

Town Center Hosts Oktoberfest

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Guests at Oktoberfest
Reston participate in
a Chicken Dance
contest Saturday,
Oct. 12.

Wiehle-Reston East Station Nears Completion

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Everyone's Got A Story To Tell

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PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

The Alpine Dancers perform at Reston Town Center as part of Oktoberfest Saturday, Oct. 12.

Town Center Hosts Oktoberfest

Annual festival features German food, dance.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Thomas Redding had one thing on his mind during last week's succession of rainy days, and it could only be found Saturday morning at Reston Town Center. "I wanted a Devil's Backbone Vienna Lager, and I wanted to enjoy it near the fountain," said the Reston native. "I've been working outdoors and getting soaked to the bone all week, and that's what kept me going. Well, that and a bratwurst, which I got right after."

Redding got what he was looking for at the annual Oktoberfest Reston, which was held last weekend. Hosted by the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, it was the go-to event for German music, beer, wine and food from a variety of local vendors.

"As soon as I started walking down Market Street from the pavilion, I saw a big line in front of the Clyde's booth, and for the life of me I couldn't understand what people would be waiting around for," said Alex Stoeffel of Oak Hill. "Then I saw the two grills just filled with bratwurst and knockwurst, and I made sure to get myself a spot in the very same line." In addition to the classic German fare offered at Clyde's, visitors could choose from sushi at Obi

Sushi, crab cakes from Hooked, gnocchi from Paolo's and more.

Elsewhere, along Library Street, firefighters and law enforcement personnel participated in the annual Guns N' Hoses Chili Cookoff. A wide variety of chilis were offered to passers-by who were looking to sample different takes on the classic dish.

"I think I had two favorites, the Blazing 404 Chili [from the Herndon Fire Station], and the T-Bone's White Bean Chicken Chili," said Barney Speck of Herndon. "I usually like the hottest the best, but the chicken chili was a different twist, and definitely deserves a vote."

The pavilion stage featured German music, Alpine dancers and an alphorn player, whose long instrument was taller than she was, throughout most of the day Saturday.

"I thought they did a great job of keeping the crowd involved in the pavilion, particularly since a lot of us were trying to stay dry, but we still had some fun," said Sheena Gilroy of Reston.

Though the rain cleared up a little bit throughout the course of Saturday, many attendees dressed for the occasion, at least when it came to headwear.

"If my Alpine hat can't take a little rain, then it's probably not much of an Alpine hat," said Jon DeWindsor of Herndon, who along with two friends, came in full lederhosen, suspenders and knee socks. "The rest of the outfit doesn't help with the weather, but I think we're looking good enough that no one will mind."



Clyde's staff members cook knockwurst and bratwurst for Oktoberfest Reston Saturday, Oct. 12.



From left, Ralph Scheuermann and Frank Yindra of The Low'n'Brows German Band perform at Oktoberfest Reston Saturday, Oct. 12.



Herbert and Carol Traxler of the Alpine Dancers perform at Oktoberfest Reston Saturday, Oct. 12.

On the Job and Hot on the Trail

Finding people is fun for new police bloodhound pups.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The newest members of the Fairfax County Police Department don't wear badges or carry guns. But they're officers, just the same — and they're awfully cute.

They're Bolt and Silas (Sy, for short) and they're 14-week-old bloodhound puppies being trained to track and find people by scent. They were introduced to the public recently by their partners, MPO Pete Masood and PFC Kevin Clarke, respectively.

"They've got thousands of years of instinct using their noses in trailing and tracking," said Clarke. "They have the capability to run a very old trail, which is a forte of bloodhounds. They won't do narcotics or criminal apprehension; they'll only learn one discipline — tracking."

The pups will be used to follow clues in homicide investigations and find missing adults, such as Alzheimer's patients, and lost children. And when they locate the object of their search, they won't bite.

Instead, said Clarke, "They're friendly and non-aggressive. All they want to do is be around people. So they'll love [whoever they've found]. They'll jump on them, lick their faces and give them hugs and kisses. Then they'll be ready for their reward from us — which is the love we give them."

First, though, the warm-brown puppies with tender, expressive eyes have to be trained. Last Wednesday, Sept. 18, outside the police K-9 Training Facility in Chantilly, the pair of puppies — who are brothers — stayed close to each other and to their partners.

Since the facility is next to the police firing range, multiple shots often rang out while the pups stood on the grass. And each time, the puppies startled. But it's just one of the many sounds and surfaces they'll have to get used to.

"We'll get them out here and acclimate them to the noises — gunfire, [vehicle] brakes and birds," said Masood. They'll also be exposed to airplanes, wind, rain, heat, car horns honking, plus obstacles such as fences. And they'll learn how it feels on their paws to walk in the woods, through brush, on cement, carpet, tile floors, etc.

That way, said Clarke, "When they get out on the street, when they're almost a year old, they'll be ready."

The police got the purebred puppies from Huntsville, Ala., for \$600 each, when they were just 7 weeks. But, added Clarke, "A fully trained bloodhound goes for \$15,000-\$20,000 because of the training they've re-



Officer Pete Masood (left) and Kevin Clarke show off the newest members of the Fairfax County Police K9 unit, Bolt (left) and Sy, 14-week-old bloodhounds that the two handlers will train to be tracking dogs for the unit.



Litter-mates Bolt and Sy, 14-week-old bloodhounds, are the newest members of the Fairfax County Police K9 unit. They will be trained to find trails and locate missing people.

ceived."

Masood said police have had success with this bloodline, as these pups are the second pair from the Alabama site. They'll eventually be 90-100 pounds but, said Masood, "If they're leaner, they'll have less hip problems and more endurance. We want to be able to work them long hours. It's also easier on us, lifting them up over obstacles, if they're not so heavy."

Bolt and Sy are eating specially designed, high-protein, dry dog food. "But they eat a lot of it — and anything else they can get a hold of — children's toys, hardware," said Clarke. "Officer Masood's dog is named Bolt because, after a week home, he removed a bolt from his crate and ingested it."

"He worked the bolt loose overnight," said Masood. "I found the nut, the next day, and took him to the vet, who X-rayed him, saw the bolt still in his stomach and got it out."

As for Clarke's puppy, he said, "My kids named him Silas after Uncle Sy on [the TV show] 'Duck Dynasty,' and I think it's a fitting bloodhound name."

The department has 15 patrol K-9 offic-

ers, including current bloodhounds Shnoz and Cody. Masood and Clarke also each work with a patrol dog, trained to apprehend criminal suspects. And usually two or three dogs a night are on the job.

"I've been in this section 12 years, working with German Shepherds, and have worked with Shnoz since 2008," said Masood. "Officer Clarke has worked with Shepherds five years, but this is his first bloodhound. Officer Marshal Thielen works with Cody."

Ideally, police would like the dogs to work for 10 years; but sometimes, health problems force them to be retired early. So they want to get Sy and Bolt up and running as soon as possible because they'll eventually replace Shnoz and Cody.

The bond between the K-9s and their partners is critically important. "They want to please us — that's their reward — so the dogs come home with us and our families," said Clarke. "They're with us 24/7; we have safe and secure backyard kennels at our houses."

"My wife used to be a vet," said Masood.

"And she and our 4-year-old daughter both love Bolt."

Colt, Clarke's German Shepherd, and Sy are part of a team now, as are Shnoz and Bolt, where the more-experienced bloodhound teaches the newcomer. "If Sy sees Colt do something, he does it, too," said Clarke. "The same is true of Shnoz and Bolt."

The bloodhound pups will train 30 hours/month and, once they're done, Clarke expects they'll be requested for help throughout the region and even across state lines. "Most regions have patrol dogs," he said. "Bloodhounds are rare because of the time, energy and expense to train them. They're smart and obedient, but stubborn, because they think with their nose first and their brain second."

"They can be given a piece of clothing and they'll stay with that scent, despite other, different odors in an area," continued Clarke. "And they can follow a scent even a week later. For example, they could find a person missing in a park, although hundreds of other people were hiking there."

He said one of the "biggest perks" of having bloodhounds is their scent-specific training. Said Clarke: "A dog can also be trained to identify someone — almost like in a lineup — by putting his paws on the chest of the person whose scent he tracked."

"Each track always yields positive, successful leads for the detectives," he added. "Even if the dog can't find the subject, he could, for example, find the bus stop where the subject last was. Or he could tell us where the scent stopped by just circling around that spot."

Police dogs are also considered law-enforcement officers. "They're working dogs," said Masood. "And if someone assaults them, that person can be charged."

Currently, Bolt and Sy are focusing on bonding with Masood and Clarke. But within a month or two, they'll begin short tracks. "We'll then stretch out the time and distance to teach them to eventually run three- and four-day tracks," said Clarke. "Tracking is in their blood; they're one of the oldest tracking dogs in the world — we're just harnessing it."

Actually, he said, "It's a game to these dogs. So when it becomes real, it's still fun for them."

"Their natural instinct is to hunt animals," added Masood. "We just train them to hunt humans."

The puppies are first trained by someone showing them food and then running away with it, and they have to find it. "They'll learn the game through repetition," said Clarke. "And at the end, there's a party — verbal and physical praise, plus a food reward."

Eventually, said Masood, they'll receive scent articles to track. That's because, said Clarke, "It's what they're bred to do — and they love it."

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION



The woman in the red sweater is the elementary school's own Assistant Principal Melissa Goddin, with regular teacher substitute Laura Barber standing beside. On the ground is resting student Joseph.

Lake Anne Walks to School, PTA Plans to Make it a Habit

The Lake Anne PTA sponsored a rally for Walk to School Day, last Wednesday, Oct. 9, at a local park before school. The international day dedicated to walking to school inspired the PTA to host a walk to school the first Friday of every month.

Students received charms with a chain to put on their backpacks to commemorate the initiative.

Parents, staff and students crossed streets with the help of guards and even Assistant Principal Melissa Goddin, to get everyone safely to school.

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The signs are in place at the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station. This photo, looking west, along the Dulles Toll Road Corridor, shows the entrance to the pedestrian pavilion on the south side of the Dulles Road, where sidewalks, curbs and gutters were recently installed.

Wiehle-Reston East Station Nears Completion

While the precise opening date for Phase 1 of the Silver Line has not been set, Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project crews are putting the finishing touches on the systems and structures at the future Wiehle-Reston East station.

This station is now approximately 98 percent complete, according to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, owners and managers of the project.

A clear signal of construction progress is the recent installation of the familiar Metro signage at the stations and the entrances to pedestrian pavilions and access points on both the north and south sides of rail facilities at the Wiehle Station in the median of the Dulles Toll Road, Airport Access highway corridor west of the Wiehle Avenue overpass.

The signs also are now going up at the four stations in Tysons Corner. At the Wiehle Station, a variety of punch list items are being done. Curb and gutter is being installed and landscaping is in place. Windscreens, passenger information systems and lighting have been installed. Hook-ups are ready for installation of fare card machines by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). The station manager's kiosk is in place. Elevators and escalators are operational but still being tested.

Throughout the alignment from East Falls Church to Wiehle Avenue, significant testing is taking place day and night. Test trains—some as long as six cars—have been spotted in Reston and Tysons Corner.

Testing to ensure the safety of the system remains the top priority of all the agencies involved, project officials said.



Signs on the platform at the Reston-Wiehle Avenue Metrorail Station direct passengers to the Largo area, the terminus for eastbound Silver Line trains.



This is what passengers will see looking west from the mezzanine at the Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station.

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WEEK IN RESTON

Community Forum to Review Master Plan

With the Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force work nearing completion, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) is hosting a community meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m., to review the draft language for the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan. The plan will guide development around the three transit station areas in Reston through 2030. The meeting will be held at South Lakes High School, Lecture Hall, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston.

In 2010 Supervisor Hudgins initiated Phase I of the Reston Comprehensive Plan study, appointing a task force of 25 individuals, organization representatives and landowners. The Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force was chaired by Patricia Nicoson. Numerous Task Force and special community meetings were held, generating energetic and spirited discussions.

Supervisor Hudgins invites all interested Reston residents to join the discussion. The Task Force has been meeting for nearly three

years to create plan language that will guide the land use and zoning growth around the Metro stations. To reserve space or for questions regarding the meeting, contact Goldie Harrison, Hunter Mill District office at 703-478-0283.

AAUW to Discuss Barriers to Affordable Community Colleges

Dr. Catherine Hill, director of research for the American Association of University Women, will be the featured speaker at the AAUW program at Oakton Public Library on Saturday, Oct. 26 beginning at 12:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the public. The Oakton Library is located at 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton.

Dr. Hill will talk about the AAUW report Women in Community College: Access to Success, which identifies challenges facing student parents and opportunities in STEM fields, as well as how community colleges can provide more women with a reliable path to opportunity and economic security.

SEE WEEK, PAGE 20

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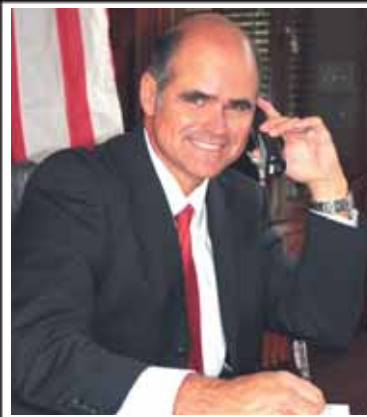
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Left to right: Gillian, Zane, Avram and Anthony, students in the Spanish immersion program, each received bi-lingual dictionaries.

Lake Anne Says 'Gracias and Thank You' to Rotary

Friday, Oct. 11 the Reston Rotary visited Lake Anne ES and donated dictionaries to all of the third grade students. Because Lake Anne is a

Spanish immersion school they were kind enough to donate both bi-lingual (Spanish/English) and English dictionaries.

PHOTOS
CONTRIBUTED

Spanish immersion program students raise their hands to answer Dan Flavin's question asking who in the audience knew what a dictionary was.



Rotary folks: Dan Flavin, Diana Hunter and Melinda Oburns.



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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS



The senior class float was based off "Pirates of the Caribbean." The theme for this year's parade was "Sea Swept."

Herndon Homecoming Parade Beats Drizzle

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Despite overcast weather and a continued drizzle, Herndon High School held the annual homecoming parade in downtown Herndon on Saturday, Oct. 12. Parade participants began staging on Sterling Road, where the parade kicked off at 9:30 a.m. The parade then turned left onto Elden Street and headed into downtown.

Herndon resident Tim Phillips, owner of Rock Creek Productions Inc., whose son plays percussion, captured some video footage of the Herndon High band performing during the event. "The band has been an amazing experience for my kids," said Phillips.

The Herndon High School marching band "The Pride of Herndon" has been selected by members of Congress and the United States Marine Band to represent Virginia in the 2013 Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade. A resolution was passed by the Herndon Town Council in October to offset each student's cost to Pearl Harbor by \$50.

Herndon High's Theatre Department marched in the parade, performing numbers from their upcoming musical, "Seussical." The musical begins production at Herndon High School on Nov. 15, 16 and 17. The Herndon High School Step Team was also in the parade and demonstrated several step routines.

At least 50 entries marched in the parade, including community clubs and teams, schools, local organizations, businesses, and both town and state officials.

The parade traveled down Elden until it turns onto Lynn Street and

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Richard Downer holds the Richard Downer Award, which was awarded to Girls Scouts Service Units 51-9 and 51-11.

went down to Center Street, where Herndon Town Councilmembers and Mayor Lisa Merkel had a grandstand from which they judged this year's floats. Judges for the event included councilmembers Sheila Olem, David Kirby, Melissa Jonas, Vice Mayor Connie Hutchinson, and

Town of Herndon Chief of Police Colonel Maggie A. DeBoard.

"I am happy with the number of people that came out despite the weather and that so many people were able to participate," said John Mossesso. Mossesso has been running the Herndon homecoming operation for more than 20 years. Mossesso is also the volunteer coordinator for the summer Herndon Festival.

"We thank everyone for coming out ... the participants were top quality and we enjoyed the show," said councilmember Olem. "I am so glad everyone came out despite the drizzling rain," said councilmember Jonas. "I was glad to see all the spirit everyone has for the town."

The theme of the 2013 parade was "Sea Swept." Herndon High's senior class of 2014 took home first place in the Class Float category with their Pirates of the Caribbean theme. The freshman class of 2017 had a float with a "Finding Nemo" theme. To combat the rain, some participants in the parade brought umbrellas and rain jackets.



The Herndon High School Theatre team participated in this year's event.



The Herndon High ROTC Color Guard helped lead the 2013 Herndon Homecoming parade.



Herndon High School Step Team members with coach Gary Bushrod (center) hold the first place trophy awarded to the step team for the performing arts division in downtown Herndon.



Alumni and friends of Herndon Elementary School marched in this year's parade.

PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

OPINION

Don't Let Negatives Keep You from Voting

Choices are stark; think about what principles should guide governance in Virginia for the next four years.

Every Virginia voter will have the option to cast a ballot for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and their member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

While much of the coverage and advertising at the top of the ticket has been negative in the extreme, it will still matter who is governor. Don't turn up your nose, hold your nose if necessary, and go vote. You can vote on Nov. 5; most likely you can vote before that.

Voter Identification

Virginia's existing voter ID requirements will change in July 2014. A law requiring photo identification at the polls was signed into law in May 2013. This new photo identification requirement will not take effect until July 1, 2014. The current law allows for the acceptance of all identification documents listed here.

When you arrive at your polling place, a voting official will verify that your name is on the registration list. Voters will be asked to present one valid form of identification. It can be any of the following: Virginia voter registration card; Virginia driver's license; military ID; any Federal, Virginia state or local government-issued ID; employer issued photo ID card; concealed handgun permit; valid Virginia student ID; current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck indicating the name and address of the voter; Social Security card.

On the Ballot 2013

Check what is on your ballot at <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/>

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EDITORIAL

HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2013 ELECTIONS

District 34 — Democrat Kathleen Murphy challenges Republican incumbent Barbara Comstock.
District 36 — Democratic incumbent Ken Plum unopposed
District 86 — Democrat Jennifer Boysko challenges Republican incumbent Tom Rust

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SCHOOL BOND REFERENDUM

Fairfax County voters will be asked to vote YES or NO on the \$250 million school bond question in the general election. The schools plan to use the money to:

- ❖ Build two new elementary schools, one in the Richmond Highway area and one in the Bailey's area
- ❖ Help renovate 22 schools including 17 elementary schools, two middle schools (Thoreau and Rocky Run) and three high schools (Langley, Herndon and Oakton)
- ❖ Buy land for the South West County High School
- ❖ Enhance the capacity of Westbriar Elementary and South Lakes High School
- ❖ Replace or improve infrastructure, such as roofs, major mechanical systems and parking lots.

See <http://www.fcps.edu/news/bond13.shtml> for more details.

Vote Now

From now until Saturday, Nov. 2, you can vote absentee in person for a variety of rea-

sons, but you must sign a form affirming that you do qualify. Almost everyone with a job in Northern Virginia qualifies for one particular reason, however: your work plus commute time would be 11 hours or more between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Other reasons include planned travel, pregnancy, illness or disability, being a student out of area and more. Voters can also vote absentee by mail.

It's worth looking at the absentee ballot application online before going to vote absentee in person: <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Files/Forms/VoterForms/ABApplication.pdf>.

In Fairfax County, you can vote at Fairfax County Governmental Center or any one of seven "satellite" voting locations.

Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax, VA 22035.

Saturdays: Oct. 19, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday-Friday, Oct. 15-Nov. 1, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

The satellite locations in Fairfax County are also open for absentee in person voting; Saturdays: Oct. 19, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday-Friday: Beginning Oct. 15-Nov. 1, 3:30-7 p.m.

❖ North County Human Services Building, 1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190

❖ Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151

For more on voting absentee in Fairfax County, call 703-222-0776 or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm>.

Contact

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

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

Science Goes on Trial in Virginia

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



Not since the Scopes trial in Tennessee in 1925 has science been on trial as it has been in Virginia over the last few years. The Scopes trial was of course about Darwin's theory of evolution. That trial concluded more than 85 years ago, but the debate goes on with fundamentalists who prefer the teaching of creationism over evolution in public schools. No amount of scientific evidence will convince those who read the Bible literally as to how humankind came to be on this earth. Likewise, in Virginia today there are those who deny

that human behavior is jeopardizing God's creation through climate change.

Just recently the international conclave of climate scientists reaffirmed the belief held by 97 percent of them that climate change is happening, and humans are the cause. An editorial in the New York Times stated, "Virginia's crusading Republican attorney general [Ken Cuccinelli] has waged a one-man war on the theory of man-made global warming." In 2010 Cuccinelli sued the University of Virginia under the Virginia Fraud Against Taxpayers Act to obtain the research papers of climate scientist Michael Mann who he said produced fraudulent research on

climate change in order to receive grant money. A circuit court threw out his case. The University of Virginia spent \$600,000 to defend itself in a case that left most shaking their heads in disbelief at the attack on scientific research and academic freedom. Cuccinelli's cause has been taken up by Del. Bob Marshall (R-13) who is running for re-election and who is one of the leading climate-change deniers in Virginia.

While the Scopes trial and evolution/creationism make for interesting discussion, the consequences for the debate on climate change can have huge repercussions for Virginia. While greenhouse gasses are being released into the atmosphere at a rapid pace, the resulting increase in air

and water temperatures are causing, as you may have noticed, frequent and severe weather conditions. The warm temperatures as a part of climate change are causing glaciers and ice caps to melt and causing sea levels to increase worldwide. The Virginia coastline is especially vulnerable. It is sinking greatly at the same time water levels are rising, increasing excessive flooding. The sea level in the Chesapeake Bay area in southeastern Virginia is predicted to rise by more than five feet by the end of the century.

Unfortunately Messrs. Cuccinelli and Marshall are not the only climate change deniers in Virginia. A resolution to study what was

SEE PLUM, PAGE 17

Reston CONNECTION

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
reston@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Chelsea Bryan
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
cbryan@connectionnewspapers.com

Alex McVeigh
Community Reporter ♦ 703-778-9441
amcveigh@connectionnewspapers.com
@AMcVeighConnect

Victoria Ross
County Reporter ♦ 301-502-6027
rosspinning@yahoo.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com

Trisha Hamilton
Display Advertising
703-778-9419
trisha@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Jean Card
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Linda Pecquex
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



LETTERS

Bad Legislation

To the Editor:

The local progressives, liberals, socialists, Democrats or whatever the dynamic duo calls themselves now-a-days are at it once more: The Reston Connection, Oct. 9-16, 2013, "The Battle to Insure Everyone," by Kenneth Plum, and "Republican Shutdown—Shouldn't We All Get a Turn," by John Lovaas, Page 6.

At this writing, the Republicans have waited for 10 days at the negotiating table for the socialists to show. Of course, we know the president's response: "Surrender to my demands then we'll talk!" Does this dude (and his gofer—Harry Reid) really think the Republicans just fell off a turnip truck? Now our Representative Connolly has climbed on the bandwagon and is yammering, "We don't want to negotiate under a threat!" Wake up and smell the coffee, Gerry!

The "Affordable [Health] Care Act is bad legislation. It is fraught with political chicanery (exempting the president and his staff, Congress, the Scotus, the Departments of Justice and Labor, and the members of about 1,200 labor unions—one third of the working force in the country—his political base!) It is full of errors and omissions. Indeed, over the past year, the president illegally has delayed the implementation of various key provisions of the law. It establishes an entire new legal specialty—healthcare advocates that will provide representation before the numerous boards and commissions. It is a boon to a black market healthcare industry. Congress should be ashamed that supposedly 535 (well maybe just a majority) intelligent legislators turned out such a defective piece of legislation. One of the first things novice legislators are told is "Better no law than a bad one." As one former legislator noted over the airways, "Those who voted for it should be walking around with bags over their heads."

There are those who claim it is the law of the land and we must all fall in line like lemmings. The Framers of our Constitution knew what they were doing in providing for checks and balances. The powers of taxation and spending belong to the people (The House of Representatives). This was decided by the Magna Carta long ago and has been reiterated a number of times since then. Does King Barry need another Magna Carta moment? If so, let's hope we have become more civilized since the first go-around!

Jack Kenny

Reston

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 21



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TENTH ANNIVERSARY

OCTOBER 19th
AND 20th, 2013
10:00 to 5:00

Join us on a driving adventure to art studios hidden on the back roads of Great Falls, Virginia. Meet 60 artists. Rain or shine. **IT'S FREE.**



The tour is sponsored by Sun Design Remodeling Specialists, which will hold open houses at two Great Falls homes it has renovated. Stop by to get new ideas from their creative staff to reimagine your home.

SUN DESIGN
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THE MAP

The Studios. The numerals in the red squares correspond to the number given to each studio. The numbers run roughly from west to east and north to south on the map. Below, you will find an alphabetical listing of the artists by medium, and the number of the artist's studio. These numbers will also be found on the road sign nearest the studio. Wheel chair accessible is marked with a wheelchair icon, hands-on activities marked with a hand icon.

Sun Design venues. The yellow-and-brown sun icons correspond to locations where Sun Design is showcasing home renovations. One newly remodeled space is located at 797 Sherlin Lane, open only on Saturday, and another at 9250 Wood Glade Drive, open on Saturday and Sunday. Plan to visit one or both to see the artistry of Sun Design in person.

www.GreatFallsStudios.com

THE ARTISTS

Digital Artists

Michael McDermott.....#13
Richard Suib.....#7

Fiber Artists

Jinny Beyer.....#21
Dorri Emmer.....#32
Cindy Grisdelo.....#27
Vad Moskowitz.....#4
Kathy Owens.....#23

Flower Designer

Binaifer Davar.....#33

Jewelry Designers

Jorge Adeler.....#20
Donna Barnako.....#10
Richard Masaniello.....#5
Linda Rosen.....#18

Layered Paper Artist

Ronni Jolles.....#11

Mixed Media Artists

Roberta Pruett Beasley #27
Brenda Drake.....#27
Jennifer Duncan.....#26
GuruSangat Khalsa.....#28
Tina Learned.....#27
Sheila Lynch.....#14
Heidi Mraz.....#16

Studio Tour Headquarters.....#15

Painters

Jill Banks.....#27
Karen Bateman.....#13
Patti Chisholm.....#17
Hwa Crawford.....#23
Coty Dickson.....#18
Elaine Elinsky.....#27
Jo Fleming.....#8
Betty Ganley.....#5
Robert Gilbert.....#30
Lori Goll.....#17
Yeganeh Hejazi.....#18
Carol Howard.....#27
Linda Jones.....#32
Michela Mansuino.....#27
John McCabe.....#27
Mary Ellen Mogee.....#17
Begoña Morton.....#6
Pat Neuman.....#12
Vandana Pamecha.....#31
Gail Pean.....#22
Jay Pigeon.....#17
Claudia Samper.....#25
Judith St. Ledger-Roty.....#27
Karen Zelnick.....#17

Photographers

Jan Bender.....#3
Robin Kent.....#29
Walt Lawrence.....#27
Dee Leggett.....#18
Terri Parent.....#27
Silvia Gonzalez Roman #23

Potters

Barbara Gatterdam.....#24
Deborah McDysan.....#1
Laura Nichols.....#13
Pu-Chin Waide.....#25

Printmakers

Ralph Dashner.....#5
Will Tuthill.....#9

Sculptors

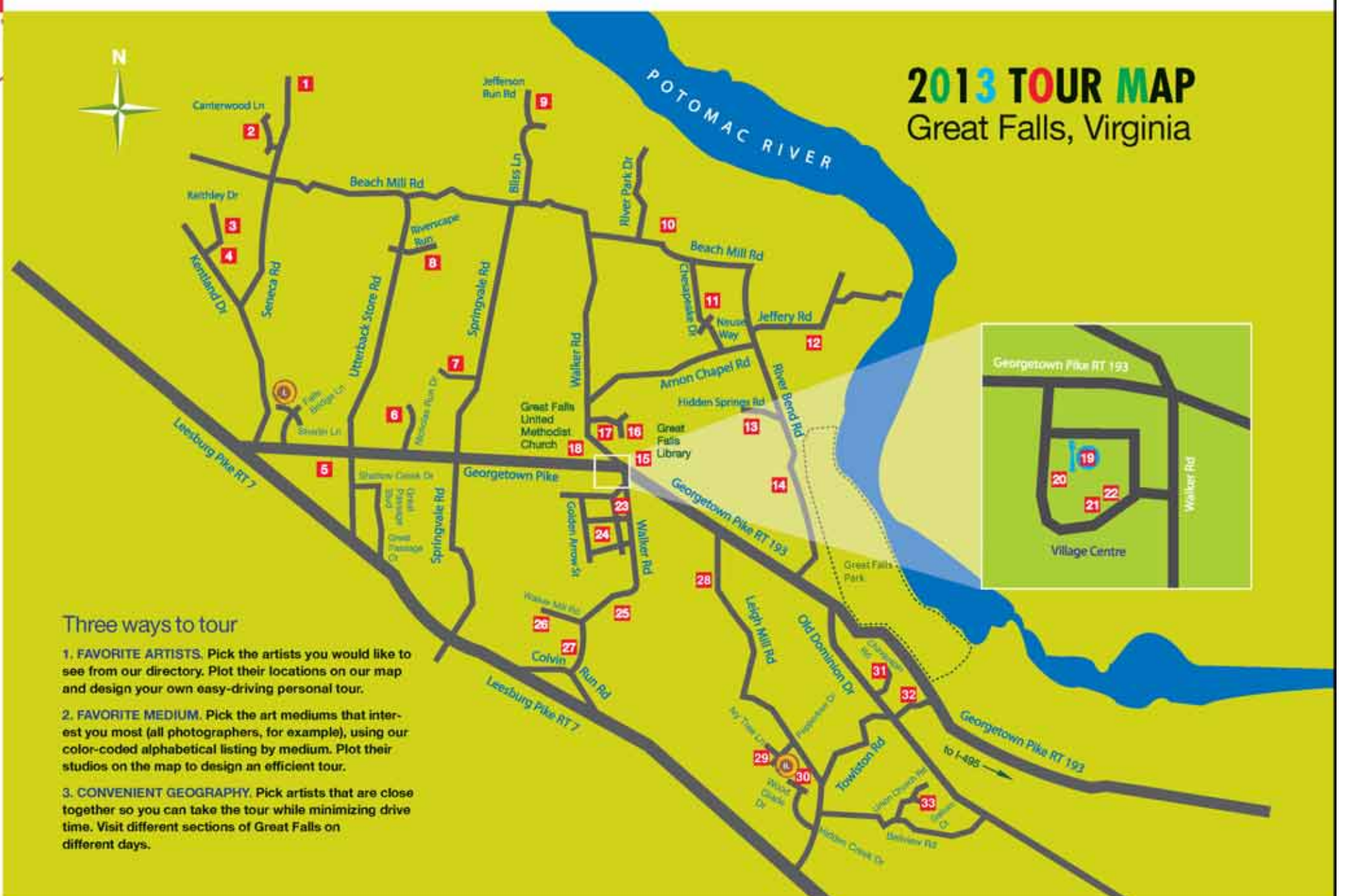
Jonathan Fisher.....#2
Jan Heginbotham.....#5

Wood Carver

Michael Long.....#23

Great Falls School of Art.....#27

The Old Brogue.....#19



Three ways to tour

- 1. FAVORITE ARTISTS.** Pick the artists you would like to see from our directory. Plot their locations on our map and design your own easy-driving personal tour.
- 2. FAVORITE MEDIUM.** Pick the art mediums that interest you most (all photographers, for example), using our color-coded alphabetical listing by medium. Plot their studios on the map to design an efficient tour.
- 3. CONVENIENT GEOGRAPHY.** Pick artists that are close together so you can take the tour while minimizing drive time. Visit different sections of Great Falls on different days.

Choosing a Private School

Local educators offer advice on selecting the right independent school for your child.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Marta Soltes was sitting in an Arlington coffee shop recently, pouring through catalogs and application packets from some of the area's most elite independent schools. Her stack of brochures was almost as high as her extra-large latte.

"There are so many options," said Soltes, who is a mother of twins. "And the application fees are outrageously expensive. I can't apply to all of them."

As the independent school application process gets underway, many parents are struggling to find the best fit for their child. Author and education consultant Ann Dolin, president of Educational Connections Inc., in Fairfax, and Bethesda, Md., says when choosing a school, key factors to consider include the school's location, single-sex versus co-ed, the level of academic rigor, methods of instruction, athletics and a child's chance of acceptance. Dolin recommends school visits, tours and open houses as a way to start narrowing down your choices.

"You'll want to consider certain factors," said Dolan. "Is the school close by or logistically feasible? Are you looking for all-out rigor and accelerated academics or would your child benefit more from a balanced, less intensive approach? Are sports important to your child? If so, this factor may make a school more or less attractive. Is the school known to be highly competitive, meaning that only a small percentage of students gain acceptance each year? Is the school looking for very high test scores and top grades? These are the schools that might be hard to get into. Be sure your list contains some of these 'reach' schools, but also others that may provide a better chance of acceptance."

LOCAL ADMISSIONS DIRECTORS agree that attending open houses and scheduling school visits are effective ways to start the application process. "An admission open house is a great venue to get an overview of a school's environment, sense of community, and the approach to teaching and learning," said Julie Jameson, director of admission at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md. "Opportunities to get to know the school are offered through tours, speaking with current students and parents, meeting faculty and administrators, and learning more about curriculum, activities and student life."

Charlotte Nelsen, director of admission and financial aid for The Potomac School in McLean, suggests visiting a school dur-



These students at The Madeira School in McLean enjoy each other's company on campus. School visits offer prospective families an opportunity to learn about student life.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MADEIRA SCHOOL



Teacher Wassila Taylor reads with lower school students at The Potomac School in McLean. School visits give families a chance to see classes in action and observe the level of student engagement.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE POTOMAC SCHOOL

ing the day when classes are in session. "Visiting campus gives families a chance to see classes in action, sense the level of student engagement and picture their child at the school," she said.

"Observing classes and teacher-student interactions will give families a feel for the culture of the school," said Mimi Mulligan, assistant head and director of admission and enrollment at Norwood School in Bethesda. "How is the learning environment set up? How do teacher and students interact? Are students working independently or collaboratively? Are they happy and engaged? Do the walls and the sounds in the hallway sing to you?"

Julie Lewis, director of admissions and financial aid at Alexandria Country Day School in Alexandria, said, "Being in the hallways and seeing how students and teachers interact with one another gives a prospective family a feel for the school and its culture that cannot be found on a website."

Richard S. Moss, director of admissions

at The Height School in Potomac, Md., says that an open house offers families an opportunity to look into the "heart and soul of a school" and to get a sense of a school's true environment. "On a superficial level, a good school ought to present an organized and welcoming open house, but a discerning parent and student will look beyond the external trappings to discern what values and principles an institution holds dear and how it implements those principles," said Moss. "If the principles line up with those of family, and the school does a good job of implementing them, it could be a good fit."

Open houses, said Mulligan, offer a different experience than a school tour. "[They] are wonderful opportunities to really delve into curricular discussions with faculty," she said. "Because open houses typically happen during non-school hours, teachers and administrators are available for conversation. Current students and parents are also usually in attendance, so if hearing about the school experience from that perspective is important to you, then

"Observing classes and teacher-student interactions will give families a feel for the culture of the school."

— Mimi Mulligan, assistant head and director of admission and enrollment, Norwood School

an open house would be a worthwhile activity."

Mulligan said she believes it's important to experience a school in more than one setting. It "allows for a deeper understanding of how a school's mission comes alive."

Ann Richardson Miller, director of admission and financial aid for The Madeira School, in McLean, also suggests that prospective families visit frequently and spend time on campus outside of scheduled tours and open houses. "Come often," she said. "We all have sporting events, announced on our website. You should stop by a game sometime. School plays and concerts are my favorite way to learn about a school. These events often have large numbers of parents and students from the school, and it is a wonderful way to see the culture of the school in one place."

DURING THE VISIT or open house, parents and prospective students should consider the school's environment and ask themselves several questions, said Katherine Carbo, director of Lower School admission at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria: "How comfortable do I feel in this environment? Do the faculty appear passionate and enthusiastic about teaching? Are the students focused and engaged? What is the overall philosophy of the school? Is the approach traditional or progressive?"

Classroom size and structure are other factors to note. "Keep your eyes peeled for the number of children in the classroom, and try to get a feel for their daily schedule," she said. "Could you imagine your child working and playing with the students and teachers you see? Visiting a school provides parents with one snapshot of the community. Learning more about that community takes time."

Carbo also suggests visiting several schools. "Most of the information you collect through reading and conversations will be reliable," she said. "But the right match for your child may be vastly different than your neighbor's child or coworker's child. This is why touring different schools is important." Start now by calling or emailing a school's admission office to request a tour, said Carbo. "When should you get started?" she asks. "That really depends on what program you are seeking out. Most admission seasons begin in October, and parents will tour in the fall or winter, a year before they hope their child will start school."

The most important guide, say experts, are a parent's instincts. "Each school has its own distinct feel," Carbo said. "It is up to you to visit and see what seems to be a good fit for your family."

Dolin said, "Parents' intuition is a good guide, but you have to balance it with the needs of your child."

Madeira School Interns 'Furloughed' Due to Government Shutdown

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Katie Barack, an 11th grade student at The Madeira School in McLean was looking forward to spending the fall semester working in a congressional office, walking the halls of U.S. Capitol and getting a first-hand view of the legislative process. Instead, she's strolling along the National Mall engaging in conversations with those whose lives have been affected by the government shutdown.

"It's so sad as a young adult because I feel powerless," said Barack.

A major component of the school year for 11th grade students at Madeira is an internship on Capitol Hill. However, because of the government shutdown, many of Madeira's high school juniors are unable to complete their congressional internships. So school officials restructured the program and students are now studying the government shutdown.

"The juniors affected by the shutdown [are] divided into two groups," said Ashley Smith, associate director of communications at Madeira. "Group one will research af-

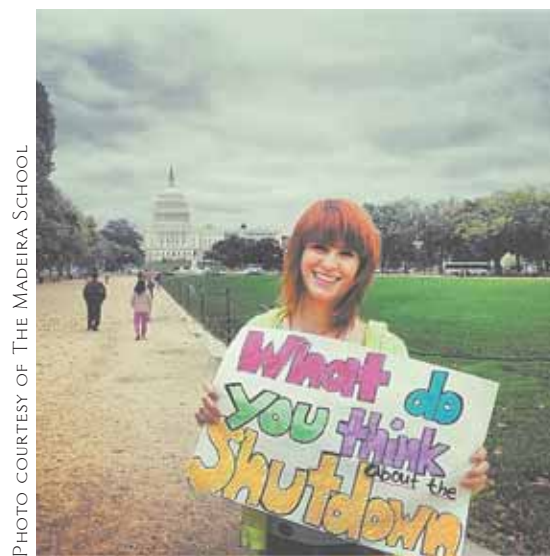


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MADEIRA SCHOOL

Rose McAvoy, an 11th grade student at The Madeira School, is spending time on the National Mall studying the effect that the government shutdown has on tourists, government employees and others.

"The idea behind the project was to make the shutdown come alive for the girls."

**— Andre Withers,
The Madeira School**

ected monuments, government buildings and federal lands around D.C., while group two will research the more personal impact on tourists, vendors or 'nonessential' employees. After some prep in the morning, girls will travel down to the Hill to research and collect content in the form of interviews, photos [and] videos."

The revised internship plan was created

by the co-curriculum department in conjunction with other faculty and staff members. The goal is to help the students gain many of the skills they would have acquired from internships in congressional offices.

School officials hope the students' research will help them understand the scope of the government shutdown. "The idea behind the project was to make the shut-

Local students turn lost internship into a learning experience.

down come alive for the girls," said Andre Withers, the assistant head of the school and director of co-curriculum. "It is certainly an inconvenience for their co-curriculum placement as unpaid interns, but we constructed the project so that the girls could see a range of the total impact: effects on the city, a family's disrupted plans for touring D.C., or the visceral feeling of being deemed 'non-essential' by the very government that you work for." Withers added that the revised program is a skill-based exercise. "We wanted the girls to engage with the public and wade into the public dialogue, to research, to create a narrative and do so in a way that was expressive, artistic and compelling," he said. Madeira officials say they are looking forward to seeing how the students respond to the project and the projects they produce. "I have a hard time wrapping my head around the idea that hardworking corrections officers and other federal employees will go home without pay," said Barack. "But it makes me really grateful and aware of my privileges. It makes me want to work that much harder to be part of the solution. It's not fair for anybody, so everybody needs to accept responsibility and start making changes."

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Friday, October 18, 2013

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

A hay maze is one of the Festival on the Square attractions.

Festival on the Square Returns Oct. 27

The 5th annual Festival on the Square is Sunday, Oct. 27 from noon until 4 p.m. at Reston Heights, 11750 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. In addition to hosting the Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith) Help the Homeless Community Walk, Festival on the Square offers a full afternoon of free family fun including live entertainment, a petting zoo, a hay maze, trackless train rides, face painting, moon bounce, giant slide, children's activities, trick-or-treating, plus the Z Car Club's Judging and People's Choice Award. Hotel restaurants Vinifera, of Westin-Reston, and Syrah, of Sheraton Reston will serve up festival foods for purchase. For event information, go to www.TheFestivalontheSquare.com, and find it on the Reston Heights Facebook page and Twitter, or call 703-476-9377.

Community walk participants must register in advance online at hthwalks.org and check in at Festival on the Square before the walk begins at 1:30 p.m.

Festival on the Square is sponsored by Reston Heights, The JBG Companies, Westin Reston Heights, Vinifera Wine Bar & Bistro, Sheraton Reston, Syrah Restaurant, Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith), Reston Community Center, Reston Association, Fairfax County Times and the Connection. To participate in the Cornerstones Help the Homeless Community Walk or make a tax-deductible donation, go online to hthwalks.org. One hundred percent of all online registrations and donations will go directly to Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith).



Festival on the Square offers a full afternoon of free family fun, including live entertainment.

Festival on the Square Schedule

♦Noon-4 p.m.: petting zoo, hay maze, trackless train rides, mini-pumpkin patch, face painting, glitter tattoos, children's activities, Z Club Car Show judging, outdoor restaurants, strolling entertainers, live performances on the entertainment stage presented by Reston Community Center; trick or treat at festival vendor booths (costumes welcome but not required).

♦Noon-1:30 pm: Check-in for the Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith) Help the Homeless (CHtH) Community Walk—advance registration required online at hthwalks.org.

♦1:30 p.m.: CHtH Community Walk begins

Reston Heights, 11750 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, is a mixed-use venue anchored by landmark hotels, Sheraton Reston and Westin Reston, residential condominiums, and offices. Owned by The JBG Companies, this sophis-

ticated combination of work space, living space, and green space is located near the intersection of Reston Parkway at the Dulles Toll Road exit 12 (south). For information, visit www.Reston-Heights.com.



A Reston condominium, to be featured in the Reston Homes Tour, upcoming Saturday, Oct. 19.

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit hthwalks.org or www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/apr/11/fairfax-county-calendar/.

produces a murder mystery, directed by Evan Hoffman and adapted from the Hitchcock film and novel by John Buchan of the same name. \$25-27. 866-811-4111 or www.NextStopTheatre.org.

FRIDAYS-SUNDAYS/OCT. 18-NOV 3

"Legally Blonde." 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. on Sundays at 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Players brings excellent theatre that all of the community can enjoy. Directed by Joshua Redford, musically directed by David Rohde. Price to be determined. 703-476-4500, rcp-tix.com, or <http://restonplayers.org/>.

FRIDAY/OCT. 18

VOCE Chamber Choir. 8 p.m., at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Selections from Les Misérables will be played in the opening concert of the 25th anniversary season. A special feature will be a work originally commissioned by Voce Chamber Choir. \$10. 703-956-6590. www.artspaceherndon.org.

Special Consensus. 8 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. An acoustic contemporary and traditional bluegrass band feature raw, emotional lyrics and orchestrates vocals and instrumentation. \$15; children 12 and under, free. 703-435-8377 or <http://www.specialc.com>.

WEDNESDAY-MONDAY/OCT. 16-28

2-D Mixed Media & Painting Competition. 9 a.m.-9 p.m., at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery Exhibit, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Jean Gill, an artist, juror and educator with a love of both science and art is the judge for this exhibit of 2-dimensional paintings and mixed media art. The League of Reston Artists is a non-profit organization open to all Washington, D.C. Metro art lovers and has been an important part of the Reston community for nearly 45 years. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/OCT. 16-31

Breaking the Panels: Pop Culture, Comic and Illustration Art. 9 a.m.-9 p.m., at Hunters Woods Gallery Exhibit, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Gian Lomagilo and Jeff Lonnett are two young artists and teachers who are serious about their art, but like to have fun with it. Both were inspired by popular culture but their artistic interpretations are very different.

THURSDAYS-SUNDAYS/OCT. 17-20

"The 39 Steps." 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Sundays at Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. NextStop Theatre company

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at 2355

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 17



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Special Consensus performs bluegrass music Friday, Oct. 18 at 8 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 16

Bedfordshire Circle, Reston. A sale with furniture, clothing, knick knacks and more to benefit the organization. Volunteers are needed to staff the sale, prepare and sort merchandise for the sale, help clean up after the sale, advertise, etc. Sellable merchandise for the yard sale also needed. Baked goods and coffee/juice is for sale. Cct17@verizon.net or 703-930-9220.

12th annual Reston Home Tour. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at various locations throughout Reston. The Reston Historic Trusts holds a self-guided homes tour that celebrates and commemorates the vision of Robert E. Simon, Jr., Reston founder. Documentary films on the making and development of Reston show throughout the day. \$25 tickets before Oct. 13; \$30 each Oct. 13-19; \$20 for groups of 10-plus. www.restonmuseum.org.

Build A Bird Feeder. 11 a.m.-noon, at the Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Make a recycled bottle feeder and a pinecone suet feeder, and learn which birds are attracted by different food and feeder types. Reservations required by October 15. \$5/person RA members · \$8/person Non-members. 703-476-9689 ext. 5 or naturecenter@reston.org.

Halloween Family Fun Day. Noon-4:30 p.m. at 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Come dressed in your favorite costume, and enjoy performances. Free.

THURSDAY/OCT. 24

The Chamasayan Sisters. 2:15 p.m. at Reston Community Center, Center Stage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Hunters Woods Village Center, Reston. Monika and Armine Chamasayan, violinists, and Marina Chamasayan, pianist, are all award winners of national and international competitions in Europe and the U.S. 703-503-3384, olli@gmu.edu, www.oli.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/OCT. 26

Creating the Reston Mosaic. 10 a.m.-noon, at Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Children help prepare for Reston's 50th birthday by creating original art for the museum to use for Founder's Day 2014. www.restonmuseum.org.

Book Talk. 2 p.m., at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Author, Air Force veteran, and retired American diplomat Robert F. Dorr will discuss his book "Mission to Tokyo: the American Airmen Who Took the War to the Heart of Japan."

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com by the Friday prior to the following week's paper.

THURSDAY/OCT. 17

Volunteer Fair. 10 a.m., at the Lake Anne Community Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza in Reston. Representatives from six organizations will talk about opportunities to give back to the community. They will give a brief explanation of their needs and what types of volunteers they can utilize. Refreshments provided. 571-201-8719 or www.restonnewcomers.org.

Metro Update Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. reception, noon lunch, at Washington Dulles Airport Hilton, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. Info on Momentum, a strategic plan that will guide Metro's decisions over the next 10 years; Richard Sarles, WMATA's general manager and CEO will speak to the Committee for Dulles.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Fall Stream Cleanup. 9 a.m.-noon, at sites along Snakeden Branch, Reston; meet at Hunters Woods Village Center, Soapstone Road, the Pavilion, Tall Oaks Pool or Reston North Park for various sites. A small group accomplishes significant litter clean-up in a few hours. Sign up by Oct. 15; gloves provided. 703-435-7986 or habrock@reston.org.

Contemporary Master Class:

Lucas Crandall. 10-11:30 a.m., at Classical Ballet Theatre, 320 Victory Drive, Herndon. Crandall, the associate director of modern dance giant Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, leads a technique and repertory class. Both classes are open to advanced and pre-professional level dancers with technique in contemporary/modern, ballet or jazz. Register. 703-471-0750 or http://www.cbtnva.org/masterclass.

MONDAY/OCT. 21

Reston Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting. 6:30 p.m., at the North County Government Center, Community Room, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Discuss the Reston Master Plan Special Study, the Lake Anne Village Center revitalization effort, the Town Center site changes and the Silver Line.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 25-26

Haunted House and Trick-or-Treat Trail Volunteering. 4:30-9:30 p.m. at Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Energetic Halloween volunteers are needed to bring this event to the community. Volunteers between ages of 12-14 must have an adult chaperone. Those 15 through adult are eligible to be a character. Volunteers will receive pizza dinner, but must stay for the entire shift. 703-435-7986 or habrock@reston.org.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Reston Association will be holding a public hearing *at 7 p.m., at the Reston Association Conference Center (12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20194) on Oct. 24, 2013* to consider a proposed common area "land exchange" with Lake Anne Development Partners, L.L.C.

Information on the matter will be posted on www.reston.org the week of Oct. 14.

For more information please call 703-435-6530.



www.reston.org

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Believers Baptist Church ...
703-777-4220
Crossroads Baptist Church ...
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Faith Bible ... 703-430-1345
First Baptist Church of Sterling ...
703-430-3322
Guilford Baptist ... 703-430-6444
Heritage Baptist Church ... 703-739-5436
Leesburg Baptist Church ... 703-777-2209
Loudoun Baptist Church ... 703-777-1336
Oak Grove Baptist Church ...
703-456-4360
Potomac Baptist Church ... 703-430-2377
Sterling Park Baptist Church ...
703-430-2527

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Christ The Redeemer ... 703-430-0811
Our Lady of Hope ... 703-430-5702
St. John Apostle ... 703-777-1317
St. Josephs ... 703-880-4300
St. Theresa ... 703-729-2287
St. Veronica ... 703-689-4409

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Brambleton Ward ... 703-858-5611
Goose Creek Ward ... 703-858-5604
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703-858-4973

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Plum

FROM PAGE 10

happening with excessive flooding along the coastline was rewritten to take out the terms "sea-level rise" and "climate change." Too many are unwilling to accept scientific evidence documenting cli-

mate change but at the same time are willing to believe that there is a United Nations Agenda 21 to take over our country! Maybe the election outcome on Nov. 5 will help resolve the question of whether we are willing to acknowledge that science has something to tell us.



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Everyone's Got a Story to Tell

Third annual festival brings together storytellers to share films and inspire change.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

It's a very simple premise: there's something powerful, almost magic, about stories. Whether it's the friendship formed between a pilot of antique planes and an Indiana farm family, or the struggle for respect for African American soldiers following World War II; an unlikely meeting of a man with nothing left to live for and one struggling to continue; or a family's fight to stay in their home, stories are the common way in which humans relate to and learn from each other.

Starting next Wednesday, the Washington West Film Festival strives to not only share tales from around the world, but to create new ones.

Brad Russell, president of the festival, said the inspiration for the festival was the surprising lack of one in this area.

"I saw a need or opportunity for a great, prestigious film festival," he said.

Over several days, films are screened in Reston at the Town Center, at George Mason University in Fairfax and at the Artisphere in Rosslyn. Films range from under half an hour to full-length features, including a few from local directors and producers. But the festival isn't just about the movies: The profits from each festival go toward a different charitable effort in a community somewhere in the world, Russell said. The first year, the money went to repair and rebuild a relief center in Haiti that served as a recreation center for children at night, following the earthquake a few years ago. Last year, the proceeds went to two families in Long Island whose homes were destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. This year, the festival will work a little closer to home, benefitting Shelter House in its efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County within a decade.

To tie things together, Russell decided the best thing to do is tell the story of how others benefit from the festival. So each year, when the proceeds are distributed, a short, two-minute film is made, which is then screened before each film during the festival.

DONORS AND SPONSORS help the festival run, since all the profits are used elsewhere, Russell said. Fortunately for him and the festival, there doesn't seem to be a shortage of companies willing to help.

Loudoun and Fairfax counties are always near the top of lists ranking the nation's wealthiest communities, or best educated, but Russell hopes to add to the accolades through the film festival's charitable drive.

"Wouldn't it be great if this area became known as the nation's most generous," he asked. "If we get to our eventual goal of 100,000 attendees, that's the equivalent of \$1 million in box office profits we're giving away."

It also helps that there are some well-known names affiliated with the festival,



Washington West Film Festival creator Brad Russell with Julia Louis-Dreyfus and her husband, film festival board member Brad Hall, during a previous Washington West Film Festival. This year's event will run Oct. 23-27 at a handful of venues across Northern Virginia.

including two of this year's speakers, actor Ed Asner and movie and TV composer W.G. Snuffy Walden, along with Brad Hall, husband of Julia Louis-Dreyfus and member of the festival's board of directors.

This might only be the festival's third year, but word is already getting out in the film world. The first year's attendance was 730, higher than the 500 Russell had hoped for. In year two, he hoped for 1,000, and over 1,500 people attended.

"This year, our goal is 2,000 people, and we're hoping to exceed even that," he said.

"We really see this as a prestigious east coast film festival in the making," and it's possible the festival will need to expand beyond the three locations in Northern Virginia within a few years.

FOR RUSSELL, it all comes back to the power of stories.

"One good story should always lead to another," he said. "That's part of our vision," and why he enjoys so much having the attendees not only watch the stories unfold on screen, but contribute in their own way to a larger story, told the following year in the two-minute film.

A total of 41 films will be screened this year, including a 10th anniversary presentation of "Bruce Almighty," "Just a Sigh," starring Gabriel Byrne and Emmanuelle Devos, and "Red Obsession," a film narrated by Russell Crowe about Bordeaux wine.

Four films are locally made and have been featured in other festivals, but their creators are excited to share their works here at home.

"Barnstorming" is a 45-minute film about something almost magical: the friendship between a Vienna pilot, Andrew King, and a farm family in Winchester, Ind., that began when King and a friend were flying

Details

The Washington West Film Festival kicks off Wednesday, Oct. 23, with a red carpet event at the Reston Town Center's Bow Tie Cinemas and a showing of "Living on One Dollar," a film about four friends who try to live on a dollar a day for eight weeks in Guatemala. When possible, actors, directors or others involved with the film will be on-hand after showings to host Q&A sessions with the audience. More information, including a complete list of films and online ticket purchasing, is available at wwfilmfest.com.

their antique planes around during the Oshkosh air show. Looking for a good photo opportunity, they landed in an alfalfa field to snap some pictures next to a bright red hay rake, and were soon joined by a farmer and some of his children in a pickup truck. The Dirksen family thought their planes had crashed. For the past four years, King and some of his friends return to the Dirksen farm to "barnstorm," or fly their biplanes and crop dusters low over hay and alfalfa to the delight of the family and many of their neighbors — 180 in all in the year featured in the movie — and the pilots take young and old alike up in the air for short flights around the countryside. After, everyone gathers at the farmhouse for a barbecue prepared by the town.

Paul Glenshaw and Bryan Reichhardt, the film's producers, traveled twice out to Winchester to film the family and the flights, and another trip to interview those involved for their film, which has been broadcast on PBS stations across the country, but not the local affiliate, they said. They used a three-person crew, including themselves and Reichhardt's nephew, Mark Betancourt, to film the movie, and used some inventive camera angles to get the shots they wanted.

In one scene, a plane lands on a particularly wet patch of grass, and the camera is there to catch the splash of the plane hitting the ground.

"He just stuck his arm out when the plane landed and put the camera by the wheel," Reichhardt said.

Glenshaw and Reichhardt grew up in Reston and both attended South Lakes High School, and while each pursues their own film work, this is their first collaboration.

At its heart, "Barnstorming" is just a feel-good movie, Glenshaw said. "People get riled up a little watching it, saying this is what the country needs, this is how things used to be. But stuff like this is happening. We didn't go out with the intent of making this movie."

ANOTHER FILM is inspiring for quite a different reason.

In her film, "My Neighbourhood," Reston native Rebekah Wingert-Jabi shows the struggle of a young man, Mohammed El Kurd, in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah, a settlement established by Palestinian families following the war in 1948 which led to the creation of Israel. Israeli settlers have been slowly taking over the settlement, either forcing Palestinians out of their homes or moving in with them.

The settlement is on a well-traveled road near the American Colony Hotel, a favorite among ex-pats and journalists. When a giant white tent emerged along the roadside while Wingert-Jabi was studying there, she became curious.

"Out of this confrontation and friction emerged a very unique non-violent contingent of Israeli and Palestinian people working together to prevent the takeover" of Palestinian homes, she said. At the time, Mohammed was just 11 years old, but he realized it would only be through peaceful means that his family and others like them had a chance of keeping their homes.

Impressed by his maturity in facing a tense situation was more than impressive, she said. But it presented a tricky situation for her and her co-director, Julia Bacha, because when their filming wrapped up, the displacement and struggle over resettlement was ongoing, and remains so.

The movie premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and earned a Peabody award, but Wingert-Jabi said she's just as excited to show the movie at the Washington West Film Festival, where it will serve as the event's closing film.

Reston was designed to be a "mixed" community, economically, ethnically and in other ways, and presenting a film that shows an unlikely understanding between two peoples better known for warring with each other is a reminder that there's much work to be done, she said. "To me, one of the pinnacles of my filmmaking experience is to be able to bring this movie back to the community which inspired me."

"I'm really excited to share this film in Virginia," he said.

SPORTS

Langley Football Runs Over Fairfax

A soaked Langley homecoming crowd was treated to a 28-7 win over conference rival Fairfax on Oct. 11.

The heavy rains pretty much forced both teams to slug it out on the ground as they battled each other as well as the elements. The Saxons overwhelmed Fairfax with 15 first downs while rushing for 290 yards compared to 173 for Fairfax. Langley's offensive was able to handle the ball more securely than the Rebels en route to the win, which pushed the Saxons' record to 4-2 overall and 2-1 in Conference 6.

At the outset, Langley took control of the line of scrimmage behind its huge offensive line, anchored by senior guards Brooks Norris and Bennett Molster, and center Alex Kolencik, enabling senior quarterback Nick Casso to run for 100 yards and two touchdowns, while fellow backfield mate, junior running back Tyler West, went for 190 yards on 29 carries and two touchdowns for the game.

By the end of the first quarter, the Saxons had built a 14-0 lead. Langley's first touchdown came on an 11-play, 79-yard opening drive; and the second on a three-play, 18-yard scoring march set up by linebacker Cooper Besougloff's interception. Fairfax was able to cut the lead in half early in the second quarter when running back Nick Scott ran it in from 6 yards out to make the score 14-7. For the game, Scott had 135 yards and one touchdown.

That would be as close as it would get, as Langley capitalized on a Fairfax failed fake punt that turned the ball over on the Rebel 39-yard line. When Langley scored with only 1:48 left before halftime to make it 21-7, the gamble had effectively put the game out of reach for Fairfax.

Langley controlled the second half, scoring the only points late in the third quarter after a time consuming eight-play, 70-yard drive was capped off on a 2-yard plunge by West for the touchdown, with only 1:22 left to make it 28-7.

Fairfax struggled all game, putting the ball on the ground numerous times before they were able to mount a threat in the fourth quarter, which was turned back by a determined Langley defense on a fourth-and-goal stop by linebacker Austin Denham and safety Garrett Collier.

The Saxons will go on the road to face South Lakes on Friday, Oct. 18.

Langley Volleyball Bounces Back

After suffering its second loss of the season, the Langley volleyball team responded with a 3-0 win against Centreville on Oct. 10. The victory came three days after the Saxons lost to fellow power Stone Bridge, 3-1.

The victory against Centreville improved Langley's record to 15-2. The Saxons will host undefeated Madison at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16.



The Langley defense, seen against Chantilly on Sept. 27, held Fairfax to a single touchdown on Oct. 11. The Saxons won 28-7 and improved to 4-2.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Christin Geisler, pictured against Madison on Sept. 20, and the McLean field hockey team enter their regular-season finale with a 10-3 record.

McLean Football Falls to 3-3

After back-to-back victories against South Lakes and Herndon gave the McLean football team a winning record, the Highlanders went back down to .500 with a 35-7 loss to Stone Bridge on Oct. 11.

McLean's Christopher Merrill carried 11 times for 46 yards and a touchdown, according to stats from the Washington Post's allmetsports.com.

McLean (3-3) will travel to face Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18.

McLean Field Hockey Gets Win No. 10

The McLean field hockey team improved to 10-3 with a 3-2 victory against Langley on Oct. 8 at Langley High School. It was the Highlanders' third consecutive victory and sixth win in their last seven games.

McLean will close the regular season with a game at Herndon at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

day, Oct. 16.

Madison Volleyball Improves to 21-0

The Madison volleyball team remained undefeated with a 3-1 victory against Westfield on Oct. 10.

Two days earlier, the Warhawks defeated Yorktown 3-2. The Patriots became the first team to win two sets against Madison this season.

The Warhawks (21-0) will travel to face Langley at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

Madison Football Searching for First Win

The Madison football team dropped to 0-6 with a 39-0 loss to Robinson on Oct. 11.

The Warhawks will travel to face Thomas Jefferson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18.

Oakton Football Drops Conference Opener

The Oakton football team lost its Conference 5 opener to Chantilly 21-7 on Oct. 11.

The defeat snapped a four-game winning streak for the Cougars. Alek Schultz carried nine times for 41 yards for Oakton and quarterback Michael Ficarra threw a 31-yard touchdown pass to David Allely, according to stats from the Washington Post's allmetsports.com.

Oakton (4-2) will host Centreville at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18.

Herndon Football Gets First Win

The Herndon football team won its first game of the season, beating Edison 47-19 on Oct. 12, according to the Washington Post's allmetsports.com.

Herndon's Lamik Bumbrey carried 34 times for 268 yards and two touchdowns. Jack Booma caught four passes for 70 yards and a score. Ryan McLaughlin completed seven of 10 passes for 95 yards and a touchdown. He also ran for a score.

Herndon (1-5) will host Chantilly at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 25.

South Lakes Football Improves to 4-2

The South Lakes football team beat Thomas Jefferson 23-15 on Oct. 11, improving the Seahawks' record to 4-2. South Lakes has won two straight and four of its last five.

The Seahawks will host Langley at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18.

South Lakes Volleyball Wins Third Straight

The South Lakes volleyball team defeated Oakton 3-1 (17-25, 25-21, 25-22, 25-21) on Oct. 10, giving the Seahawks three straight wins while improving their record to 11-9.

South Lakes faced McLean on Tuesday, after the Connection's deadline. The Seahawks will travel to take on Fairfax at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 22.

Yorktown Football Improves to 5-1

The Yorktown football team defeated Hayfield 19-14 on Oct. 11, improving the Patriots' record to 5-1.

Yorktown running back MJ Stewart carried 26 times for 198 yards and three touchdowns, according to stats from the Washington Post's allmetsports.com.

Yorktown will host Wakefield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18.

WEEK IN RESTON

FROM PAGE 7

For more information, contact Sandy Lawrence at 703-569-1588.

GRACE to Host Launching of Generation Next

Generation Next is a new group of patrons and rising business, civic and social leaders under the age of 40 who will be the future of the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE). Generation Next will inspire and involve the next generation of GRACE mem-

bers and leaders by hosting art-infused events throughout the year. On Wednesday, Oct. 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m., there will be a launch event featuring a conversation with GRACE Curator Holly McCullough on the current exhibition 40 for 40: Celebrating Four Decades of GRACE and an opportunity to network with other arts loving colleagues. The GRACE leadership team also will discuss the future of Gen Next.

Free food and happy hour-priced beer and wine provided by Il Fornaio and sponsored by Beloved Yoga.

GreaterRestonArtsCenter, 12001 Market Street, Suite 103, Reston, 703-471-9242; info@restonarts.org.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to reston@connectionnewspapers.com by Friday.

Reston student **Derek J. Phillips** of South Lakes High School is a semifinalist in the 2014 National Achievement Program.








Samantha Mendis of Reston has earned a summer internship from the Virginia Space Grant Consortium through the Commonwealth STEM Industry Internship Program. Samantha is an electrical and electronics engineering major at the University of Virginia who now is employed as an engineering intern at Science Systems and Applications, Inc., located in Hampton.








David X. Gao of Herndon received the National Merit University of Chicago Scholarship.








The Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology graduate plans to study economics.


Herndon area students Michael H. Chen, Emily Schaal, Jefferson Sheron and Tae-Jung Yang of Herndon High School, and Jocelyn Huang, Sreenath Are, Rohan Banerjee, Ashwin Basana, Arjun Iyer, Aseem Jain, Anne Li, Soumya Mishra, Christin Park, Rohan Punnoose, Sarah Quettawala, Simran Rohatgi, Snigdha Srivastava and Tony Xiao of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology are National Merit Scholarship semifinalists.

Ade A. Samuel of Herndon High School is a semifinalist in the 2014 National Achievement Program.












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LETTERS

Abject Failure

To the Editor:

"The Affordable Care Act is the law of the land," Delegate Plum intones ("The Battle to Insure Everyone," Reston Connection, Oct. 9), omitting to mention that it has already been so distorted by the president with his waivers, exemptions and postponements that it is itself looking a tad sickly. He is studiously silent also on the attendant

rise in private insurance premiums, often astronomical, the abject failure of the initial "rollout" of the insurance marketplace (a "hacker's dream")—perhaps several years of preparation were insufficient—doctors refusing to accept Medicare recipients, job losses, and the outrageous Capitol Hill exemptions—all the benefits of redistributed wealth.

Delegate Plum quotes in support

of our supposed need for a European-style health-care system a ... travel consultant! Shades of Walter Duranty: I saw Euro-health care, and it works. I would refer him to the Francis QC Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust Public Inquiry Report on the state of health "care" in England in the example of this infamous hospital. I quote: "We now know that police may be investigating

between 200 and 300 deaths at Mid Staffs Hospital for criminal negligence. This is almost so horrific that it falls outside comprehension or belief." I would doubt that the horrors are isolated.

The American people, Delegate Plum says, have been in a "frantic rush to get into the (healthcare.gov) program." Really? I suspect that the real numbers are too embarrassingly low to

be quoted.

Delegate Plum talks hilariously about the program's "overwhelming appeal and acceptance." We should not, Mr. Plum says, try to block the law from taking effect. Based on the experience of the program's signup rollout, what could possibly go wrong?

Harry Locock
Reston

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Cub Scouts of Pack 913 won first place in the Civic Organization category: Roan Toole (9) of St. Joseph Cub Scout Pack 913 carries the flag down Elden Street during this year's Herndon Homecoming Parade last Saturday, Oct. 12. Dressed as pirates, sharks, jellyfish and octopi in support of this year's "Sea Swept" parade theme, Pack 913 won first place in the Civic Association category.

Pack 913 Wins First for Civic Organization

Cub Scouts from Pack 913 won first prize in the civic organization category at the Saturday, Oct. 12 Herndon Homecoming Parade.

Classical Ballet Theatre Presents Master Classes

As part of its monthly master class series, Classical Ballet Theatre will present two master classes with former American Ballet Theatre Principal Dancers Amanda McKerrow and John Gardner, two of the country's most highly acclaimed dancers.

Advanced/Pre-professional class: Nov. 2, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; \$30 pre-registered/\$35 walk-in;

Intermediate class: Nov. 2, 1-2:30 p.m.; \$25 Pre-registered/\$30 walk-in;

Both classes are open to dancers with a strong foundation in classical ballet technique.

Call 703-471-0750 to register; space is limited.

Classical Ballet Theatre is located at 320 Victory Drive in Herndon. <http://www.cbntva.org/masterclass>.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

John Gardner and Amanda McKerrow, former principal dancers with American Ballet Theatre.

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.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare are provided and youth and adult Sunday school classes are held prior, from 9:40-10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or www.trinityherndon.org.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. \$12. 202-986-2257 or www.meditation-dc.org.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. Nursery, Sunday school and adult education available. Morning prayer on Monday at 9:30, Holy Eucharist

Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. 703-437-6530 or www.stannes-reston.org.

Adult Sunday school will be held 9:30 a.m. Sundays at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

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In And Of Itself



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Even though I've been riding this non-small cell lung cancer roller coaster going on 56 months now, post-diagnosis; I still can't separate cancer effects (physically, mentally, psychologically, spiritually, etc.) from normal age-related effects, and by normal I mean reasonably expected at this middle age: gray hair as an example. Certainly I don't want the effects (symptoms if you must) to indicate cancer on the move and/or the stage IV tumors in my lungs doing something to complicate an already precarious set of terminal circumstances. However, as life goes on, I'm likely to experience this sort of fact (cancer) from some kind of fiction (not cancer). No one ever said living with cancer would be easy, quite the opposite in fact. Nevertheless, living is preferred, so complications be damned.

Still, it's the complications, that if ignored or misunderstood or wishfully-thought-of as insignificant – in the scheme of the cancer world in which I reside 24/7, might actually be my undoing. As an example: the shortness of breath I experienced in late July which led to my week-long hospital admission during the first week in August. I had just begun a new round (six-time) of chemotherapy ("new" meaning an I.V. drug with which I had never been infused) and even after just a few infusions, I was already having difficulty breathing/catching my breath; completing a sentence was difficult. This was a side effect with which I was familiar, having previously been infused many times, as you regular readers know, so to my way of assessing, it was just another day at the office, so to speak, (the cancer office, that is). And not ever wanting to make a mountain out of a molehill (or is that a tumor out of a mole?), I toughed it out, thinking it was par for this particular course of treatment. It turned out I was wrong – almost dead wrong.

As my breathing became more labored and my inability to speak/breathe a complete sentence more obvious, I had to admit – even in my generally delusional this-can't-be-cancer orientation, that something was amiss and maybe it was the cancer asserting itself. When I next saw my oncology nurse for my scheduled infusion, it was quite apparent to him that my condition was more than a side effect, it was a straight-on effect. And after he hooked me up to an oxygen sensor and walked me around the unit and saw how low my oxygen levels were, well, it wasn't too much longer before arrangements were being made and I was "ambulance-lanced" to Holy Cross Hospital. Two days later I was operated on by a thoracic surgeon who removed 4.5 liters of fluid from my lung. I don't know if I was drowning, exactly, but neither was I treading water.

But I had read the boiler-plate handouts from my oncologist and thought I knew what to expect – and shortness of breath was what I was expecting, and quite frankly, a side effect I had experienced before. However, when the symptoms went from the sublime (expected) to the ridiculous (beyond expectations and requiring immediate medical attention), I began to realize I likely wasn't in Kansas anymore. I was going to be in a hospital in Silver Spring, Maryland. That's when it became serious.

And though I pulled through with flying colors and a re-inflated lung – with an above-average prognosis from my thoracic surgeon, I've learned my lesson: next time, I'm calling the doctor. Whether any symptoms I'm having are cancer-related or not, I certainly don't know, and as much as I don't want them to be, it would seem awfully foolish and naive of me to think it's not and neglect to inform my oncologist. Everything might not be related, it might just be middle age. The fact that I never know is the scary part.

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

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