live on Mount St. Helens, the northern pocket gopher has been credited with aiding in the restoration of Mount St. Helens. "Gopher to the Rescue," a newly released book written by Reston resident Terry Jennings, examines the role of gophers in ecosystem recovery following a volcanic eruption.

"Gophers are not a very good subject to hook a story to, but the more I looked into their role at Mount St. Helens, the more I realized that gophers could be a hero," said Jennings.

Mount St. Helens, located in the Cascade Mountain range in Washington State and 50 miles northeast of Portland, is famous for its catastrophic eruption on May 18, 1980.

FOLLOWING THE ERUPTION,

thousands of feet of ash, pumice and stone rained down on all the sides of the volcano, dramatically altering the landscape surrounding the mountain. Nearly 150 square miles of forest was blown over or left dead. A vast, gray landscape replaced the once-forested

slopes of Mount St. Helens. Fifty-seven people died in the eruption and its aftermath, an estimated 7,000 big game animals (deer, bears and elk) perished, and 250 homes and miles of roads, bridges, and railways were destroyed.

Jennings had visited Mount St. Helens in 1981, just months after the eruption.

"The devastation was very difficult to understand," said Jennings.

When she was asked by her publisher, Sylvan Dell Publishing, to write a book about how animals react to a volcanic eruption, Mount St. Helens came to mind due to the immense amount of information that has been produced following the eruption.

"Mount St. Helens was easy to personalize because there is so much data about it. After the eruption, the mountain was largely closed off and became like a laboratory," said Jennings.

As Jennings began to do research about Mount St Helens, the scientists studying the recovery of Mount St. Helens asked if she had heard about the gophers.

The northern pocket gophers of Mount St. Helens are small creatures, eight to nine inches long, explained Jennings. Unlike the large animals on Mount St. Helens, the gophers, buried down in their burrows, survived the eruption. Following the eruption, the gophers tunneled out of their burrows and continued to dig. Their digging brought the fertile soil that had been buried underneath the ash back to the surface and broke up the hardened crust. If a seed, carried along by the wind, fell on a gopher's



Terry Jennings, of Reston, with her recently released book, "Gopher to the Rescue," about the role of the northern pocket gophers in eco-system recovery following a volcanic eruption. Jennings will be at the Reston Barnes and Noble on April 14 to discuss her book.

tunnel, which had loose, more fertile soil, the seed sprouted and grew. Life began to spread.

"I don't want to leave the impression that the gopher saved Mount St. Helens. It is just a small animal doing its part. But it makes such a cool story," said Jennings.

THIS IS THE FIRST BOOK Jennings has had published that bears her name. She has written many educational texts for children for a Smithsonian series. Prior to that, she wrote a column for The Connection.

"I started writing because I like to write. The Smithsonian position was a great gig and I got to do research about interesting topics. I also was able to talk to some really passionate scientists. To me, it was very interesting that these scientists were so passionate about their work. I wanted to share that passion, that engagement."

In addition to writing books, Jennings is assisting KC (short for Kool Cat), the first feline blogger, write a blog of interesting science facts. The blog has only been up for one month. The goal of the blog is to encourage children to do research and to be inquisitive.

"I hope the website will be of help. I didn't want to do a website with just my books listed. I hope the website can be of value to kids," said Jennings.

Jenning's blog – rather, KC's blog can be found at www.kcswildfacts.com.

Jennings will be at the Reston Barnes and Noble on April 14 to discuss "Gopher to the Rescue."

Faith Notes

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday.

United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive in Reston, has announced their holy week events. The United Christian Parish is an ecumenical church uniting Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church. 703-620-3065 or www.ucpreston.org.

Soup-and-salad Supper and Maundy Thursday Worship Service. Thursday, April 5, 6 p.m. Holy Communion and optional foot-washing.

Good Friday Vigil. Friday, April 6, 1-7 p.m. The church sanctuary will be open, all are invited to spend time in individual prayer and reflection. Sacred music will be played at intervals and parish members will be present to assist.

Easter Sunrise Service. Sunday, April 8, 6:30 a.m. Planned and conducted by the United Christian Parish youth.

Easter Services. Sunday, April 8, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. With vocal and bell choirs and Holy Communion. Childcare available.

Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road in Herndon, will share the last week of Christ through the cantata, "The Lenten Sketches," on Friday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m. It consists of six movements that follow Christ's ministry and life during Holy Week. A free-will offering will be taken to benefit Floris UMC's local outreach programs. Floris UMC worship services are at 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays with a Latino service on Saturdays at 7 p.m. 703-793-0026 or www.florisumc.org.

Vale United Methodist Church, 11528 Vale Road in Oakton, invites everyone to their Holy week activities. 703-620-2594 or www.valechurch.org. Maundy Thursday Service

with Communion. Thursday, April 5. 7:30 p.m., April 5, Church Sanctuary.

Good Friday Service. Friday, April
7:30 p.m., April 6, Church Sanctuary.
Children's Easter Egg Hunt.
April 7, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Vale Fellowship

Hall. Easter story, games, refreshments, and egg hunt. Bring a basket. **Easter Sunrise Service.** Sunday,

April 8. 6:45 a.m. Outdoor service led by Vale Youth.

Easter Worship Services. Sunday, April 8. 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Church Sanctuary.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road in Herndon, has Sunday Worship Service at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare are available during worship services. Youth and Adult Sunday School is held Sundays from 9:40-10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or www.trinityherndon.org.





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OPINION Please Share Call for Mother's Day Photos, and Father's Day.

very year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of moms and their children, grandmothers and their children and grandchildren. Most years, we're lucky enough to receive some photos include four generations - greatgrandma and all the rest.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13, and once again the Connection will publish a selection of Mother's Day photos, celebrating the mothers who make so many things possible in families, businesses, communities, schools and other institutions in local neighborhoods.

Email photos, including the full names of the people in the picture, the approximate date and location the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about the people and/or event.

Father's Day is June 17; soon it will be time to send photos of Dads and children, grandfathers and children and grandchildren.

You can upload your photos on our website at www.connectionnewspapers.com/ mothersday or email them to reston@connectionnewspapers.com

Commentary Are We Still Slaves?

By Rabbi Leibel Fajnland Director of Chabad of Reston-Herndon

his Friday evening, April 6, Jews the world over will be celebrating the first night of Passover with a traditional meal called the "Seder."

A ritual celebrated every vear commemorating the Jewish people's exodus from Egypt 3,323 years ago.

Our ancestor's miraculous journey from oppression to freedom has served as a source of inspiration for many, including our own founding fathers. In fact, the first design for the official seal of the United States -

suggested by Benjamin Franklin, depicted the Jews crossing the Red Sea. The motto around the seal read: "Resistance to Tyrants is Obedience to God."

A highlight of the Seder is the asking of the Four Questions. I, however, find myself year-afteryear asking this question: what meaning does this ancient story and its associated ceremony hold for the average American in 2012? How can we look at events which transpired so long ago and still be spiritually inspired by them?

The answer lies in the Talmudic dictum: "In every generation a person must feel as if they were liberated from Egypt." In other words, we have a responsibility to ing of all: peace on earth.

6 ♦ RESTON CONNECTION ♦ APRIL 4-10, 2012

make this ancient tale regarding the escape from Pharaohs bondage important to us living today in modernity. We achieve this by recognizing, that the imprisonment from which the ancient Hebrews sought emancipation is, conceptually, still present.

Slavery finds many forms and

takes on various guises. In days of old, it was depicted by a whip toting task-master hovering over a slave with a chain wrapped around his ankle. Today, it can be found, for example, in our addiction to a certain negative trait or tendency, and our excruciatingly difficult experience in trying to "break free." Perhaps it is be-

ing enslaved to things material, not being able to possibly fathom life without them. Are these not the modern-day equivalent of slavery?

Therefore, every year as we begin the holiday of Passover and the celebration of freedom, we are reminded that the stories we recount and the rituals we observe are as much about a commitment to the present as it is reminiscing about the past.

During this time of year we once again reaffirm our vow to fight all forms of bigotry and slavery, be they within or without. And, importantly, we pledge to devote ourselves to being positive members of society at a time when we all crave the most priceless bless-

New Residents To the Editor:

County Attracts

Share Your Poetry:

the poet are also welcomed.

April Is Poetry Month

pril is National Poetry Month. We invite local

poets of all ages to send in submissions for in-

in new residents. Everywhere I go

across the County, I continue to

hear that people enjoy the "mood"

here in Fairfax County. We are a

community that is innovative, cu-

rious, resilient, and caring. Even

during tough economic times we

have worked together in a positive

way to maintain the quality of life

Sharon Bulova

Board of Supervisors

Chairman, Fairfax County

that our community values.

Community To

Prevent Bullying

As a private, not-for-profit

agency focusing on bullying pre-

vention and intervention in north-

ern Virginia since 2009, we at

Fairfax Partnership for Youth, Inc.

are pleased to see your recent

pieces focusing on this critical is-

sue for youth ["Interrupting Ha-

rassment and Bullying: Empower-

ing Bystanders to Intervene, Stu-

dents to Set Boundaries," Connec-

tion, March 28-April 3, 2012]. We

have been encouraged by the

Fairfax County Public School

System's efforts to provide a struc-

ture within which each individual

school can improve its bullying

prevention and intervention re-

sponse, and have been pleased to

offer feedback as they have devel-

oped it. However, this issue is not

the concern of the schools alone;

youth can be bullied anywhere

they interact. And providing safe

environments for them to interact

is a tremendously complex job that

requires the cooperation and lead-

ership of all of the adults in the

community, especially parents. We

are hosting our third Bullying Pre

It Takes

To the Editor:

clusion in our papers and/or online. Are you a

poet? The Connection will print poetry submitted by read-

ers this spring, and occasionally throughout the year.

Email your poem to reston@connectionnewspapers.com

print your town name, not your full address). Photos of

Letters to the Editor

Be sure to include the poet's name and address (we'll

When the Census Bureau released their American Community Survey of County-to-County Migration last week, I was happy to hear that Fairfax County was the number one destination for people moving to the Washington Metropolitan region. The migration statistics help demonstrate what many Fairfax residents already know: Fairfax County is a great place to live, work, play, and grow older comfortably.

Fairfax County is home to one of the best K-12 school systems in the country. We are also one of the safest jurisdictions of our size in the United States. Many top companies that have relocated here cite our top-flight education system as the number one reason for choosing Fairfax County as their new home. We are also a uniquely great place to start a business, a place where we can insure a stable business-friendly climate and access to a highly educated workforce.

Fairfax County offers an impressive menu of recreational opportunities, with attractive parks, golf courses, and bike trails to choose from. We also can claim a well-established arts community, world class shopping and dining, and numerous historical and cultural attractions.

It's important to recognize that Fairfax County is attractive to new residents because of our diversity. We are home to people of many different backgrounds and cultures and consider our diversity one of our greatest assets.

Apart from all of the statistics, facts, and figures, I believe there is another more intangible reason that Fairfax County tops the region

Reston NECTION

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See Letter, Page 8





Week in Reston

From Page 4

Walk. This year's race will honor Stefano Rocca, a student at Westbriar Elementary School in Vienna. Hopecam keeps children connected to their classrooms via webcam and laptop while they are homebound, receiving treatment. Hopecam has been able to keep over 200 children connected socially to their friends and classmates, since its inception in 2003.

Online registration is open. The race begins at 8 a.m. on Sunday, May 6.

Race Info: Start and finish – 1890 Preston White Dr., Reston (corner of Sunrise Valley Drive and South Lakes Drive). Go to www.hopecam.org to register. For more information, please contact Jen Bond at Hopecam, Inc. at 703-620-2555.

Bulletin Board

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to reston@connection newspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

TUESDAY/APRIL 10

Oakton High School Dance Team Pre-tryout Clinic. 4 p.m. Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. alphajane@aol.com. Fairfax County presents Caregiving 101. 8:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Free. Register at 703-324-5205, TTY 711,

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/ olderadultservices or caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 11

Aldrin PTA Dining for Dollars. 4-8 p.m. Pollo Peru, 1675 D Reston Parkway, Reston. A portion of each sale benefits the school. info@aldrinpta.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 13

Friday Forum Business Networking. 7:30 a.m. Sheraton Reston Hotel Syrah Restaurant, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Business professionals focused on generating business for members through qualified referrals. New group being formed. Meeting free and open to all, breakfast available for purchase. Meetings every Friday. 703-802-0334.

SUNDAY/APRIL 15

UUCF: A Sociological Perspective. 12:45 p.m. Fairfax Unitarian Church, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The theological diversity of UU congregations sets us apart from other mainline denominations. Sociologists have developed typologies and theories that provide some useful insight into Unitarian Universalism.

MONDAY/APRIL 16

NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241 Luncheon Meeting. 11:30 a.m. Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. With State Senator Mark Herring (D) District 33. \$17. 703-435-3523

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 18

Oakton HIgh School Dance Team Pre-tryout Clinic. 4 p.m. Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. alphajane@aol.com.









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OPINION

Class Warfare From the Top Down

By John Lovaas Reston Impact Producer/Host

on't know about you, but I am getting fed up picking up the paper nearly every day and reading of the latest efforts to weaken worker organizations, freeze pay, cut benefits, and downsize jobs across the economy. Corporate CEOs and Boards of Directors have been terrorizing workers for years. Now, politicians have their sights set on civil servants, especially down the road in Washington.

Federal government employees, quite a few of whom are our friends and neighbors here in Reston,

Independent Progressive

have had their pay frozen the last two years, thanks to President Obama. Now, Republicans propose extending that freeze for three more years as part of a deficit re-

duction package—the goal of which seems to be keeping taxes low for the wealthy. They also propose to slash civil service jobs, 200,000 or so over the next few years. Neither of these actions would affect private contractor employees hired by the government to replace civil servants under the guise of cutting costs. Contractors and contractor employees soared during the Bush years while the number of merit-based civil servants declined.

This is another great fraud perpetrated by the Republicans and complicit Democrats, like our two U.S. Senators, who stand by and applaud greater use of

Letter to the Editor

FROM PAGE 6 vention Symposium to pro-

wide cooperation on April 25, and all 224 seats were reserved within 1 week of the day we opened registration. It's clear

our community is dedicated to eliminating bullying, but we must all contribute to the effort, by learning, sharing what works, and supporting the local schools and private organizations that are working hard to provide clear solutions that promote respect and understanding among youth.

> Kristen Brennan Executive Director, Fairfax Partnership for Youth, Inc. www.fairfaxyouth.org

Back to the Classroom

By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum State Delegate (D-36)

am spending some more time back in the classroom recently. Last week I taught social studies to fourth graders at Lake Anne Elementary School. The students were courteous and well behaved, clearly eager to learn, and as diverse as the world around them. Separation of powers in state government is not the hottest topic for fourth graders, but they were responsive to the conversation we had and the

COMMENTARY questions I posed. After

all, you need to know this stuff; it is on the infamous SOL tests required by the legislature.

My experience renews the admiration I have for the men and women who teach in our classrooms every day. It is hard work. A recent study indicates that teachers work more than 50 hours per week. Back in the 1970s I taught history and government in the high schools for nearly three years. I remember well the weekly preparation that started on Sunday afternoons and continued each evening with papers to grade and lesson plans to prepare. There are no slow days in the classroom; you always need to be prepared.

Being back in a fourth grade classroom talking about Virginia is especially meaningful to me, for that was the grade level at which I discovered how interesting history and government could be. Our class field trip to Jamestown Island had a great impact on me to come to realize that you could



get to know the people of the past and to stand on the soil on which they stood. That excitement has never left me. This week I start teaching a

once-weekly class for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery at Lake Anne in Reston. I will be exploring some of the highlights of Virginia's history with the 78 eager-to-learn retirees who have signed up for the course. While I appreciate the origins of Virginia's institutions, I am also one of her sharpest critics. While I am caught up in some of the pride felt by native Virginians, I also teach about our low points, for they sometimes represent the best ways we can learn from the past. I am not an apologist. I tell the story the best I can as to how events happened. And I try to clear up some mistaken notions held by some who have migrated here from other states.

Unfortunately, there are too many examples of the repeat of past mistakes and shortcomings: discrimination, voter suppression, timidity, lack of vision, not learning from the past. Maybe that's the reason I return to the classroom periodically with young people as well as adults. For as I prepare to teach, I learn. As I and others present our interpretation of the past, the way of the future might be clearer. Those who do not learn from the mistakes of the past are apt to repeat them.



the private sector. In fact, recent studies show that when the feds contract with private firms loaded with overhead and profit, both loyal, hardworking civil servants and the taxpayers lose—big time. Senator Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.), citing one recent study, says, "...contractors may be paid, on average, more than

1.83 times what federal employees are paid to perform the same work." Furthermore, federal employees were less expensive than contractors in 33 of the 35 occupational categories reviewed. But, why go through the hassle necessary to competitively hire civil servants based on merit when you can hire a slew of folks at once and give a friendly contractor great overhead and fat profit at the same time?

Don't even get me started on worker retirement packages! Corporations have vaporized retirement plans while a complicit Congress has stood quietly by, refusing to speak up for the 99 percent. Now, the attacks are occurring in government at all levels, with Republicans and DINOs proposing to "reform" government pensions to bring them into line with the pathetic remnants of private sector plans. Meanwhile, guys on the corporate boards, like an aircraft corporation I invest in, vote themselves each 140,000 stock shares for attending 12 meetings this year.

Strengthening, Not Blocking, Health Care Law

By Karen Christenson

am one of millions of Americans waiting for the Affordable Care Act to be put into law so that I can have some relief from my troubles with our broken health care system. March 23 marked the two-year anniversary of the passage of the Affordable Care Act. The health care law has accomplished a lot in the last two years and is already helping millions of Virginia's seniors, adults with pre-existing condition, young adults, children and women.

But every time I turn on the television I see another politician trying to block the health care law. As I wait for my relief I am disheartened to see politicians who want to block the law before I have a chance to benefit.

I am a self-employed piano teacher and pianist. I have supported myself for 25 years in this manner, and have managed to buy a townhouse and accumulate a small retirement account.

But in 2004, my life changed forever. I was diagnosed with breast cancer, and un-

8 * Reston Connection * April 4-10, 2012

derwent surgeries, chemotherapy, radiation and ongoing hormonal therapy. I was fortunate to be able to continue to work full time through all that, missing a total of about five days of teaching. I am thrilled to report that I am winning my battle against breast cancer, but am now basically an indentured servant to my insurance company and health care providers.

In 2000 before I was diagnosed, my monthly insurance premium was under \$300. In 2011, about 45 percent of my gross (not net-gross) income went directly to health care costs. My insurance premiums have skyrocketed and the deductible has increased. I just received my renewal notice, and once again I'm facing a doubledigit percentage increase in costs. I am barely keeping my head above water. I have cancelled my daily newspaper, my cable TV, and anything else that is not essential to my business. I have taken renters into my townhouse. Obviously I cannot shop around for a lower premium—no one else will sell me insurance at this point due to pre-existing conditions. Once the health care law is fully implemented in 2014, pre-existing conditions will be a thing of the past. But until then, I will struggle.

In the midst of my struggle to stay afloat, I cannot help but look longingly at my tax dollars as they go to failed investment bankers. I have a great product, conducted my business ethically and honestly, and believe I deserve to stay in business just as much as they do, but health care costs are making that difficult. I don't deserve to end up on public assistance, and I know that wouldn't be good for me, the economy, or the musical education of my students. I have stacks of letters from parents who say I changed their lives and those of their children, for the better.

My experience with the health care industry leaves me no doubt that we need reform. We need to strengthen, not block, the health care law.

For me, health reform cannot come soon enough. There are many ways the Affordable Care Act attempts to bridge the gap between now and when the law is fully implemented in 2012. The Pre-Existing Conditions Insurance Plan (PCIP) was created under the Affordable Care Act and helps many people who have an illness but are struggling to afford care. PCIP was designed to bridge the gap between now and 2014 when the Exchanges are set up and pre-existing condition discrimination is ended for good. Unfortunately, I cannot join the Virginia Pre-Existing Conditions Plan because I am unwilling to risk being uninsured for six months, as is required. But for many, PCIP has been the difference between life and death.

While I wait for full-implementation I continue to pay an outrageous percentage of my income towards health care. I feel that the amount one pays for health care be limited to a certain percentage of one's income. No one should work simply to afford health care. The Affordable Care Act will address this issue. Many provisions of the Affordable Care Act, like the Health Benefits Exchange, will peg your health insurance costs to your income so that people like me will not have to pay HALF their income in premiums.



From left, Tiffany Ngoc Thuan Thai, 11, Trung Anh Van Thai, Phoung Nga Thi Tran, Stewart Trung Thang Thai, 9 and David Trung Tien Thai at the Reston YMCA Saturday, March 10.

Reston Interfaith, YMCA Team Up

By Alex McVeigh The Connection

eston Interfaith and the YMCA Fairfax County Reston have teamed up in an effort to assist those transitioning out of homelessness. The YMCA donated 35 memberships to Reston Interfaith clients who are in the transitional housing program.

Reston YMCA Board Chair Boofie O'Gorman said this partnership was a result of the YMCA branching out in the community.

"This came as a result of a board member's idea that we really need to think of ways to work with the many organizations that serve this community," she said.

Scott Shannon, board member at the Reston YMCA, said that in his previous experiences with Reston Interfaith, "it's clear that we have many goals in common."

The donated memberships will allow families to access the facility's fitness and aquatic center, as well as have access to childcare services.

Gene Jones, vice president of operations for YMCA of Metropolitan Washington, said he and Reston Interfaith CEO Kerrie Wilson spent a lot of time figuring out how their two organizations could work together.

Several families who will receive memberships came to the YMCA Saturday, March 10 for an introduction and tour of what the facility can offer. Davenia Boyer, who along with her daughter Adrianna, 16 and son Jamil, 2 were among the recipients.

"It's a beautiful facility, and I think the kids are especially excited to learn how to swim here," she said. "They've never had that opportunity before." Reston Interwww.ConnectionNewspapers.com

faith currently provides transitional housing assistance to 22 families. Their Embry Rucker Community Shelter is one of six shelters in Fairfax County designed to provide emergency housing for men, women and families. Greg White, CEO of Reston Interfaith said he appreciated the YMCA's "very generous gesture."



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Persian Kashan	3' x 5'	\$1,800	\$1,300				
Old Persian	3'7"x 5'4"	\$495	\$250				
Old Turkish	4'4" x 6'	\$920	\$750				
Pakistan Bokhara	4'1" x 5'10" 4' x 6'	\$750 \$750	\$600 \$600				
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India	10 x 8 8' x 11'3"	\$1,000 \$3,100	\$909 \$1,899				
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India Rug	9'1" x 12'2"	\$3,520	\$2,500				
Persian	9' x 12'	\$1,299	\$899 ¢2.200				
Bokhara Pakistan India Rug	8'3" x 10'3" 8' x 10'	\$2,500 \$3,520	\$2,200 \$2,200				
Very Old Chinese	8' x 10'2"	\$3,200 \$3,200	\$2,200 \$2,700				
Kilem Persian	7'6" x 8'7"	\$2,200	\$1,600				
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Reston Connection & April 4-10, 2012 & 9

Discussing Substance Abuse

Area high school students reflect on alcohol, drugs in their communities.

VIEWPOINTS

The Connection high school interns - Nikki Cheshire (Langley High), Monika Bapna (Marshall High) and Mary Grace Oakes (Madeira) – asked area high school students: • Do you feel that legal substances (alcohol, tobacco) are being abused more or less than illegal

substances (marijuana, painkillers)? Why? * Do you think regular drinking or irregular binge drinking is more prevalent in your community?

Belle Therriault, Grade: 10, Marshall High

"I think legal substances are abused more. This is mostly because it is legal, and easier to get if people have older friends that they can get it from.'

"Irregular binge drinking definitely happens more because teenagers don't have a steady flow of it so when they do they tend to drink too much."



Tracy Soon, Grade: 11, Marshall High

"Legal substances for sure are more abused. I mean, they are easier to get to and the illegal things probably cost more." "I think teens do regular drinking more. As they get older they want more freedom, so they go to more parties where

Sophia Therriault, Grade: 12, Marshall High

"It really depends. Prescription drugs are something that kids abuse a lot. But it really depends on the age group."

"Binge drinking, hands down. Teenagers usually don't get a chance to drink very often, and when they do they often go overboard."

-Monika Bapna

Annie Wattenmaker, Grade: 12, The Madeira School

"I think legal substances are abused more often since they're easier to get and aren't as risky. Although alcohol is illegal to teenagers, it isn't as big a risk as weed or other illegal drugs. But, because alcohol is so easy to get, kids abuse it and don't realize how dangerous it can be.'

"I'd say binge drinking is definitely more prevalent. On weekends, kids get so excited over the opportunity to drink and don't know when to stop. It's a problem when parents and the law absolutely forbid kids to drink wine at dinner, where the environment is safe. It causes them to feel a sense

11

of freedom when they're at a party over the weekend and they completely abuse the opportunity."

Makenzie Parent, Grade: 12, The Madeira School

"Alcohol is probably the substance that is most abused because it's easiest to obtain.

"I think many kids binge drink. Since parties are really the only place for kids to drink, they tend to go all-out because they feel like they need to cram everything into one night, which is inevitably more dangerous."



alcohol is often free flowing."



THE COUNTY LINE

Substance	Overall		Grade		Gender		Race/Ethnicity ^a				
	FCPS 8 th	8 th	10 th	12 th	Females	Males	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Other/ Multiple
Alcohol	21.1	7.7	19.9	36.5	21.1	21.1	25.3	16.8	23.9	11.6	21.5
Binge Drinking ^b	10.5	2.6	8.9	20.5	9.4	11.6	12.6	8.7	12.5	5.2	10.4
Marijuana	10.3	2.4	10.0	18.9	7.5	13.1	11.5	12.7	11.7	5.0	10.7
Cigarettes	6.8	2.3	5.7	12.8	5.7	8.0	7.3	5.7	9.1	4.3	6.9
Painkillers without a doctor's order	5.7	4.9	5.7	6.5	5.7	5.7	6.3	5.8	5.8	3.6	6.9
Prescription drugs other than painkillers without a doctor's order	4.1	2.1	4.0	6.2	4.1	4.0	4.8	3.4	4.1	2.4	4.4
Inhalants	3.9	6.9	3.0	1.8	4.3	3.6	2.9	4.9	6.6	3.1	5.0
Over-the-counter drugs to get high	1.7	1.2	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.8	2.6	0.8	2.0
LSD or other hallucinogens	1.5	0.9	1.3	2.4	1.0	2.1	1.9	1.3	1.4	0.8	2.1
Ecstasy	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.7	0.8	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.1	0.8	1.8
Cocaine or crack	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.6	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.4	1.0
Methamphetamine	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.5
Steroids	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.8
Heroin	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.7

US 26.8 13.8 28.9 41.2

Past month prevalence of alcohol use, by selected demographic characteristics, according to the 2010 Fairfax County Youth Survey.

Percentage of students reporting use of selected substances in the past month, according to the 2010 Fairfax County Youth Survey.

County Aims to Prevent Substance Use and Abuse

Alcohol use down, painkiller and inhalant use on the rise.

alcoholic drinks in a row within the past two week

By Alex McVeigh The Connection

THIRD IN A THREE PART SERIES.

wenty-one questions in the 2010 Fairfax County Youth Survey dealt with substance abuse. The survey asked about lifetime use of alcohol, marijuana and cigarettes, as well as use in the past month of 13 different substances.

According to the survey, the most frequently used substance by Fairfax County students is alcohol, with 45.5 percent saying they had consumed it in their life, 21.1 percent reporting use in the past 30 days and 10.5 reported drinking five or more drinks in one sitting. While all those numbers are below the national averages, several community groups are at work trying to get them even lower.

"Quite simply, alcohol is a danger to their future," said Diane Eckert, executive director of the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County, which recently received a \$200,00 state grant to reduce underage the 2009 survey to young age, you're priming yourself to be- 2010. Non-paincome dependant as you grow older, which of course we don't want.'

Lifetime alcohol use in the county has decreased since the 2001 Fairfax County Youth Survey by 13.8 percent across all

Access is a key part of the prevention mechanism, since students are under the age of 21 and cannot purchase it themselves. Many community groups reach out to places where alsequences of providing alcohol to minors.

"We participated in Operation Sticker Shock, which marks beer and wine at grocery stores with "Stop" signs to discourage that is no longer needed to county facilities Youth Services Division. "They're another litions are in a unique position because it shoppers from purchasing them for under- for proper disposal. age children," said Debbie Witchey, presi-

Presenting Realities of Alcohol Abuse

The Unified Prevention Coalition will present "The Perils of College Drinking Culture," a program designed to educate students and parents about the realities of binge drinking on college campuses. The presentations will include a screening of the award winning documentary "Haze," as well as a question and answer session with a panel of law enforcement, medical and legislative personnel

- The programs will take place:
- Tuesday, April 17, Fairfax High School
- Tuesday, April 24, Herndon High School Wednesday, May 16, Mount Vernon High School
- * Wednesday, May 23 at Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus Ernst Com-

munity Cultural Center All programs will be from 7 to 9 p.m. More information can be found at www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

dent of the Safe Community Coalition, which were the only non-alcohol, tobacco, inhalserved the Langley and McLean High School ant or marijuana substances used by more pyramids. "We also held a program where than 1.7 of the students. Other drugs surfifth and sixth graders wrote notes to jun-veyed include LSD, ecstasy, cocaine/crack, iors and seniors attending prom, reminding methamphetamine, heroin and steroids. them that they are role models and asking them to make responsible decisions, espe- ticularly because Fairfax County's usage stacially when it comes to drugs and alcohol."

Prescription drugs, particularly opioid in all grades. Any fumes or gas that is inpainkillers, are a concern for the commu- haled to get high falls under this category, nity since they can be readily available

in students' homes. "Prescription drugs abuse Painkiller use has risen from 4.9 per- wasn't even on our radar a cent reporting use within 30 days in few years ago, now it is drinking. "Once you start drinking at a 5.7 percent in because of the youth survey" **—Diane Eckert** killer prescription

> drug use has also in 2009 to 4.1 percent in 2010.

"Prescription drugs abuse wasn't even on cause a lot of parents aren't aware of the percent in 12th graders. effect an unlocked medicine cabinet can "The survey has shown inhalant use starthave on teenagers.

According to the survey, prescription drugs

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above marijuana Geary said that programs, while often a risen from 3.9 percent within the last 30 days (which was the second most abused subpart of a comprehensive prevention strategy, coalitions play a more central role in stance in 10th and 12th grades). what he called "community level change," According to the survey 6.9 percent of which requires looking at the whole picture, our radar a few years ago, now it is because eighth graders reported using inhalants in of the youth survey," Eckert said. "We know the past 30 days, while the number dropped the host, agent and environment. we have to develop more awareness, be- to three percent in 10th graders and 1.8 "If the goal is to spread change to impact the maximum amount of people, then a com-

> ing at a younger age, which means we have comprehensive community coalition," he at home, so it's more difficult to control ac- everything."

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grades.





Kristen Bilowus, Grade: 12, The Madeira School

"I think legal substances are more commonly abused mainly because of their accessibility. Cigarettes are easiest to come by, and many kids either have or know someone who has a fake ID to buy alcohol. This leads to a very widespread abuse of alcohol by kids in our area. Illegal drugs are less common, but are enticing to kids because of the danger surrounding them. Often, drinking and cigarettes lead to abuse of illegal substances. Peer pressure at parties combined with intoxication can lead to skewed

decision making and maybe illegal drug use."

"Irregular binge drinking is more prevalent. Kids drink at parties to be social, rather than by necessity. I wouldn't say I know anyone that drinks regularly by necessity."

Jennifer Oler, Grade: 12, McLean High School

"I think that both illegal and legal substances are being used the same. Lots of kids at this age drink alcohol and smoke marijuana."



"I definitely think it is prevalent in my community."

-MARY GRACE OAKES

Inhalants are another area of concern, partistics are higher than the national average

which can include household items such as glues, aerosols, butane and solvents.



the second most abused substance behind alcohol in eighth-graders,

cess, and can be something younger students try and experiment with.'

Inhalant use in the past 30 days has gone up and down since 2001, falling as low as 2.6 percent in 2008, but is currently at its highest measured rate. In eighth-graders, it has gone up by 1.5 percent since 2009.

Marijuana was the second-most used drug by 10th and 12th graders. While 5.3 percent of eighth graders reported using it, 19.3 percent of 10th graders and 36.7 percent of 12th graders reported the affirmative.

Eckert also said the UPC focuses on marijuana use because "the perception of harm and parental disapproval seems to be going down, and that usually leads to usage numbers going up."

Coalitions like the Unified Prevention Coalition and the Safe Community Coalition are working on new ways to spread awareness of the dangers of substance abuse. Dr. Bill Geary of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America recently spoke to school officials, police, parent organization leaders and coalition members about how to approach the problem.

"We use a Strategic Precognition Framework that's based on the Public Health Model, where we look at the agent as the substance that causes the change and the host as the people who use it," he said. "The point at which the host interacts with the agent is a problem, but if that was the only one, we'd only need prevention programs. But we also have to look at the environment, and some are easier than others when it comes to allowing the host to interact with the agent."

munity level change is most likely with a The rise has led to county-sponsored pre- to make sure to check for it at a younger said. "A coalition does not just run programs, scriptions drug drop-off events several times age," said Capt. Bruce Ferguson, commander but they oversee and implement what role a year, where residents can bring medicine of the Fairfax County Police Department's programs might have in that strategy. Coaone of those substances that can be found means no one single agency is in charge of



Miles Laubinger, Grade: 12, Langley High School

"Different things run in different crowds. Alcohol is more prevalent, but the illegal drugs are more of a problem because people that buy prescription drugs off the street run the risk of encountering shady people instead of just store clerks."

"You run into both regular drinking and binge drinking, depending on the responsibility of the individual. Big team

parties have more binge drinking versus someone who does it responsibly."

Gabrielle Zuccari. Grade: 11, Langley High School

"Alcohol is probably the most common, but it depends on what group you're in more than anything. It definitely seems like alcohol and cigarettes are easier to get than, say, mariiuana."

"There's a fine line for kids our age between regular and binge drinking. I do think that casual drinking is more popular, but it depends on the group and the environment.'





Michaela Burton, **Grade: 10, Langley High School**

"I think it's probably easier for people to get their hands on legal substances, like from convenience stores or even at home. There certainly is a lot of usage of both, but I think legal drugs are abused more."

"Binge drinking, since more people just drink and don't think about it. I don't think teenagers have the self-control to just have one drink for dinner."

Norah Bazarov, Grade: 11, Langley High School

"Illegal drugs are probably used less, because you have to ask around for it. Legal drugs are easy to get because they're sold by a lot of people. Also, a lot of families have alcohol around the house, not marijuana."

"Regular drinking happens more often, because you can just sit down with a group of friends. It's more casual."

–Nikki Cheshire





12 * Reston Connection * April 4-10, 2012

ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 5

- "Glengarry Glen Ross" by David Mamet. 8 p.m. Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Four small-time real estate agents making questionable business deals. \$20.
- www.eldenstreetplayers.org. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.
- **Comedy Night.** 8:30 p.m. p.m. Sully's, 14513 Lee Jackson Highway, Chantilly. Every Thursday. 703-818-9292 or mysullys.com.
- George Winston. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. New Orleans R&B oriented, melodic folk piano and stride piano. Includes canned food drive. \$35. www.wolftrap.org
- Peter Fraize: Art of Improvisation. 2 p.m. Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, Center Stage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Freestyle jazz by a saxophonist and director of jazz studies at George Washington University. Free. 703-503-3384 or -476-4500.
- Reptile Wonders. 1:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Meet and learn about these animals with Reptile Wonders' Nature Center on the Go. Age 6-12. 703-242-4020.
- One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020
- One-on-One English Practice. 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Call for appointment with an ESL volunteer. Adults. 703-242-4020.
- eBook/eReader Instruction. 7:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn about library ebooks and how to access them with your compatible device. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

See Entertainment, Page 14



Mixed media abstract by H. Jenna Klimchak of Oakton. The ValeArts Spring Show, "Full Spectrum," will be at the Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road in Oakton from May 4-6. There will be an artists' reception on Friday, May 4 from 7-9 p.m. The exhibit features nine local artists working in a variety of media. Free admission. www.valearts.com.



• Friday, 4/6/12: Willem Dicke • Saturday, 4/7/12: Pete Baker

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You are invited to Reston Association's ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING



Tuesday, April 10, 2012 • 7 p.m. **Reston Association's Conference Center** 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive Reston, VA 20191 RSVP to annualmeeting@reston.org or Call: 703 435-6530.







11901 Democracy Drive Reston, VA 20190 703.787.7766

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The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County welcomes all people searching for a place to worship the Holy Trinity according to the practice of the ancient Christian Church.

Palm Sunday Service Sunday, April 8th 10:00 am

Good Friday Service April 13th 7:00 pm

Candlelight Easter Resurrection Service Saturday, April 14th 11:00 pm

Easter Agape Service Sunday, April 15th 11:00 am



Day and Evening Services held during Holy Week

For the complete list of Holy Week Services, go to www.greekorthodoxloudoun.org.



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14 * Reston Connection * April 4-10, 2012

ENTERTAINMENT

From Page 13

FRIDAY/APRIL 6

- "Glengarry Glen Ross" by David Mamet. 8 p.m. Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Four small-time real estate agents making questionable business deals. \$20.
- www.eldenstreetplayers.org. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.
- **George Winston.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. New Orleans R&B oriented, melodic folk piano and stride piano. Includes canned food drive. \$35.
- www.wolftrap.org. VIP Reston. 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Support group for visually impaired persons. Adults. 703-689-2700.

SATURDAY/APRIL 7

- Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.
- "Aladdin and the Wonderful **Lamp.**" 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Elden Street Players in a story about Aladdin, a poor boy who gets tricked by an evil magician. www.eldenstreetplayers.org
- "Glengarry Glen Ross" by David Mamet. 8 p.m. Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon, Four small-time real estate agents making questionable business deals. \$20

SUNDAY/APRIL 8

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com

MONDAY/APRIL 9

Frying Pan Farm at Reston **Regional Library**. 3 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Meet a spring lamb, card home-grown wool and

create a wooly craft to take home. Age 6-11. 703-689-2700.

- **English Conversation.** 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for non-native speaking adults. 703-242-4020.
- Brain Games. 3:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. After-school drop-in program. Play chess, Blokus, Battleship, Rush Hour and more. Age 6 and up. 703-242-4020.

TUESDAY/APRIL 10

- Ballet Class. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Beginning ballet technique for strength as well as balance and rhythm. No younger or older siblings permitted. 4-5.703-689-2700.
- **Great Decisions Roundtable Discussion.** 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Discussion of U.S. and International issues. This month the topic is the exit from Iraq and Afghanistan. Adults. 703-689-2700.
- Read to the Dog. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Bring a book or choose one from the library. Call or sign up online for a 15-minute session. Age 6-12. 703-689-2700.
- One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 3 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.
- Money Matters. 7:15 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Little Book of Sideways Markets: how to make money in markets that go nowhere by Vitaliy Katsenelson. Adults. 703-242-4020.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 11

- Open Mic Night. 9:30 p.m-1:30 a.m. Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring St., Herndon. Every Wednesday. Register your band at BluesSlide@aol.com or 703-593-5206. www.jimmystavern.com.
- Dan Navarro and Tracy Grammer. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. \$20. www.wolftrap.org.
- Reston Book Club. 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The Eye of the Needle by Ken Follett. Adults. 703-689-2700.
- Finding Your Fit on the Roller Coaster of College Admissions. n.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Identify colleges that meet your child's needs. Age 13 and up. 703-689-2700.



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THURSDAY/APRIL 12

- 2012 Best of Reston. 6 p.m. Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. The 21st Annual Best of Reston Awards honor businesses, organizations, and individuals who have shown commitment to community service and improving the lives of others. Proceeds support the programs and services of Reston Interfaith. Reserve at 571-323-9572 or ali.robbins@restoninterfaith.org.
- **Violinist Sonya Hayes with Frank Conlon.** 2 p.m. Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, Center Stage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Free. 703-503-3384 or -476-4500.
- Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.
- Comedy Night. 8:30 p.m. p.m. Sully's, 14513 Lee Jackson Highway, Chantilly. Every Thursday. 703-818-9292 or mysullys.com.
- **Robbie Schaefer and Ellis Paul.** The Barns at Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. \$18. www.wolftrap.org. Baby Steps Storytime. 10:30 a.m.
- Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Interactive storytime. Age 12-23 months with adult. 703-689-2700.
- Book Discussion Group. 7:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Call for title. Adults. 703-689-2700

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

- **One-on-One English Practice.** 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Call for appointment with an ESL volunteer. Adults. 703-242-4020.
- eBook/eReader Instruction. 7:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn about library ebooks and how to access them with your compatible device. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

FRIDAY/APRIL 13

Giving Circle of HOPE 5th Annual **Empty Bowls.** 5:30-8:30 p.m. Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. All proceeds will go directly to Food for Others, the largest distributor of free food to needy people in Northern Virginia. For a minimum donation of \$20, guests choose a handcrafted pottery bowl and receive a supper of soup, bread, beverage and dessert. 703-665-9334.



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CCON Newspape CLAS DEADLINES Zones 1, 5, 6 Zones 2, 3, 4 E-mail ad with zone choice newspapers.com or call	BMIT ADS TO ECTION ers & Online SIFIED Mon @ noon Tues @ noon s to: classified@connection Andrea @ 703-778-9411	Flexible after school hours Immediate Openings: Accounting/Admin Assistant-Responsible for AP/AR functions, order sup- plies, data entry, front office team member and all other duties as assigned. Job is a 10-month position with a few additional days in the summer. Qualifications: 1. Posses accounting degree or 2+ years of relevant accounting work experience 2. Proficiency in Quickbooks, Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook 3. Be able to work independently and as a team 4. Possess good organization and time management skills 5. Pay excellent attention to detail 6. Have excellent written and verbal communication skills, along with a posi- tive and professional demeanor 7. Be able to maintain confidential information 8. Ability to multitask and meet deadlines Join our Playground Team! Looking for several people to assist teachers in monitoring children at recess on the playground. Fun and friendly environment – Flexible Hours. \$12/hr. Send resumes to resume@nysmith.com ; Fax 703-713-3336	Complete Print Editions Donline The full print editions of all 15 Connection Newspapers are now available on our Web Site in PDF format, page by page, identical to our weekly newsprint editions, including print advertising. Go to		
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Infusing Is Semi Amusing

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

So here I go again; heavy-duty chemotherapy for the first time in nearly three years. As such, I thought I'd try and write another column while actually sitting in the Barcalounger at The Infusion Center (as I did three years ago: "Chemo-Cocktailing at the Depot" was that column's title) and see what my pen has to say. This is not my first return engagement, however. I have been at this Center nearly every three weeks for the past two and one-half years while being infused with my maintenance drug, Avastin, until a few months back when a diagnostic scan indicated some "progression." Consequently my oncologist decided to restart the "big" chemotherapy, as I call it, and move on to plan "B." Moreover, I have made multiple other visits here for miscellaneous scans, doctor's appointments and Emergency Room visits; I know the route - and I know the routine. "On the whole, I'd rather be in Philadelphia" (as was intended to be W. C. Fields' epitaph), but I'm not. I'm in Rockville. And presumably, my time spent here has kept me alive, way beyond my oncologist's original "13month to two-year" prognosis, for which I'd be crazy to complain. And those who know me know I don't complain.

I do kid though. And as a cancer patient who's been characterized/determined/diagnosed as "terminal" (when your oncologist advises taking "that vacation you've always dreamed of," you're terminal), the bloom is definitely off the rose; and as Dorothy said to Toto in "The Wizard of Oz": "We're not in Kansas anymore." Nor am I. We're in Maryland and we're in trouble. Considering the fact that stage IV lung cancer patients rarely live beyond five years, and I'm now at the beginning of year four (miraculous in and of itself, I'm told), if ever there was a time to retain one's sense of humor, it would be, in my opinion, when facing the kind of adversity that statistically speaking, I'm likely to face in the unfortunately nottoo-distant future.

But as a lifelong Boston Red Sox fan, hope springs eternal. And just as Red Sox Nation was rewarded in 2004 and again in 2007 with World Series Championships breaking the 86year-old "Curse of the Bambino," stranger things have happened. Apparently one of which is yours truly still being alive after my oncologist "prognosed" in March of '09 that I'd likely be otherwise engaged by now, so I am a believer. In fact, I'm living proof. However, there are hardly any guarantees here. There are. as I sit in this room with half a dozen other individuals being similarly infused, lots of hope and fear - and anxiety. If one doesn't embrace - or find humor somewhere, while enduring this excruciating mental ordeal, one would be neglecting, anecdotally speaking, the least expensive and most effective treatment available. Humor might not heal, but it likely will do more good than harm; the chemotherapy, in its infinite design wisdom and effect, is probably doing enough of that. As my Publisher – and fellow cancer survivor, Mary Kimm, is fond of saying about chemotherapy: "Kenny, they're poisoning you, that's why you feel the way you do."

But three years later, apparently the chemotherapy has done/is doing enough of its tumorfighting/shrinking thing to keep me in this chair. And though it may not be my first choice – of where I'd rather be, I'm grateful that at least I still have a choice I'm able to make.

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

Sports Herndon Baseball Off to Fast 4-0 Start

Hornets spending spring break week in Myrtle Beach; South Lakes baseball notches first win.

> By Rich Sanders The Connection

he Herndon High baseball team is spending its spring break week competing in a tournament in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The Hornets, who won their first three games of the season prior to making their trip down south, saw their record improve to 4-0 with a 13-5 win over Monticello High (Charlottesville) this past Saturday, March 31 in its first of three scheduled games in the Gamecock state.

Herndon was scheduled to play games versus Pickerington High School North (Ohio) at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, April 3 of this week, and Hancock County High (Lewisport, Kent.) on Thursday, April 5 at 3 p.m. Herndon's spring break games are taking place at Griffith Stadium at the Cal Ripken Experience facility in Myrtle Beach.

In the win over Monticello, a Region II member of the Jefferson District in Virginia, Herndon scored four runs in the first inning before breaking the game open with seven more in the fourth inning. Herndon starting pitcher Zach Wallace pitched six strong innings to earn the win for the Hornets. Addison Wright wrapped things up with one inning of relief work in the seventh.

In Herndon's four-run bottom of the first inning, Hornet highlights included an RBI single by Parker Hill and a pair of double steals by Herndon base runners.

Monticello scored three runs in the top of the third inning to get within 4-3. But Herndon blew the game open a little later in the bottom of the fourth. The big base hit of the inning was a bases-clearing, three-run double to deep left center field by Austin Schnarrs (3 hits, 4 RBI).

Monticello, trailing 11-3, scored two runs in the fifth. Herndon tallied single runs in the fifth and sixth, the latter on an RBI single by Wright (3 singles, 2 RBI), to create the final score.

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Senior outfielder Michael Francis makes contact at the plate for the Seahawks.

Matt Smith had three hits for Herndon and Hill had two RBI. In all, the Hornets knocked around 16 hits in the win.

Through Herndon's first four games this spring, Schnarrs was batting a team-leading .667 with nine RBIs and a home run. On the pitching mound, the Hornets were receiving solid production from Wright, Zach Wallace, and Tyler Reif.

The spring break games will be a nice prep for Herndon's tough, upcoming Concorde District schedule which will begin next week with a pair of games versus visiting Oakton on Tuesday, April 10 and at Centreville on Friday, April 13. The Hornets, in between those two district games, are also scheduled to play at home versus non-Northern Region opponent Loudoun Valley High on Wednesday, April 11.

"I think our district is going to be very tough and any team is capable of winning it," said Herndon head coach Greg Miller, whose team enjoyed a winning season last year. "At the end the team that has the best pitching and defense will probably win the district. I think we are very capable of winning the district this year but every night will be a battle. Any team in our district is very capable of winning it all." Prior to its spring break trip, Herndon had opened the season with three wins - 13-3 over local rival and host South Lakes on March 16; 10-0 over visiting Broad Run on March 19; and 8-2 over the same Broad Run team in Ashburn on March 26.

South Lakes Baseball

Notches First Win of Season After losing a lopsided Liberty District game at McLean High on March 20, the South Lakes Seahawks bounced back with an exciting come-from-behind 6-5 win over visiting district opponent Thomas Jefferson High on Friday, March 23. The Seahawks, who improved to 1-2 with the victory over the Colonials (1-2), trailed 5-1 in the third inning against Jefferson and starting pitcher Michael Chan.

But South Lakes stormed back with a multi-run bottom of the third inning, a key hit coming on a two-run homer by senior Billy McLaughlin. Other big at-bats in the inning came from junior Hayden Hall, who knocked a sacrifice fly, and freshman Kyle King, who hit a game-tying RBI single.

(1-1), the McLaughlin Seahawks' starting pitcher, responded to his team's four-run rally with consecutive 1-2-3 innings, throwing only six pitches in each stanza. After escaping a jam in the top of the sixth inning, the Seahawks, in a 5-5 tie, scored the game-winning run in the bottom half of the sixth on an RBI double by McLauglin.

The Seahawks' sixth inning opened with a leadoff single by sophomore Justin Cosing, who then stole second. That was followed by McLaughlin's RBI twobagger.

On the mound, McLaughlin had a strong outing, shutting down Jefferson over the final four innings and earning the complete game win.

The Seahawks are a young team, comprised of six freshmen and sophomores, but veteran head coach Galvin Morris has the resilient team playing inspired baseball.

Friday was the second of four 'Free Admission Friday' games this spring season at South Lakes, where youngsters wearing their official Little League or Cal Ripken League game jerseys, or sporting South Lakes' blue and green team colors, are admitted free with a paying adult. The next 'Free Admission Friday' is scheduled for April 13 when South Lakes will host district opponent Fairfax High. Adding to the special Friday night game versus the Rebels, South Lakes and its fans will celebrate 'Youth Baseball Night,' with youth players getting into the game for free as well as enjoying special activities and giveaways.

SOUTH LAKES, following the comeback win over Jefferson, had good momentum and nearly defeated red-hot Langley four days later, losing 6-5 in the district home game played on March 27.

For the first time all season, South Lakes got off to a good start in the Tuesday night game. Senior pitcher Ryan Forrest had an impressive first three innings of work, shutting down the Saxons (4-2) with no runs, two hits and four strikeouts. He was helped defensively by a diving catch from his brother, sophomore right fielder Josh Forrest, to end the second inning.

It was Josh who opened up the game's scoring in the bottom of the third inning when he crossed home plate on a double by senior Billy McLaughlin. Senior Austin Schweppe followed that with an RBI single to give the Seahawks a 2-0 lead.

The Saxons stormed back with six runs in the top of the fourth inning thanks to a combination of key hits and some defensive lapses by the home team. The Seahawks pitching settled down the rest of the way with two shutdown innings of relief by freshman Matt Wojciechowski that kept the Seahawks in the game. South Lakes rallied in the sixth inning with five consecutive hits, including an RBI single by Josh Forrest and an RBI double by freshman Kyle King. But South Lakes could not plate the tying run in the inning and Langley held a 6-5 lead through six innings.

The Seahawks threatened again in the seventh, putting runners on second and third with one out thanks to a double by junior Austin Gibbons and a Saxon error, but Langley's relief closer came in to strike out the final two South Lakes batters and the guests escaped with the victory.

South Lakes (1-3) is competing at the 2012 BATRUP Tournament in Hilton Head, S.C., over the current spring break week (April 2-6). Next Tuesday night, April 10, the Seahawks will play a district home game versus Stone Bridge at 6:30.

Sports Roundups -

The All-Virginia State Girls' Basketball Team was named recently. Caroline Coyer, the Oakton High senior guard who helped the Cougars cap-ture their first-ever state AAA title this past season, was named Co-Player of the Year, along with Woodside's Adrienne Motley.

Katherine Coyer, meanwhile, was named to the Second Team, as was West Springfield High's Logan Battle. Katherine Cover, twin sister of Caroline, was this year's Northern Region Tournament MVP.

Two other Northern Region players made the All-State Team - Fairfax High's Liz McNaughton (Honorable Mention) and Edison High's Ruth Sherrill (Honorable Mention).

In all, seven players made first team, five made second team, and eight made honorable mention.

Last week's Top 10 high school baseball poll, as selected by the Northern Region Coaches, was as follows: Lake Braddock (1); Madison (2); South County (3); Oakton (4); West Springfield (5); McLean (6); Robinson (7); Westfield (8); Centreville (9); and Langley (10).

Wellbeing Surviving Spring Allergies

Local allergists offer suggestions for coping.

> By Marilyn Campbell The Connection

he Washington region's unseasonably mild winter led to the early arrival of spring. While many delighted in the balmy temperatures and blossoming flowers, some who suffer from allergies began sneezing earlier than usual.

"The pollen started coming out early and a lot of people were blindsided by their allergy symptoms," said allergist Dr. Heidi Isenberg-Feig, a Potomac resident and allergist at Johns Hopkins Community Physicians in North Bethesda. "The tree pollen count has been high already which is unusual."

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) estimates that 35 million Americans suffer from allergies due to pollen and mold. Symptoms include sneezing, a stuffy or runny nose and itchy, watery eyes. This allergy season is expected to last

"Although there is no cure for allergies, symptoms can be managed." - Dr. Jean Glossa longer and be more intense than usual. Local allergists offer strategies for surviving spring allergy season.

"Although there is no cure for allergies, symptoms can be managed," said Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director for the

Fairfax County Community Health Care Network and Molina Healthcare. "It is possible to reduce or eliminate exposure to allergens. Minimize walks in wooded areas or gardens and stay indoors as much as possible on hot, dry, windy days when pollen counts are highest. Think about wearing a mask when mowing the lawn or gardening and don't hang linens or clothes out to dry."

TIPS TO HELP manage symptoms:

Decrease your contact with pollen. "The best way to do that is to close the windows of your car and house," said Isenberg-Feig. "Even if it is a nice day, the pollen count can still be a little high." Pollen can drift through open windows and settle onto carpet and upholstery.



Cherry blossoms and tulips made an early appearance this spring. Experts say those who are allergic to pollen can expect an intense and prolonged allergy season.



Dr. Heidi Isenberg-Feig, an allergist with Johns Hopkins Community Physicians, says that this year's spring allergy season could be more severe than usual.

✤ Take showers at the end of the day. "Shower and change clothes as soon as you len. "If you have problems with itchy, waget home to wash pollen from your hair and tery eyes, wear sunglasses when you're outskin," said allergist Saba Samee, M.D. of Alexandria & Clinton Allergy Associates. "Leave your purse or book bag at the front door. Don't drop them on the sofa or bed because they are all covered in pollen. The same goes for shoes."



Allergist Dr. Saba Samee, of Alexandria & Clinton Allergy Associates, advises allergy sufferers to take a shower after entering their home to wash away pollen from skin and hair.

Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director for the Fairfax County Community Health Care Network, Molina **Healthcare advises** allergy sufferers to consider wearing a mask when mowing the lawn or gardening.

♦ Use sunglasses to defend against polside and avoid being outside on windy days if you can," said Samee.

✤ Stay ahead of allergies. "If you are someone who suffers from allergies, try to take your medicines before things get too bad," said Samee. "If you wait until you're absolutely miserable the medicines don't work as well."

♦ Eat fruits and vegetables judiciously. Many people with seasonal allergies also suffer from pollen food allergy syndrome. "Some people experience itching hands or mouth or a scratchy throat if they eat certain raw fruits or vegetables because of the cross-reaction between the pollen and certain fruits and vegetables," said Isenberg-Feig.

* Use air filters to help create a pollenfree home. "Ensure that the filters fit properly and are changed regularly," said Samee.

♦ Know the pollen count. "This information is readily available on the web or the weather section of the news," said Isenberg-Feig. The National Allergy Bureau (NAB) tracks and reports current pollen and mold spore levels. A local pollen count can be found at http://www.aaaai.org/global/nab-pollen-counts.aspx

"IF YOU NEED long lasting relief, nasal sprays and allergy shots may be recommended," said Glossa. "However, if symptoms persist for more than a week or two and tend to reoccur, make an appointment to see your doctor. The good news is that most allergies are not lifelong conditions. By following your doctor's advice and taking control of your environment, allergies shouldn't keep you from enjoying springtime."



Santiago Collier, 4, watches his sister Zara, 6, do the limbo at the Eggnormous Egg Hunt at Brown's Chapel Park Saturday, March 31.

Egg Hunting in Brown's Chapel Park

Community Center hosts annual Eggnormous Egg Hunt.

> By Alex McVeigh The Connection

s children ages 1 through 9 gathered at Brown's Chapel Park in Reston Saturday morning, they separated themselves by age group and massed along the borders of several different roped off areas. The areas were filled with colored eggs, which meant that for many children, filling their baskets would come down to strategy.

"I headed straight for the back of the area, that's where I got most of my eggs," said Veronica Johnson, 7. "I think it was a good strategy."

The hunt started at 10:30 a.m., and by 10:35 almost every egg was gone. Over the next half hour, a few determined children were able to find some unclaimed eggs that were camouflaged to look like their surroundings.

"We were on our way to the car when I thought I saw something," said Andy Benson, 5. "My sister said it was nothing, but I knew it might be something I missed, and I was right and rewarded with candy."

The annual Eggnormous Egg Hunt was hosted by the Reston Community Center.

Though the eggs vanished quickly, families were able to stick around and enjoy a variety of moonbounces and other games.

"I really like that the games give us all a chance to hang out and spend some time with friends and neighbors after the chaos of the hunt itself," said Richard Juarez, who brought his two children to the hunt for the third year in a row. "The park is a great place to have a seat and sort through their bounty, and if I'm lucky, I'll be able to sneak in a few pieces."

Though gray skies threatened to postpone the event for the second year in a row, the day remained dry to allow the hunt to go on as scheduled, which was



Elana Kirwan, 7, grabs an egg and is already searching for her next one during the annual Eggnormous Egg Hunt at Brown's Chapel Park Saturday, March 31.

a relief for some.

"Last year it got postponed until after Easter, which kind of takes it out of context for the kids," said Ellen Wilde of Reston. "I don't think children will ever complain about an egg hunt, but it's nice when it gets them fired up for Easter, rather than being sort of an afterthought. I'm glad the day stayed nice, and I'm glad we made it out for another year."





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