

Reston Woman Trains Agility Cats

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**Lisa-Maria Padilla of
Reston with her Abyssinian
cat, Racy Mooner.**

Silver Line Delayed

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RA Proposes Covenant Changes for RELAC Service

NEWS, PAGE 4

CALLING ALL TEEN GIRLS

Diva Central Prom Dress Giveaway

(14 - 18 years old)

Saturday, March 8

12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Location: RCC Lake Anne
1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston, VA**



Reston Community Center invites teens ages 14 - 18 to shop for a complete prom look at its "prom boutique." Choose from hundreds of new and gently used dresses, including designer brands. Then complete your look with accessories, shoes, jewelry, handbags and make-up lessons. Participants will be entered in a raffle to win prizes that include restaurant gift cards and more. Everything is absolutely **FREE**.

Drop-in • No Registration Necessary

Limit one dress per student.



For more information, please contact Kenny Burrowes,
Teen Program Director, at 703-390-6158 or visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.



Reston Community Center

To request reasonable ADA accommodations,
call 703-476-4500 • 800-828-1120 (TTY).



A view of the bending tracks above Route 123 near McLean Station in Tysons Corner.



PHOTO COURTESY OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

Additional Delays Slow Handover of Silver Line to Metro

Performance issues and unmet safety testing requirements cited as reasons for the continued delay.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD
THE CONNECTION

Phase I of the Silver Line is still not quite ready for final testing by Metro authorities, according to a Monday statement issued by Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA). With the handover of the Silver Line project to Metro authorities looming, Northern Virginia residents will have to be patient despite their readiness to hop on the train at new Tysons Corner and Reston Metro stations.

The Monday afternoon release stated that seven of 12 key criteria had not been met by Dulles Transit Partners (DTP), who submitted their notice of “substantial completion” to MWAA on Feb. 7. Unmet categories included missing certificates of occupancy for stations and tunnel facilities, elevator and escalator problems, water leaks, and incomplete documentation for testing and security verifications. Most notably, the release reported performance issues with the Automatic Train Control System for the train, which — until resolved — will prevent Metro from beginning full operational testing.

There are no current penalties being assessed toward DTP as of Feb. 24, according to MWAA spokesperson Marcia McAllister. MWAA is still putting together a timeframe for how long it will take before Phase I testing can be handed over to Metro.

“The Airports Authority has instructed DTP to provide a plan and date of conclusion for addressing the outstanding items as quickly as possible. We will work closely with DTP, WMATA and our other partners to monitor progress and assure that all contractual obligations are satisfied,” said the statement issued by MWAA.

Del. Ken Plum (D-36) said that he hoped the delays would not last longer than a few weeks and remained optimistic about the Silver Line’s progress. “I share the same anticipation as everyone else for the opening, but as projects of this size go, it’s pretty

TIFIA Loan Could Help Freeze Toll Increases

The U.S. Department of Transportation has formally invited MWAA to apply for a federal low-interest loan of up to \$1.9 billion through the Transportation Infrastructure and Innovation Act (TIFIA). The loan, which still awaits federal approval according to Feb. 21 statement, would benefit the Silver Line project by providing funding at a lower interest rate than through private capital.

“It’s very significant because what it does is significantly reduce the cost of the second phase of the project,” said Del. Ken Plum (D-36). “By 2018 the other project costs will be met and spread across a number of years. That adds up to no more toll increases.”

MWAA has worked closely with Loudoun and Fairfax counties to apply for the loan over the past several years. Receiving an invitation to apply for the loan essentially means the project will receive it, according to Plum.

Commuters first saw Dulles Toll Road rates increase in 2005, and MWAA has continued to increase tolls over the years in order to pay for the project. After last year’s state budget allotted an additional \$300 million in funding, it became more likely that MWAA would receive the formal invitation to apply.

close to schedule,” said Plum.

Mark Ingrao, President and CEO of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, expressed similar views about the delay. “When you have a project this large there are going to be unanticipated delays. As long as when they open it it’s open for good, we will be happy,” said Ingrao.

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, MWAA Project Director Charles S. Carnaggio, P.E., presented the latest progress of Phase I at a luncheon in Herndon. In addition to showing the various stages of completion of each station from 2009 up to Feb. 2014, Carnaggio pointed out signs of budding economic development and provided a closer look at planning for Phase II construction.

“This is a tremendous success not only for this area but for the nation. Everyone is looking in at this

SEE MWAA, PAGE 15

Secrets of 911

Police agencies refuse to release audio from 911 calls, prompting questions about transparency.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

When city officials in Alexandria released the audio of a 911 call in a high-profile murder case, many people interpreted the move as a step forward for transparency in a commonwealth known for opaque government. But then reality set in. The release was a mistake. The city attorney’s office failed to consult with the police department, which carefully guards its privilege to withhold information from the public.

“It was a clerical error that the 911 call was released,” said Crystal Nosal, spokeswoman for the Alexandria Police Department. “We didn’t waive the privileges under FOIA, so they are not going to release it again.”

Across Virginia, police agencies routinely deny access to basic information and documents available in other states. One key example of the lack of transparency is audio from 911 calls, which are regularly released in most states across America. But not in Virginia, which is one of the reasons why the commonwealth got a failing grade for transparency from the State Integrity Investigation in 2012. Advocates for open government say audio from 911 calls should be available to the public so people know how their government is — or isn’t — working on their behalf.

“If anything, it seems the more public input that can be sought on this the better, and the more information the public has the better,” said Emily Grannis, a legal fellow at Arlington-based Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. “This is a scary kind of case, and it’s a scary kind of case to have open and the more the public can know about it the better the public will be equipped to be able to help police investigate.”

POLICE AGENCIES in Virginia don’t see it that way. The Virginia Freedom of Information Act gives them sweeping



MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

Across Northern Virginia, police agencies routinely deny access to basic information such as audio from 911 calls.

power to withhold documents and information, a power that is unprecedented in any state in America. And even though part of the law talks about public records being presumed open, Virginia police officials tend to view them as presumed closed because they have the power to prevent the public from having access.

“A lot of the time, what you get with 911 tapes is someone calling in is someone who is afraid of being identified,” said Dana Schrad, executive director of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. “They want some kind of understanding that they are not going to have their name released.”

Advocates for open government disagree with that perspective. They say 911 calls should be available to the public so people know how their government is working on their behalf. Instead of denying access to public records altogether, which is how Alexandria is now handling subsequent requests for the 911 audio in the Ruthanne Lodato murder, those who support public access to government documents say the information could be partially redacted to protect sensitive information. But that’s not how the Alexandria city government is handling the situation. In response to a Freedom of Information Act request from Connection Newspapers, the city attorney’s office said the record was being “entirely withheld” even though it was already released to the Washington Post.

“They can’t discriminate from one media source to the next,” said Ginger Stanley, executive director of the Virginia Press Association. “And they can re

SEE 911, PAGE 5

RA Proposes Covenant Changes for RELAC Service

Lake Anne residents are divided over a proposed amendment.

By ETHAN MCLEOD
THE CONNECTION

Lake Anne residents may soon be required to fulfill additional requirement if they wish to switch their air conditioning service from the Lake-centered Reston Lake Anne Air Conditioning Corporation (RELAC) system to their own home units.

Language in a new amendment proposed by the Reston Association requires that residents obtain recertification of their medical excuse from a doctor every year after requesting to switch. The change to Covenant 15, which sets standards for Lake Anne residents' air conditioning usage, bars removal of RELAC equipment from homes if they are not first inspected by a RELAC-certified professional - something that current residents say does not exist.

"These amendments were made in the attempt to clarify ambiguities regarding temporary exemptions and the steps necessary to address a member's concerns with the system," said Reston Association board president Ken Knueven in an email. "After hearing from staff and the community, the board is continuing to alter and craft the resolution to meet the needs of those the cooling system serves."

IN THE PAST, RA's policies provided residents in the 500-home community with the ability to procure a one-time medical excuse to get off of their service to install home units on their property. Many residents have fought over the years to get rid of the covenant that binds them to RELAC service, like John Lovaas of Washington Plaza cluster. In 2005, Lovaas was part of a group who came close but were unsuccessful in passing a referendum to make air conditioning service a free choice for Lake Anne residents. "The long and the short of it is that the system works adequately



A view of the RELAC facility around the back side of Washington Plaza that sends lake water to the chillers next door, which then pump the water into Lake Anne homes.

for some people," said Lovaas, who said he runs dehumidifiers constantly to reduce the moisture of the air in his home. "Conventional air conditioning is now quiet, and has zipped into the future. RELAC is still what it was in 1964."

Lovaas and his wife have lived at Lake Anne since 2002 and have had numerous problems with mold and poor efficiency using the RELAC system, despite having twice-yearly maintenance on their system and replacing their roof and windows. Lovaas said that he is one of a number of community members who feel their concerns have been clearly ignored with RA's proposed amendment change.

RELAC was first designed in 1965 as a quieter alternative to individual home air conditioning units that would also lower the cost of providing air conditioning to all 500 homes in the Lake Anne

Over nearly 50 years the system has shifted ownership several times. In 2012 it was sold by Aqua Virginia, a subsidiary of the larger Aqua America, to current owners Mark Waddell, Craig Nyman, and Mike Coleman, who operated Reston RELAC, LLC. Waddell said that they bought the system originally to bring better service to Lake Anne residents after years of almost no system maintenance and poor customer service.

"I live on the system, I know its issues and problems, and in the past the big one was getting proper service from Aqua," said Waddell. Waddell has heard many of the complaints and has made himself accessible, providing service checks on request and monitoring the pumps at the facility close to his home 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

IN AN INTERVIEW, Waddell said he could assure residents that with proper maintenance and replacement of parts such as old coils, their service could be improved. He also said that while there have been

complaints, many of the approximately 350 customers still served by RELAC are happy with their service.

"A lot of our frustration is that people are comparing their old RELAC system to a brand new heat pump system," which Waddell said will run better initially, but will eventually require maintenance

SEE LAKE ANNE, PAGE 7

"Conventional air conditioning is now quiet, and has zipped into the future. RELAC is still what it was in 1964."

— John Lovaas, Lake Anne resident

community. The system uses a chiller near the village center that pumps water from the lake into county pipes, which flow to the homes. Ideally, the lake water temperature will be cold enough when pumped into the pipes that it will help to cool each individual home, though this can vary depending on water levels and lake temperatures at different points of the year.

PHOTO BY ETHAN MCLEOD/THE CONNECTION



Sia Komba, a fourth grader, won in round nine, with the word "manufacture," and Archer Oliver, a sixth grader, was runner-up at Terraset Elementary School's spelling bee on Feb. 19.

Spelling Away at Terraset Elementary

Terraset Elementary School in Reston hosted its eighth annual Spelling Bee on Feb. 19, in the school's cafeteria. Fourteen students from grades 3-6 participated. The format followed those used by both the county and national bee programs. Sia Komba, a fourth grader, won in round nine, with the word "manufacture." Archer Oliver, a sixth grader, was runner-up. Komba will advance to compete against students from all over Fairfax County at the 2014 County Bee in March. The winner of the county con-

test will advance to the Scripps National Bee in Washington, D.C. Of her Spelling Bee experience, Komba said, "I liked learning new words, and I feel really good about what I did. I'm really excited!"

Sarah Nieto, a fourth grade teacher and chair of the Spelling Bee Club at Terraset was pleased with the outcome this year. "We've had some competitive Bees in the past, but this one was really exciting. The kids prepared well," she said as the participants and other students congratulated Komba on their way back to their classes.

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 starting Sept. 12, 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.

BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

American Red Cross Blood Drive. 4-8 p.m. St. Thomas A Becket Rcc, 1421 Wiehle Ave, Reston.

THURSDAY/FEB. 27

Herndon Historical Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Herndon Depot Museum, 717 Lynn Street, Herndon. The speaker, Mary Lipsey, a member of the Fairfax County History Commission and president of the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, will discuss the historic cemeteries of Fairfax County.

ONGOING

Fairfax County's Meals on Wheels

urgently needs drivers in the Annandale, Franconia/Kingstowne, Reston, Mount Vernon and McLean areas. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

Knitting Enthusiasts, Musicians Needed. 10:30 a.m.-noon, at Herndon Senior Center. Herndon Senior Center seeks a knitting enthusiast to teach basic procedures. Musicians to play soothing music on weekend mornings also needed. 703-324-5406, TTY 711, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults or VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Habitat Heroes Project. The fourth Saturday of each month. Join the Habitat Heroes in protecting Reston's forests from aggressive plants and restoring them to their natural state. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and if possible, gardening gloves to protect from insects and dangerous plants. R.A. will provide tools, gloves, snacks, and water. To volunteer and find more information, contact habrock@reston.org or 703-435-7986.

911 Controversy

FROM PAGE 3

dact parts of the call they think might jeopardize the investigation, but they aren't supposed to redact the whole thing."

IN VIRGINIA police agencies have the ability to withhold a variety of information from the public, including "documents and information, including complaints, court orders, memoranda, notes, diagrams, maps, photographs, correspondence, reports, witness statements, and evidence." Police agencies regularly use this part of the Freedom of Information Act to prevent the public to having free access to information.

"I think they are exercising their discretion too broadly," said Grannis. "This sort of information should be made public by default, particularly in this situation where they have already released the tape and it has already been made public, there really cannot be a justification for withholding it

from future requesters."

Alexandria police officials say the justification is that the transparency was a mistake — that they never intended on sharing the audio with the public. Perhaps most importantly, police leaders underscored, they did not ever waive their privileges to withhold information from the public. Across Northern Virginia, government officials say the public's right to know is tempered by the government's desire for secrecy. That means that the presumption is that 911 calls associated with criminal complaints should be secret.

"If there are any kinds of criminal charges tied into a case or if it's an ongoing investigation or if it's ever been part of an investigation, then it's exempt from release under FOIA and can only be released under a court order," said Erik Daniel, custodian of records for Fairfax County Department of Public Safety. "Once there's a criminal incident associated with a record, then it's exempt from FOIA."

Public Notice—Convention to Select an 11th Congressional District Republican Nominee for the U.S. House of Representatives and a Chairman of the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee

Republicans residing in Northern Virginia's 11th Congressional District will meet in a Convention on May 10, 2014, at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA, to select a Republican nominee for U.S. House of Representatives from the 11th Congressional District; and to elect a Chairman for the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee.

Any person seeking the nomination for U.S. Representative from the 11th Congressional District must notify, in writing, Mr. Mauricio J. Tamargo at 6448 Lake Meadow Drive, Burke, Virginia 22015, prior to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2014 (postmark shall not count), and at the same time convey to Mr. Tamargo a non-refundable filing fee of \$1,500.00, payable by check or money order, made payable to the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee. Further details are specified in the Official Call for the 11th Congressional District Convention; this Official Call can be found on the 11th Congressional District Committee's website (www.vagop11.org) Similar information pertaining to the submission and consideration of any Committee resolutions is also found in the Official Call.

Any person seeking election as Chairman of the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee must notify, in writing, Mauricio J. Tamargo at 6448 Lake Meadow Drive, Burke, Virginia, 22015, prior to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2014 (postmark shall not count). Further details are specified in the Official Call

for the 11th Congressional District Republican Convention, which is found on the Committee's website (www.vagop11.org).

Any Republican who is unsure as to whether he or she resides in the 11th Congressional District should consult his or her Commonwealth of Virginia Voter Card. If the notation "CONG 11" appears on the card, he or she is eligible to register and vote at the 11th District Convention.

Delegates to the Convention must register through their local county or city Republican Committees. Those 11th District Republicans living in Prince William County (PWC) will register through the Prince William County Republican Committee (www.pwcgop.org/wordpress). The PWC deadline for Registration is March 1st. Those having questions about this process can call 703-680-7388. Those 11th District Republicans living in Fairfax County (FC) will register through the Fairfax County Republican Committee (www.fairfaxgop.org). The FC deadline for registration is March 15th. Those having questions about this process can call 703-766-4467.

At this time, no registration procedures have been established for those 11th District Republicans living in Fairfax City. Those 11th District Republicans living in Fairfax City should monitor the Fairfax City Republican Committee's website (www.fairfaxcitygop.com) to obtain instructions for filing as a delegate to the 11th District Convention.

FREE REMODELING & DESIGN SEMINARS!

Sat, March 8th — 10am-2pm

Where: 5795B Burke Centre Pkwy.,
Burke, VA 22015
(behind the Kohl's shopping center)

Thinking of remodeling? This event is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of free expert advice with no obligation. Learn about the hot topics you should consider when remodeling.

Saturday's Seminars:

- From Concept to Completion
- 10 Tips for a Stress-Free Remodel
- Universal Design

Seminars run from 10am-Noon.
Lunch to follow.

Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

Seating is limited!

RSVP: info@sundesigninc.com or
call Sabrina at 703.425.5588

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OPINION

Budget Process: Get Involved

Chairman gives blueprint for community engagement in Fairfax County budget process.

BY SHARON BULOVA

In Fairfax County, when we adopt the budget, we are investing in the priorities and needs of the community. At the center of this open and transparent process is community engagement. It is critical that we have the community at the table with us when we are considering changes to the budget that the County Executive released for advertisement at our Board Meeting on Feb. 25. Below are some opportunities to learn about the budget, ask questions and make suggestions during the months of March and April. I look forward to hearing from you.

❖ **Ask Fairfax Chat:** The Ask Fairfax Chat is a great opportunity for residents to submit questions about the County's proposed Fiscal 2015 budget directly to County Executive Ed Long. The chat takes place online from 2-3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28. To submit questions and join the chat visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/askfairfax.

❖ **Track BOS Budget Questions:** You can view the answers to budget questions asked by the Board of Supervisors throughout the budget process at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/qa_search.htm.



❖ **Sign up to speak:** All public hearings take place in the Board Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035) and are open to the public. To sign up to speak at a hearing, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm or call 703-324-3151.

❖ **Important public hearing dates:**
Effective Tax Rate Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m., April 8, 2014
Public Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 6 p.m., April 8, 2014
Public Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m., April 9, 2014
Public Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m., April 10, 2014

BUDGET FORUMS AND TOWN MEETINGS will be hosted by Supervisors and community organizations throughout the county. Below is a list of currently scheduled meetings. Information on additional forums, as well as a current full budget calendar, will be listed in the coming weeks at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb.

❖ **Hunter Mill District Meeting,** Frying Pan Park, 2709 W. Ox Road, Herndon — Sat-

urday, March 1, 9 a.m.

❖ **Dranesville District Budget Meeting,** Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls — Wednesday, March 5, 7 p.m.

❖ **Braddock District Budget Meeting,** Kings Park Library, Braddock Hall, 9000 Burke Lake Rd, Burke — Wednesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.

❖ **Herndon Town Council,** Herndon Town Council Chambers, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon — Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m.

❖ **Mason District Budget Meeting,** TBD — Tuesday, March 18 - 7 p.m.

❖ **Providence District Budget Meeting,** Dunn Loring Admin Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring — Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m.

❖ **Dranesville District Budget Meeting,** McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean — Thursday, March 20, 7 p.m.

❖ **Lee District Budget Meeting,** Franconia Government Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria — Wednesday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.

❖ **Braddock Town Hall,** Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax — Tuesday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.

I hope you will take the time to learn about and participate in this year's budget process. You can contact my office directly by calling 703-324-2321 or emailing chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Impasse in Richmond

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

One essential step in successful negotiations is to anticipate what the other side needs or wants and attempt to come as close as possible to that position to arrive at a compromise. This process is followed effectively on a daily basis in businesses, families, and legislatures.

While the rhetoric has been harsh from the Republican majority in the House of Delegates about not approving an expansion of Medicaid in the state, I understood their partisan and ideological stance but was confident that some middle ground, or as Governor McAuliffe calls it "common ground," could be reached. My optimism is starting to wane.

Last week Republican Senator John Watkins introduced a compromise plan. He chose to call it Marketplace Virginia and not to call it Medicaid expansion because the term raises such strong objec-

tions among his partisan colleagues. His plan embodies so many basic Republican principles that I thought it would be accepted. His proposal is a market-based solution that would use federal funds to provide basic coverage from competing private insurers to those who would qualify. Participants would be required to pay a co-pay amount based on their income, and they would need to meet minimum work requirements. The insurance would be good only as long as the premiums were paid. If the federal government reneged on its funding commitment in future years, the policies would be subject to cancellation. Under this plan the federal taxes paid by Virginians to support health insurance would be returned to the state. The proposal seemed like a winner to me. I endorsed it as a reasonable solution. Within a day of its introduction, however, the House leadership rejected it with-



out acknowledging that its provisions seemed to respond to their earlier concerns. Where does that leave us?

Virginia businesses are paying to the federal government tax dollars to support the program, but those dollars are not competing back to the state. The Commonwealth is losing \$5 million a day! More than a million Virginians continue to be without health insurance—including the 250,000 that would have been insured under Senator Watkins' proposal. The Senate in a bipartisan way continues to press for a solution. Gover-

nor McAuliffe is a strong proponent of extending insurance benefits to more Virginians and wants a compromise. The House Republican majority refuses to budge.

This is clearly an impasse that will keep the General Assembly in session beyond the March 8 scheduled adjournment date. In the meantime I hope that citizens will continue to call, email, or write members of the House of Delegates to ask for their support of a compromise that will extend benefits to some of our neediest citizens. Thanks to the many people who have already contacted legislators from my earlier request. We need to keep working for a solution. About a quarter million Virginians are counting on us!

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St. • Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail: reston@connectionnewspapers.com

Reston CONNECTION

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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NEWS



PHOTO BY MIKE MOSELEY

From left, Lion Steve Reber, Co-Chair; Allison Gabrielle Engel, Potomac Falls High School; Sarah Quan, South Lakes High School; Gabrielle Li, Rachel Carson Middle School; Rachel Sueryun Chon, Thomas Jefferson High School; Nicole Marie Frank, Potomac Falls High School; Abigail Martin, Westfield High School; Shankar N. Balasubramanian, Thomas Jefferson High School; Issac Daniel Mantelli, Westfield High School. Cecelia Steffen Mckinley, Dominion High School, Christina Jean Roukis, Freedom High School; Ashley Renette Konga Ondoua, Thomas Middle School; Amelia Marie Burkley, Home Schooled; Sally Beatrix Burkley, Home Schooled; Ian N. Champney, South Lakes High School; Victor Pan, Forest Edge Elementary School, and Lion John Gazley, Co-Chair. Nicholas S. Drennan, Park View High School, participated but is not in the picture.

Music Competition Winners Honored by Reston Lions

Winners of the James A. Bland Music Scholarship competition, co-sponsored by the Reston lions Club and the Reston Community Center, on Tuesday, Feb. 11 were as follows: vocal competition, Nicole Marie Frank, first place; Allison Gabrielle Engel, second place and Cecelia Steffen McKinley, third place. Instrument competition, Sarah Quan, first place; Abigail

Martin, second place and Gabrielle Li, third place.

First place winners received prizes of \$100 and are eligible to compete in Virginia Lions Regional, District and State competitions for additional prizes. Second place winners received \$75 prizes and third place winners received \$50.

Lions Steve Reber and John Gazley were co-chairs. Judges

were Lydia Kriso, Gretel Von Pischke, Katie Katinas and Leslie Luxemburg.

The Reston Lions Club and the Reston Community Center have co-sponsored the James A. Bland Music Scholarship competition annually since 1982. 544 talented students from the Reston and Herndon areas have participated in the competition during this period.

Lake Anne Dwellers Divided Over Proposed RELAC Amendment

FROM PAGE 4

just like the RELAC equipment. "We'd be glad to talk to any of those people, but some are so already fed up with RELAC over the years that we won't change their mind."

And if people are given free reign to leave the system in favor of installing their own home units? "If one person leaves, it's not a big deal. If ten percent leave, now you're talking about the operating costs not being proportional to the customer base," said Waddell.

Lake Anne resident Dennis McDermitt, who also serves on the Washington Plaza cluster board of directors and supports making air conditioning a choice for all residents, said that rate increases are not certain if people decide to leave.

"By removing the monopoly RELAC has, it wouldn't die, people would just get better service," said McDermitt.

"In terms of what the market effects are going to be [if people opt out of RELAC], you can look



John Lovaas in front of his Washington Plaza cluster home at Lake Anne.

at an ECON 101 text and know that adding choice to a market improves price and quality for consumers."

Without the covenant's restrictions, McDermitt said that many residents would still remain with RELAC, citing the expensive cost of installing a home unit as a deterrent for many, as well as new room for competition created by freer market for air conditioning

service, which could lower rates.

The Reston Association board is still determining a date for a public hearing in March. In the meantime, Knueven said that the public comment period remains open, and RA members can email member_services@reston.org to share their thoughts and concerns.

Disclosure: John Lovaas is a columnist and former employee of The Connection.

PHOTO BY ETHAN MCLEOD/THE CONNECTION

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3. no longer owned or known



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PET CONNECTION

Cutting Edge Veterinary Care

Local veterinarians and behavior specialists detail the latest advancements in animal care.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Four Bernese mountain dogs, victims of an Alexandria house fire were rushed into the Emergency and Critical Care Department at the Regional Veterinary Referral Center in Springfield in the middle of a frigid night last month. It didn't look good.

Dr. Melanie Galanis calls it one of the center's most traumatic cases in recent months. "The dogs had to be placed on oxygen," she said. "Just the number that came in at once and had to be put on oxygen made it dramatic. One of them required surgery to take away the burned tissue."

Fortunately, all of the dogs survived. Galanis says that thanks to advancements in veterinary medicine, furry friends now have access to high-tech medical services that equal those of their human counterparts.

"We can do almost any procedure that is done on humans in an emergency situation except that the wait time is shorter," said Galanis. "We can do a rapid assessment within the first 10 minutes. We have the ability to mechanically ventilate dogs for severe pneumo-

nia, neurological diseases that affect brain and the dog's ability to breathe."

IN FACT, ADVANCEMENTS in veterinary technology have led to more precise diagnoses, treatment and ultimately survival. "In addition to X-rays, we can do EKGs (electrocardiograms), ultrasounds. We have CT (computerized tomography) scans and MRIs (magnetic

with offices in Vienna, Woodbridge, Leesburg and Winchester, Va. said, "There are many advancements currently, and on the horizon, for companion animals in the realm of small animal surgery. Many diseases are treatable with excellent outcomes, some curable."

Lynn Chiappane, spokeswoman for the Regional Veterinary Referral Center, said the center even offers a "rehabilitative therapy program complete with underwater treadmill."

Galanis said that the most common ailments that

bring dogs into veterinary emergency rooms are vomiting and diarrhea. "Dogs come in after ingesting things that they shouldn't like a foreign object or foods like choco-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VETERINARY SURGICAL CENTERS

Dr. James Campbell (pictured with Dr. Katherine Crook), Veterinary Surgical Centers' staff neurologist and neurosurgeon treats animals with issues running the gamut from brain tumors to epilepsy.

late."

"A common thing that we see are animals with bleeding in their abdomen," she said. "Tumors on their spleen and they will bleed internally." Galanis says warning signs are when an animal becomes weak or collapses.

Other leading causes of emergency room visits are more traumatic, such as injuries from animal fights or animals that have been struck by automobiles.

Most patients are referred to Veterinary Referral Center by their



Dr. Jim Taylor, a staff surgeon at Veterinary Surgical Centers, says that there are many advancements in veterinary surgery on the horizon.

regular veterinarians to see the board-certified veterinary specialists on staff, including a cardiologist, dermatologist, internist, ophthalmologist, radiation oncologist and radiologist, as well as general surgeons, including one with special training in surgical oncology.

The Springfield center isn't the only local facility for specialized animal care, however. Dr. Anke Langenbach, chief surgeon and owner of Veterinary Surgical Centers, says her center performs a range of specialized surgeries, including orthopedic, neurosurgery and soft tissue surgery. Her center also offers rehabilitation services.

"I do a variety of surgical procedures," said Langenbach. "But among the most common are popping knee caps and big tumor removals." Dr. James Campbell, Veterinary Surgical Centers' staff neurologist and neurosurgeon, treats animals with issues running the gamut from brain tumors to epilepsy. However, the most common are disk issues. "It's usually from a bulging disk in the back. It can



Dr. Melanie Galanis, of Regional Veterinary Referral Center, says that advancements in veterinary medicine now offer animals access to high-tech medical services that equal those of their human counterparts.

present as back pain or being wobbly or being unable to move their legs. It usually results in emergency surgery, often in the middle of the night." When dogs and cats arrive with symptoms such as back pain or paralysis, surgeons use CT Scans and MRIs helps make a diagnosis. "Sometimes it is a back fracture from being hit by a car," Campbell said. "Sometimes it's a tumor of the spinal cord or brain."

Veterinary Surgical Centers' veterinarians primarily treat cats and dogs, but are also called on to con-

sult on cases for large or exotic animals like horses, elephants and zebras.

MEDICAL ADVANCEMENTS for pets are not limited to veterinary specialty services. Veronica Sanchez, M.Ed., a trainer and behavior consultant with Vienna-based Cooperative Paws, LLC, offers pet owners a variety of options when it comes to correcting undesirable animal behavior.

"I had a client with a mixed-breed puppy who was afraid of



PHOTO BY KEN OBERLE

Veronica Sanchez, M.Ed., (pictured with her dog Monty), a trainer and behavior consultant offers pet owners a variety of options when it comes to correcting undesirable animal behavior

everything, including her owner," said Sanchez. "The puppy would not walk in a new environment or even exit her crate voluntarily."

Sanchez recommended several different strategies, including teaching the owner how body language could help the puppy relax. "We also used clicker training to teach the puppy to exit the crate," she said. "The owner was very committed and worked hard. Her puppy gained confidence and she developed a great relationship with her puppy."

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

You've heard about St. Patrick who drove the snakes out of Ireland, but did you know about St. Patrick, who saved the kittens out of shelters? Now's your chance to find out! Join Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation for a St. Patrick's Day celebration, and learn how you can help save lives.



- Foster Crew Members will answer questions about the most important thing you can do to help.
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View Dana Scheurer's "Midtown Mural Study" at the Colorful Times Four Exhibit at Jo Ann's Rose Gallery in Reston and is on display through March 2.



CALENDAR

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

Monday/Feb. 21- 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

TUESDAY/FEB. 25-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.

Wednesday/Feb. 26-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.

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

FRIDAY/FEB. 28 Mosaic Harmony. 11 a.m. Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace Street, Herndon. Local choir Mosaic Harmony performs dynamic, energizing music influenced by spiritual and gospel music.

Vinifera Wine Bar & Bistro Course Dinner with Fine Wines. 7 p.m. Vinifera Wine Bar & Bistro, 11750 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. A special wine dinner featuring critically-acclaimed wines and Executive Chef John-Michael Hamlet's fine European-influenced cuisine. \$125 per person. 703-234-3550 or visit www.viniferabistro.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 8 Used Book Sale. 8 a.m. - 4p.m. Herndon United Methodist Church, 701 Bennett Street, Herndon. The sale will include all types of books, including: hardback books, paperback books, children's books, and cook books. CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, and magazines will also be for sale. Proceeds from this sale will be used to fund HUMC's local, national, and international mission projects.

Reston Contra Dance. Beginners' workshop 7:15-8 p.m. Dance 8-10:45 p.m. Reston Community

Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd., Reston. Admission: \$9 (workshop free). Partner and experience not necessary.

SATURDAY/MARCH 8-SUNDAY/MARCH 30 "Pinnochio." Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. NextStop Family Theatre presents a new adaptation of Carlo Collodi's classic story. It is adapted and directed by Paul Reisman and co-produced by Faction of Fools. www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 9 Rennie Harris' RHAW 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. RHAW will showcase Dr. Rennie Harris' newest and brightest street dancers as they bring hip hop back to basics. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band Book Reading. 2 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon. Each Book Look event features a reading and craft project related to the book. Books will be available for purchase and signing by the author. The readings are free and open to the public, but seating is limited so reservations are recommended. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 12 Lúnasa. 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. This group of Irishmen continues its 20-year tradition of famed Celtic music. \$20 Reston/\$40 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

SUNDAY/APRIL 6 Mr. Vaudeville and Friends with Mark Brutsché. 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Buddy Silver, and alter-ego Mark Brutsché, returns to to prove, once again, that nothing can take the place of live entertainment. \$5 Reston/\$10 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

SUNDAY/APRIL 27 Trout Fishing in America. 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. This Grammy Award nominated duo's infectious mix of folk/pop and family music is enriched by the diverse influences of reggae, Latin, blues, jazz and classical music. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.



In rehearsal ensemble, from left: Alexa Yarboro (Euterpe), Emil Jonas (Calliope), Sam Nystrom (Terpsicore), Evie Korovesis (Kira), Richard Durkin (Danny Maguire), Russell Silber (Sonny Malone), Sean Cator (Thalia), Katie Rebecca Cheek (Melpomene), and Megan Hubbell (Erato).

Musical Escape Into Innocent Pleasures

Reston Community Players to present "Xanadu" at CenterStage.

By DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

It is going to be a great over-the-top time," said Evie Korovesis, who is featured in the upcoming Reston Community Players' production of the musical comedy "Xanadu."

It's about time for an escape into glitter, big hair, silver disco balls and roller skates. Laced up into their roller skates, the Reston Community Players (RCP) are deep into rehearsal working on pop tunes like "Evil Woman," "Have You Ever Been Mellow," "Strange Magic," "Suddenly" and "I'm Alive."

"Xanadu" is the multiple Tony Award nominated, energetic musical parody of the 1980 movie "Xanadu" that starred Olivia Newton-John. Music and lyrics are by Jeff Lynn and John Farrar with book by Douglas Carter Bean. Director Josh Redford is a big fan of the musical. "I have been drawn to the music and the soundtrack for a long time. The music is just so upbeat and infectious." Music director Matt Jeffrey will have a four-piece band to take the audience along on the infectious ride. "It will be a bright delightful 90 minutes," said Redford. The production will include projections and even chalk drawings will come alive.

In "Xanadu" the audience follows a magical Greek muse



Sean Cator (Young Danny) taps while Richard Durkin (Danny) and Evie Korovesis (Kira) look on.

named Kira. She is on a mission to inspire a struggling artist; a mortal named Sonny. He wants to fashion the ultimate artistic creation; a Roller Disco. Ah, but Kira makes a major mistake, she falls into forbidden love with Sonny. Her jealous sisters try to have her pay for her misstep. Comic chaos across time ensues. At a recent rehearsal, the cast was in the midst of a run-through. It was easy to visualize the leg warmers and hand-bands that RCP costumer Kathy Dunlop has in store. The outfits will run the gamut from 1980's sparkles, 1940's wide lapels, to Greek theme outfits. Many of the costumes have been hand-made by Dunlop.

Korovesis, a Reston theater veteran, is Kira. With a charming smile, she chatted about her weeks of roller skating practices and learning the necessary "Aussi" ac-

Where and When

Reston Community Players present "Xanadu" at CenterStage, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Performances are March 7-29, Friday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 16 & 23 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$23. Call the Reston CenterStage box office at 703-476-4500 or visit: www.restonplayers.org.

cent for her character. All of this after her regular workday as the music teacher at Columbia Elementary (Annandale). Korovesis called the show "silly, happy fun." Her love interest is Russell Silber as Sonny. Silber has performed on a number of Northern Virginia community theater stages. Get ready to journey to another time and place with wonderfully lively love songs. And roller skates. It will leave you breathless.

PHOTOS BY TRACI J. BROOKS STUDIOS/
COURTESY OF RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS

PET CONNECTION



This is Andy. Andy loves his stuffed animals, especially Ducky. He loves to play with Ducky, then when he's tired Ducky becomes a comfy pillow.

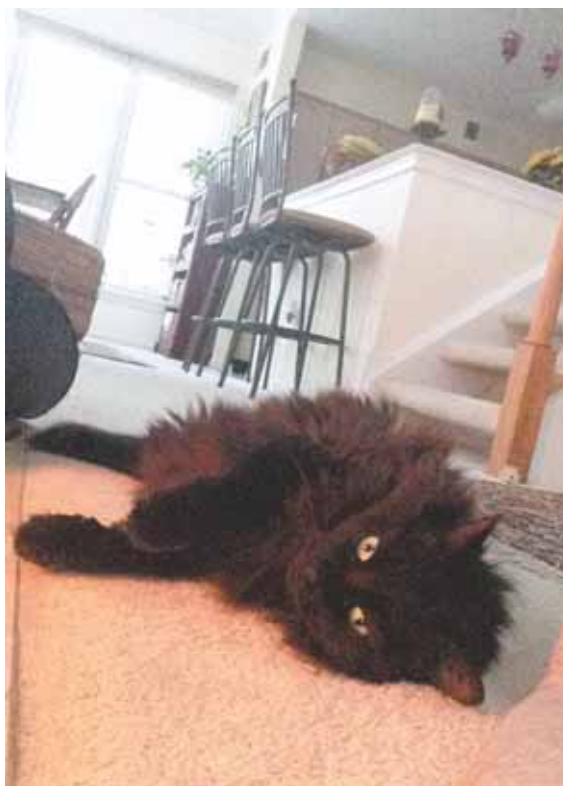
Andy's mother was rescued by A Forever Home and the family was fostered by two FCPS teachers who taught my children. They introduced us and we brought Andy to our home in November 2008. Thanks Cunninghams and A Forever Home.

— JEANNE LOVELAND, RESTON



The king of the house, "Tufitu", a 17-pound Maine Coon cat, surveys his kingdom from his throne.

— DOMENICK & PEARL DiPASQUALE, RESTON



Katniss Evermew warming herself by the fire.

— HEATHER HAMPTON, RESTON



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bianca sleeping at her new home.

Giving Bianca a Second Chance

A Fairfax County Animal Shelter happy ending.

Bianca, a nine-year-old, female, German shepherd mix dog, had been living her life on the end of a chain in a rural part of Virginia. In late January, an unknown stray dog approached Bianca and attacked her. Bianca's owner came outside and in an attempt to stop the attack he hit both dogs with a shovel, striking Bianca over the head and injuring her. Rather than pursue vet care, the owner drove Bianca to the local pound and surrendered her. For the next 36 hours, Bianca sat with no medical care, until a sympathetic staff person called the shelter's rescue partner at the Highland County Humane Society in rural Virginia.

Highland County Humane Society rescued Bianca from the pound and got her emergency

medical treatment. She was taken to a foster home to recover and receive further treatment and was transported to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter on Valentine's Day. She was made available for adoption and her story was shared on the shelter's Facebook page, where it caught the attention of a long-time shelter supporter and adopter. The woman's beloved dog Princess (adopted from the shelter in 1999), died on Valentine's Day at the age of 18, on the same day that Bianca's story was posted. She knew that she was meant to help give poor Bianca a second chance. She immediately contacted the shelter and made plans to come and meet Bianca. Bianca went home with her new mom on Feb. 19, and she is doing great.

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SPORTS

South Lakes Girls' Basketball Captures Elusive Postseason Title

Seahawks win Conference 6, beat Lake Braddock at regionals.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

With nine returning athletes on the roster, the South Lakes girls' basketball team is heavy with postseason experience after last season's trip to the state tournament.

South Lakes played in seven playoff games during the 2012-13 campaign, five of which were decided by three points or less.

But while the Seahawks are no strangers to the postseason, South Lakes on Saturday accomplished a level of playoff success that eluded the program during its cardiac run to states.

South Lakes won the Conference 6 championship on Feb. 22, beating Madison 60-42 in the tournament final. It was the program's first postseason championship of any kind since winning a district title in 1997.

Last season, the Seahawks lost to Madison in the Liberty District semifinals, but secured a spot in the region tournament. After three regional wins by a combined five points, South Lakes lost to Edison in the championship game. After finishing region runner-up, the Seahawks lost to Stonewall Jackson by two points in the state quarterfinals.

The Seahawks entered the 2013-14 season with their sights set on more than just advancing in the postseason. They wanted to win championships — or “cut nets.” Beating Madison on Saturday gave South Lakes something to show for its postseason success.

“It was almost surreal,” senior guard Caitlin Jensen said about the experiencing of cutting down the net after winning the conference title.

“It didn't really hit you until you were up on the ladder and [thought], holy crap, I'm here. But, that being said, it just made us hungrier to get that regional net that we almost had last year, and then maybe even go for that state net.



South Lakes senior guard Caitlin Jensen scored 11 points during the Seahawks' 71-43 victory over Lake Braddock on Monday during the opening round of the 6A North region tournament.

“... It is weird because you go all the way to states and people assume you've cut a net or you've won something and we're like, no, we were right there. So, to follow through with that, it was a great feeling.”

Head coach Christy Winters Scott said not winning any titles last season made the postseason experience “incomplete.”

“[Winning championships] was a vision that the team had after last season because at each segment of the postseason last year we came up short and it felt incomplete,” she said. “... Last year, without [winning titles], it was kind of left up in the air. We were in limbo all summer, waiting for our opportunity.”

Aghayere was named Conference 6 tournament MVP. Rendle was named to the all-tournament team. Each earned first-team all-conference honors.

The Seahawks capitalized on their opportunity to win a conference title. On Monday, South Lakes started its quest for a region championship by beating Lake Braddock 71-43 during the opening round of the 6A North tournament at South Lakes High School. The Bruins kept things close for 18 minutes, pulling within four when a 3-pointer by Caroline Jones cut the Seahawks' lead to 29-25 with 6:31 left in the third quarter. South Lakes took over from there, how-



South Lakes senior Abby Rendle led all scorers with 18 points during Monday's win over Lake Braddock.

ever, outscoring Lake Braddock 18-8 during the remainder of the quarter and 42-18 for the rest of the contest.

Was there a chance South Lakes initially overlooked the No. 4 seed from Conference 7?

“I was hoping that wasn't it,” Winters Scott said, “and I did mention that at halftime.”

The Seahawks responded in the second half and took care of business. Rendle finished with 18 points, Aghayere scored 15 and Jensen added 11, including a trio of 3-pointers. Senior guard Natalie Toma knocked down a pair of 3-pointers and scored nine points, and Brenda Kamga had seven points.

South Lakes faced Centreville in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

The Seahawks last won a region championship in 1986.

Winters Scott said last season's postseason experience should benefit the Seahawks.

“It will make them more hungry, as well, because they came up [just] short last year,” she said. “It was just right there and we had all those one-possession games down the stretch. It was like a roller coaster, and insane and emotional. At the same time, I think that fueled this group in terms of having that experience to rely on and understand that they didn't want to feel that way [again].”

South Lakes senior Clayton O'Neill scored 13 points and grabbed 10 rebounds against West Potomac on Monday during the opening round of the 6A North region tournament.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South Lakes Boys Win Conference

South Lakes beats West Potomac in Regional Tournament.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Two days after capturing its first conference/district championship in a decade, the South Lakes boys' basketball team continued its second-half surge with a 64-48 victory over West Potomac on Monday night in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament.

After a disappointing 2012-13 season, which ended with a 9-14 record and a loss to Fairfax in the Liberty District quarterfinals, South Lakes opened this season with three straight defeats and fell to 6-7 with a loss to Woodson on Jan. 15. From that point, however, the Seahawks won 12 of their next 13 games, including a 60-59 victory over Hayfield on Feb. 22 in the Conference 6 championship game. It was South Lakes' first title since winning the title in 2004.

“It was great. I was ecstatic,” head coach Andrew Duggan said. “... It means a lot to me and my family, but I think more importantly it means a lot to the school and our community. They've been craving something like this for a long time and I'm just happy our kids worked so hard to get that for the school and people of Reston.”

Duggan's players were

pleased, as well.

“It felt great,” junior guard Brandon Kamga said. “I just felt like the team came together as one. We really bonded together. I think it was really good for the team and got us even closer.”

Senior guard Clayton O'Neill added: “It felt sweet to win the district championship. ... Hard work got us there, really — and practice. Saturday morning practices, they were tough, but it got us there.”

On Monday night, South Lakes earned its first regional tournament victory since 2011. West Potomac pulled within four early in the fourth quarter, but the Seahawks outscored the Wolverines 24-12 during the final 7 minutes and cruised to victory.

Kamga led the way for South Lakes, finishing with a game-high 29 points. He showed offensive versatility, knocking down 3-pointers and scoring in the paint. “He knows how to get through the defense — he's slippery, I guess,” O'Neill said. “He's real smooth with it. He's just a great player.”

O'Neill played a solid game, as well, finishing with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

“Clayton over the last five, six weeks has really become the player we always thought he was going to be,” Duggan said. “He's playing really hard, which he's always done, but he's now finishing and making plays.”

Dre Puryear scored nine points for South Lakes and Zach Pearl added eight.

South Lakes faced Robinson, the No. 2 seed from Conference 5, in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

Reston Woman Trains Agility Cats

Her Abyssinians are famous in the cat world for their feats of athleticism.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Abyssinian cat trainer Lisa-Maria Padilla, 52, of Reston, is quite a fixture in the world of cats. Her performance cats called “Abys” do feats of athleticism all over the U.S. — at cat shows in Madison Square Garden, Orlando, and Las Vegas. The prize money is about \$400 for the agility ring, so she does it mostly for the bragging rights.

After she performed last September at the National Capital Cat Show at Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, she took Racy Mooner to the World Cat Show in Novi, Mich., in November. There, Racy was featured on the Detroit Fox News doing tricks. In January, Racy and nephew Cyan Mooner took second in agility at the Cat Fancier’s Show at the San Diego Cat Club. Last weekend, she attended the Black Diamond Cat Show near Philadelphia where she showed Cyan and brother Reggie.

Padilla’s Abys are famous for doing tricks or “behaviors” similar to dogs — like rolling, jumping or maneuvering through timed obstacle courses. They can jump on shoulders, plunge from pedestal to pedestal, and sit on command. They can also leap through high hoops, tunnels and steeples.

“A lot of people think cats can’t be trained, but they are very trainable and they can be very outgoing as well.” She added: “The agility competition shows cats in movement, and how graceful they are,” she said. “It’s another way to show how our cats are quite beautiful creatures.”

Padilla is originally from La Mirada in Los Angeles where her mother Pat bred Siamese cats. Now she operates Hitails Abyssinians Cattery in Reston where she breeds warm, grayish-blue felines that originated in Egypt.



Lisa-Maria Padilla of Reston with her Abyssinian cat, Racy Mooner.

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED BY
LARRY JOHNSON

She lives with six cats, two of whom are breeding cats, and is friends of pet owners all over the U.S. with her cats. She calls her core group of performance cats “Mooners in Motion” (for being happy cats). There’s Racy Mooner, age 6, who has her own Facebook page (called racymooner and who loves performing at airports); her mother Twyla Mooner, age 9; and Racy’s sister, Lulu Mooner, age 6, who is also a breeding cat who had four litters. Twyla was the very first National Feline Agility Champion in the Cat Fanciers Association (CFA) with a time of six seconds — a 2005 record. She has two retired Bengals — one called Spicymooner, age 10, and Callie Mooner, age 16, which are brown-marble colored Bengals. She also shows two, five-month-olds named Cyan (a blue Aby) and Reggie (a ruddy Aby).

She trains them twice a day, about two minutes at a time and keeps the time period short because cats have short attention spans — Abys in particular. Sometimes, within a day or two, a kitten may learn a trick.

To get them to roll over, she uses the phrase “roll over,” and has their eyes follow her hand. Then after they learn to roll over, they learn to sit, to stay and jump through hoops (a crowd favorite). Training for kittens can start at six weeks.

Some tricks involve leaping with a pointed finger and jumping to her shoulder. The more advanced tricks involve getting a cat to understand directional signals and jumping from one raised object to another — or through a raised, four-foot hoop.

“I tell people it’s generally easier when you start young, but you can train an adult cat,” she said.

“Most people want to know how to train a cat to walk on a harness,” she added. “One of the best ways to do that is to bribe them with their favorite treats,” she said. It creates the impression that wearing the harness is a good thing — not that the cat is going to the vet.

In her role as a cat breeder, she makes sure she is pairing two healthy cats that are genetically compatible. An expert on Aby standards, she wants to be sure her cats will be free from genetic diseases. And she is present during the kittens’ actual birthing so everything comes out OK.

When she’s not breeding cats, Padilla is a feline humor writer, contributing stories to Chicken Soup for the Cat Lovers Soul; Your Cat from the U.K.; All About Cats — a magazine in South Africa, and Cat Talk Magazine published by the Cat Fanciers’ Association.

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Too many people miss the silver lining because they're expecting gold.

—Maurice Seitter

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High Five



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I made it. It's five years after receiving a terminal diagnosis on February 27, 2009 from my oncologist: stage IV non-small cell lung cancer, accompanied by a "13-month to two-year" prognosis. Let's be honest, medical professionals don't toss around the word "terminal" because you're going to be treated at an airport. Presumably, they know their facts and figures as well as the patient's present condition, confirmed by a variety of diagnostic results from X-Rays, CT Scans, P.E.T. Scans, lab work and of course the ever-popular biopsy, so their diagnosis/prognosis is a bit more than an educated guess. Nevertheless, there are exceptions to every rule and until proven otherwise, I was not about to succumb to their statistics. Still, based on the best medical knowledge available at the time, this patient (yours truly) was given a limited life expectancy and encouraged to take the vacation I had always dreamed of – for obvious you're-life-is-now-shorter-than-you-ever-imagined-type reasons, and yet, five years hence, here I am.

I have to admit, surviving, at least from my perspective, is indeed all it's cracked up to be. Aside from beating the alternatives, it has been, for me, empowering in a way. Not that I think I wrote the book on what one need do to fend off the ravages of this insidious disease – though I have made my share of changes and accommodations, but I have persevered. And for those closest to me who knew me when (pre-diagnosis), I have switched and fought – I have occasionally looked back. And even though I never was a smoker and rarely exposed to second-hand smoke, I may very well have been a victim of some of my own circumstances. Although I didn't/don't drink much or consume drugs to any extreme degree, my eating habits may have contributed to a weakened immune system which in some way kick-started the cancer cells in my body (which we all have, by the way); and if you believe any of the like-minded literature coming out of Johns Hopkins and other respected medical institutions: we all may very well be what we eat – or don't eat. And apparently, there may be consequences – both good and unfortunately, bad.

For the past nearly five years (beginning in June, 2009), I have chronicled my life as a cancer patient. Every week, save for a few non-cancer columns as we call them, I have written about cancer and the range of emotions I've experienced. I don't think I've not shared one emotion with you that I've felt. Not that it was ever important that it was me doing the talking, because it wasn't/isn't, it's simply that I had a forum/space and the support of my publisher and editor to unburden myself in this very public way. And since writing with such honesty came easy to me (I had been writing non-cancer columns in the Connection since December 1999), having such a juicy and compelling subject on which to write was not particularly challenging to me. Moreover, given the incredibly appreciative and super-positive feedback I have received from readers over the years, I have felt encouraged to continue.

Some weeks however, especially after chemotherapy, the words don't exactly flow, but for now, life is going on. I have another CT Scan on the day this column publishes, 2/26/2014. Within a day or two, my oncologist will e-mail the results to me. Within a day or two after that, I will likely write my next column. I hope the news is good. It might not be though. When you've so far outlived your original prognosis as I have, it's hard not to think you're borrowing time – and as most of us will readily admit, pay-backs are hell.

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

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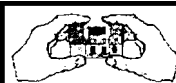
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-St. Francis
de Sales

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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In and for Douglas County

LAURA JEAN BEARCE

Plaintiff,

vs

SONER CAPAN

Defendant,

THE STATE OF NEVADA SENDS GREETINGS TO THE
ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:

You are hereby **SUMMONED** and required to serve upon
plaintiff, LAURA JEAN BEARCE, whose address is 1314 10TH
ST., W. APT 2, WILLISTON, ND 58801,
an **ANSWER** to the Complaint which is herewith served upon
you, within 20 days after service of this Summons upon you,
exclusive of the day of service. In addition, you must file with
the Clerk of this Court, whose address is shown below, a for-
mal written answer to the complaint, along with the appropriate
filing fees, in accordance with the rules of the Court. If you fail
to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the
relief demanded in the Complaint. This action is brought to re-
cover a judgment dissolving the contract of marriage existing
between you and the Plaintiff.
The filer certifies that this document does not contain the social
security number of any person.
Dated this 13th day of January, 2014.
Ted Thran, Clerk of Court
Ninth Judicial District Court, PO Box 218, Minden, NV 89423

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-Dagobert Runes

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News

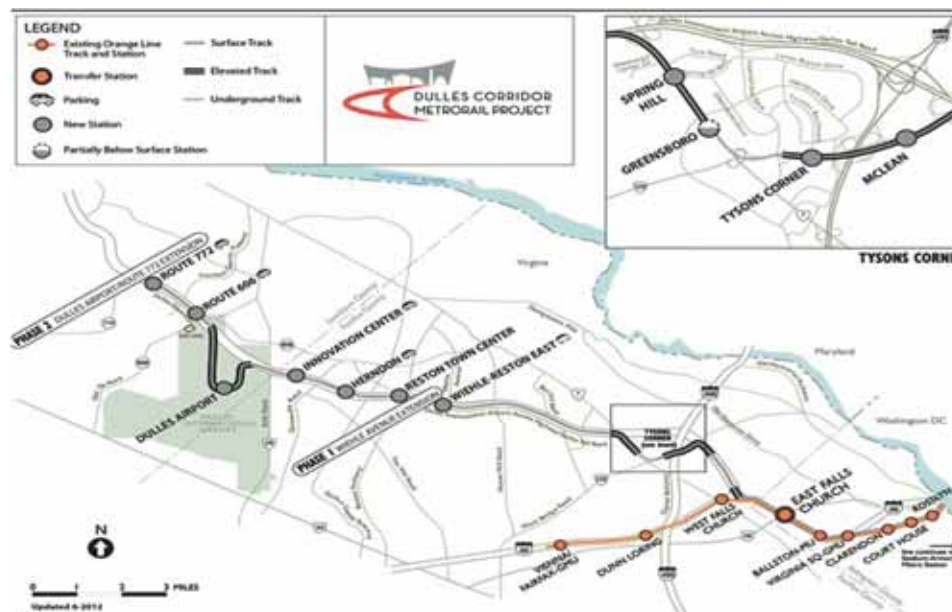


PHOTO COURTESY OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

A map of the entire planned 23-mile extension from West Falls Church
Metro to Route 772 in Loudoun County.

MWAA Prepares To Break Ground on Phase II

FROM PAGE 3

project,” said Carnaggio to a room of de-
velopment and contracting industry em-
ployees. Carnaggio, an engineer who has
worked on the project for over ten years,
pointed out that the planned 23-mile ex-
tension edging out to Loudoun County will
increase the size of the Metro system by 25
percent, a nearly unparalleled increase in
size in American transit systems.

In addition to five new Metro stations in
Tysons Corner and Reston, Phase I contrac-
tor Dulles Transit Partners also built a re-
designed West Falls Church station with a
new inspections facility and sound box, as
well as a parking garage at Wiehle-Reston
Station.

Speaking on potential risks in handing the
system over for final testing, Carnaggio ex-
pressed the importance of creating a “safe
and reliable system.”

“During Phase I our job was to do our
due diligence and make sure that the con-
tractor built a safe and reliable system,” said
Carnaggio. “In Phase II, it’s just as impor-
tant to get off to a good start. We’ve got
some good partners, and that’s our expec-
tation.”

Just as DTP, a partnership between de-
velopers Bechtel and URS, was put in charge
of Phase I construction, Capital Rail Con-
structors, composed of Clark Construction
Group and Kiewit Infrastructure South, will
be responsible for the next 12 miles of rail
in Phase II.

Capital Rail’s assigned task list includes
six more stations, beginning at Reston Town
Center and ending at Route 772 in Loudoun
County. Along with those new stops, the
contractor is also tasked with procuring five
new parking garages and a railyard and
maintenance facility built from the ground
up at Dulles Airport.

In Dec. 2013, MWAA began geotechnical
work near Dulles Airport that involves us-



PHOTO BY ETHAN MCLEOD/THE CONNECTION

**MWAA Project Director Sam
Carnaggio presented Silver Line
Phase I progress and Phase II
plans on Tuesday, Feb. 18.**

ing soil boring equipment to test the ground
as deep as 30 feet below the earth, accord-
ing to Carnaggio. More than 1,300 boring
tests will be completed in western Fairfax
and Loudoun counties before Phase II con-
struction begins.

Though Herndon and Reston residents
are clearly anxious for their brand new
Metro stations, it’s easy to forget that all
parts of Northern Virginia will be affected
by the arrival of the Silver Line.

“I’m very excited about the Metro com-
ing out West,” said Katie Rundquist, a
Purcellville resident who works for contrac-
tor Hensel Phelps, prior to Carnaggio’s
presentation Tuesday. “Living in Purcellville
we don’t have many transportation options
other than the Loudoun County Connector,
so this will make getting into D.C. a little
bit easier.”

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Herndon **\$800,000**

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Herndon
\$524,999
Queen Anne Victorian
4BR, 3BA home circa 1898 w/master suites on both levels. Beautiful kitchen

w/cherry cabinets, granite & breakfast nook. Wrap around porch & deck, LR w/gas FP flows to beautiful DR opening to veranda/porch-perfect for entertaining! Architectural details. Baths all remodeled. Historical property. Walk to downtown Herndon.

Pat Gallagher 571-241-6324 or e-mail pat.gallagher@longandfooster.com



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Lorton **A Perfect 10!** **\$435,000**

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Call Jonna Quadt 703-850-3938 or e-mail Jonna.Quadt@longandfooster.com



"I work hard for my agents so they can work hard for you!"

— Anita Lasansky, Managing Broker

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