

# Oak Hill ♦ Herndon CONNECTION

Herndon senior Kent Auslander prepares to throw down one of his four dunks during an 81-66 victory over Oakton on Jan. 24.

## Playing Above the Rim

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## WINTER FUN

Send announcements to [herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### TUESDAY /JAN. 28- SUNDAY/MARCH 2

**Something Blue.** ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Fine textile art is showcased in Something Blue by the Northern Virginia Quilters. 703-956-6590 or [www.artspaceherndon.org](http://www.artspaceherndon.org).

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 29- WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19

**Art Explorers.** 10:30-11:30 a.m., ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Three sessions allow for a more in-depth introduction to the key concepts and will provide some good homework suggestions to help start and develop a habit of sketching. \$200. 703-956-6590 or [www.artspaceherndon.org](http://www.artspaceherndon.org).

### SUNDAY/FEB. 2

**Groundhog's Day.** 2-3 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Find out if groundhog saw his shadow today and what it might mean for the winter days ahead. Test your groundhog knowledge and hear legends of these curious critters. Step into our colored shadow room and discover how to use your shadow to tell time. Reservations required by Jan. 30. Fee: \$5.00/person RA members, \$7.00/person Non-members. [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org), or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

### MONDAY/FEB. 3- TUESDAY/FEB. 4

**Captivating Colors.** 10-11 a.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Ages 18 months to 35 months. Discover the brilliant hues of animals in love, bright flowers attracting insects, and bold colors warning you not to touch. Play a game to find different colors, and take home a colorful craft. Reservations required by Jan. 29. Fee: \$7/child RA members, \$9/child Non-members. [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org), or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

### MONDAY/FEB. 3- THURSDAY/FEB. 27

**Celeste Friesen Nikkel Painting Exhibit.** Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Reston Center One, 12001 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston. [www.leagueofrestonartists.org](http://www.leagueofrestonartists.org)

### MONDAY/FEB. 3- FRIDAY/APRIL 11

**Artists Honored at LRA's "Winter Dreams" Exhibit.** Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Parkridge 5 Building, 10780 Parkridge Blvd., Reston. [www.leagueofrestonartists.org](http://www.leagueofrestonartists.org)

### TUESDAY/FEB. 4

**Reston Garden Club Goes to the Oscars.** 1 p.m. Lake Ann Community Center. Members will display their creative talents as they present floral or fruit interpretations of any of the nominated films from any category of this year's nominations for Oscar winner.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 5- SUNDAY/MARCH 2

**Colorful Times Four.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday - Sunday. Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. Four accomplished Reston artists - Ann Barbieri, Joan Kelly, Dana Scheurer and Connie Slack - present vibrant, dynamic works of art in their February exhibit, Colorful Times Four. 703-864-2588.

SEE WINTER FUN, PAGE 11

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## Music Loft Distributes Donated Instruments For Students

Teachers collect instruments at Music Loft.

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Friday, Jan. 17, school music teachers collected instruments at the Music Loft in Herndon. These musical instruments had been collected by the Council for the Arts of Herndon Play it Forward instrument drive.

"We start the Play it Forward Campaign again in April," said Laura Readyoff, who is on the board of directors for the council and the co-owner of the Music Loft.

"I've been a music teacher for 27 years, and I have worked at public schools before opening the Music Loft. I see what a positive impact music makes on a child as it helps them in their math skills, their verbal skills, and social skills. Music is wonderful for a child's self-esteem and development," Readyoff said.

The Play it Forward program is intended to provide good quality instruments for stu-



Inside the Music Loft, Signe Friedrichs, Bette Gawinski, Allison Devereux, Laura Readyoff, Anna Bledsoe, Leanne Flama, and Amy Skiavo display donated instruments.

dents who would otherwise not have been able to rent them. Council for the Arts of Herndon (CAH) collected and refurbished 21 instruments last year and they are ready

for distribution. The Music Loft's co-owner Laura Readyoff came up with the idea and brought it to the board of directors, who were excited about it.

Last year Jimmy's Old Town Tavern in Herndon was the host to a "Play it Forward" fundraising event. Signe Friedrichs, CAH executive director supported the event as well as Board President Mike O'Reilly, and board members Grace Han Wolf, and Elysa Birman.

Readyoff has found her involvement in this project rewarding.

"It really gives the Music Loft a chance to be part of the community and give back to the children," said Readyoff. "We are very lucky to have the Music Loft and Council for the Arts here in Herndon," said Allison Devereux, who has been a music instructor for six years in Fairfax County.

Devereux teaches music at Dranesville and Clearview elementary schools. "These donations are going directly to the students," said Devereux, who teaches approximately 190 students. "This is just a wonderful opportunity for us to gain from the donations to the Music Loft," said Bette Gawinski, a string and orchestra teacher at the Herndon Middle School. Gawinski teaches more than 72 students at Herndon Middle School, in addition to students she assists at Aldrin Elementary.

To learn more about the Music Loft, visit [www.themusicloftonline.com](http://www.themusicloftonline.com).

## New Leadership for Lorton Workhouse Arts Center

County to assume \$30 million debt for Lorton Arts Foundation.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

**L**aura McKie, a volunteer at the Prison Museum at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, said she doesn't expect the museum's everyday operations to change too much as Fairfax County takes greater control over the center. "I think everything will carry on as normal," McKie said.

McKie is referring to the Jan. 14 Board of Supervisors' decision, which will abolish the

current Lorton Arts Foundation Board. Fairfax County will assume \$30 million in debt, settling the agreement with Wells Fargo Bank, which the Lorton Arts Foundation has entered into a debt of \$60 million.

Still, county officials such as Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity question the Jan. 14 Board of Supervisors' decision.

Herrity, who was the only Supervisor who dissented in the decision, said that foreclosure could have been avoided, even without Fairfax County assuming the Foundation's debt.

"We had more time and we didn't take it," Herrity said. "This wasn't our loan. We had no legal obligation to pay off this debt."

Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, however, said before the Board of Supervisors decision that if the decision to assume the loan was not made, foreclosure would have been inevitable.

"The fact of the matter is, if this deal was not made today, the bank was going to foreclose on that loan this month, and we had to act," Cook said.

Cook said before the Jan. 14 vote that the Lorton Arts Foundation failed, something Herrity disagrees with.

"The Lorton Arts Foundation didn't fail. They did the best they could with the situation," Herrity said.

In 2002, Fairfax County purchased 2,440 acres of federal land, which was the site of the historic Occoquan Workhouse Prison, for \$4.2 million. In 2006, the Lorton Arts Foundation renovated the former prison into an arts center after approval from the Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Sharon Bulova has attended many events at the Workhouse Arts Center. McKie, who organized the "American Women: The Long and Winding Road" lecture series at the Prison Museum, said Bulova attended the first lecture and will participate in the event in March.

Bulova issued a statement following the Board of Supervisors decision, stressing the

economic difficulties faced by the Lorton Arts Foundation.

"Simply put, the past few years have proven an intensely difficult time to raise money for the arts, and the Workhouse Arts Center's operations have not generated enough revenue to cover expenses, especially debt it incurred for capital renovations," Bulova said in the statement.

Herrity said he is opposed to spending \$30 million of taxpayer's money, and believes Fairfax County should look at longer term solutions.

"We shouldn't be bailing out a bank because it made a bad loan," Herrity said. "We should be looking at monetizing the surrounding land."

Cook, however, said that nobody is being bailed out with this agreement, and that the agreement was necessary to avoid litigation.

"It is not true that there was no potential legal liability to the county. We own the land. We own the buildings," Cook said.

Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay supported the decision in order to protect the county's investment in the Workhouse, and suggested opportunities to make land use changes in the area to attract more people to the facility.

"This is a county with over a million people. We ought to have an arts center in this county, but we ought to have one that is fiscally well-managed and controlled, and one that we have some lever of oversight with," McKay said.



Snow covered the Town Green between the W&OD trail and the Council Chamber Building on Tuesday, Jan. 21. For Winter Fun, Food and Entertainment, see page 6

PHOTO BY ETHAN MCLEOD/THE CONNECTION

# Debate Over School Budget Continues

## Later start times, class size among topics at School Board Public Hearing.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

Later start times, class size, and cuts to needs-based staffing were major themes of the testimony given at the Jan. 27 public hearing on Superintendent Karen Garza's proposed budget.

Members and representatives of SLEEP in Fairfax, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Coalition of the Silence, and many other groups spoke at the public hearing.

Several SLEEP advocates at the hearing said that Fairfax County should follow the example of other school systems in the area and adjust middle and high school start times, beginning in Fall 2014.

Catherine Pournelle, an eighth-grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School, said most teenagers only get around seven hours a sleep per night, which leads to several problems while in school.

"I know from experience that this then causes us all to feel drowsy and not pay attention as well during morning classes. It

especially becomes hard when homework piles up, causing us all to get to bed later and creating a spiral of sleepiness until the weekend," Pournelle said. "Overall it does not create a healthy environment for learning."

Stuart Orloff, a 10th-grader in Fairfax County Public Schools, agreed. "School is a great idea. Sure there are flaws, but it is an important part of growing up. The problem is, I'm only half awake to experience it. In class, I can hardly focus because I'm trying too hard to stay awake," Orloff said.

Another concern several speakers have with the budget is the cuts to need-based staffing.

Coalition of the Silence co-founder and

vice chair Dr. Lolita Mancheno-Smoak stressed the importance of closing the achievement gap in Fairfax County, which she said cannot be done with the proposed budget.

"We all accept the premise that education is the great equalizer. However, over the years, we keep seeing budget cuts that weaken the progress towards leveling the playing field for all children," Mancheno-Smoak said.

COTS co-founder Avis Catchings also spoke, and said that while COTS supports some aspects of the budget, including the decision to pay teachers fairly, she is disap-

SEE SCHOOL BUDGET, PAGE 11

# Board Cites Lack of Funds for School Renovations

## Aging schools collide with increasing student enrollments.

BY LISA SPINELLI  
THE CONNECTION

While the 2015 to 2019 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) passed at the Fairfax County Public School Board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 3, many board members expressed concerns with the program.

"Our funding is inadequate and has been inadequate for many years," said Mount Vernon district school board member Dan Storck about the school's capital improvement budget — which has an annual cap of \$155 million by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. "This program takes us to the next step, but we still have a long way to go."

Fairfax County public schools are bursting at the seams. An influx of 20,000 school-aged children enrolled in the system within the last eight years and there is no end in sight to the growth rate. With many buildings reaching 50-plus years old and enrollment projected at 184,500 for next school year, overcrowded schools are becoming a mainstay.

The CIP five-year plan includes a queue of which schools have planning funds and construction funds approved, and includes the construction of two new elementary schools as well as one new high school. The total bill for this CIP is \$697.7 million, with \$371.7 million of that unfunded.

One of the major sticking points among board members was the treatment of legacy high schools: Falls Church, Herndon, Langley, Oakton and West Springfield. All these schools were built in the 1960s, and none have received a full renovation. Some are still not in the queue to receive funds for upgrades as of this CIP.

"We're stuck between a rock and a hard place," said Providence District Representative Patty Reed citing not enough fund-

Final Rankings								
School Name	Rank	Score	School Name	Rank	Score	School Name	Rank	Score
Clermont ES***	1	52.23	Mount Vernon			Bren Mar Park ES	46	70.28
Terraset ES**	2	54.18	Woods ES*	24	63.81	Brookfield ES	47	71.29
Sunrise Valley ES**	3	56.77	Herndon HS*	25	63.84	Lees Corner ES	48	72.40
Garfield ES**	4	56.81	Rocky Run MS*	26	63.88	Armstrong ES	49	72.53
Terra Centre ES**	5	57.65	Belle View ES*	27	64.06	Willow Springs ES	50	73.33
Thoreau MS**	6	58.05	Annandale Terrace ES	28	64.19	Centreville HS	51	73.63
Westgate ES**	7	58.14	Clearview ES	29	64.21	Herndon ES	52	73.68
Haycock ES**	8	59.00	Oakton HS*	30	64.54	Dranesville ES	53	74.97
Langley HS**	9	59.14	Hughes MS	31	64.66	Cub Run ES	54	75.27
Ravensworth ES**	10	59.96	Silverbrook ES	32	64.83	Franklin MS	55	75.74
Woodlawn ES**	11	60.25	Hybla Valley ES	33	64.87	Union Mill ES	56	76.29
Forestville ES**	12	60.28	Cooper MS	34	65.90	Centre Ridge ES	57	76.64
North Springfield ES**	13	60.41	Frost MS	35	66.06	Poplar Tree ES	58	76.86
Springfield Estates ES**	14	60.88	Washington Mill ES	36	66.12	Waples Mill ES	59	77.30
Keene Mill ES**	15	60.89	Braddock ES	37	66.17	Sangster ES	60	77.39
Bucknell ES**	16	61.60	Fox Mill ES	38	66.51	Twain MS	61	78.38
Cherry Run ES*	17	61.78	Oak Hill ES	39	66.63	Saratoga ES	62	78.84
Waynewood ES*	18	62.17	Wakefield Forest ES	40	67.47	Virginia Run ES	63	83.13
Stratford Landing ES*	19	62.50	Louise Archer ES	41	68.24			
Newington Forest ES*	20	62.52	Crossfield ES	42	68.98			
Hollin Meadows ES*	21	62.59	Mosby Woods ES	43	69.96			
White Oaks ES*	22	62.70	Bonnie Brae ES	44	70.03			
West Springfield HS*	23	63.10	Falls Church HS	45	70.11			

\* Planning funds approved

\*\* Construction funds approved

\*\*\* Renovation completed

Schools' final ranking for renovations

School Name	Capacity Utilization		School Name	Capacity Utilization		School Name	Capacity Utilization	
	2013-14	2018-19		2013-14	2018-19		2013-14	2018-19
Bailey's	130%	154%	Forestdale	93%	131%	Lorton Station	122%	134%
Belvedere	99%	115%	Franconia	102%	128%	Lynbrook	92%	118%
Bren Mar Park	99%	151%	Freedom Hill	102%	134%	McNair	125%	166%
Cameron	76%	117%	Glen Forest	104%	132%	Mosby Woods	104%	116%
Cardinal Forest	94%	117%	Graham Road	107%	121%	Mount Eagle	95%	159%
Chesterbrook	109%	118%	Greenbriar West	121%	125%	Pine Spring	101%	133%
Coates	106%	181%	Groveton	96%	123%	Shreveewood	106%	125%
Columbia	102%	140%	Hybla Valley	124%	135%	Westlawn	101%	116%
Eagle View	87%	118%	Lake Anne	92%	136%	Willow Springs	107%	124%
Fairhill	98%	123%	Lane	91%	128%	Woodburn	111%	131%

Schools' capacity

ing and too many schools in need. "And Falls Church is no further along than it was before."

The CIP did not list Falls Church in the queue for high schools needing renovation — which many members felt was a gross oversight since the school was built in 1967 and is without science and computer labs — putting its students at a severe disadvantage to remain competitive for jobs and acceptance into top colleges, said Reed.

At the meeting last week, an amendment

to the CIP passed to further examine renovations needed at legacy high schools.

While the CIP focuses on renovating/enhancing existing schools and building new schools, the Facilities Planning Advisory Committee — and some members at the board meeting — suggested examining the entire process for which the board determines the renovation priorities.

The facilities planning committee suggested in a January report that an overarching study on school boundaries and

changing those boundaries by 2018 could help alleviate much of the overcrowding in schools across the county — especially high schools. With the current CIP, Facilities Planning Advisory Committee wrote that in just five years 45,397 children will be attending schools at more than 115 percent of capacity — approximately one in four students. Currently, there are no ongoing or planned boundary studies in place, said John Torre, public information officer with FCPS.

**"Our funding is inadequate and has been inadequate for many years."**

— Dan Storck, Mount Vernon district school board member

Another measure At-Large Member Ted Velkoff suggested to ensure schools were receiving a more adequate amount of capital improvement funds was to integrate the county government and the school's capital funding plans and have criteria set by both boards for which facilities would enter the list.

Currently government-related buildings — including fire departments, detention centers, courts etc. — receive 58 percent of the county's capital improvement funding while taking up 19 percent of the total county facilities square footage, whereas the school system receives 42 percent of the money with 81 percent of the square footage, cited Braddock District Representative Megan McLaughlin.

"I have grave concerns," said Mason District Representative Sandy Evans about the CIP.

"It's not just about needing a new funding stream, but how we approach it."





PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/ THE CONNECTION

Chief election officer Chen Yang at Herndon Middle School points out the site's location on a map. Yang said more voters had come in the morning hours to avoid the snowfall.

## Wexton Supporters Ensure Victory Despite Weather

Voters brave bad weather in state senate election.

By RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

Despite a snow fall which closed Fairfax County Public Schools, 10 voting precincts in Fairfax County were open Tuesday, Jan. 21 for the special election to replace fill the State Senate for the 33rd District vacated by the election of Attorney General Mark Herring.

The district includes parts of Chantilly, Oak Hill, Herndon, Sterling and Leesburg, on Tuesday, Jan. 21. Twenty-eight percent of the 33rd District is in Fairfax County, and 72 percent is in Loudoun County.

"The turnout so far has been better than a primary election," said Michael Linck Jr., a resident of Herndon and Assistant Chief Election Officer stationed at Herndon Elementary School. "We had quite a few people showing up to vote but had to turn them away because they are not registered at the 33rd District."

The three contestants were Republican John Whitbeck, Democrat Jennifer Wexton, and Joe May, former Republican delegate running as an independent.

By 12:20 p.m. more than 680 votes had been cast at Herndon Elementary School. "The turnout has been medium, fairly steady" said Robert Walker, chief election officer at the Herndon Elementary School. "One of the touch screens was acting up, so we took it out, it did not have any votes on it."

The winner of this special election will hold the seat for just under two years, through the remainder of Herring's term, which ends Jan. 16, 2016. "Herring's resignation from his State Senate seat officially became effective Saturday, Jan. 11."

At Herndon Community Center, Jay Donahue was handing out ballots for candidate Wexton. "The turnout



At Herndon Community Center, Jay Donahue was handing out ballots for candidate Jennifer Wexton who was running in the special 33rd District Election.

out looks pretty good," said Donahue, a resident of Herndon. Donahue had arrived at Herndon Community Center at 5:30 a.m. and was intending to stay until 3 p.m. Lee Halpern, resident of Herndon was at the Community Center as Assistant Chief Election Officer. "Turnout is higher than light, but driven by the weather," said Halpern.

At Herndon Middle School, the number of voters had decreased by the afternoon. "Before the snow hit, there was an aisle of incoming voters," said Chen Yang, designated chief election officer for Herndon Middle School. At 1:15 p.m. there were

494 total votes at the Middle School. "I'm not sure if voters will be scared off by the weather or not," said Yang. By 1:30 p.m. all Fairfax County Government offices, parks, and libraries were closed, due to the inclement weather but the ten polling locations remained open.

### Results

Jennifer Wexton (D)	11,431 votes.
John Whitbeck (R)	8,133 votes
Joe May (I)	2,117 votes

SOURCE: Virginia Board of Elections.

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# WINTER FUN, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

## Winter Activities in Herndon to Keep Families Active

Keep all family members busy with variety of events around Herndon during the colder months.

By ETHAN MCLEOD  
THE CONNECTION

Between snow days and teacher workdays, it's easy to worry that your family may spend the day indoors with nothing to do. Luckily, the town has a variety of classes and children's activities to offer at the Herndon Community Center, live music at downtown restaurants, and plays to be seen performed by the town's own professional acting company. Here are some ideas to get started for winter fun plans:

**Kid's Night Out: Get Your Game On!**  
Children ages 5-11 are invited to come enjoy a pizza dinner, a movie, and activities at the Herndon Community Center from 6:30-10 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 7. Parents must reg-

ister children by 4 p.m. on Feb. 7; cost is \$15.

**Adult/Child Cooking Classes: Fun with Food**  
Want to learn to make some new dishes with children? Family Friendly Cooking at the Herndon Community Center will teach how to make Chesapeake Chicken Pasta Salad, Fish Fingers and Three Cheese Chicken Enchiladas together. The one-hour session will be on Friday, Feb. 7 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.; cost is \$35.

**Live Jazz at Ice House Café and Oyster Bar**  
If looking for a way to get out and enjoy some live music, Ice House Café has night booked for the next few months featuring live jazz music from artists such as "Fast Eddie and the Slow Pokes" (Feb. 8), "The Real Live Jazz Quartet"

(Feb. 14) and "Bad Influence" (Feb. 22). For more information call the Ice House Café at 703-437-4500.

**Art House Cinema and Brew: "Surviving Picasso"**  
Take a break on a Friday night at the Herndon ArtSpace with a movie, microbrew, and popcorn. Friday, Feb. 7, the ArtSpace will be hosting a screening of the 1996 biopic of the legendary artist played by Anthony Hopkins. Cost is \$10.

**Tennis Lessons at Herndon Community Center**  
The giant bubble outside the Community Center provides a way to stay warm and keep active. Classes are available in the categories of Beginner, Advanced Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced — for all ages. The next session of 1-hour classes begins Feb. 24. Call 703-787-7300 for more information.

**Preschool Storytime at Herndon Fortnightly Library**  
Bring young ones for Wednesday morning story time at the library.

Topics for February include Valentine's Day stories as well as science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. Storytime begins every Wednesday at 11 a.m.

**Bluegrass Barn: Chris Jones & the Night Drivers**  
Chris Jones has won awards for his songwriting and hosted his own SiriusXM radio show. See the critically acclaimed bluegrass artist live at Frying Pan Park on Sunday, Feb. 16 at 7p.m. Food and beverages will be sold and tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door.

**Shakespeare's Richard III, performed by NextStop Theatre Company**  
Formerly known as the Elden Street Players, Herndon's NextStop theater company will put on a creative rendition of the famous tale of the villain, directed by Dr. Lindsey Snyder. Preview performances will be held Jan. 30-31 for \$20 per ticket. The play will run from Feb. 1-23 at The Industrial Strength Theater for \$25 per ticket.



Local students can have a day of swimming and fun at the Herndon Community Center during teacher workdays on Jan. 30 and 31.

## Camp Keeps Students Busy During Teacher Workdays

By ETHAN MCLEOD  
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Community Center has an answer for parents wondering how to keep their children busy during the teacher workdays on Jan. 30 and 31. What youngster doesn't love a day packed with swimming, sports, games and science experiments? The School's Out! Camp will give area elementary school students two days' worth of activities to escape the cold weather while their teachers and parents are busy grading papers and working. The camp will include swimming, cooking and arts and crafts activities, as well as science experiments and cooperative games. "We would like for this to be the

first in a series of years where we could do this kind of teacher workday camp," said Dave Zakrzewski, recreation supervisor for the camp. Zakrzewski said that the camp itinerary is designed to balance a day of sports with educational activities and arts and crafts.

"The idea is to have something for everybody to do." The day will begin after drop off at 7 a.m. with gym activities. After a couple of hours, campers will have the option to switch to arts and crafts, though they can keep playing basketball if they desire. After lunch, community center staff will give a 45-minute science lesson, with the kids making the experiment themselves. Campers will then be invited to jump in the pool for a swim, face

off in racquetball across the hall, or play more sports in the gym. A staff member will lead the activities for the final two hours of the day before sending the kids home at 7p.m. Parents are advised to send their child with a towel, swimsuit, and any other items such as bathing caps or goggles needed for swimming. They should also make sure to pack a lunch and bring a water bottle to refill. The cost for registration is \$35 for both Herndon residents and non-residents. To register go online to [www.herndon-va.gov/webtrac](http://www.herndon-va.gov/webtrac), pick up and drop off camp registration and medical information forms in person with payment at the Herndon Community Center at 814 Ferndale Avenue, or fax those items to 703-318-8652.

From left, Kenadll Wolfe, Charles Hampton, Herndon Trinity Presbyterian Church Youth Pastor David Hoppel and Jake Killian at the Fellowship Hall in Herndon's Trinity Presbyterian Church.



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## Chili Bowl Cook Off Held at Herndon Trinity Presbyterian



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/ THE CONNECTION

The annual chili competition on Jan. 26, at Herndon Trinity Presbyterian Church had 12 chili competitors.

## Eighth annual chili bowl competition brings community together.

By RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

The 8th Annual Chili Bowl Cook Off was held Sunday, Jan. 26, at the Fellowship Hall in Herndon's Trinity Presbyterian Church. This year there were 12 contestants who brought their homemade chili, in addition to other guests and congregants who brought items including cornbreads and salads. "Every year it has gotten a little bigger, and competition grows, but it is also a lot of fun," said Pastor Stephen Smith-Cobbs, a resident of Herndon.

Participants were encouraged to put on their favorite football team's jersey. "To participate in the competition, contestants had to connect with church congregant and deacon Susan Oleson. After Oleson greeted everyone, Pastor Smith-Cobbs gave a brief prayer and everyone was free to begin sampling the different chilies. Competing after several years' hiatus was Mike Fudge, congregant of Herndon Trinity Presbyterian Church since 2001 and resident of Chantilly.

Fudge had entered a chili he called "Wooden Spoon Chili."

"It is a very much filtered version of a Campbell Soup recipe put out in the 1960s," said Fudge. Fudge had helped Herndon Trinity Presbyterian Church develop its annual chili competition. "I used to run this type of event with my old company for years, so I helped set it up for the church." Just earlier that day Fudge had been ordained as a church deacon.

"This is a great time for people to come for fellowship and fun," said Smith-Cobbs. "It is also the kick-off for our canned food drive for LINK." During the 2013 Holiday Program, Herndon's Trinity Presbyterian Church helped provided food for more than 1,600 families in connection with the nonprofit organization LINK, Inc. In 2013, LINK distributed more than 78,000 pounds of food to more than 10,000 individuals through their Mobile Food Pantry. More than 64 participants from every age group came to fellowship and taste the chilies. Everyone who sampled the chilies was able to give points to the contestant they pre-

ferred. Both Smith-Cobbs and Youth Pastor David Hoppel helped count the votes for the winners of competition. The People's Choice Award was awarded to the Erin Casey, a student at Park View High School in Sterling. The winner of the 2014 Chili Bowl was awarded to Andrew and Robin Cohen, residents of Herndon. Fudge won second place.

To learn more about Herndon Presbyterian Church visit [www.trinityherndon.org](http://www.trinityherndon.org).

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# OPINION

## For Nonpartisan Redistricting

Virginia is a purple state, gerrymandered to bleed red.

Consider that in statewide elections, Virginia voters have chosen Democrats in the last two presidential elections, for U.S. Senate, for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

Almost none of these elections was by a wide margin, but it's clear that Virginia is a purple state leaning blue.

Here are the actual numbers:

**2013**  
McAuliffe (D) 1,069,789; Cuccinelli (R) 1,013,389  
Northam (D) 1,213,155; Jackson (R) 980,257  
Herring (D) 1,103,777; Obenshain (R) 1,103,612

**2012**

Obama (D) 1,971,820; Romney (R) 1,822,522  
Kaine (D) 2,010,067; Allen (R) 1,785,542

It's reasonable to assume that a state so evenly divided would be about evenly divided in political representation.

How is possible then that Virginia House of Delegates consists of 67 Republicans and 33 Democrats?

Why is it that Virginia's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives consists of 11 Republicans and three Democrats?

The split in the Virginia Senate makes sense, a 20-20 split with a Republican Lieutenant Governor breaking tie votes the last four years and a Democratic Lieutenant Governor poised to break ties in the coming four years (pending this week's recount in the special election in District 6 to replace Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam).

Virginia's 11 Congressional districts should

be split about evenly. You could understand a split five Dems and six Republicans; or five Republicans and six Democrats. A four and seven split would smack of some unusual circumstance. But three and eight?

The answer is gerrymandering.

Both political parties have been guilty of this when in power, although new technology and better data have made the process more egregious, the effects more damaging.

Political parties should not control the drawing of political districts. Gerrymandering thwarts the will of the electorate. It is especially damaging in a Dillon rule state, like Virginia, where localities have only the power explicitly granted to them by the General Assembly,

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

### COMMENTARY

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

For the first time in a history that goes back to Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, a Virginia governor has been indicted on federal corruption charges. Although information on the activities of the federal grand jury had been leaking out for many months, the former governor and his wife who was indicted with him and their stable of taxpayer-paid-for attorneys were able to stave off the formal indictment until he left office. But

the alleged wrong doing took place while he was in office during which time he and the first lady accepted at least \$165,000 in cash, loans and lavish gifts from the CEO of a diet supplement company. A review of the particulars of the indictment reveals a picture of a family that was in financial trouble with huge credit card debt but with a taste for designer clothing and accessories.

The former governor who worked as a criminal prosecutor, who served in the House of Del-

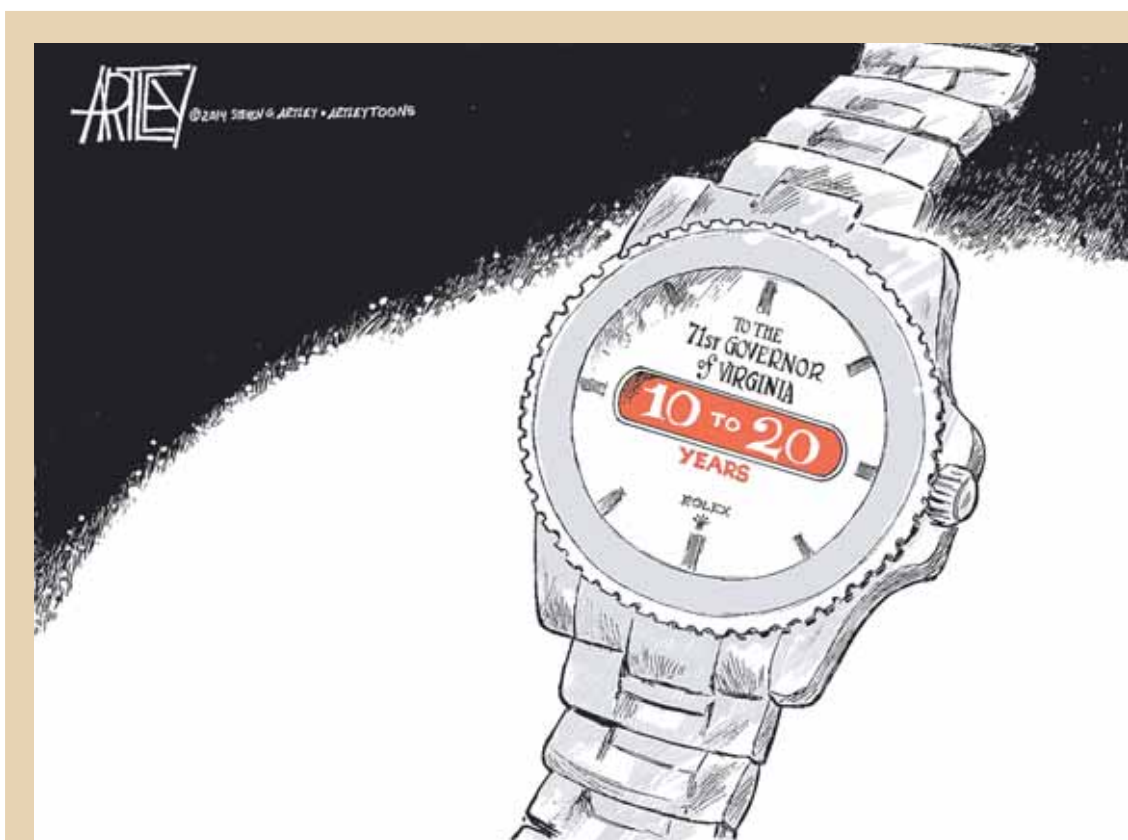
egates as a member of its Courts committee, and who was Attorney General of the state before becoming governor acknowledges the loans and money that he has paid back and the gifts he received, but he continues to maintain his innocence despite federal law that makes it illegal to use a public office to enrich oneself. The governor was clever in using his intimate knowledge of Virginia law to escape reporting the gifts by having them go to family members rather than to himself and by sell-

ing stock before the end of a reporting period and buying it back after the reporting deadline to escape disclosing it.

The entire episode is a huge tragedy for the McDonnell family and for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The former governor and his wife may go to jail. The "Virginia way" that has always prided itself on clean government has been sullied. Committees in the House and Senate are at work to tighten up ethics laws for the legislative and executive branches of government. I participated in a bipartisan panel to get the process underway. Reporting requirements for anything of value received will be expanded to include family members and will be required at least twice a year. An ethics commission is likely to be established to rule on the appropriateness of activities of members of state as well as local government. As part-time legislators who live in the local community much more time than in the capital city, legislators need to be able to participate in the activities of the local community as long as they do not conflict with their legislative duties. The new ethics rules and the commission should help clarify which activities and expenditures are acceptable.

The presence of laws does not completely stop wrong doing. It is up to individuals to first police themselves and to act in an ethical way. Ultimately it will be the voters who decide if their elected representatives are adhering to the common-sense ethical standards that they expect.

## Overdue Ethics Reform



STEVEN G. ARTLEY/THE CONNECTION

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# Aggressive Auslander Leads Herndon Boys

**Talented Hornets have state-title aspirations.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t 6 feet 5, with long arms and an impressive vertical leap, Herndon senior Kent Auslander possesses the physical tools to play above the rim.

On Friday night against Oakton, Auslander showed his capabilities when combining an aggressive mentality with his ability to jump out of the gym.

Auslander dunked four times and scored 15 points as the Herndon boys' basketball team defeated the Oakton Cougars 81-66 on Jan. 24 at Herndon High School.

Hornets head coach Gary Hall said Auslander in the past shied away from finishing strong at the rim. Against Oakton, No. 23 dunked once in each quarter, each time throwing it down with one hand.

"Tonight, what I was happy about [was] so often he'll be right there with the ability to dunk and he'll lay it in or be a little bit softer and try to be a finesse player," Hall said. "It's like, 'Kent, just [dunk the basketball].' ... I just don't like him to be soft."

There was nothing soft about Auslander's emphatic, crowd-pleasing dunks. His fourth slam came during the final minute of the fourth quarter during a 12-2 Herndon run.

"My dad always told me [to] try to dunk everything and if you have to adjust it, then adjust it at the end," Auslander said. "If you go hard like that, you'll get a foul call a lot."

Along with two points, Auslander's dunks provided a spark for the Hornets.

"It definitely gives us energy, especially when our crowd is here — our hype squad," Herndon senior Dorian Johnson said. "It gives us a big boost."

Auslander is one of many talented athletes on a Herndon team with state-title aspirations. Johnson, a 6-foot-4 senior, sur-

passed 1,000 career points this season. After combining with Will Ferguson to provide a 1-2 scoring punch last season, Johnson this year is part of a more well-rounded Hornets offense.

"Dorian is like an unassuming, quiet superstar," Hall said. "The thing about Dorian is we sort of take him for granted."

Johnson finished with 15 points against Oakton, including nine in the first quarter.

"We're trying to win a state championship," Johnson said. "...That's what our expectations are."

Seniors Delontae Wingfield and Deandre Thomas each scored 16 points for Herndon. Senior Malcolm McKenzie finished with nine.

Thomas, who transferred back to Herndon after playing his junior season at Potomac Falls in Loudoun County, is thriving in a reserve role. Hall praised No. 12 for his unselfishness.

"He could start for any team in Northern Virginia," Hall said. "He could start for us, but he's not only accepted his role coming off the bench as a sixth man, but he's embraced it."

A bucket by Wingfield gave Herndon a 59-46 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Oakton battled back to pull within five points on three occasions, but each time the Hornets found a way to maintain a two-possession lead. "The one thing I like about this team is they're pretty talented, but they're a pretty tough group of kids," Hall said. "There's never a moment that's too big for them." The already-talented Hornets could receive an additional boost from the arrival of 6-foot-5 senior Brandon Alston, a college-caliber transfer from New Jersey. Hall said he expected Alston to enroll in classes at Herndon High School on Monday, Jan. 27, and he will join the team if deemed eligible by the VHSL.

Herndon defeated Centreville 99-70 on Monday, improving its record to 14-1. The Hornets were scheduled to face Robinson on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

Herndon will host Chantilly at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31.



**Herndon senior Dorian Johnson scored 15 points against Oakton on Jan. 24.**



**Herndon boys' basketball coach Gary Hall said senior Deandre Thomas is thriving in his role as the Hornets' sixth man.**

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### South Lakes Swimmers Fade Against Langley

South Lakes' swim and dive teams had strong performances by individual swimmers, but were unable to pull off a victory against Langley in a dual meet Jan. 17 at the Spring Hill RECenter.

South Lakes' Emily Landeryou achieved two regional-qualifying times with second-place finishes in the 200-yard individual medley and 500 freestyle.

Sabrina Groves achieved a regional-qualifying time with a second-place finish in the 100 butterfly.

Sasha Avilov (first) and Madeleine Daum finished one-two in the 50 Freestyle.

The 200 freestyle relay team of Groves, Avilov, Kaylyn Macaluso, and Malina Stassinis earned a win, as did the 200 medley relay team of Johnny Micka, Benjamin Gryski, Mac Sogandares, and Tyler Hutson. Gryski also won the 200 individual medley.

Tyler Ellis (first) and Dylan Hawley finished one-two in the 100 butterfly. Mac Sogandares took first in the 100 freestyle and 100 breast stroke. Bradley Torrington (500 freestyle) and Johnny Micka (200 breaststroke) also won.

The girls lost with 140 points to Langley's 174. The boys scored 130 points against Langley's 164.

**South Lakes' Mac Sogandares finished first in the 100-yard breast-stroke against Langley on Jan. 17.**



PHOTO BY DAVID CORDTS



## Confused and then Infused

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Since March 6, 2009, nearly five years now, save for nine months when I was taking an oral chemotherapy medication at home, every three weeks I have been infused with some sort of chemotherapy drug. In that time, I have certainly become familiar and fairly well-known to the various staff at The Infusion Center. What follows is the most recent exchange with the receptionist in Oncology, as best as I can recall it.

Receptionist: "Hello, Mr. Lourie. How are you?"

Me: "Lovely. Happy to be here."

Receptionist: "That's nice."

Me: "Actually, I'm not happy to be here. I mean I'd rather not be here. But since I'm here, it's better that I'm here than not here, as in unable to get here because I'm not here anymore."

Receptionist: "I understand."

Me: "Really? Because I'm not sure I understand. I know what I'm thinking, but...What I mean to say is that I don't want to be coming here to the Infusion Center, because that means I'm being treated for cancer. But if I do have cancer, I guess I'm happy to be still alive, in order to be able to get here for treatment."

Receptionist: "I understand."

Me: "I think I'm confused. I don't want to be coming here because I have cancer. I'd rather not be coming here at all. But since I have cancer, I suppose I'm glad I'm able to still get here. I think I'm going around in circles."

Receptionist: "No, you're fine. I understand completely."

Me: "Really. 'Cause I'm not sure I do. It seems like I'm talking to myself, repeating myself. I'm a writer and often I use double-entendres in my column, which seems sort of what I'm doing here. Although I'm not intending it. I was more realizing/thinking aloud as to why I was here, whether I wanted to be here and the reasons why I was fortunate – so to speak, to even still be here and/or how unfortunate I was to be here being treated for terminal lung cancer – as opposed to being healthy and not needing to be here. I feel as if I'm rambling here. Am I making any sense?"

Receptionist: "Not to worry. (Smiling, laughing.) I do understand exactly what you're saying."

Me: "I'm not sure I do. Maybe I should just stop talking and sit down and wait for Ron (my oncology nurse) to come and get me."

Receptionist: "Ron's running late. He's stuck in traffic. He'll be here soon."

Me (to myself): Great (chagrined.) I suppose I should probably stop pacing then and just sit down and try to relax. I'm here. I'm checked in. Besides, I have to be ready for my blood pressure check. If my vitals (and/or lab results, appearance, etc.) are not normal, protocols will prevent any infusion today (which has happened to me twice; very disappointing, especially considering that you think your life depends on receiving the treatment that day). If the patient doesn't pass muster, however, the oncology nurse has no choice: there will be, to invoke the "Soup Nazi" from "Seinfeld": "No chemo for you."

Fortunately, for this infusion, I have once again managed to "Pass the audition," as John Lennon so famously joked at the end of the live roof-top version of The Beatles' song "Get Back" at the end of the "Let It Be" album.

Life goes on though – for me, thank God!, despite my confusion. Thanks to the staff for continuing to take me in stride.

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

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#### ZONES

**Zone 1:** The Reston Connection  
The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection

**Zone 2:** The Springfield Connection  
The Burke Connection  
The Fairfax Connection  
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/  
Lorton Connection

**Zone 3:** The Alexandria Gazette Packet  
The Mount Vernon Gazette

**Zone 4:** Centre View North  
Centre View South

**Zone 5:** The Potomac Almanac

**Zone 6:** The Arlington Connection  
The Vienna/Oakton Connection  
The McLean Connection  
The Great Falls Connection

The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition.  
-William Van Horne

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#### 21 Announcements

#### 21 Announcements

##### OBITUARY

**Nathan F. (Red) Holeman**  
7/16/1925 – 12/19/2013

Survived by wife Lois; daughters, Joni, Kathy and Gayle; sisters, Janet Walker and Joyce Fowler; 8 grandchildren and a great grandson. At the time of his death he was living in Sterling, VA. Memorial service was held on February 8, 2014. Graveside service in July at Arlington National Cemetery. Contributions to Memorial Fund of CTK Lutheran, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066-2416. www.colonialfuneral-home.com.

#### 21 Announcements

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## EDUCATION

**Janet Laubgross and Fairfax County Public Schools student Stuart Orloff spoke in support of later high school start times at the public hearing.**



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

## School Budget

FROM PAGE 4

pointed with some of its other aspects.

"This is about life choices for COTS kids. When COTS kids fail in school, too often they also fail in life," Catchings said. "Proposing any cuts to needs-based staffing when the FCPS student population has increased by the thousands, and when most of this growth is in our neediest communities, is just not a good choice. It means larger class sizes in needier schools and fewer teachers to give these children the extra help they need to transition successfully in school."

Several students also advocated for children who are underrepresented and disadvantaged. Alanna Brown, a ninth-grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School, spoke about the digital divide in Fairfax County.

Brown said she thinks that while digital textbooks are helpful, it is unfair for poorer students who don't have access to the internet at home.

"Although there are low-income students at Lake Braddock, I don't believe there are that many, but there are other places like Alexandria and other areas in Virginia that have many more poor students," Brown said. "Many of these students may not have access to the internet at home, and I don't believe it is fair that they may get bad grades because they can't do their homework because they don't have access to the internet at home."

Ryley Bendewald, a freshman at Langley High School, believes it is wrong to cut class sizes in one area of Fairfax County, but not in another.

"Every student in Fairfax County, no matter what their facial features, height, fam-

**"School is a great idea. Sure there are flaws, but it is an important part of growing up. The problem is, I'm only half awake to experience it. In class, I can hardly focus because I'm trying too hard to stay awake."**

— **Stuart Orloff, a tenth-grader in Fairfax County Public Schools**

ily, house size, or academic advancements, deserves the opportunity to learn and to better themselves in the public schools in this county," Bendewald said.

At the hearing, Steven Greenberg, president of the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, praised Garza for her budget proposal.

"Dr. Garza's budget is the best lemonade anyone could possible make, considering the rotten lemons we've been given," Greenberg said.

However, former school board member Tina Hone, a founder of Coalition of the Silence, said that the organization is struggling with the proposed cuts to need-based staffing.

"Even Jack didn't cut needs-based staffing," said Hone of the former Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Dale.

## WINTER FUN

FROM PAGE 2

#### THURSDAY/ FEB. 6

**"Divine Love" Opening Reception.** 5:30 7:30 p.m. 12005 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston. The League of Reston Artists (LRA) opens the new photography show, "Divine Love," at the Reston Center Two with a reception for the artist, Elizabeth Linares. The exhibit is free and open until Feb.27, Monday Friday, 8:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. www.leagueofrestonartists.org

#### SUNDAY/FEB. 9

**Colorful Times Four Reception.** 2-4 p.m. . Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609 Washington Plaza N,

Reston. Four accomplished Reston artists – Ann Barbieri, Joan Kelly, Dana Scheurer and Connie Slack – present vibrant, dynamic works of art in their February exhibit, Colorful Times Four. 703-864-2588.

#### FRIDAY/FEB. 14

**Parents' Night Out.** 7-9:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Ages 5 to 12. Parents, this Valentine's Day enjoy the evening out while your children have a fun-filled night at the nature center. Kids, play nature games and weather permitting, go on a night hike. Drop off begins at 6:45 p.m. Reservations required by Feb. 11. Fee: \$15 RA members, \$20 Non-members. naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

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## WINTER FUN



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEXTSTOP THEATRE

Lindsey D. Snyder, director of NextStop's "Richard III."

## Savor the Audacious

**NextStop's unexpected take on Shakespeare's "Richard III."**

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**A** daring performance of Shakespeare's "Richard III" is coming to Herndon. "This is something that has never been done and an amazing opportunity to bring Shakespeare back to Herndon in a bold new way ... It will be an experience that is not to be missed," Evan Hoffman said, artistic director of NextStop Theatre's production of "Richard III."

"Our work has so often been about pushing the envelope and being just as bold with the classics as we are with newer works," Hoffman said. In this instance, he is describing a production that will feature a deaf actor in the lead role of Richard, one of the Bard's most charming bad boy villains.

Richard is the fascinating character who kills off rivals to become king and serenades one of the widows. Ultimately he meets his fate on a field of battle. Ethan Sinnott, a deaf actor and chair of the theater department at Gallaudet, will play Richard. He and several other actors will use American Sign Language (ASL) that will be interpreted for the hearing audience and the hearing cast members.

"Richard III" will be directed by Dr. Lindsey Snyder who regularly works with the Kennedy Center, Ford's Theatre, and Faction of Fools, to name a few. She re-imagines the play from a Richard without a visible physical deformity but who is hard of hearing. Shakespeare characterized Richard as "Cheated of feature by dissembling nature, Deformed, unfinished..." Snyder's Richard is a deaf man driven by "an unsympathetic hearing world."

It is from "Richard III" that lines such as, "Now is the winter of our discontent, " or "Talkers are no good doers: be assur'd, We



Ethan Sinnott will be Richard III in NextStop's "Richard III."

### Where and When:

NextStop Theatre Company presents Shakespeare's "Richard III" at the Industrial Strength Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Performances are Jan. 30 - Feb. 23. Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20-\$27. Visit [www.nextstoptheatre.org](http://www.nextstoptheatre.org) or call 866-811-4111.

go to use our hands, and not our tongues" come. In this approach, Shakespeare's rhetoric will be communicated in new-found manners.

Her concept will "present Richard as isolated. He is Hard of Hearing. He can't easily share thoughts with the other characters," said Snyder.

Richard will still be "the villain people love to hate. He will be villainous, scandalous, sneaky and charming," according to Snyder. He will give the audience a performance where the spoken word cannot be taken for granted in conveying actions or thoughts.

"This is not just an exercise or overlay. The clarity of Shakespeare's text will be there, just in a unique way," added Snyder. This is a singular opportunity to re-experience the richness of Shakespeare's storytelling.