

Oak Hill ❖ Herndon CONNECTION

Jeffery Creighton and
Dublin from Oak Hill.
Jeffery loved playing in
the blizzard with
Dublin! This was perfect
weather for them both.

Meet Best Friends Of Oak Hill, Herndon

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Standing Hand in Hand,
Saying 'Enough'

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PET CONNECTION



Fairfax County Schools to Close March 1 for Super Tuesday

Concerns about parking and traffic, as well as new guidance from the Virginia Department of Education caused the Fairfax County School Board to reconsider closing schools for the March 1 Presidential primaries.

In October 2015, the Board decided to open schools two hours late in order to accommodate voting and still preserve a day of school.

"Best-laid plans," Chairman Pat Hynes said at the Board's Feb. 18 business meeting. "Here we are in February, looking at it again."

Hynes explained as part of her motion that night to close schools that the Board has been hearing increasing concerns from the community "of the likely turnout on primary day. We see what's happened in other parts of the country." Hynes said the concern isn't so much for safety within the schools, but traffic associated with potentially greater than expected voter turnout.

According to a release from the school system, 167 school buildings are repurposed for polling,

including 124 elementary schools.

In addition, Hynes said the state Department of Education has just released new guidance allowing schools to take a student holiday on March 1 and count it as hours taken from inclement weather hours.

"We don't have to add it as a school day later in the year," said Hynes. "That makes it easier to make this change in the calendar."

At-large Board member Ryan McElveen asked for clarification regarding whether after-school and evening activities would be affected by the change.

School Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza confirmed that the School Age Child Care program would run as scheduled on the day, and that evening activities would continue if it was possible to accommodate them. Principals are identifying those activities and will communicate those with their school communities.

All members voted in favor of the motion, with the exception of Springfield District representative Elizabeth Schultz who abstained.

- BY TIM PETERSON

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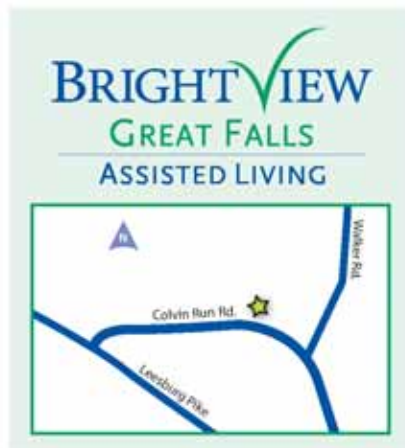
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- Sophia C.



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Construction Begins: Day One

Mayor Lisa Merkel began to “seriously consider running” for Town Council in 2009, when a project to redevelop the Busch Motors property was voted against.

On Monday, Feb. 22, Herndon’s downtown revitalization began at the corner of Elden and Monroe.

Mayor Merkel tweeted the arrival of construction equipment on the project’s first day of actual redevelopment.

“This is what progress in downtown Herndon looks like on day one,” she said. “Soon, we’ll have this great new project - the first phase of our downtown revitalization.”

Junction Square will consist of 15 urban townhomes from 2,100 to 3,000 square feet, five condominiums and retail along Elden Street, wrapping the corner at Lynn.

The project will consist of 55,000 square feet of residential space.

See <http://builtbytradition.com/development/developmentcurrent/junction-square/>



Construction began at the old Busch Motors property on Monday, Feb. 22.

proposers will be invited to submit detailed proposals by a specified deadline,” according to the RFP.

According to town documents, The Town plans to post public portions of the proposals on the Town of Herndon website to allow public comment.

Public presentation by developers is scheduled for May 25, and the Council is scheduled to vote for its top proposal by July 1. After the Town works on a development of agreement from July through October, a public hearing is scheduled for November and the final award is scheduled to be issued in December.

New Website: Day One

The Town of Herndon launched a “significantly enhanced website” on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

The Town worked with Vision Internet, a firm specializing in government sites, in creating the new site, and a team with representation from all town departments developed the site, building on a 2015 citizen survey that outlined opinions and preferences.

Town officials pledge that the new site is designed to showcase Herndon’s attributes as a “next generation small town.”

“It is designed to provide users with many avenues to find information about town services, departments, events and activities and much more.

It features Google translator, direct links to the town’s social media sites, printer-friendly pages, font resizing and other customized tools,” according to Town documents.

Interactive elements on the site include real-time access to town council meetings, online payments, online job application functionality, “report a problem” functionality.

Visitors to the site may also sign up to receive the town’s resident and business e-newsletters and to download the town’s mobile app, Herndon ON the Go.

—KEN MOORE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS on additional downtown development of 4,675 acres of land were submitted by Feb. 19.

The Town seeks to redevelop the property, formerly the Subaru car dealership or Ashwell property, into “an attractive, mixed-use development, including a parking structure in which the Town has fee interest to a minimum of 220 spaces.”

“The Town envisions a development of excellent design and quality providing the historic town core with additional vitality while respecting and reflecting the heritage of the downtown,” according to the request for proposal. “The Town envisions these benefits to be utilized to develop a superb environment for outdoor pedestrian enhancements including outdoor dining and passive and programmed activities.”

According to the RFP, the Town envisions utilities, streetscape and an 18,000-square-foot arts center, and hopes that the public shared parking and arts center be funded from proceeds from the Town’s property.

“The Town Council, after considering the recommendations of the evaluation com-

Water Meters: Automated Splash

The Town of Herndon will replace existing residential water meters in the middle of March and upgrade to an automated meter reading (AMR) system.

The Town will be able to read meters from radio receivers in moving vehicles, according to Town spokesperson Anne Curtis, “and will enable the town to more efficiently track each home’s water usage, as well as monitor and assess community water demands.”

The new technology will eliminate the need for Town staff to go onto residential properties to read meters, will prevent reading and recording errors, will improve billing accuracy since automated meter readings will reflect actual water

usage rather than estimated, and will allow Town staff to more rapidly detect excessive or unusual water usage that may need plumbing or system problems.

“The process to replace all existing town water meters with the new AMR system is expected to take approximately four months,” according to Curtis.

Residents will receive door-hanger notices approximately 24-48 hours prior to their scheduled replacements and do not need to be home when meters are replaced. Work will not cost residents anything and will take place between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Contact the town’s Department of Public Works at publicworks@herndonva.gov or 703-435-6860.

mittee and public comment, may select a limited number - likely two, and not more than three - of proposers who are fully quali-

fied, capable, and best suited in the Town’s discretion to submit a detailed proposal that best meets the Town’s needs. Selected

Herndon Crime Reports

Notable incidents from the Herndon Police report from Feb. 8-14.

Feb. 10, 3:07 a.m. Drug/Narcotic Violation, 1000 Knight Lane
Feb. 10, 10:23 a.m. Fail to Appear, 700 Lynn St.
Feb. 8, midnight. Driving Under the Influence, 1000 Elden St.
Feb. 8, 2:53 a.m. Drunkenness (DIP), 1100 Elden St.
Feb. 8, 10:17 a.m. Larceny-from Motor Vehicle, 1100 Cypress Tree Place
Feb. 9, 9:58 a.m. Larceny-All Other, 500 Early Fall Court
Feb. 9, 3:28 p.m. Destruction of Property, 1000 Elden St.
Feb. 9, 4:56 p.m. Drunkenness (DIP), 1200

Elden St.
Feb. 11, midnight, Fraud, 1200 Sunset Court
Feb. 11, 12:04 a.m. Drunkenness (DIP), 1000 Alabama Drive
Feb. 12, 2:27 a.m. Driving Under the Influence, 1200 Elden St.
Feb. 12, 1:33 p.m. Trespass - Banned, 1200 Elden St.
Feb. 13, 9:39 a.m. Fraud-False Pretenses, 500 Early Fall Court
Feb. 13, 1:58 p.m. Disorderly Conduct, 1200 Elden St.
Feb. 13, 2:49 p.m. Larceny-All Other, 1200 Elden St.
Feb. 14, 9:52 a.m. Larceny-Shoplifting, 1200

Elden St.
Feb. 14, 11:36 a.m. Larceny-Shoplifting, 1200 Elden St.
Feb. 14, 7:24 p.m. Assault-Simple, 600 Dulles Park Court
Feb. 14, 8:58 p.m. Trespass, 1000 Elden St.
Feb. 8, 12:25 p.m. Disorderly Conduct, 500 Herndon Parkway
Feb. 9, 11:20 a.m. Phone Calls-Harassing/Obscene, 500 Herndon Parkway
Feb. 10, 11:27 p.m. Destruction of Property, 100 Laurel Way
Feb. 13, 7:42 a.m. Disorderly Conduct, 100 Spring St.
Feb. 14, 12:11 a.m. Drunkenness (DIP), 700 Van

Buren St.
Feb. 8, 8:48 a.m. Larceny-from Motor Vehicle, 2100 Wilkes Court
Feb. 8, 9:41 a.m. Graffiti, 13000 Wilkes Way
Feb. 8, 4:48 p.m. Phone Calls-Harassing/Obscene, 500 Florida Ave.
Feb. 11, 6:30 p.m. Trespass, 13000 Worldgate Drive
Feb. 12, 7:04 a.m. Larceny-from Motor Vehicle, 500 Herndon Woods Court
Feb. 12, 12:46 p.m. Violation of Protective Order, 500 Florida Ave.
Feb. 12, 9:56 p.m. Trespass - Banned, 13000 Worldgate Drive

OPINION

Bad Bills

General Assembly has potential to do lots of damage in a short period.

From pressing for use of a barbaric form of execution, the electric chair, to codifying discrimination, to stripping localities of the major tool for ensuring infrastructure is in place for new development, to hiding more and more critical public information from the public, the Virginia General Assembly is poised to do harm to the Commonwealth. (We'll look at good bills in a future editorial.)

Here are bills that have passed either the House or Senate by crossover, and important bills that were killed, in no particular order. This is by no means a complete list.

HB815, Electric Chair, passed the House 62-33, brings back the electric chair, providing that if lethal injection is not available as a method of execution, electrocution shall be used instead and vice versa.

SB552 creates secret police departments, and moves in exactly the wrong direction. Provides that the names and training records of law-enforcement officers and fire marshals shall be considered personnel records and excluded from mandatory disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Passed 25-15.

SB549/HB770 on Proffers, uses a megaton bomb to tie localities' use of proffers to help pay for infrastructure needs with new development when what was needed was a study of flyswatters to address specific limited abuses.

EDITORIAL

HB773/SB41 - Codifies discrimination, prevents the state government from taking any action against a person or organization that discriminates based on a sincerely held religious belief that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman.

Sanctuary bills: SB705 Makes "sanctuary cities" liable for "full amount of any personal injury or property damage caused by an illegal alien within such locality." SB270 The General Assembly shall reduce state funding to the extent permitted by state and federal law to any locality found to be a "sanctuary city."

Senate killed several bills on title loan oversight, even after investigative reporting showed interest charges exceeding 200 percent, bait and switch tactics and many poor Virginians losing their cars.

HB 2 - No "right to breathe." Requires the Department of Environmental Quality to receive approval from the General Assembly for a state implementation plan to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants prior to submitting the plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

HB 1090 - Defunds Planned Parenthood

HB 143 allows high proof grain alcohol sales.

HB 560 - Makes it more difficult to convict someone of brandishing a firearm by requiring proof that a person pointing, holding or

brandishing a firearm or similar weapons had the intent to induce fear in the mind of another.

HB 766 - Allows any protective order to be used as a de facto concealed carry permit, without requiring the holder to receive any training in the safe handling of a firearm, or show any proficiency with a firearm. Advocates for victims of domestic violence say what is needed is to remove weapons from such situations.

Killed SB67, would have added discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity to the Virginia Fair Housing Law as an unlawful housing practice.

Killed SB12, would have prohibited discrimination in public employment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Killed bills that would have required notification of oil spills.

Outlawed living wage requirements for contractors of local government.

HB 4 Anti-union, proposed constitutional amendment putting Right to Work in the constitution.

HB 3 - Charter Schools Constitutional Amendment - removes local control over local schools and spending, doesn't belong in the constitution.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Letter to Animal Lovers

Dear Animal Lovers,

Like most kids, I always wanted a puppy to hug, play with, and love. My parents promised me my first pet when I turned 10, old enough to help take care of our puppy. My parents kept their promise, and on my 10th birthday we adopted "Clue" from the Washington Animal Rescue League (WARL), in D.C. I wrote a book on him that you can check out for free through our Fairfax County Public Library - "Get a Clue: A True Story about a Boy's Best Birthday Present."

We also adopted Sparky, a Golden Retriever-Chow mix. We celebrated Sparky's fourth birthday on Feb. 5.

Rescue shelters like WARL do an amazing job helping and saving puppies and animals from hoarding facilities or puppy surrenders from owners who cannot take care of new litters.

A really wonderful rescue shelter we help is Homeward Trails Animal Rescue (HTAR) in Fairfax Station. We foster puppies, who cannot live at the shelter, because they are too young and need a family to love them until they are adopted.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Sachin Muralidhar, of Great Falls, with Sparky on Sparky's fourth birthday on Feb. 5.

We also volunteer at the shelter, to help clean the dogs' crates, mop the floors and fold laundry. Please consider volunteering at any of these shelters or maybe donate some of your allowance to help these adorable, helpless animals, so they can have a better life. You can volunteer an hour, a weekend, a couple of weeks, or a month, whatever fits your schedule and is convenient for you. Meet some of



From left, Sachin Muralidhar, his father and brother Sid with foster Border Collies and Sparky (front).

the most amazing volunteers. Helping these sweet animals will make you feel so good - I know I do.

Some shelters you can visit and volunteer at:

Washington Animal Rescue League, 71 Oglethorpe St NW, Washington, D.C., 202-726-2556, www.warl.org

Homeward Trails Animal Rescue, 11116 Fairfax Station Rd,

Fairfax Station, 703-249-5066, www.homewardtrails.org

Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Rd, Fairfax, 703-830-1100, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/foster.htm

Woof-woof!

Sachin Muralidhar

Great Fall

Eighth-grader at Cooper Middle School

Oak Hill & Herndon
CONNECTION

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Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) speaks, with Emma Marshall, Department of Family Services and event planner, Tilly Blanding, master of ceremonies, Kathryn Falk, Cox vice president, and Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, in background.



PHOTOS BY REEM NADEEM/THE CONNECTION

Standing Hand in Hand, Saying 'Enough'

Black History Month event highlights county diversity.

BY REEM NADEEM
THE CONNECTION

Musicians, dancers, speakers and performers of all kinds came together in an annual celebration of Black History Month, hosted by Fairfax County in partnership with Cox.

"Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories" took place Feb. 19 and featured a variety of entertainment. Some of the entertainers included Geno and the Spirit of Jazz, a D.C. area based band, the Antioch Baptist Church Gospel Choir from Fairfax Station and the Herndon High School Step Team.

Glynda Mayo Hall, a former planner for the event, attended as an audience member this year.

"I think the way it has evolved is that it has included a lot of diversity, so not just all African American performance and entertainment. The outreach to the community at large, a lot of times it was an extension of those of us who were mostly involved, our connections, but now it's really just the whole community so it's really diverse," Mayo Hall said.

Although she was not involved with the planning process at all, social worker Vellma Lukic has photographed the event for about 15 years.

"As always, it's such a delight to see the performers, the community coming together, the children. And the message clearly is so uplifting every year," Lukic said.

While some audience members have witnessed the show change over the years, many experienced it for the first time this year. First time attendee Michele McKinley said she could not wait until next year's event.

"I've enjoyed it all but I really liked the step team," McKinley said.

In addition to the entertainment, several speakers presented at the event. Speakers included Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman, Sharon Bulova and Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill). William Bates, principal of Herndon High School and 2015 Principal of the Year, delivered the keynote speech.

During his address, Bates spoke about the importance of hope and its impact on children. Though he is recognized in the community for

his philosophy, Bates also addressed an issue currently in the national spotlight.

"You see, to me, Black lives matter. And we have young Black and Brown men dying in our streets. And I know this is a controversial topic so I will say this: to me, it really doesn't matter how our young men are dying. It can be at

Keynote speaker, Herndon High School principal, 2015 Principal of the Year, William Bates.

the hands of those in uniform who were sworn in to protect us or it could be by brothers that are living in our own neighborhoods, apartment complexes, whose mothers and grandmothers attend

the same churches," Bates said. "The fact of the matter is that we are losing precious lives and it has gone on for too long, and together we need to stand hand in hand, as a unified group and say, 'enough.'"



Herndon High School award-winning Step Team performed at the event.

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PET CONNECTION



Jeffery Creighton and Dublin from Oak Hill. Jeffery loved playing in the blizzard with Dublin! This was perfect weather for them both.



"I love you Lila, you are the only dog I know who rubs her back and snorts after she's eaten. Thank you for making me happy. I'm glad you passed peacefully."—Ashley Morse, Herndon

Davorka Suvak is trying to take a picture of Max at Spirit Field in Herndon, but he would rather taste the cell phone than pose for a picture. Suvak is the founder of the Spirit Open Equestrian Program and Max is one of her favorite horses.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

"Haley, my first cat, came to my doorstep in 1992. I started in cat rescue because I wanted to give people what Haley had given me."

—Laura Goodman



The Feline Foundation of Greater Washington president Laura Goodman clips Grace's claws prior to the adoption fair on Feb 21.

Finding That 'Special Someone' at Lake Anne

BY JENNIFER WALTER
THE CONNECTION

On Feb. 21, the Feline Foundation of Greater Washington (FFGW) arranged chairs, tables and cages in preparation for their monthly Reston cat adoption fair in the Just Cats Clinic at Lake Anne.

FFGW is a volunteer organization, funded by donations, that works to get cats from around the D.C. area adopted. The group also holds weekly adoption fairs on the third Sunday of every month from 1-3

p.m. in Reston and every Sunday from noon-3 p.m. in a PetSmart in Leesburg.

Laura Goodman, the foundation's president and one of its founders, fell in love with cats in what she considers to be late in life.

"I was allergic to cats until I was in my late 20s. When I discovered I was not, friends forced them on me from every direction and I was very resistant," Goodman said. "Haley, my first cat, came to my doorstep in 1992. I started in cat rescue because I wanted to give people what Haley had given me."

Selma Caal came to the Reston

fair after losing her cat, Obi Wan Kenobi, of 12 years.

"That cat was my little companion. He was just such an emotional support," Caal said. "My daughter doesn't know what life is like without a cat and I think our house is lonely without one. We're looking for a new companion, not to replace Obi Wan, but to have that again."

Caal spent some time with four 9-month-old kittens, Mewli, Spike, Evie and Mewmew. The foundation hopes to adopt the kittens in pairs, so that they can maintain their close relationships. Two other kittens from the litter have already



Selma Caal holds the paw of Mewli, a 9-month-old kitten up for adoption. Caal and her daughter, Catherine Baylyff, are looking to adopt after their family cat passed.

Reston adoption fair matches cats, families.

been adopted. FFGW also provides fostering and pays for veterinary services for cats in their care. They take in stray and shelter cats that are considered marginally adoptable. "When I first started, municipal shelters and private charities were very suspicious of each other. Euthanasia was the preferable option to trusting cats with a private rescue," Goodman said. "In the D.C. area, there has been a complete shift."

Shelters rescues of feral cats have some advantages, such as the cat already being socialized. In many cases, the cats survive to that point because they did well and were

friendly in the stressful shelter environments. The downsides are that the cats are often considered slim adoption possibilities due to their age or health.

"The Feline Foundation has always had a soft spot for the broken ones. The harder and more heartbreaking the case, the faster we run and the more we open our arms."

The next adoption fair at Lake Anne will be on March 20. FFGW is also searching for foster home to care for cats until adoption in the Reston area. For more information see <http://www.ffgw.org>.



"Are we there yet?" Auggie breaks a path thru the heavy snow for his tiny pal Walter! - Bonnie and Jim Fearson, Oak Hill



Pink is my sweet girl who loves attention. She enjoyed playing in the snow. Dublin enjoyed the snow and surveying the land. —Andrea Creighton, Oak Hill



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OAK HILL/HERNDON CONNECTION ♦ FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 1, 2016 ♦ 7

SPORTS

Oakton Girls' Basketball Wins Conference 5 Championship

Cougars outscore Herndon 17-0 in opening quarter.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Fred Priester tried to exude a positive vibe prior to the Conference 5 tournament championship game against Herndon on Friday night, but an unusually quiet bus ride to Chantilly High School had the veteran Oakton girls' basketball coach unsure of what to expect from his undefeated team.

While Priester experienced pregame nerves, the Cougars quickly showed their level of play would be no cause for concern.

Oakton opened the game with a 17-0 run and cruised to a 67-45 victory on Feb. 19, capturing its third consecutive conference title and 11th in the last 12 seasons.

The Cougars knocked down five 3-pointers in the opening quarter, including two each by senior Alex Marquis and junior Maddie Royle. At the defensive end, Oakton, the tournament's top seed, held No. 2 Herndon scoreless for more than 10 minutes before a bucket by Hornet forward Sabrina Tolbert with 5:52 remaining in the second quarter cut the Cougar lead to 17-2.

"We came out really hot; I was not sure if we would," Priester said. "We were very, very quiet on the bus — this is not a quiet group. They were very quiet on the bus, so I didn't know. Actually, I was a little nervous myself, but I was trying to [be positive]."

What was the reason behind the Cougars' silent bus ride?

"I think we were all just trying to get in the zone," said Marquis, the Conference 5 Player of the Year. "We usually don't play early games, so we were all trying to rest a little bit since we didn't have that time we normally do after school."

Friday's Oakton/Herndon contest was part of a conference championship double-header and tipped off at 6 p.m. The early start didn't slow down the Cougars, who knocked down seven 3-pointers in the first half and 11 for the game.

"We came out ready to play," Royle said, "and we showed it."

Priester, the conference Coach of the Year, said there were times he wasn't pleased with Oakton's shot selection, but he relaxed his requirements during the Cougars' hot-handed first quarter.

"We have some kids that can shoot the 3, but the thing is, I'm constantly telling them, 'Look, you don't have to shoot it on the first touch,'" Priester said. "But they were so hot I backed off of that."

Royle, a 6-foot-1 forward and first-team all-conference selection, buried four 3-pointers and finished with 24 points and seven rebounds. Her final 3 of the evening gave Oakton a 40-22 lead with 4:28 remain-



The Oakton girls' basketball team won its third consecutive Conference 5 championship on Friday.



Oakton junior Maddie Royle cuts off a piece of the net after the Cougars won the Conference 5 championship on Friday.

ing in the third quarter.

"She's got so much talent," Priester said. "I was reluctant to even give her a rest tonight because she was doing so well."

Junior forward Delaney Connolly finished with a double-double, scoring 17 points and grabbing 14 rebounds. Connolly, a first-team all-conference selection, made a trio



Oakton senior Alex Marquis scored 15 points against Herndon on Friday.

of 3-pointers.

Marquis scored 15 points and hit three from behind the arc.

Junior guard Kailyn Fee also knocked down a 3-pointer for Oakton.

Junior guard Indeya Sanders led Herndon with 14 points. Sophomore guard Devyne Newman finished with 11 points and junior guard Janiece Loney added eight.

Herndon's record fell to 17-5. The Hornets faced Madison in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The

"We came out really hot; I was not sure if we would. We were very, very quiet on the bus — this is not a quiet group. They were very quiet on the bus, so I didn't know. Actually, I was a little nervous myself, but I was trying to [be positive]."

— Oakton girls' basketball coach
Fred Priester

winner will face the winner of Battlefield and Mount Vernon on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

The Cougars' record improved to 24-0. The last time Oakton was undefeated this late in the season, the team went on to finish 31-0 and win the 2012 AAA state championship.

Oakton faced McLean on Tuesday. The winner will face the winner of Osbourn Park and West Potomac on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

"Now, we have other things that we'd like to accomplish, but if we don't, they can't take this away," Priester said. "They can't take an undefeated regular season away. Those are benchmarks that they can hang their hats on and say, 'I was part of that.'"

CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 24

Meet me at the Movies – Senior Movie Day. 10 a.m. Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St, Reston. Reston Association presents “The Intern.” Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Information: Ashleigh@reston.org. 703-435-6530. reston.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 26

Schumann Piano Concerto. 7:30-9:30 p.m. United Christian Parish of Reston, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. The Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Greater Washington conductor Dr. Yeong Su Kim and piano soloist Dr. Bora Lee. \$15-\$25. pacodc.org. 571-483-8444.

SATURDAY/FEB. 27

Classic Cinema Matinee. 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Warm your heart and spirits with a cinematic trip to exotic India. Call the library for title. Adults. Register at 703-689-2700.

GRACE Art: Cultivating a Creative Community Opening Reception. 5-7 p.m. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., 103, Reston. Opening reception to celebrate Youth Art Month exhibit. Free. www.restonarts.org. 703-471-9242.

Cooking Class. Noon-2 p.m. Il Fornaio, 11990 Market St., #106, Reston. Includes three-course luncheon with wine and recipes. \$55. Tax and gratuity not included. Reservations: 703-437-5544. banquets.reston@ilfo.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 28

The Russian Revolution and the Men Who Made. 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Part two of a five part series given by Dr. Harry Butowsky. Adults. 703-689-2700.

TUESDAY/MARCH 1

“Uses of Stone in the Landscape.” 1-4 p.m. Nature House, Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. www.therestongardenclub.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 4

Galactic Gala. 6 p.m. Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Club House Road, Reston. Fundraising event supporting Reston schools and End



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

“Crimes of the Heart” plays at NextStop Theatre in Herndon, Feb. 25-March 20.

Polio Now by the Rotary Club of Reston. For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, go to <http://restonrotary.org>. restonrotaryclub@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 5

Family Day at GRACE. Noon-3 p.m. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., 103, Reston. In conjunction with exhibit GRACE Art: Cultivating a Creative Community. Light refreshments. Free. www.restonarts.org. 703-471-9242.

Beginning Couponing. 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Freebies and discount savings coupons are all around us. Learn how to find the best deals and maximize your family budget using coupons. Adults. Register at 703-689-2700.

SATURDAY/MARCH 9

Jazzart Concert: Victor Haskins Trio. 7-9 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. world-class trumpet and electronic wind instrument player. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks provided; wine and beer for suggested donations. \$15. www.artspaceherndon.com.

<call> Saturday/March 12
Winter Night-Time Campfire. 6:30 a.m. Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Discover the night sky through hands on activities and storytelling. Families can come early and picnic or toast hotdogs. Bring a toasting stick, blanket and flashlight. Smores provided. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$8, \$10. <http://www.artspaceherndon.com>.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax/.
Lucky Leprechaun 5K. 8:30 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11911 Democracy Drive, Reston. Run like you've got the luck of the Irish on your side. Enjoy a fun-filled celebration at the finish line. <http://www.prraces.com/luckyleprechaun/>.
Wine Tasting. 3-5 p.m. Il Fornaio, 11990 Market St. #106, Reston. Sample ten wines and enjoy an appetizer or pizza of your choice. \$35. Tax and gratuity not included. Reservations at 703-437-5544. banquets.reston@ilfo.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

Women's Choral Festival. 4-6 p.m. Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 13224 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon. Capital Harmonia hosts its first Celebration of Women Choral Festival to commemorate Women's History Month offering music featuring Women From Stage and Screen and Songs of Hope and Courage, joined by the Women's Chorus of South Lakes High School. Free, donations encouraged. www.capitalharmonia.org. 703-989-4007.

Choral Splendor II: Music for Grand Organ and Chorus. 4 p.m. Saint Luke Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Reston Chorale presents an afternoon of music for grand organ and chorus, featuring Organists Paul Skevington and Tordis Fahringer performing Charles-Marie Widor's magnificent Mass for two choirs and two organs. The concert will also include works by Dupré, Messiaen and Sweelinck. \$25-\$30. www.restonchorale.org.

NoVa Mini Maker Faire. 11 a.m.-5



Catch trumpeter and electronic wind instrument player Victor Haskins at ArtSpace in Herndon on Saturday, March 19.

p.m. Langston Hughes Middle School, 11401 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Collection of Northern Virginia tech enthusiasts, engineers, woodworkers, artists, and craftspeople. Opportunity for kids to learn to make things. <http://makerfairenova.com/>.

Ice Breaker 5K. 7:45 a.m. 200 Spring St., Herndon. <http://www.active.com/herndon-va/running/distance-running-races/herndon-ice-breaker-5k-2016>.

Reston Community Orchestra Concert. 4 p.m. United Christian Parish of Reston, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Piano? Organ? Why Choose? Join in the inspiring sanctuary of Reston's United Christian Parish and be inspired by these keyboard masterworks. Free. www.restoncommunityorchestra.org. 571-449-7095.

MONDAY/MARCH 14

Lunch N' Life. Noon-2 p.m. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna.

SCOV presents Jocelyn Jackson singing favorite Broadway hits from the 30s, 40s and 50s. Reserve your spot early, prepayment is required by March 9. \$10 per person. 703-281-0538 to register and mail a check to SCOV, 541 Marshall Road, SW, Vienna, VA 22180.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 17

Classic Cinema Series. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join for a quirky Irish comedy to kick off your St. Patrick's Day celebration. Call library for title. Adults. 703-689-2700.

Ongoing

“Namaste Nepal.” Through April 15. Executive Center 1, 1851, Alexander Bell Drive, Reston. Dawn Murphy's photographic journey demonstrating the experiences of Nepalis during the earthquake of 2015. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

“Inspired by Love.” Through February. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Exhibition of painting, photography and mixed media art that is “Inspired by Love.” Free. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

Book Drive. Through March 18. Herndon United Methodist Church, 701 Bennett St., Herndon. The church is collecting books, movies, and CDs. Funds generated from this drive will be used to support local, national, and international mission projects. 703-206-8988.

Sorcerers in Snow: Hogwarts in Winter. Through Monday, Feb. 29. ArtInsights, 11921 Freedom Drive, Reston. See a collection of original and limited edition art from the Harry Potter series of books and films. In honor of actor Alan Rickman, 10 percent of sales will benefit two charities, JK Rowling's Lumos, and Saving Faces. 703-478-0778.

GRACE Art: Cultivating a Creative Community. Feb. 25-March 5. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., 103, Reston. Highlights work from the long-standing GRACE Art program. Nearly 40 area schools participate in this program, in which trained classroom volunteers deliver an interactive art history lesson with materials and visuals supplied by GRACE, followed by a related hands-on art project. www.restonarts.org. 703-471-9242.

Emerging Visions: Contemplating Community. March 15-April 9. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., 103, Reston. Fairfax County high school students the opportunity to work directly with GRACE's curatorial staff to create thoughtful, well-crafted artworks that will be exhibited in the gallery. This year, GRACE is dedicating its celebration of Youth Art Month to Bob Simon's vision for a New Town. www.restonarts.org. 703-471-9242.

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A Further Explanation



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though last week's column, "One Hundred Pills," ostensibly was about the pill count of my most recent prescription and my interpretation of its meaning, the underlying point of the column which I might have failed to clearly mention was: cancer and the effect it has on your thinking; consciously, sub-consciously, and probably even unconsciously as well. If I had not been diagnosed with a "terminal" disease: stage IV, non-small, cell lung cancer (NSCLC), would I even have heard how many pills were in that bottle, or considered at all the numerical impact on my life, and that life's expectancy? Moreover, would I have been the least bit concerned with pharmacy/prescription procedures, medical or otherwise? And finally, would I have stumbled emotionally because of any of it? I'll be presumptuously self-assured and answer all of these previous questions: The answer would be a resounding "No."

And the cause of all these questions and the effect on the answers is cancer. To say cancer is a difference-maker is an insult to all difference-makers. Because cancer is insidious, and often, as evidenced in last week's column, a life-changer both physically and mentally, its effects rear their ugly head when you might not expect it. All I did was pick up a prescription but since cancer is in charge, I went off on a tangent of anxiety. But, and this is the point – perhaps lost in last week's column, which I am now focusing on in this week's column: you can't help yourself. Whether or not you admit to or acquiesce to cancer's control, it does take over. In effect, your brain is rewired, figuratively speaking. You simply don't think, consider, prioritize, react, etc., as you did prior to your diagnosis. It's almost as if you were struck by lightning; it's a jolt, emotionally, and you'll never be the same.

Sure, on the outside (to people looking at you), everything may appear normal (if you're amazingly lucky), but on the inside, especially in your head/brain, the world, your place in it and your behavior while being there has taken a turn. Not necessarily for the worse, but definitely for the different. Oddly enough, the changes are not so subtle that you don't notice them or won't acknowledge them or can't articulate them. In my experience, I notice/acknowledge and articulate them. However, I am hard-pressed to do much about them. It's not as if I've become an inconsiderate, selfish, intolerant, uncaring and self-indulgent a--hole (different than I'd like to think I was/mostly still am), but, and I'm not to proud to admit this: I do have my moments. And when I do, I blame the cancer. As I asked my oncologist one day about my hair turning gray seemingly overnight, could I blame the cancer? He quickly responded: "You can blame the cancer for anything you want." And so I have, occasionally.

Not that I have taken his statement to heart or embraced it as a regular excuse, but cancer does seem to have its way. And though I am well aware of its tentacles and subliminal-almost ties that regularly bind, I am still cognizant of who I am and who I want to be. Nevertheless, author Siddhartha Mukherjee didn't title his book about cancer (and PBS didn't likewise title its miniseries): "Cancer, The Emperor of All Maladies" because cancer is kind and gentle and benign. Hardly. Cancer is none of these characterizations. And what's worse, it changes people; at least it's changed me, and not always for the better.

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

EMPLOYMENT

Preschool Teacher needed

for early morning extended preschool hours for the 2016 -2017 school year beginning in September. 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 or 7:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. or 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Experience and excellent references required. Contact: Cindi@NVHCreston.org

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The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/FEB. 24-25

Christ Presbyterian Preschool Open House.
10-11 a.m. Christ Presbyterian Preschool, 12410 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Open house tours for the current school year and 2016-17. www.christpresbyterianpreschool.com. 703-691-9120.

THURSDAY/FEB. 25

Food Packing Event. 10 a.m. Dominion Virginia Power, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Assistance League of Northern Virginia invites community members to help pack food for the Weekend Food for Kids program which benefits 1500 schoolchildren who receive reduced-price meals during the week. Arrive at 9:30 a.m. if you would like to help with setup. Event contact: karenamster@aol.com.

Dollars and Sense. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. A new monthly book discussion group that focuses on business leaders and markets. Adults. 703-689-2700.

SATURDAY/FEB. 27

Racing to Justice: Achieving Social Equity in our Community. 3 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Featuring John A. Powell, director, UC Berkeley's Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society. Free. Tickets required. 703-476-4500, press 3.

SUNDAY/FEB. 28

Volunteer to Serve Dinner. 5:30 p.m. North County Human Services Building, 1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. Provide and serve dinner. Under the auspices of FACETS, in partnership with Fairfax County Hypothermia Prevention Program. Sponsored by Congregation Beth Emeth. www.bethemeth.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 9

Ask the Doctor: Everything You Want to Know about Menopause. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Dr. Farimah Farahani from Perfectly Female Women's Health Care will answer all your questions about this transitional phase in a woman's life. Light refreshments. Register at 703-689-2700.

League of Women Voters-Reston "Election 2016." 7:30-9 p.m. Hunter Mill District Community Room B, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. Expanding nonpartisan outreach to increase voter participation and civic engagement. Free. Open to men and women. 202-263-1311. www.lwv-fairfax.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

K-12 STEM Symposium. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The Nysmith School, 13625 Eds Drive, Herndon. Includes exciting exhibits, inspiring speakers and panel experts who will highlight how vital it is to engage parents, students, teachers, corporate/government execs and nonprofit representatives in STEM education and careers. Free. www.stemsymposium.com.

TUESDAY/MAR. 22

INOVA Blood Drive. Noon-7 p.m. Besides Pavilion of Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Schedule appointments at 1-866-256-6372 or inova.org/donateblood. On-site registration also available.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Habitat Heroes Project. 10 a.m.-noon. Across the street from 11300 Stones Throw Drive. Oriental bittersweet is one of the most invasive and vigorous weeds in Reston. Please help us eradicate this aggressive vine and liberate our native plants. Meet at the asphalt path near the intersection of Fieldview Drive and Stones Throw Drive. Look for Reston Association truck. For information or to sign up, go to reston.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Nature House 5K Volunteers. 7:30-9:30 a.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. The Walker Nature Center needs volunteers to help with the Nature House 5K. Volunteers for race marshals must attend an orientation on Friday, April 1 from 6-7 p.m. <http://bit.ly/NatureHouse5K>.

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A COACH CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE

When Barbara walked into Koko FitClub, she was nervous. Facing serious health issues, her doctors prescribed exercise. Traditional “gyms” caused fear and dread – she tried them, and hated them. Her goal: to get healthy and build strength in a place that made her feel like she truly belonged.

At her first session, Barbara could barely lift any weight. Her FitCoach, Tyler, encouraged her to stay positive. He guided her through 25-30 minute workouts, just 2-3 times a week, and discussed healthier eating. Within 30 days, Barbara saw results. The workouts were exciting and (finally!) she could do push-ups!

After several months training with her FitCoach, Barbara is 50% stronger. She looks fantastic. She is strong, fit and, most importantly, healthy.

Tyler is impressed. “To see someone who has gone through so much and is now achieving her goals – it’s incredible. Barbara always wants me to challenge her, and I love it! What makes me most proud is the simple fact that she is proud of herself. I may have helped along the way, but if she hadn’t made the first step to come into Koko FitClub, none of this would have been possible.”

COME CHANGE YOUR LIFE WITH US THIS YEAR

Take your first step towards a healthier, stronger, fitter YOU this year. Try Koko FitClub for 30 days for just \$30. Come work with our coaches, meet our members, and see what makes the Koko so special. There is no obligation. If you don’t love Koko in 30 days, we haven’t earned your business.

Expert Coaching | Advanced Technology | Life-Changing Results.

Koko FitClub, a Digital Gym.

Call, Click or Visit to Get Started with 30 Days of Complete Fitness

Koko FitClub of Great Falls | 561-612-2333 | greatfalls.kokofitclub.com/get30for30

Koko FitClub of Herndon | 571-612-2331 | herndon.kokofitclub.com/get30for30

Koko FitClub of Reston | 571-612-2333 | reston.kokofitclub.com/get30for30

**30
DAYS
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