

Robotics Team Shows Off Hardware

Visitors to the Udvar-Hazy Center experiment with robots built by the Herndon High School Robotics team Saturday, Oct. 27.

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After the Storm

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Local Horrors at Haunted House

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“The attempt to dive into wedge issues wedges us apart. We’re wedged apart about as far as we can go.”
— Timothy M. Kaine

“[Virginians] deserve a strong independent voice, not an echo.”
— George Allen

Elections 2012

Allen v. Kaine for Senate

Voters have stark choice between candidates to replace U.S. Sen. Jim Webb (D).

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

Candidates for U.S. Senate George Allen and his Democratic challenger Timothy M. Kaine have powerful things in common. Both were popular governors of the Commonwealth of Virginia; both have long political resumes; and both men are passionate about the success of their adopted home state.

Now locked in a high-stakes race that could determine control of the U.S. Senate, both candidates are fighting to secure the seat of retiring Sen. Jim Webb (D), spending a record \$55 million-plus on an avalanche of ads to sway swing voters in Northern Virginia and across the state. The message from both candidates is simple: voters have a stark choice.

Kaine, 54, has portrayed himself as a bipartisan bridge-builder who supports gender equality and believes that access to higher education and investing in what he calls the “talent economy” are critical to the success of Virginia and the nation.

Allen, 60, has portrayed himself as the small-business champion, a job creator who will unleash American energy resources and stop defense cuts that could cost 200,000 Virginians their jobs.

On the Issues

For more: To read more about what the candidates are saying on the issues, go to their official websites at:
www.kaineforva.com/issues
www.georgeallen.com (Click on Blueprint)

JOB CREATION & ECONOMIC GROWTH

KAINE: “I served as Governor of Virginia during the worst national recession in 70 years. But our unemployment rate was among the nation’s lowest, and our median income was near the top. We recruited numerous businesses (MeadWestvaco, Hilton, CSC, SAIC, VW of North America) to move their headquarters from other states to Virginia. ... First, America needs a commitment to being the Talent Society. Just as Virginia’s innovative investments in education—from pre-kindergarten to post-graduate and workforce training—have turned the state into a magnet for talent, America needs to commit to being the best in the world in educational opportunities. Talented people create ideas, companies and jobs. And great businesses locate in places where they know they can hire talented people. America used to be #1 in the world in the percentage of young adults with college or technical degrees. Among developed nations, we are now 12th, and more nations are poised to pass us by. We have to look at reforms—broader early childhood education, more rigorous K-12 curriculums, renewed attention to career and technical education, dramatic efforts to make college more affordable—to return America to tops in the world in educating our population.

ALLEN: “Key to America’s growth is reducing the U.S. tax on job-creating businesses—currently one of the highest in the world—to a competitive 20 percent. With this one policy change, America can begin attracting new investment and expansion in the U.S. and allow U.S. businesses, large and small, to raise wages and create over 5 million more jobs over the next 10 years. The Blueprint further helps the economy grow and create jobs with a tax code that is more fair and simple, including a Flat Tax option for individual taxpayers; new tools to put a check on overzealous regulators; and a focus on educating and training Americans to compete for and succeed in the good-paying, high-skill, high-knowledge jobs of the 21st Century.”

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See Issues, Page 5



Photo by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

Sister Marge Clark, a nun who has traveled the United States discussing the place of social issues in public budgeting, speaks at the United Christian Parish in Reston Thursday, Oct. 25.

Discussing Budget Morality

United Christian Parish hosts discussion on intersection of budgets and social services.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

The United Christian Parish in Reston hosted a forum featuring one of the “Nuns on the Bus” Thursday, Oct. 25 for a discussion on the intersection of morality and budgets: Sister Marge Clark, one of a group of nuns that have toured the U.S. meeting with elected officials and locals about morality and budgeting.

Clark is the author of the Faithful Budget, which is created by an inter-religious group that determines basic domestic human needs.

“Every year our group has done a reflection on budget, usually in January before the president comes out with his,” she said. “Last winter, we got together and said we need more than our annual reflection on the budget, there are a lot of specific, problematic issues, and we need to direct those to Congress.”

Clark said the group goes about the budget in a better way than the methods used by Congress.

“As a starting point we ask what are unmet needs of this nation? What needs to be done, but can’t be done by individuals, families or local communities?” she said. “That’s what needs to be the starting point of a federal budget. Then we look at how do we get revenue

to get there. But that’s not how budgets are done today. They get together, look at the previous budget, decide how much less or how much more in some areas.”

She cited the last two budgets passed by Congress as an example of poorly planned budgets, citing their cuts to numerous social services. She said it would be better to start from scratch than try to deal with the budgets that were passed.

“We would rather hit the ‘fiscal cliff,’ as they call it, than get a bad deal. And we got a bad deal in December 2010. It has done tremendous harm. We would be willing to allow everything to expire and start over,” she said. “That is not a good thing. We don’t want to lose the child tax credit, we don’t want to lose the [investment tax credit], we don’t want program cuts, we don’t want these things to happen. But a bad deal means all kinds of cuts to domestic programs, and changes to rules, regulations and structures of those programs.”

More than 100 people attended the event, and some said it gave them a new perspective on the way dollars are spent.

“It’s the finest of lines I think, to make something work by the numbers, but also make sure we’re taking care of people who

See Budget, Page 6

News

Members of the Herndon High School Robotics team display their robot at the Udvar-Hazy Center Saturday, Oct. 27.

Photos by
Alex McVeigh/
The Connection



Robotics Team Shows Off Hardware

Herndon High School Robotics demonstrate at Udvar-Hazy Center.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

The Herndon High School Robotics Team showed off its hardware at the Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center Saturday, Oct. 27, as part of the center's Air and Scare event.

While thousands of children flocked to trick or treat among the aircraft at the center, Herndon High students offered a chance for visitors to try out a few robots.

"This is a great chance to reach out to people who have a natural interest in science and technology, and show them what applications are out there," said Abigail Ackerman, a senior on the team. "We have team members that can remember seeing this display when they were younger and looked forward to joining the team."

Visitors could take a break from trick or treating to grab one of four remote controls to steer some of the "square robots," smaller pieces that are about the size of a remote control car. But for some, these robots were even better.

"I feel like I'm driving something that I could learn how to build myself, which is much more fun than a regular remote control car," said Taylor Waits, 6, of Sterling. "These look like they'd hold up better in a

crash too."

As the mother of student at Herndon Middle School, Maria Hill of Herndon said the display got her son very excited about the team.

"He's always been into things like space and technology, which is why we came here in the first place, and I think he had a lot of fun realizing that these students, who are a few years older than him, built these robots from scratch," she said. "I have a feeling we'll be making some inquiries when he gets back to school about joining."

Also on display was the robot from the 2012 competition, which can pick up and shoot mini basketballs into a hoop.

As a member of FIRST, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, the team competes locally, regionally and nationally in robotics competitions. They also mentor a team at Herndon Middle School.

Herndon's team is one of the most accomplished in the country, making several innovations that have since become part of the standards of competition.

"I think they get more out of it than some college classes can offer," said Winston Weiser, a parent whose children have been on the team. "The degree of focused attention on creating something, hardware, programming and

other technology, I think some of these kids learn enough to be hired by a tech company right out of high school."

Herndon Robotics alumni have gone onto internships with NASA, Pixar and more. Their season will kick off with a live-streaming event in January, where inventor Dean Kaman, founder of FIRST, will reveal this season's challenge.

"We have team members that can remember seeing this display when they were younger and looked forward to joining the team."

— Abigail Ackerman

Megan Labery, a senior on the Herndon High School Robotics team, demonstrates the team's latest robot at the Udvar-Hazy Center Saturday, Oct. 27.



Hornets Cadets 'Sting' Cancer

Herndon High School's Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps hosted 11 other high school teams for their annual George Washington University Field Meet. Planned and coordinated by Cadet Lieutenant Commander Kevin Hennessey, the full day of speed, strength, teamwork and academic competitions proved successful for the third place Herndon Hornets as well as for breast cancer awareness. Cadet Commander Kathleen Ratana declared the meet as her unit's kick-off event in its fight against cancer, which will culminate with participation in the local 2013 Relay for Life event.

Girl Scouts Need Help With Banana Muffin Project

Have you noticed the LINK refrigerator at the back of the cafeteria? This year, Clearview Elementary joins three other elementary schools in the Herndon area to donate purchased, unopened and unused food to the LINK "Rescue The Food" project. This project literally rescues food that would otherwise be thrown away and donates it to LINK, where it is given to those who need it. Clearview students have donated their unwanted breakfast and lunch items such as milk, juice, applesauce, yogurt, hummus and a variety of fresh fruit to this program. Parent volunteers pick up and deliver the donations twice per week to the LINK pantry for distribution.

The Banana Muffin Project is part of this effort. This Girl Scout program seeks to use the bananas that Clearview stu-

dents don't want and would otherwise throw away with their trash at lunch, and bakes them into delicious muffins, breads and cookies that are then donated to local homeless shelters and low income senior centers. Kids don't seem to like bananas with brown spots on them, but our Girl Scouts know that these spotty bananas make the tastiest baked goods.

Would you like to help support The Banana Muffin Project? The Girl Scouts of Cadette Troop 1255 could use all sorts of baking supplies... flour, sugar and so on. Donations to offset the cost of baking supplies are welcome, too. If you would like to help the Scouts with their community service project, please contact Marcy Brizzolara at (brizzly_bs@hotmail.com).

—Marcy Brizzolara

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS



Allen v. Kaine for Senate

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WITH LESS THAN A WEEK before Election Day, both candidates have spent time in Northern Virginia, emphasizing their differences.

"I have an Irish temper that I usually keep in check," Kaine said, during an Oct. 18 women's roundtable appearance in Chantilly. "During a debate at the Fairfax Chamber last month, my opponent was asked about the Blunt amendment, the personhood bill. His response was 'I don't know why the other side keeps bringing up divisive social issues.' I kind of got mad at that," Kaine said.

Kaine said Allen and others in the GOP want to take away women's choices, and then "step back from the issues."

"The attempt to dive into wedge issues wedges us apart. We're wedged apart about as far as we can go," Kaine said.

Allen has chided Kaine for his 2009-2011 stint as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, calling him an "absentee governor" and an "Obama clone."

"I want to be Virginia's senator. Tim wants to be President Obama's senator," Allen said during the candidate's fifth and final debate on the campus of Virginia Tech on Oct. 18. "[Virginians] deserve a strong independent voice, not an echo."

During five debates, including one last month sponsored by the Fairfax Chamber, they have clashed

On the Issues

From Page 3

HEALTHCARE

KAINE: "I support the Affordable Care Act as a first step to put patients in charge of their health care decisions and put the brakes on runaway health care costs that were crippling patients and businesses. I am proud that millions of children can now stay on family insurance policies until they are 26, that millions of small businesses are eligible for tax credits to help them purchase insurance for their employees, that millions of seniors are receiving free preventive care and lower prescription drug prices, and that key protections are in place to stop insurance companies denying care to those with pre-existing conditions and from abusing their customers."

Going forward, we have to do more to bring down health care costs while improving the quality of care. The experience of other nations shows that it can be done."

ALLEN: "Repeal Obamacare and replace it with portable, affordable health insurance, including options for personalized Health Savings Accounts. Americans do not want the federal government running their health care."

IMMIGRATION

KAINE: "America is a nation of immigrants. Our strength and international competitiveness has continually been augmented by the skills and talents of people coming to this nation from around the world. But for far too long our immigration system has been broken and for more than a decade Congress has been unable to work in a bipartisan manner to find a way forward that reflects our American values and tradition."

ALLEN: "I have said throughout this debate that we should not reward illegal behavior and this includes allowing individuals who used fraudulent identification or Social Security information to then receive Social Security benefits. I was supportive of [the amendment] and I will support other efforts in Congress to strengthen our security and ensure that only individuals with legal status receive Social Security benefits. If anyone who is here illegally desires the benefits of citizenship they should become citizens legally."

EDUCATION

KAINE: "In the last sixty years, Virginia moved from a low-income, low-education state to one with a dynamic economy that is effective at attracting new businesses, great schools and

over pending defense cuts, tax policy, education and over who has the right prescription to avert the "fiscal cliff" which endangers defense-related jobs in Virginia.

Kaine claims a strong record of bipartisanship, including working with Republican President George W. Bush on strengthening campus security in the wake of the 2007 Virginia Tech massacre. At the final debate, held Oct. 18 on the Virginia Tech campus, Kaine said, "We are all Americans; we are all Virginians."

While meeting with veterans in Fairfax on Oct. 22 at American Legion Post 177, Allen emphasized his record of working on behalf of veterans and their families. "I believe the federal government should lead by example in providing job opportunities for veterans as intended by current veterans' preference hiring laws, as well as the law requiring federal agencies to do business with small firms owned by service-disabled veterans."

BOTH CANDIDATES have tied their campaigns to the national battle for control of the U.S. Senate.

According to Toni-Michelle Travis, a GMU associate professor of government and politics and editor of "The Almanac of Virginia Politics," Kaine's lead in some polls is driven by a strong support among women voters.

"I think this race is still neck-and-neck, but I believe it's a race that will be decided by women in Fairfax County who will vote to protect (their rights)."

a wonderful quality of life. I believe the key to this progress has been our ongoing commitment to expanding and improving educational opportunities in our Commonwealth."

ALLEN: "Public education in America has for too long has been hindered by a federal government that believes Washington bureaucrats know better than parents and local and State school boards how our children should be educated. I believe that education policy should be decided and implemented at the state and local level, where it can be most responsive and accountable to parents and school children."

ENERGY


KAINE: "America's long-term goal should be to expand the use of low polluting forms of energy. It's good for the economy, good for America's security and good for the environment. We need to be on the cutting edge of new clean energy technologies like wind, solar and nuclear power."

ALLEN: "America can and should do more to conserve energy and apply our ingenuity to bring affordable alternative or renewable sources of energy to market. At the same time, let's not forget that we have the most plentiful resources in the world right under our land and water. Reversing current counterproductive energy policies not only will put America on a path toward energy freedom, it has the potential to create over a million new jobs, add over two trillion dollars to the revenue side of the government's balance sheet without raising taxes, promote national security and help preserve our quality of life which is being threatened by skyrocketing gas prices."

ABORTION

KAINE: "I strongly support the right of women to make their own health and reproductive decisions and, for that reason, will oppose efforts to weaken or subvert the basic holding of Roe v. Wade. We all share the goal of reducing unwanted pregnancies and abortions. The right way to do this is through education and access to health care and contraception rather than criminalizing women's reproductive decisions."

ALLEN: "My commitment to protecting innocent human life is firm. I believe that life begins at conception and support legislation declaring the personhood of every individual life. I oppose abortion except in the rare cases where the pregnancy was caused by rape or incest, and when necessary to save the life of the mother."



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The following students were named semifinalists in the 2013 National Achievement® Scholarship Program: **Kenyah T. Calhoun** and **Kyannah C. Calhoun** from South Lakes High School.

The following students were named semifinalists in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program: **Margaret M. Schaaf** and **Isaac W. Yampolsky** from Herndon High School; **Kelsey L. Ericksen**, **Dara Kharabi**, **Adrienne Nims** and **Scott H. Reid** from South Lakes High School.

Danielle Neuberger of Herndon has been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at Rochester Institute of Technology's B. Thomas Golisano College of Computer and Information Sciences.

Air Force Airman **Andrew L. Wong** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, after training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Wong earned distinction as an honor graduate. He is the son of Jean Wong of Briargrove

Court, Oak Hill, and a 2008 graduate of Oakton High School.

Abigail Marchesseault of Herndon is listed on the fall 2011 honor roll with distinction at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Tx.

Herndon residents **Sakethnath Are** (Personal Essay/Memoir), **Andrew Huang** (Personal Essay/Memoir), **Anna Jordan** (Poetry and Personal Essay/Memoir), **Emma Kitchen** (Short Story) and **Lucia Liu** (Poetry) have won regional recognition in the 2012 Scholastic Writing Awards.

Budget Morality Discussed

From Page 3

need it," said George Matthews of Reston. "It can get really political, but at the end of the day, if we want to boast that we're the greatest nation on earth, which despite our issues, I think we are, then we have to make decisions about who needs to be taken care of."

Taryn O'Brien of Reston said the issue is so nebulous, that she isn't sure how it can be accomplished.

"There are people who are

getting help that genuinely have bad luck, and there but for the grace of God go all of us, but I think it's a little unrealistic to think there aren't people taking advantage of the system," she said. "It's difficult to fathom how those decisions can be made, and who we would choose to give that power, but it is nice that people are having the conversation. It gives me hope."


According to 2011 Fairfax County data, 6.8 of the population, or 73,794 people are living below the poverty line. There are more

than 25,000 children (9.7 percent) living in poverty, and more than 6,000 (5.5 percent) of people over 65 in poverty.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) said that the County relies on the groups and organizations in communities to help determine needs.

"Our faith communities and nonprofits are some of our largest partners, in delivering and supporting services and partnering with us to add social services," she said. "I consider those major assets for us."


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News

After the Storm

Thousands of residents without power as clean-up efforts continue and residents deal with downed trees, closed roads and schools in wake of Hurricane Sandy.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

Hurricane Sandy battered the region Monday night, shutting down Fairfax County schools, governments, roads and voting precincts. The mammoth storm made landfall near Atlantic City around 8 p.m., according to the National Hurricane Center, with maximum sustained winds of about 80 miles per hour.

Driving rains and powerful winds knocked down trees and power lines, leaving at least 70,000 people in Fairfax County without power Monday night.

As of 11 a.m. Tuesday morning, Dominion Power reported that

there are 57,000 customers without power County-wide. The Virginia Department of Transportation gave an update at 7 a.m. Tuesday morning, reporting that about 143 secondary roads in Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties remained closed due to either high water, downed trees and/or power lines. The majority of these roads are in Fairfax County. VDOT also reported there were 107 signal outages in Northern Virginia, and to treat these outages as four-ways stops.

"Our crews are working throughout the day and night to assess storm damage, remove debris and work closely with emergency responders and utility companies to reopen roads closed due to downed trees and power lines,"



Photo by Victoria Ross/The Connection

Cars enter floodwaters on Hunter Mill Road in Vienna Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 9 a.m. The road was closed until 10 a.m. Tuesday.

said VDOT spokesperson Joan Morris.

VDOT estimates that it will take several days to reopen all roads.

Many residents who were driving this morning said the roads are still slick and there are leaves and debris everywhere.

Last night, Vienna resident Wolf Gottshalk reported he drove down Hunter Mill Road past Hunter Station Road to get to his neighborhood.

"The road was flooded. The bridge is not flooded, but the road on the Hunter Station Road side of the bridge is washed out. I made it through (SUV), but it is very difficult to see and you come up on the water quickly and it is deep," Gottshalk said.

At 5 a.m. Tuesday morning, Hunter Mill Road was still closed, but the floodwaters had receded and cars were driving around the barriers.

Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) held several news conferences on Sunday and Monday with County Executive Director Ed Long, giving status updates on the storm, County updates and safety information.

She cautioned motorists to turn back if they are driving and encounter a patch of road that is underwater.

"It may look like you can drive through the water," she said, "but it's often deceptive how deep and fast-moving the water is. Don't

chance it, just turn around."

Tuesday morning, County officials urged residents to stay off the roads to keep them clear for VDOT clean-up crews, utility restoration and public safety personnel.

"Many trees fell across roads last night and by this morning they were largely cleared thanks to their efforts and the planning and preparation that took place before the storm.

There are still areas without power. Please check with your neighbors to make sure they are alright and do not need help," said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield.)

Countywide it is reported that 55 trees fell into homes.

"I saw many trees leaning into other trees, structures and wires this morning. Please keep yourself and kids clear of these trees until they have been assessed and dealt with," he said.

According to VDOT, all interstates in northern Virginia are clear. VDOT officials reminded drivers that HOV restrictions have been lifted today on interstates 66, 95, 395, and the Dulles Toll Road.

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Opinion

As Sandy Rolls in, Still Plan to Vote

Variety of choices in political landscape.

Hurricane Sandy means that the week preceding the election will not be what we were expecting. This editorial is being written Sunday night, Oct. 28, as forecasters predict five inches of rain and 65-mile-per-hour winds over the next two days.

With some predicting that power could take a week or more to restore, we have to worry about what the likely condition of the Eastern seaboard will be on Election Day, Nov. 6. Absentee voting in person had been cancelled for Monday, and most government offices were closed in anticipation of the storm. What will this mean for voter turnout, for access to voting places on Election Day?

We don't believe that there are significant numbers of undecided voters in Northern Virginia. There are voters who know who they would vote for if they did vote, but they might not be committed to voting if circumstances are difficult. The outcome of the national election, both who will be president and which party controls the U.S. Senate and by what margin, could depend on voter turnout in Virginia. Make a commitment to have your vote counted, no matter how many days you might be without electricity.

We are not endorsing candidates for elected office this year. We do recommend that voters support local bond questions for investments in libraries, schools, transportation, parks, stormwater management and public safety.

Four years ago in the presidential election of 2008, there were 5,034,660 voters registered in Virginia, and 3,752,858 actually voted. On Oct. 3, Fairfax County reported 723,967 total voters registered. Arlington reported 163,919 total voters. Alexandria reported 104,947 registered voters.

At the top of the ticket, in addition to choosing a president and vice president, Virginians will choose a new U.S. senator. Tim Kaine (D), former governor will face George Allen (R), also former governor and former U.S. senator, to replace U.S. Sen. Jim Webb (D) who is re-

tiring from the Senate after a single term. Webb defeated George Allen six years ago. Connection coverage of the U.S. Senate race is available at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Election/National/Senate.

Two constitutional questions will appear on all Virginia ballots, one about the use of eminent domain and one about the timing of a particular session of the General Assembly to consider overriding vetoes by the governor of

parts of Fairfax County including Mount Vernon, Lorton and parts of McLean, Tysons and Falls Church.

In the 10th District, Frank Wolf (R), elected to office in 1982, will face Democrat Kristin A. Cabral and independent J. Kevin Chisholm. The 10th district sprawls from McLean to Winchester, and includes Great Falls, Chantilly, parts of Fairfax Station, the Town of Clifton, part of Burke and Springfield.

In the 11th District, Gerry Connolly (D), former chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, elected to congress in 2008, will face Republican Chris Perkins and Independents Joe Galdo, Peter M. Marchetti and Mark T. Gibson. The 11th district now includes the City of Fairfax, the Town of Herndon, Reston, central Fairfax County including parts of Burke, Springfield and Lorton.

In Fairfax County, we recommend that voters support investment in infrastructure based on four bond questions, answering yes to support \$75

million for parks, \$55 million for public safety facilities, \$25 million for library facilities and \$30 million for stormwater and sewer improvements. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/nov_2012_county_bond_issues.pdf

In the City of Alexandria, voters will also choose a mayor; members of the city council and school board. If you are voting by paper ballot, don't forget to vote both sides of the ballot.

In Arlington, voters will choose one member of the County Board and one member of the School Board. Both Arlington boards are made up entirely of at-large members, so both races will appear on all Arlington ballots.

Arlington voters will also decide yes or no on four bond questions, whether to authorize raising \$32 million for public schools, \$28 million for community infrastructure, \$50 million for local parks and recreation, and \$32 million for Metro and transportation. www.arlingtonva.us/departments/voterregistration/forms/Bonds2012ENG.pdf

There is more information on our website under www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Elections/

Stay safe during the storm.

For More Election Information

Fairfax County Board of Elections, 703-222-0776, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205; email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

State Board of Elections, 804 864-8901 Toll Free: 800 552-9745 FAX: 804 371-0194
email: info@sbe.virginia.gov
www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Voter_Information/Index.html

legislation that was passed by the assembly. See www.sbe.virginia.gov/webdocs/201211ConstitutionalAmendmentsPoster.pdf.

Coverage of the eminent domain question in particular can be found at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Elections/.

In the races for U.S. House of Representatives, it's worth noting that redistricting resulted in significant changes in Northern Virginia in terms of who your U.S. representative will be. If you live in Reston, for example, in the last election you were represented by Jim Moran and the 8th district, now you are in the 11th district where the incumbent is Gerry Connolly. See the map for details. Fairfax County is represented by three Congressional Districts, 8, 10 and 11. Connection coverage of congressional races is available at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Election/National/Representatives.

In the 8th District, incumbent U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D), seeking his 12th term since being elected in 1990, will face Patrick Murray (R), and two independent candidates, Janet Murphy and Jason Howell. The 8th district includes all of Alexandria and Arlington, plus

voucherize Medicare. He says he understands us.

He makes \$10,000 bets, pays 14 percent in taxes, put his money in off-shore bank accounts, and has not released any significant tax history. He says we should trust him.

He believes in the unproven "trickle down" theory, says he will balance the budget by closing loopholes, but will not tell us the details of his plans. He says we will have to trust him.

He has continually changed his positions on the issues of abortion, immigration, stimulus, unions, health care, gun laws, TARP and more. He says he will be a consis-

tent leader.

He took a gaffe-filled trip to England, insulted the British, insulted the Palestinians, insulted the Polish, continually attacks the Chinese and thinks Syria borders Iran. He took advantage of multiple deferments during the Vietnam War. He says he will be a good commander-in-chief.

President Obama has been a steadfast president who has remained focused during tough times. In the face of an obstructionist Congress he has withdrawn our troops from Iraq, captured Osama Bin Laden, prevented the auto industry from collapsing, halted discrimination against gay

military service members, passed a health care reform act, invested in new technologies, signed a START nuclear arms treaty with Russia, improved federal standards for polluting auto emissions, cut taxes for the middle class and small businesses and has won a Nobel Peace Prize.

Obama signed the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, as well as the Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act. He has instituted tax credits to make it easier for employers to hire veterans.

See Letters, Page 13

Oak Hill & Herndon
CONNECTION

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Letters to the Editor

A Distinct Choice

To the Editor:

We have a distinct choice in this upcoming presidential election.

Governor Romney wants to overturn Roe v. Wade, has advocated for letting Detroit go bankrupt, wanted to let foreclosures hit bottom, and believes nearly half of Americans view themselves as victims and want government handouts. He says he understands us.

He touts Massachusetts's Romneycare, criticizes Obamacare, and wants to



Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) speaks at the Great Falls Grange Tuesday, Oct. 23.



Democratic congressional candidate Kristin Cabral speaks at the Grange in Great Falls Tuesday, Oct. 23.



Independent congressional candidate Kevin Chisholm speaks at the Great Falls Grange Tuesday, Oct. 23.

Photos by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

The 10th District Candidates Speak at Great Falls Grange

Rep. Frank Wolf, challengers Kristin Cabral, Kevin Chisholm hold forum.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

Democratic challenger Kristin Cabral faced off with Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) at the Great Falls Grange Tuesday, Oct. 23, in a community forum designed to answer questions about the next two years of the 10th district.

In Fairfax County, the new district contains parts of McLean northwest of Dolley Madison Boulevard, all of Great Falls and parts of Oak Hill and Chantilly.

Wolf, who has represented the district since elected in 1980, said he is running based on his past accomplishments, and his knowledge, which will help get things done in the future.

"I will continue to be a fighter for this congressional district, whether it's creating jobs, dealing with our nation's debt and deficit, dealing with terrorism and other crime issues, fixing regional transportation problems," he said. "Working together in a bipartisan manner is how I have approached my job... I have never signed any political pledge to any lobbyist, and I never will."

THE DEBATE was filled with many Wolf supporters, but many from outside of Great Falls.

"I know the district has changed shape, but I think Frank Wolf is still very intimately aware of the problems we face, and not only can he solve them on the federal level, he is connected enough locally that he can help there," said Andy Colitas of Chantilly. "I don't think he says things he doesn't mean, and I applaud the way he has balanced the needs of this community with his federal government responsibilities."

Cabral said she is running for office because the 10th district needs a change.

"I am running to bring fresh leadership to a broken Congress. A congress that is mired in stalemate and gridlock," she said. "Growing the American

dream means increasing educational and job opportunities... and this is done by ensuring access to such opportunities to those in need."

Cabral is a resident of McLean, and a trained lawyer who has worked as a federal prosecutor, a clerk for a federal judge and taught legal writing at Georgetown University.

Some at the forum said they believed Cabral was a first step toward finding a congress that can get things done.

"Congressman Wolf said himself that he had supported legislation on term limits, so I'm not sure why he doesn't follow his own example," said Ernest Muya of McLean. "This district has changed so much in recent years, and with a lot more to come, and I feel like Kristin is our chance to enact that change."

OTHERS SAID while they liked Cabral and thought she made some good points, that she isn't ready to represent the 10th district at the federal level.

"She seemed like a very nice, very accomplished, very intelligent lady, but I felt she was a little out of her league," said Annie Childress of McLean. "Frank has done a lot of good, and laid out his future plans, but I feel like Ms. Cabral only said she would 'fix' the problems, without giving many examples. And as the challenger, I think she needs to provide those."

Independent candidate Kevin Chisholm did not participate in the forum, but spoke for several minutes before it began. Chisholm, an engineer with a background in environmental sciences, said "It's such a mess in Washington, such a wreck, and it has been for a long, long time, in terms of fiscal things and priorities" he said. "I hear this hyperbole in national politics and it just sickens me."

He said the military, and much of the federal government needs to "trim its belt," citing his government experience as an example of the government's inefficiency.

"I send, and you all send, a lot of tax dollars to the U.S. government, and we want value," he said.

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Entertainment

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 31

Brutal + Sublime. 8 p.m., at the Center Stage, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The American Contemporary Music Ensemble performs for the first time, juxtaposing musical extremes as they play John Cage, Nico Muhly and others. \$15, Reston residents; \$30. 703-476-4500 or www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 3

Arts and Crafts Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 13224 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon. Shop for 100 percent handcrafted items made by local artists. 703-620-1977 or beading456@yahoo.com.

Home 4 the Holidays. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. The ninth annual pet adoption event brings 30-plus mixed breed and purebred dog rescue organizations to promote responsible adoption; the event features local pet-related retail exhibitors and activities for children. 571-233-4557, www.home4theholidaysdc.org or www.gooddogz.com.

Shane Gamble. 9:30 p.m., at O'Sullivan's, 754 Elden St., Suite 102, Herndon. The pop-American-Indie artist plays hits off his Sept. 18 eponymous album.

SUNDAY/NOV. 4

Collector's Choice. 1 p.m., at Greater Reston Arts Center, 1202 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. An art raffle, silent auction and reception support the center; all leave the event with an original work of art donated by



Photo Contributed

Find seasonal items like these Christmas decorations at the bazaar.

Fall Bazaar

An annual bazaar with rummage sale items, baked goods, ceramic and crafts put on by the Fairfax County Health Department and the Herndon Adult Day Care Center. Nov. 6-7 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m., at The Herndon Adult Day Care Center, 875 Grace Street, Herndon. 703-435-8729.

participating artists—preview the art Nov. 1-3, noon-8 p.m. \$150. www.restonarts.org.

TUESDAY/NOV. 6

Fall Bazaar. 7 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Herndon Adult Day Care Center, 875 Grace Street, Herndon. The Fairfax County Health Department holds their annual bazaar with rummage sale items, baked goods, ceramics and crafts. 703-435-8729.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 7

Fall Bazaar. 7 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Herndon Adult Day Care Center, 875 Grace Street, Herndon. The Fairfax County Health Department holds their annual bazaar with rummage sale items, baked goods, ceramics and crafts. 703-435-8729.

The Science of Good Taste—Geology, Wine and Food. 7 p.m., at USGS Headquarters, 12201

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.

Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Part of the More Tales of the Hydro-illogical Cycle, learn about ancient Egyptians and Greeks' knowledge and relationship to wine, and why wines from different places taste so different. www.usgs.gov/public_lecture_series/.

SATURDAY/NOV. 10

Children's Fall Flea Market. 9 a.m.-noon, RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Donate one non-perishable food item for the RCC Thanksgiving Food Drive and then do your holiday shopping at bargains: gently-used toys, books, clothing and games. www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

A Hike to Ancient Rocky Outcrops. 1 p.m., at the Walker Nature Center, 11050 Glade Dr., Reston. A two-and-a-half mile walk along Twin Branches and Lake Audubon trails to see the rocky outcrops, ancient rocks; the tour is led by USGS coordinators. Carpool to the nature center leave from the Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, at 12:30 p.m. 703-709-7700 or www.restonmuseum.org.

Artists' Reception: Expressions Portrait Competition and Exhibit. 7-9 p.m., at ArtSpace Herndon in the Post Gallery, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Local painter Kurt Schwarz judges the competition featuring finalists from ArtSpace Herndon's Fourth Annual Portrait Competition; the exhibit opens Thursday, Nov. 8 and is up through Dec. 9. www.artspaceherndon.org.

Contra Dance with the June Apple Band. 7:15 p.m., beginners' workshop; 8 p.m., dance. At the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Polish your

dancing at a free workshop, enjoy potluck refreshments at the break and then have a ball with quick feet and the June Apple Band's tunes. \$9 (singles and couples welcome). 703-476-4500.

TUESDAY/NOV. 13

Turner Park Farm's Evolution Celebration. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the Dranesville Church of the Brethren, 11500 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. Interactive entertainment includes karaoke. Lunch is provided and a small donation is requested. Reservations. 703-759-3721 or linda.fernald1@verizon.net.

Bryan Bowers. 7:15 p.m., at Amphora Diner Deluxe, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. The autoharp player and singer-songwriter brings stage presence and passion to his performances. \$11, members; \$12, non-members. 703-435-2402 or www.amphoragroup.com.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 14

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.

SATURDAY/NOV. 17

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks II. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Ken Woods and violinist Benjamin Beilman perform Beethoven's Overture to Coriolan, Op. 62, Symphony No. 2 and Violin Concerto. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

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News

**Jamie Whit-
ing, 4, prac-
tices the
skull toss at
the Bradley
Farm
Haunted
House Satur-
day, Oct. 27.**



Photos by
Alex McVeigh/
The Connection

Local Horrors at Haunted House

**Bradley Farm hosts
annual haunted house
fundraiser.**

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

Charlie Bowen came to the Bradley Farm clubhouse expecting to see some people in zombie makeup, maybe with some gruesome props. He didn't expect to spend what felt like the longest 120 seconds of his life jumping at every single sound.

"I walked in, and right away it was much darker than I expected, which took me off guard," said the 15-year-old Herndon resident. "Then someone just jumped at me, and then a few seconds later, someone else. And before I knew it, I was flinching at almost every single step, just waiting for something else."

Bowen managed to negotiate the Herndon neighborhood annual haunted house until the end, thus avoiding being named on the "chicken list," a board at the entrance with a mark every time someone's doesn't make it through. Kara Hackensack of Reston wasn't as fortunate as Bowen.

"My kids had been to this in years past, and they said it was a nice family event, not scary at all," she said. "They know I'm a bit jumpy, which is I'm sure why they were so eager. I made it to the first section, then I just turned around and went backwards."

The haunted house is created every year by residents of the Bradley Farm neighborhood, who transform the community's pool house into a different terror every year.

This year's haunted house was all about local legends, bringing the scary a little too close to home for some.

"To be honest, I didn't ask for too much information about what each scene was, I was just ready to get out of there before it got too much," said Joey Craig, 17, of Herndon. "They did a really good job of making hidden places for people to jump out at you, and it seemed like every time I would guess where someone would come from, they came from the opposite direction."

The event, now in its sixth year, raises money for Herndon-Reston FISH. Standing for Friendly, Instant,



From front, Quinn, 3, Alex, 5, and Rachel Macias of Springfield make their way through the Bradley Farm Haunted House Saturday, Oct. 27.

Sympathetic Help, the organization provides emergency assistance to Herndon and Reston residence in the form of rent or utility payments, transportation, furniture and clothing, and more.

Each year the haunted house has grown, and this year's addition was the Spooky Sprint, where costumed families could run or walk for two miles around Floris Elementary School Saturday, Oct. 27.

Later that day, families with younger children came to the Children's Haunt, which was a toned-down version of the regular haunted house, where there were more treats than scares.

"From what I heard about the house at night, I'm glad we went to the milder one," said Kate Irwin of Herndon, who brought her twin 5-year-olds. "They got their treats, I didn't have to scream, and my husband can come back for the scary one. I think it worked out well for everyone."

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Oakton's Klimkiewicz Repeats as Concorde XC Champ

Madison girls win Liberty District.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

For the second straight season, Oakton's Allie Klimkiewicz held off Robinson's Macey Schweikert to win the Concorde District girls' cross country championship.

After edging Schweikert by three seconds in 2011, Klimkiewicz beat her opponent from Robinson by one second on Oct. 24 at Burke Lake Park. Klimkiewicz finished with a time of 17:36, leading Oakton to a third straight team title.

"I knew she was there," Klimkiewicz said. "I was pretty sure she was close because you can kind of see shadows."

Schweikert finished second with a time of 17:37, helping Robinson to a runner-up team finish and a berth in the Northern Region championship meet, scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 1 at

Burke Lake Park. Oakton finished with a score of 40 at the district meet. Robinson finished with 45, followed by Chantilly (72) and Centerville (100).

Hailey Dougherty placed fourth (18:22) for Oakton.



Oakton sophomore Allie Klimkiewicz, seen earlier this season, won her second consecutive Concorde District cross country championship on Oct. 24 at Burke Lake Park.



South Lakes' Ashkan Mohammadi, seen earlier this season, finished fourth at the Liberty District cross country championships on Oct. 24 at Burke Lake Park.



Langley's Jacquelyn Hulett, seen earlier this season, finished 35th at the Liberty District cross country championships on Oct. 24 at Burke Lake Park.

Kristi Carrigan finished ninth (18:56), Briana Stewart was 12th (19:22) and Kara Kendall was 14th (19:24).

Langley's Jessica Miles finished

second with a time of 19:21. McLean's Katie Montgomery (19:28) and Megan McCormack (19:40) finished third and sixth, respectively. South Lakes' Devin

Nieusma (19:56) and Monica Lannen (19:59) were 10th and 13th, respectively.

IN BOYS' ACTION, Oakton

placed fourth, grabbing the final regional berth. Chantilly won the event with a 19. Robinson finished second with a total of 64, followed by Westfield (92) and Oakton (95).

Oakton's top boys' finisher was Jack Stoney, who placed eighth with a time of 15:52. Chantilly's Sean McGorty won the event with a time of 14:38, one minute faster than his nearest competitor.

Later in the day, a pair of Madison harriers captured the individual Liberty District boys' and girls' championships.

Laura Sullivan won the girls' championship with a time of 19:11, helping the Warhawks capture the team title. Sullivan and her coach said they didn't expect such a strong performance. As a freshman last season, Sullivan placed 20th at districts.

"It came out of nowhere," Sullivan said. "I wasn't expecting it at all. I wanted to medal; I wanted to get top five. I got to the halfway point and I was in first and I didn't think much of it. It didn't process until the two-mile mark and I was like, 'I'm in first.'"

"Laura definitely stepped up," Madison coach Craig Chasse said. "That was a surprise. I wouldn't have predicted her winning. If you ask any of the other coaches, I don't think they would have guessed it. They would have guessed somebody else."

Madison's Amanda Swaak finished fourth (19:37). Christina Galiano placed seventh (19:47), Morgan Wittrock was 15th (20:02) and Anna Stone was 22nd (20:17).

In boys' action, Madison's Matthew Calem took home the individual title with a time of 15:43, edging Stone Bridge's Brady Guertin.

"He ran a smart race," Chasse said about Calem. "Nobody in the boys' race really wanted to take the lead, it looked like. They were pretty slow—5:17 at the mile—it's a little hot today; it became tactical ..."

MADISON FINISHED FIFTH, one spot away from a regional berth. Stone Bridge won the team title with a score of 43, followed by Thomas Jefferson (73), McLean (89) and South Lakes (95).

McLean's David Galdo (10th, 16:36) and Lewis Millholland (13th, 16:41) earned all-district. South Lakes' Ashkan Mohammadi (fourth, 16:12), Michael McHugh (11th, 16:39) and Andrew McCool (14th, 16:42) were also all-district.

Marshall's MacKenzie Haight finished third with a time of 16:08.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Community

'Climb Every Mountain, Ford Every Stream'

'Sound of Music' at Lord of Life.

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

The Lord of Life Lutheran Church will be alive with "The Sound of Music" when its Lord of Life Players perform the classic show of the same name. The church is at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, off Union Mill Road, just past Centreville High.

Show times are Nov. 2, 3, 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 4 and 10 at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15; for reserved seats and advance tickets, call Annie Jenks at 703-347-2613. They may also be available at the door.

"It's probably one of the most popular and beloved musicals of all time," said Director Suzy McCarthy. "The Rodgers and Hammerstein music is glorious, and it's based on the true story of the von Trapp family."

"The cast is fantastic, with beautiful voices and awesome acting abilities," continued McCarthy. "We have delightful von Trapp children, plus six other children who play orphans and sing with Maria. There'll be familiar faces from our production of 'It's a Wonderful Life,' plus new people, so it's truly a community effort."

THE CAST AND CREW of 60 includes a live combo and members from the church's locations in both Centreville/Clifton and Fairfax. Professional artist Kari Cannistraro and McCarthy designed the sets. The scenes take place in the Alps, the von Trapps' house, the abbey and Maria's bedroom.

Music director is Bobby Jasinski, who was McCarthy's student when she was Lake Braddock Secondary's choral director. Producer Judy Treichel, who started Lord of Life Players in 1990, calls the cast "disciplined, talented and wonderful to watch."

"It's such a happy story, but also one of God's love and commitment and the importance of family," said McCarthy. "People's hearts will be blessed with the 'Sound of Music.' I guarantee people will leave with smiles on their faces."

Catherine Kyriakakis of Herndon plays Maria, who goes from wanting to be a nun to taking care of the von Trapp children. "She's



Photo by Bonnie Hobbs/The Connection

Playing the von Trapp family are (back row), Paul Denfeld and Catherine Kyriakakis; (second row, from left) Amanda Harvey (with guitar), Sebastian Vander Ploeg Fallon and Christopher Jenks; (third row, from left) Sarah Qualley, Kathryn Jenks and Jessica Bryant; and (front) June Johnson.

spunky, optimistic and always finds the good in situations," said Kyriakakis. "She has a wide-eyed innocence, yet is smart. And she loves God, the von Trapp children and, eventually, their father."

Calling it a "dream role," Kyriakakis said, "I've wanted to play Maria since I first saw this movie on TV at age 5. I'm a private voice teacher, so I've sung my whole life, and this music is just beautiful and timeless. It's a little daunting to play a character Julie Andrews brought to life, but she's so full of hope that you want to put your heart out on the stage, every time."

Her favorite song is "Something Good," which she sang as a child while dancing with a broom. "I sing it with the captain when we fall in love," said Kyriakakis. "It's just so sweet and beautifully written."

Noting that the von Trapps had to leave everything and flee the Germans, she said the story "touches your heart. It's sad and poignant, yet leaves you feeling that, with God, you can rise above any circumstance and survive. And the children are so cute and such a joy to work with. It's a show for all ages."

Playing Capt. von Trapp is Paul Denfeld. The story takes place just before Germany invaded Austria,

and von Trapp is an officer in the Austrian Navy. "His wife has died, so it pains him to be around his children or have music in his life because they remind him of his wife," said Denfeld. "So he runs his house like he runs his ship—strict and stern."

Almost by accident, Maria reintroduces music into his house when she becomes his children's governess. He discovers what he's been missing and, eventually, falls in love with her.

"It's one of the great parts that almost every actor wants to play," said Denfeld. "I get to show the depths of my character's loneliness and anger and the transition of him falling in love again. And to be on stage with someone as talented as Catherine is wonderful."

He especially likes the tune, "Edelweiss," because "it's such a beautiful song and expresses von Trapp's love of his country." Noting that "everyone loves the story," Denfeld said the children in this show are fun to watch and the audience will particularly laugh at the antics of the youngest one. And, he added, "They'll be humming the tunes and whistling the songs as they leave."

HERNDON'S AMANDA HARVEY plays 16-year-old Liesl, the eldest von Trapp daughter.

Letters

From Page 8

Growth is up, manufacturing is up, and jobs have been added to the economy for over 30 straight months.

President Obama is a strong, consistent, honorable and

thoughtful leader who looks out for all Americans and who took the bold steps necessary to lead our country back into a slow but steady economic recovery.

Barbara Glakas
Herndon

Four More Years

To the Editor,

Soon I will be among the millions of people waiting to cast my ballot and, as I see it, there is no other logical choice than supporting Barack Obama. I believe great leaders see the bigger picture. Open to information from many areas, they are aware it is not in finding the quick answer, rather the direction and action that must take to receive the best continuing results in the end. President Obama's foresight has proved to be a stabilizing energy in many areas that were once spiraling out of control. It is amazing the positive progress that has been made in his first term.

The economy was kept from an actual collapse and depression. It is not fully recovered and there is much more to do, but now the jobless rate is the lowest in four years. Our national security was a priority. Not only did he lead us out of Iraq, he also found a logical end to our in-

volvement in Afghanistan. And who of us did not feel a sense of peace when Osama Bin Laden was eliminated? Because of his diplomacy and work to be inclusive of other nations we have friendly relations with more allies, who are now willing to take a lead in foreign concerns.

On social issues women now have more rights to fight for equal pay, and gay men and women in our military do not have to hide behind a cloak of secrecy as to their orientation. Thanks to "Obamacare" my friends with preexisting conditions and family who could not afford the rising costs can now receive health coverage.

Most of these issues have personally affected me, my friends, family and neighbors. America can only benefit with another four years of Barack Obama's direction.

Dianna Traub
Herndon

"She's idealistic and sheltered, but gains an understanding of the world," said Harvey. "She's maternal toward her siblings and a little suspicious of people when she first meets them."

Harvey called Liesl "a ton of fun" to portray. "She's such a lively, happy teenager," said Harvey. "She also gets to do lots of marching and dancing and wear nice costumes." Her favorite song is "Do Re Mi" during which "Liesl makes a great transformation from skeptical and unkind toward Maria to

more accepting. She finally has fun again with music and a trust forms."

Harvey says attendees "will be blown away by Catherine and Kate's voices; and June Johnson, who plays Gretl, will enchant the audience. I also think people will sympathize deeply with the von Trapps. Paul does a great job of making the captain seem more tormented than cold. He'll really endears the audience to him. People will take something away from this musical that's very personal."

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Hands of Time



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

On the one hand, I want to take note every month on the 27th as yet one more notch on my living-with-cancer belt. On the other hand, maybe I don't need a belt to be notching but rather a life to be living. Perhaps it's time, nearly 44 months post-diagnosis – at press time, to stop counting backwards and try more living forwards. It's not as if keeping a running total in my head (as I do), gets me any closer to some sort of finish line where life can begin anew. Hardly. I'm not exactly cancer-free, more like cancer-stalled. Nevertheless, my monthly total does indicate how far I've come, how long I've lived, but it doesn't necessarily translate into how much longer I may live. In fact, it might suggest the exact opposite (only so much time left on the clock, hypothetically speaking), so why bother tracking time? Why not track the future instead? Go somewhere! Do something! Live a lot, not just a little.

Unfortunately, survivability in the terminal cancer world may simply be the means to your end. If you can't beat it, then you can only join it. Although you hope to outlast it, stay one step ahead and try to keep it from catching you. Perhaps I should consider – and embrace – the words of the great Satchel Page: "Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you." Still, for me, totaling up the number of months since I received my official diagnosis/prognosis, gives me confidence that having survived this unexpectedly long (original prognosis was "13 months to two years"; median life expectancy is eight months) somehow means something positive going forward. Not that there's any statistical relationship between the past and the future. As Starfleet Captain, Kathryn Janeway said to her first officer Commander Chacotay on an episode of Star Trek: Voyager: "I swore I'd never let myself get caught in one of these Godforsaken paradoxes. The future is the past, the past is the future. It all gives me a headache." Certainly they weren't discussing cancer, but for me, wondering if counting the months I've lived with cancer might possibly have an effect on the months I have yet to live with/hopefully without cancer is beneficial somehow to surviving, is sort of how I roll. Whereas choosing the alternative approach: not counting and/or considering anything/everything, gives me a headache.

How do I stay ahead of cancer without betraying who I am or compromising my principles? As Curly Howard of The Three Stooges said while harnessed like a horse and pulling a wagon in an episode called "G.I. Wanna Go Home": "If I'm gonna work like a horse, I'm gonna eat like one, too" (as he began eating an extra-large sandwich). However I do this (live with cancer), I have to do it my way, or at least in a way that doesn't make me miserable. Because being miserable is all it's cracked up to be, and having a bad attitude likely fuels the cancer that unfortunately burns inside me. But I never want to think that I've learned all there is to learn to help my body/my mind fight the cancer. Maybe looking forward to potential accomplishments might extend life more than taking stock of previous achievements? On the one hand, those accomplishments (still living 44 months post diagnosis) might breed a certain confidence that bodes well to be well. On the other, focusing on the past may compromise the future?

I hope this column wasn't too confusing. If it was, welcome to my world. If it wasn't, "You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din," (Cary Grant from the movie of the same name).

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

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