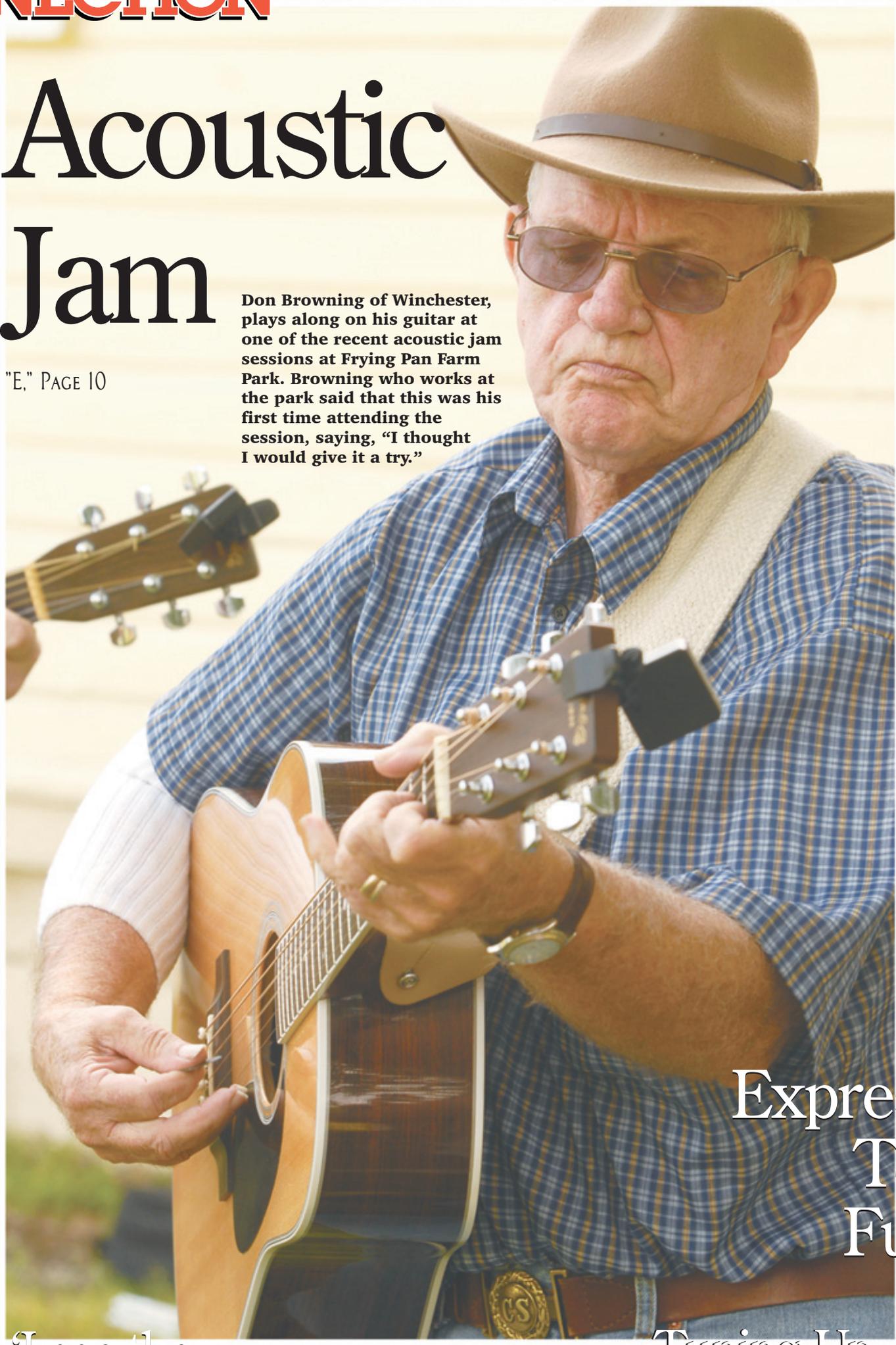


Acoustic Jam

"E." PAGE 10

Don Browning of Winchester, plays along on his guitar at one of the recent acoustic jam sessions at Frying Pan Farm Park. Browning who works at the park said that this was his first time attending the session, saying, "I thought I would give it a try."



Express Bus To Lose Funding

NEWS, PAGE 3

'Lose the Training Wheels'

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Tuning Up Music Skills

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Toll Road Express Bus To Lose Funding

State to halt money in 2010.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Reston resident Jane Baniewicz has taken the express commuter bus along the Dulles Toll Road five days per week since they started running the service in 1999.

Her employer in downtown D.C. offers a subsidy to employees who use public transit, so it beats a carpool, she said.

"It is a great service. I think it goes back and forth to Reston until midnight," said Baniewicz, while standing at the Wiehle transit station at 7:30 a.m. July 28.

Erin Williams, another Reston resident, also had nothing but good things to say about the toll road bus.

"I like it, absolutely. I ride it every day," said Williams who pulled out a book out to read during the ride. She did not have time to crack it during her wait at the station, since the express bus arrives about every five minutes during the morning rush hour.

As quickly as the express buses pull up, so too, does a new line of passengers form to board them at Wiehle Avenue. The parking lot was filled to the brim on a late July morning and at least 20 people had gathered in the 10-minute window it took for the 7:55 a.m. express bus bound for the Pentagon to show up.

In June, Fairfax County estimated the express bus service in the Dulles corridor — which goes to the West Falls Church metro station, Crystal City and the Pentagon — serves about 8,000 residents and provides at least 15,000 one-way trips for individuals daily.



People board an express bus to the Pentagon at the Wiehle Avenue transit hub. State transportation officials plan to cut funding for the bus in 2010.

PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

With gas prices skyrocketing, the county expects to see seven percent growth in express bus ridership overall, according to a letter written by Katharine Ichter, director of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation

SO IT was with much disappointment that Fairfax County learned Virginia's Department of Rail and Public Transportation planned to reallocate \$6.6 million of the express bus service's funding in July of 2010, well before Metro rail extension to Wiehle will be completed.

Virginia's public transit office had been providing the money — which accounts for half of the express bus service's total budget — through fees collected on the Dulles

Toll Road. But next year, Virginia plans to transfer operation of the Dulles Toll Road to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and, in 2010, the money will be needed to help fund the Dulles Rail project, said Corey Hill, the commonwealth's chief of public transportation.

"I couldn't give it to [the county] anymore because I won't have it. ... The rail project is the number one priority for the toll revenue and the county staff is aware of that," said Hill.

He added that Fairfax County and the commonwealth had also discussed an end to the state subsidy. Virginia's public transportation department has been providing the funding since 1999 and was expecting to stop the transfer around 2009, when the

Wiehle metro station was originally supposed to open.

"I don't believe, at least for the county staff, that this was a surprise. [The bus service] was supposed to build a transit market for rail, which was really our vision," said Hill.

BUT THE LOSS of express bus funding has left the county in a bind. With the future of Dulles rail murky, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors has requested that the Metropolitan Airports Authority provide the extra money for the Dulles corridor service until the rail station opens at Wiehle Avenue.

Through a spokesperson, the airports authority said they "hadn't addressed" the issue of express bus service yet.

The county is also looking at all of its options, said Rick Stevens, Fairfax County's Dulles Rail Project manager.

"That is two years away. We haven't even thought about it. ... As to what you could do to make up that money," said Stevens, who did think local government would have to make up some of difference on its own.

"The county funds most of the other connector bus service. ... I think the additional funds need to be made up by the county," said Stevens.

Ichter may have a different opinion. In her letter to Hill, the county director said Fairfax would not be able to maintain the same level of express bus service in the Dulles corridor should it have to compensate for the funding gap on its own.

"We will not be able to rely on our general revenues because the county is facing a \$350 million shortfall," wrote Ichter in a June 17 letter. She added that a reduction in service or increase in fare would result in a drop in participation, despite the increase in gas prices.

Hitting the High Notes

Students make joyful noises at band and orchestra camp.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

For Lucy Klene, who's played clarinet for a year, Franklin Middle School's Band and Orchestra Camp was a chance to improve her skills. It was also all about the new.

"I like playing clarinet and wanted to get more practice," said Lucy, a rising seventh-grader at Franklin. "I've learned some high notes and some new music and made a ton of new friends."

She was one of 657 students from 95 elementary and middle schools who participated in Franklin's 21st annual music camp.

It ran June 23-July 18, from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

"I'd recommend it to others because it's fun," said Lucy. "The teachers are really nice and you can actually get up to a higher level of playing; I went from beginning band to cadet."

A Greenbriar East Elementary sixth-grader, Nick Reid is in his first year of saxophone and also came to the camp for the first time. "My mom said it would give me a head start on the saxophone," he said. "I learned all the notes on it, and my favorite piece of music was 'Lamb Chop Rock.' It's a mixture of two songs — 'Mary Had a Little Lamb' and 'Baa, Baa, Black Sheep.' The camp was cool."

The camp's symphonic band director, Brian Steffens, plays French horn and directs band at Stone Hill Middle in Ashburn.

SEE MUSIC CAMP, PAGE 9



From left, Amanda Yi and Kara Blackmon, both of Floris Elementary, and Katy Lambert of St. Joseph's Middle School, play the song, "Pop Culture," in concert band.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Police Investigate Fatal Crash

Police are investigating a fatal motorcycle crash that occurred Tuesday morning, July 29, on Herndon Parkway. At 9:56 a.m., officers responded to a motorcycle crash on Herndon Parkway near Cavendish Street. Preliminary investigation by the Herndon Police Crash Reconstruction officers is that the driver, Scott T. Norman 31-year-old male of Herndon was traveling eastbound on Herndon Parkway approaching Cavendish Street. Police said Norman lost control, crossed over the median and struck a barrier. Norman was pronounced dead at Reston Hospital.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Herndon Police Department by phone at 1-703-435-6846.

Harrison Indicted in Son's Death

A Fairfax County Grand Jury indicted Miles Harrison on July 21 for manslaughter in the July 8 death of his son, Chase Harrison. The child had been left in the back seat of the family's vehicle when Harrison had parked at his workplace in Herndon.

Harrison was taken into custody by the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and held pending a bond of \$5,000.

A court date has been set for Aug. 27.



Harrison

Gas Station Robbery Reported

Police are investigating a robbery at a gas station that left one man injured. On Wednesday, July 23 at 11:12 p.m., police were called to the Sunoco gas station, located at 13300 Franklin Farm Road, for a robbery. Officers learned that the employee, a 24-year-old Annandale-area man, and a customer, a 24-year-old Herndon-area man, were both inside the store when the suspect walked in and immediately demanded money. He pushed the customer and proceeded around the counter to the clerk. The suspect then produced a knife and shoved the employee as well. The employee struggled briefly with the suspect and was injured by the knife. The suspect took money from the register and fled out the front door. The employee was transported to Inova Fair Oaks Hospital for treatment of his non life-threatening injuries.

The suspect was described as black, with a large build. He was about 6 feet tall and 230 pounds. He was wearing a long, white T-shirt, blue jeans and a black doo-rag that covered his hair and eyes. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), e-mail at www.fairfaxcrime-solvers.org or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES(274637) or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

National Night Out

The Town of Herndon Police Department will celebrate National Night Out on the evening of Aug. 5 in 16 town communities. The festivities will begin in the 1000 block of Elden Street at 3:30 p.m. and end in the 1400 block of Herndon Parkway, Four Seasons Pool, at about 8 p.m. For a list of participating communities contact Officer Giron at 703-787-7627.

Jumpstart Camp

Herndon Middle School is offering Jumpstart Camp, a free program designed for rising 7th graders. The camp will run Aug. 11 to Aug. 20 and is designed to build confidence, improve math and literacy skills and tackles test-taking strategies, time management and study skills. Space is limited and registration is available in the school's main office at 901 Locust Street in Herndon. For more information call Mike Thomas, the after-school program specialist at 703-904-4834.

Homeownership Classes

The Virginia Housing Development Authority and local nonprofits are offering free homeownership classes in Herndon on Aug. 13 and Aug. 20, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors-Herndon Service Center, located at 520 Huntmar Park Drive. For more information call the Homeownership Education Hotline at 888-643-2696.

Inspiring the Dream

Diamond Dream Foundation gives the magic of baseball.

BY ANDREW DODSON
THE CONNECTION

Baltimore Oriole Hall of Famer Al Bumbry is a winner. His baseball career saw rookie of the year honors in 1973 and a World Series championship in 1983. Today though, he takes his love for the game and shares it with the younger generation.

"I've always enjoyed helping kids with baseball," said Bumbry. "It's the sport I love and I like sharing that."

That passion for America's favorite pastime was the base for the Diamond Dream Foundation (DDF) — an organization that teaches youths baseball while promoting life skills through the sport. Founder Bob Duff started the project last year.

"For us, it's all about the magic of baseball," said Duff. "I was never that good of a player back in the day, but I've always loved this game, and that's what I wanted to teach to these kids."

Duff said there is a decline of African-American players in baseball because many of them cannot afford gloves.

"When it comes down to, 'We have \$28 for groceries,' you just can't buy a glove," said Duff.

DDF ELIMINATES that problem, purchasing a brand new glove and hat for all participants. And of course, the program would not be complete without a classic ballpark hotdog.

Last Thursday, July 24, DDF taught its third clinic at Langston Hughes Middle School to 22 youths. DDF collaborates with Fairfax County Community Recreation services, which allows the use of fields and equipment. FCCR Supervisor Evan Braff calls DDF the model example of community recreation.

"It is just awesome," Braff said. "We need more community organization like this. Bob (Duff) was a businessman with an idea to help kids. He goes out and gets resources, and just really wants to give back to the community."

Braff said his job is to lead in youth development and without organizations like DDF, he cannot fulfill FCCR's mission. Most importantly, the program is effective, said Braff.

"We had teenagers come to one of these events, and you know what teenagers can be like," Braff said. "But we get reports and see these kids carrying their gloves with them everywhere, always wanting to play catch. It is just great."

In the two-hour span, coaches and past major league players teach three skills of baseball: batting,



PHOTO BY ANDREW DODSON/THE CONNECTION

Rebecca Hildebrand of Herndon begins to crank her bat for a hit at Diamond Dream Foundation's baseball clinic last Thursday.

catching, and fielding a ball.

AT FIRST, catching was rocky for many of the youths who have never tried to catch a ball before. Bumbry showed the youths three different glove positions and when to use them; depending on what kind of ball they need to catch. After 10 minutes of throwing the ball around, many of the youths caught their thrown ball easily. Dazia Chamberlain of Reston was one of those kids.

"It's so cool," Chamberlain said. "I never played baseball before, but I want to play in high school now."

Taking home a free glove was also a highlight for Chamberlain. She said she wants to have her mom play catch with her now.

For the batting section, each participant swung at several balls set up on a tee, aiming to hit the sweet spot of the bat. Gustavo Sosa of

Herndon was one participant who found the sweet spot often. He credits his family genes.

"My father taught me about baseball," Sosa said. "My uncle also played in the minor leagues and now plays in Panama."

Sosa's last name certainly has baseball history behind it, but he simply smiled and let out a quick laugh if asked if he was related to hall of famer Sammy Sosa.

After the three sections were completed, the youths split into two teams and played a short game where everyone had an opportunity to hit a ball pitched by Bumbry. The new skills learned did not go to waste as all of the youths recorded a hit.

DUFF SAYS the program is successful because when you take something lost from your childhood and bring it back to life, you can see its true magic.

"These kids learned something new today. We want to teach them that when you find something you love as a kid, you need to keep with it for the rest of your life."

More

For more information on clinics and on the Diamond Dream Foundation, visit www.diamonddreamfoundation.org



PHOTOS BY ANDREW DODSON/THE CONNECTION



Chamber president Eileen Curtis speaks to the audience at the annual chamber luncheon.



Former chamber chairman, Danny Vargas, stands in line of honorees.

New chamber chairman Georgia Graves thanks D.C. Police Chief Cathy Lanier for her speech at the chamber's annual luncheon.

Graves Leads Chamber of Commerce

The Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce introduced its newest chairman, Georgia Graves of Bridgman Communications at its luncheon on July 15. Graves received the official gavel from now former chairman Danny Vargas at the Holiday Inn Washing-

ton Dulles Airport to an attendance of over 100 people.

At the annual luncheon, chamber members elected directors and officers of various positions. The keynote speaker was Washington D.C. Chief of Police Cathy Lanier. Lanier spoke about how she worked

her way up in her profession and what her job entails.

Next year will be the chamber's 50th anniversary and many projects are underway already.

— ANDREW DODSON

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THE COUNTY LINE

What's in a Name?

Residents diverge on mailing address changes.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

The rejection in Richard Seltzer's voice could be heard loud and clear through the receiver of the telephone July 16.

Seltzer, president of the Civic Association of Hollin Hills, lives in Alexandria. Period. He didn't seem happy to hear other people, like Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland, might think otherwise.

"These homes have been here since the late '40s and '50s and they have always been in Alexandria," said Seltzer, whose neighborhood is a mile south of Old Town.

"My personal opinion is I like being part of Alexandria," he said.

OF COURSE, Seltzer and his neighbors are not, technically, a part of the City of Alexandria. Hollin Hills is located in Fairfax County, even if it has an Alexandria mailing address.

Many eastern Fairfax residents have Alexandria postal codes, a situation that causes confusion, according to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. During a meeting earlier this month, Hyland floated the idea of contacting the U.S. Postal Service and surveying his "Alexandria" constituents to see if they would like to change their mailing address to something else, like "Mount Vernon, Va."

The Fairfax County board backed Hyland's request, with several supervisors saying they understood his concerns. In addition to Hyland, Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay also live in and represent county residents in the Alexandria area.

Other supervisors said they have similar problems in other communities — like Fairfax, Herndon and Vienna — which share a mailing address with a neighboring town or city.

BUT THE QUESTION over mailing addresses is about more than where taxes are sent. It is also about a community's identity.

"I think the Mount Vernon District's identity is lost with the same designation as the City of Alexandria. We are different from the city and a distinction is needed. I would love to see us have a Mount Vernon mailing address instead of Alexandria," said Mack Rhoades, president of the Huntington Community Association, in an email. Most people in Rhoades' community would probably vote for the change, he added.

Many Lee District constituents, who do not live in Mount Vernon, would also like to see a change from the Alexandria mail-

ing address because they don't feel any association with the city, said their supervisor.

"I regularly get complaints about it. ... The 'Alexandria portion of Fairfax County' is a community of its own. ... When we say we live in Alexandria, we want people to know that means Fairfax," said McKay.

Still, the community is divided on the issue. There are other county "Alexandria" residents — especially those in the northeast tip — who are oriented to the City of Alexandria and like to be identified with it.

"When I say we live in Alexandria outside the Beltway, people know exactly where we live," said Seltzer.

Like Hollin Hills, Caulley Deringer's community, Belle Haven, is located right outside of Alexandria. Deringer, who is the president of Belle Haven Citizens Association, said his neighbors would probably be adverse to the change in address as well, though the community has not discussed such a proposal.



Some think that the Mantua community should have the option of using "Mantua, Va.," as a mailing address.

THE ISSUE of mailing addresses appeared less divisive in areas of Fairfax County like Herndon and Vienna.

Unlike Alexandria, residents in the Town of Herndon and the Town of Vienna are also considered county constituents and are represented by supervisors on the county board. Town citizens in both places are surrounded and outnumbered by their "county only" counterparts who share the same mailing address.

"The town is about 15,000 in population. ... And greater Vienna is about 60,000. We can't support our commercial district by ourselves," said Edythe Kelleher, a Vienna Town council member.

The town opens a lot of its services, including classes at the community center, to Vienna residents living outside the town and some residents are not quite sure whether they live in the town or not, she said.

"People are confused all the time. If they pay a second tax bill, they know they are in the town," said Kelleher.

Many residents of the "county only" portion of Herndon said they would be opposed to having their mailing address changed.

Occasionally, new residents of the Kingstowne Chase neighborhood are confused. Some assumed that they would be part of the Town of Herndon and would not have to purchase trash collection services, wrote

Silvio Krvaric, president of the subdivision's homeowner's association, in an e-mail.

"To us, the risk of confusion between the various parts of Herndon is small. ... I guess if the residents of the Town of Herndon would like to change its mailing address Herndon Town, Va. that would be up to its residents," he wrote.

UNLIKE Kingstowne Chase, another portion of the "county only" Herndon community has already developed a different mailing address. Residents in the large section of Herndon with the ZIP code 20171 also goes by the mailing address of Oak Hill, Va.

The change took place in December of 1999, when the Oak Hill post office opened, said Joan McDonald, who works at the branch.

"Developers wanted it to be called Oak Hill for more prestige. ... but the utility bills still say Herndon. They don't recognize Oak Hill," said McDonald, who has worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 20 years.

McDonald remembers when there was only the post office in downtown Herndon. Now there are three — Herndon, Reston and Oak Hill.

THIS IS ALSO true in one area of eastern Fairfax County. Kingstowne, a development with an Alexandria mailing address, has been told it can use "Kingstowne, Va.," postal address because the Kingstowne development takes up almost all of the 22315 ZIP code.

"It is technically Alexandria, Va. but if you

write in Kingtowne, Va., it gets to the same place. It is just not that big of a deal if it says Kingstowne or Alexandria as long as it has the right ZIP code," said McKay.

Other large community developments could be interested in a similar arrangement.

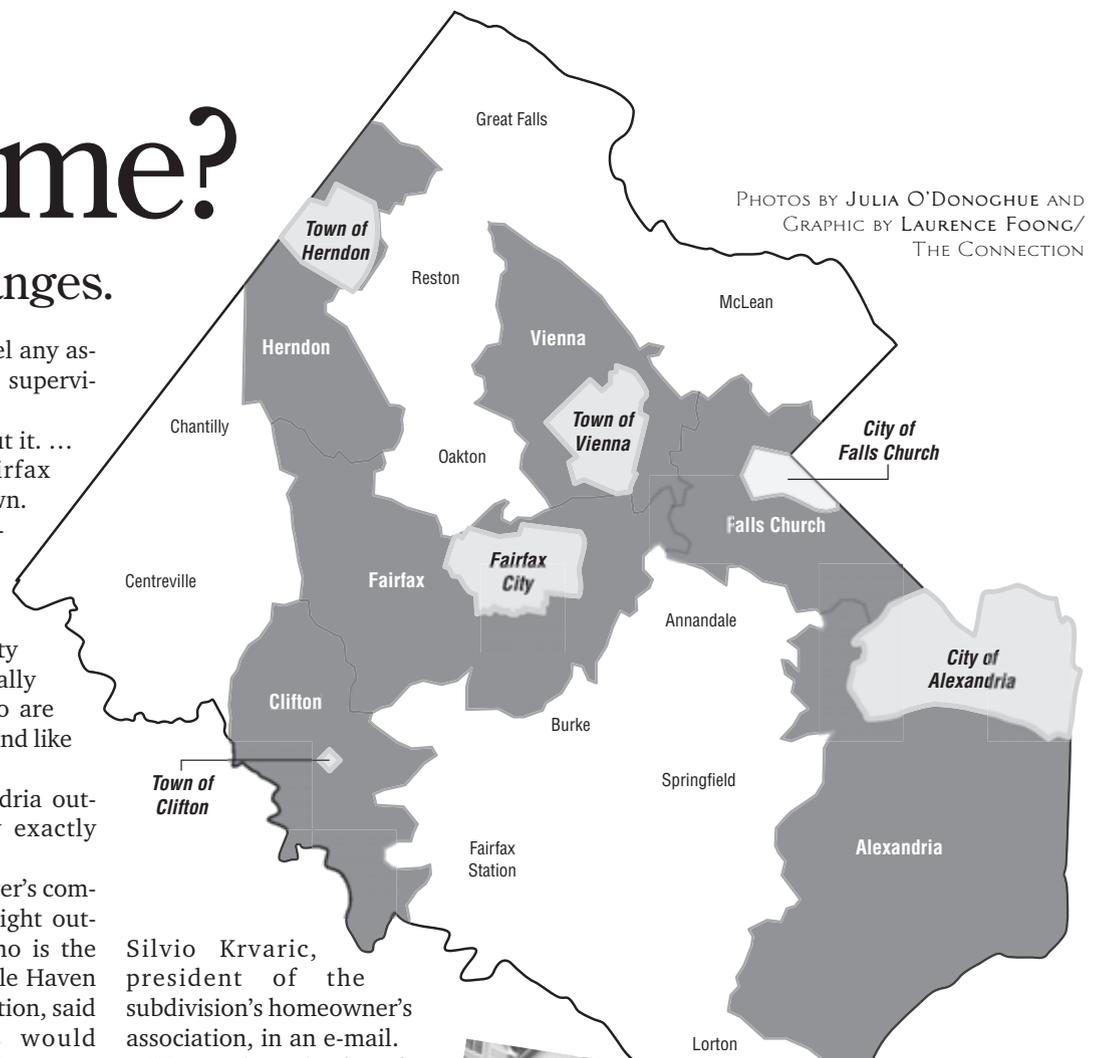
Roger Cryan, president of the Mantua Citizens Association, said it would make sense for his community, which shares "Fairfax, Va.," postal code with the City of Fairfax, to be able to use "Mantua" and "Fairfax" interchangeably as a mailing address. Mantua takes up nearly the entire 22301 ZIP code, on its own, he said.

"Mantua shows up on a lot of maps, even before other places recognized by the post office," said Cryan.

He added: "This is not really an issue that deserves an awful lot of energy or expense."

Some people believe real estate values and prestige drive community discussions over mailing addresses. Yet Realtors said the name of a community rarely has a lasting impact on its reputation and a community's association with certain areas can change over time. For example, many locals used to associate the mailing address "Lorton, Va.," with the D.C. prison and trash dump 10 years ago. But now, young families have moved in and consider it an attractive place to live, said Jill Landsman, with the Northern Virginia Realtors Association.

"There was a time when neighborhoods in Lorton were depreciating and everything else was appreciating. Now, the Lorton addresses are comparable to other Fairfax neighborhoods," said Landsman.



PHOTOS BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE AND GRAPHIC BY LAURENCE FOONG/THE CONNECTION



Residents who live in Belle Haven would likely be opposed to changing their address from "Alexandria" to "Mount Vernon."



The Oak Hill post office is a branch of the larger Herndon post office.

NEWS

Gaining Self-Confidence

Youngsters "Lose the Training Wheels" at Herndon High School.

BY BEN LEATHERWOOD
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Park Authority's "Lose the Training Wheels" biking clinic uses specialized bicycles to teach children with disabilities how to ride two-wheelers with confidence and, eventually, without assistance.

Participants start on bikes with back wheels the size and shape of rolling pins, and then gradually move up through a succession of eight progressively thinner wheels. By the end of the clinic, about 85 per cent of the participants are able to ride a regular bike. Volunteer spotters follow alongside them throughout the experience to provide moral support and to catch them in the event of a fall.

Since its inaugural session last summer, the clinic has grown in popularity, with some families commuting up to an hour each way to have their child take part. Program director Emily House has been amazed by this summer's enrollment numbers.

"Last summer the Fairfax County Park Author-

ity hosted a one-week camp and there was such a demand that there was a huge waitlist," House said. "There were people that didn't get in because we only had so many spots."

Due to last summer's high interest, the FCPA decided to put on the clinic for three consecutive weeks this year, allowing for a total of 90 children to enroll. Demand once more exceeded supply.

"THIS SUMMER we're having it for three weeks and we still have a waitlist, so there is a big demand for it in this area," House said.

"There are a lot more kids than last year," agreed volunteer Alexandra Rodriguez. "I'm sure it'll get bigger in the future."

Watching the children as they cruise around Herndon High School's cafeteria on Monday, July 21, it is easy to understand the program's popularity. Some children who looked uneasy at best at the beginning of the session were soon racing along the makeshift track with grins plastered on their

faces.

Thirteen-year-old participant Peter Garret admitted that the program exceeded his expectations. The wide beginner wheel has given Garrett a new confidence that he appeared to relish, although he recognized that the more

"Most of what you do in life is just a matter of self-confidence"

— Ann-Marie Dewald



PHOTO BY BEN LEATHERWOOD/THE CONNECTION

Participants try out the specialized bikes at FCPA's "Lose the Training Wheels" program.

realistic wheels would pose greater challenges.

"It's a little easy right now," he said, "but I know it's going to get harder."

FAMILY AND FRIENDS observed their children's progress from the sidelines, many of them armed with video cameras.

"I know she's enjoying this a lot because normally she'll stop sometimes if she gets frustrated," said Shyla Karim, babysitter of participant Elizabeth Clark. "She looks like she's having a blast right now."

SEE SELF-CONFIDENCE, PAGE 16

CRIME

Activities reported July 21, 2008 through July 27, according to the Herndon Police Department:

ROBBERY

1000 Block Elden Street. A 23-year-old male and a 29-year-old male both of Herndon were arrested for robbery, July 27.

ASSAULT

300 Block Holly Court. The victim was assaulted by an acquaintance, July 24.

700 Block Tamarack Way. The victim reported being assaulted by an acquaintance, July 27.

NARCOTICS VIOLATION

1300 Block Monroe Street. Two 18-year-old males of Reston were charged with possession of marijuana and released on a summons, July 25.

LARCENY

1500 Block Summerset Place. A bicycle was stolen from the front of a residence July 22.

700 Block Center Street. A bicycle was stolen between July 21.

1000 Block Nicklaus Court. Patio furniture was stolen from a residence between July 19-22.

OTHER VIOLATIONS

300 Block Herndon Parkway. The victim reported receiving intimidating emails from an acquaintance, July 21.

500 Block Florida Avenue. The victim reported receiving several harassing phone calls from an acquaintance, July 24.

700 Block Campbell Way. Noise complaint, July 25.

500 Block Florida Avenue. Noise complaint, July 26.

600 Block Center Street. Noise complaint, July 27.

700 Block Lynn Street. A 42-year-old male of Centreville was charged with urinating in public, July 25.

1000 Block Knight Lane. Noise complaint, July 26.

1200 Block Elden Street. Noise complaint, July 25.

1200 Block Alabama Drive. Noise complaint, July 26.

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OPINION

Seeking More Diversity at TJ

Start by nurturing passion for science in young students from all backgrounds.

Why does it matter how many students of different ethnic or racial groups apply or are accepted to Fairfax County's world-famous math and science magnet school?

The problem isn't so much what happens at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. In a county of more than a million people, and more than 165,000 public school students, the population at TJ is a drop in the bucket.

What matters is how the county is nurturing passion and talent for math, science and other subjects in all 137 elementary schools and then in its 26 middle schools.

In 2004, a Blue Ribbon Commission addressed concerns about under-represented minority groups at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. The under-represented groups are African-American and Latino students, who do not apply for admission in numbers proportional to their enrollment in the school system.

That commission recommended that admissions look at students more holistically and depend less on strict cutoffs of grade point averages and test scores.

We don't really know how that "holistic approach" has worked in the admissions trenches. The initial pool of applicants to be considered has about doubled, but the number African-American and Latino applicants has, if anything, decreased.

The 2004 commission found black students accounted for 1.1 percent of TJ's students and

Hispanics making up 2.4 percent. And though one out of five students in Fairfax County is poor enough to qualify for free and reduced-price meals, only one out of every 100 students at TJ is poor by the same standards.

The student population granted admission for fall 2007 was about 1.86 percent African-American (nine students) and 2.06 percent Hispanic (10 students).

EDITORIAL

It's time for schools to consider each individual student. Every first grade teacher in every elementary school should be asked to identify a half-dozen to a dozen students who have interest in math and science. All students should be exposed to hands-on science, field work in the natural world and experiments that will light up the interests of young minds.

Of course we know that the current curriculum is supposed to accomplish this, and that high stakes testing in elementary school has also put more focus on certain areas. But we wonder whether the focus on testing has forced more of an academic, paper and pencil approach, rather than investing in the excitement of discovery.

But by having a list starting in first grade and moving forward through elementary school of students with passion for science, the schools will have data and resources to nurture these students. It's a powerful motivator for a teacher to tell a student as young as six or seven or eight that he or she has a special talent or love for science, or math, and that the student might want to consider being a scientist when he or she grows up.

Applying to TJ

Eighth grade students who live with their parent or legal guardian who resides full-time in a participating school district (the counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Fauquier, Loudoun, or Prince William or the city of Falls Church) are eligible to apply to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. See <http://www.fcps.edu/news/tj.htm>, or <http://information.tjhsst.edu/admissions/>

Focusing on individual children in elementary schools that have the highest percentage of poor children is also essential.

This sort of approach will result in more students, of all races and economic background, excelling in math and science across the board, not just at TJ.

But in addition, half the slots at TJ should be assigned by middle school, on a percentage basis, so that students from different geographic locations in the county have guaranteed access to the school. And encouraging students who qualify for free-and-reduced meals, students who are from poor families, is also critical.

Real passion for science, the kind of passion that results in young men and women choosing careers in science, is not measured in test scores and grades. It's measured in enthusiasm and attention. If as school board members say, they want to see TJ add to the number of people who go on to be leaders in math and science, they'll have to find a way to foster and measure passion and interest.

A recent proposal to have a 3.0 grade point cutoff for applicants is not a step in that direction.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

PEOPLE

Honoring Boy Scouts



On July 17, eight Boy Scouts were awarded Youth Leadership Awards for their volunteer efforts at NVRPA parks in Fairfax and Arlington counties. From left, NVRPA Chairman, Jim Mayer, Joseph Donahoe (Arlington), Brent Denowski (Herndon), Casey White (Oak Hill), Andrew Alsonka (Springfield), Jason Thomas (Manassas), NVRPA Executive Director, Paul Gilbert. Under the supervision of NVRPA park managers, the Boy Scouts volunteered their time and effort on various projects at Bull Run Regional Park in Fairfax County, Potomac Overlook Regional Park in Arlington County, Occoquan Regional Park in Fairfax County, and along the Bull Run Occoquan trail. For information on volunteering with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, visit www.NVRPA.org.



Helping at Archives

Herndon student volunteer Kelsey Glomb helped The National Archives celebrate the 232nd anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence during its traditional Fourth of July program. Glomb assisted with a variety of activities designed to help family audiences better understand and appreciate the holdings of the National Archives.

THE CONNECTION

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

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It may not be 76 trombones, but it still sounds good.

Tuning Up Skills

FROM PAGE 3

He's also taught at the camp for seven or eight years. So what makes him return?

"The high quality of the students and the tone of the camp — which is owed to [camp director and Franklin Band Director] Lawrence Walker," said Steffens. "It's a child-friendly, student-centered camp for children interested in taking 18 days out of their summer to increase their [musical] abilities and bring those benefits back to their own school."

He also enjoys working with the staff Walker assembles. "They're experts in their field, but always with the child in mind," said Steffens. "Sometimes, teachers on the middle- and high-school level are guilty of teaching the subject, and not the child. I think there's a very healthy balance at the camp."

Kara Blackmon, a Floris Elementary sixth-grader in her second year of playing flute, said what she especially liked was "Mr. [Chris] Cunningham's teaching. He directs the concert band and he's fun." Spencer Wallace, a Rachel Carson seventh-grader, called it "a good school taught by good music-players."

He's played tenor sax two years and came to camp "so I could get into a higher band class at Carson. I learned better fingering techniques and I've liked the music, especially 'The Fire Dance.'" Amanda Yi, a flute-playing, Floris sixth-grader, was in her third year at camp and, like Spencer, attended "so I can get better to play in my

school band."

SIMILARLY, Herndon Middle seventh-grader Jean Jeon has played clarinet three years and said, at camp, "You can refresh your memory on things you've forgotten about your instrument. And kids that might want to get into symphonic or concert band in middle school will have a higher chance of getting into it if they come here first."

Nicholas Nguyen, a Colin Powell Elementary fourth-grader, plays sax and attended camp for the second time. "I enjoy playing scales with my first-section teacher because it's fun," he said. "And I'd recommend the camp because it's cool and you make friends."

Besides that, said Franklin seventh-grader Alex James, who plays alto sax, "It's fun to play my instrument in the summer; otherwise, it would just sit there and not get played. The camp helps you learn notes you don't know how to play. And I've learned that, even if a piece looks really hard, if you just try it in pieces, it's really easy."

Clarinetist Corie Koffler, a Franklin eighth-grader, said camp "helps you play faster, you learn a lot of stuff and see friends you don't usually get to see." Christina Landrum, a Centreville Elementary sixth-grader in her first year of flute-playing, also had a great time.

"I was inspired to play the flute by my friend because she played

SEE LEARNING, PAGE 16

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My Wakefield Journey...

Thomas, a rising second grader, began his journey when he came to school with his sister, a rising 10th grader. They had the same teachers in pre-k and first grade. He thinks one of the best parts about Wakefield is Field Day. Both he and his sister are Spartans, enjoy competing against the Athenians, and they have great school spirit at home as well as at school.

Thomas '19

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August 5: What to expect from your middle school child: a discussion of the joys and challenges of the pre-teen years.

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THINGS TO DO

Send announcements to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6449. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 30

The Lion King. Join the Reston Association to see Disney's "The Lion King" at the Kennedy Center, 5:45 - 11:15 p.m. \$89 RA Members, \$97 Non-Members. Call 703-435-6577.

Cake Tasting. Brides-to-be, wedding planners and cake lovers alike should plan to attend a complimentary cupcake tasting at Edibles Incredible! Desserts at their Reston Town Center location from 1 - 3 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11719 Freedom Drive, Reston. Contact: Salena Hauck, 703-437-3008; or sharon@ediblesincredible.com.

Wine and Cheese Tasting. Enjoy a selection of international wines and cheeses at Market Street Bar and Grill, 1800 President St., Reston, 6-8 p.m. All wines available by the glass and all bar menu selections \$5. \$30 per person, includes 3oz pour of each wine. Space limited, reservations at 703-925-8250.

"The Gray Ghost." The story of Civil War cavalry officer John Singleton Mosby on stage at 8 p.m. at the Mary Louise Jackson Amphitheater located on the Manassas campus of the Northern Virginia Community College. See www.grayghosttheatre.com or call 703-993-8482.

THURSDAY/JULY 31

Farmer's Market Fun Day will run from 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.. Mr. Brian and the Boppets will perform a Rock n' Roll puppet show at the Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Free. Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

Farmers' Market from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at 765 Lynn St., Herndon. Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

Children's Show. Bingo will perform at the Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston from 11-11:30 a.m. call 703-620-5554.

Take a Break Concert. Big Hillbilly Bluegrass will perform at the Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston, from 7-9 p.m. Call 703-476-4500.

FRIDAY/AUG. 1

Breaking Dawn Party. The Reston Barnes & Noble, 1851 Fountain Dr., Spectrum Center, Reston, bookstore will host a "Breaking Dawn Party." The store will remain open late and sell the fourth and final book in Stephenie Meyer's Twilight Saga, "Breaking Dawn," at the stroke of midnight, when it officially goes on sale. It will be a night of photo opportunities, themed activities, trivia contests, crafts and prizes. Visit www.bn.com/breakingdawn.

"Phantom of the Country Opera." The St. John Neumann Theatre Ministry presents the spoof musical at 8 p.m. in the St. John Neumann Auditorium, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston. Visit www.sjtheatreministry.org.

Kiddie Open Gym, 10:30-11:45 a.m. Bring toddlers and enjoy open play, tumbling on the

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11



"There is a pretty good bluegrass group that play's in Arlington that I used to go to all the time to play," said Debbie Billodeaux, one of the founders of the acoustic bluegrass jam at Frying Pan Farm Park, "but there was nothing in the western part of Fairfax County. I live right across the street and approached the park about letting us play here on occasion and they were very accommodating." The group will usually play in the country store at the park during the winter or at he visitors center. "It gets kind of cramped in the store, so playing outside is nice when the weather is good."

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

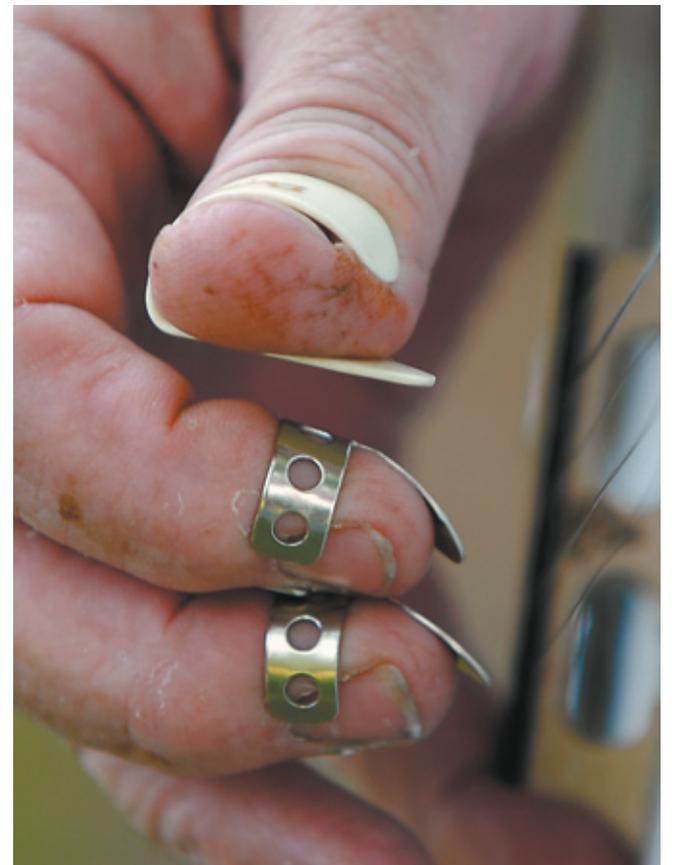
Acoustic Jam

Bring an instrument or come by the Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 Ox Road, Herndon, Country Store on Sunday, Aug. 3, from 1-4 p.m. and enjoy a free, drop-in session. For more information, call 703-437-9101.



Vance Bonner and Freddi Szilagi play a fiddle solo while jamming with other bluegrass musicians from across the northern Virginia area at a bi-monthly acoustic ham session at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon. "I live in Oregon, but visit this area every summer and look forward to coming to these jams every year. It's a wonderful, wonderful jam," said Bonner.

"I first came out here when I was learning to play the mandolin," said Paul Donovan of Springfield as he and Vance Bonner of Oregon, warm-up while waiting for others to join a bi-monthly, drop-in acoustic jam session at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon. The session is held the first and third Sundays of every month and anyone is welcome to attend. "It's a pretty good social event and I enjoy getting to know the people that come out here to play and learning new songs," said Donovan. Bonner, who lives in Oregon, spends every summer in northern Virginia and attends the sessions when she is in town.



Traditional bluegrass instruments can usually be seen at these jam sessions, like banjos, mandolins, fiddles and washboards



CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

mats, and kiddie basketball. Don't forget to pick up the calendar on the first day and a prize after each visit. Play with parent. Ages - Walking - 5. Drop in Rate - \$4. 5 Visit Pass - \$17. At the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

Friday Night Live will be from 6:30-10:30 p.m. on the Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Monster Band and Cheap Date will perform. Call 703-481-6133.

"The Gray Ghost." The story of Civil War cavalry officer John Singleton Mosby on stage at 8 p.m. at the Mary Louise Jackson Amphitheater located on the Manassas campus of the Northern Virginia Community College. See www.grayghosttheatre.com or call 703-993-8482.



4-H Fair and Farm Show, Aug. 2 and 3. Find old-fashioned country fun with games, rides and exhibits at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Watch exhibitors getting their animals ready for the show. See real farmers use antique equipment. Try milking a cow or goat, shelling corn or other farm chores. This event is free to attend. Call 703-437-9101.

on the Manassas campus of the Northern Virginia Community College. See www.grayghosttheatre.com or call 703-993-8482.

Singles Dinner and Movie Night. Fixed price dinner with choice of entree, beginning at 5:00 PM at Uno's Chicago Grill in Reston (11948 Market Street), followed by movie of your choice at Reston Multiplex. Cost of \$28 at door includes dinner, soda, tip and movie ticket. RSVP

required. Call 301-924-4101 or visit www.newbeginningsusa.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 3

4-H Fair and Farm Show. Find old-fashioned country fun with games, rides and exhibits at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Watch exhibitors getting their animals ready for the show. See real farmers use

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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For accommodations, call 703-324-8563, TTY 703-803-3354

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

antique equipment. Try milking a cow or goat, shelling corn or other farm chores. This event is free to attend. Call 703-437-9101.

Acoustic Jam. Bring an instrument or come by the Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 Ox Road, Herndon, Country Store from 1-4 p.m. and enjoy a free, drop-in session. For Call 703-437-9101.

"Phantom of the Country Opera." The St. John Neumann Theatre Ministry presents the spoof musical at 2 p.m. in the St. John Neumann Auditorium, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston. Visit www.sjntheatreministry.org.

MONDAY/AUG. 4

Golf. The Council for the Arts of Herndon Golf Tournament will start at 9 a.m. at the Herndon Centennial Golf Course. Call 703-689-9535.

Reading Magic! A magic show full of comedy and good old fashioned fun with Turley the Magician at the Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon, 2:30 p.m. Cosponsored by the Friends of the George Mason Regional Library. Age 6-12. Call 703-437-8855.

Walker's Rangers: Reston's Most Extreme! Learn about all the extreme animal life that live in and around Reston and Herndon from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. \$32/RA members, \$54/non-members. Call 703-435-6530 for more information.

TUESDAY/AUG. 5

National Night Out. Enjoy a fun night out in downtown Herndon while

helping prevent crime. Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

Youth Night. Youth Nights are back at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon, 8 -10 p.m. Have fun playing basketball, volleyball, or other games, hang out in the teen room or game room playing Xbox or pool and munch on snacks. Ages 10-15. \$4 Drop in Fee. \$30 Youth Night Pass (8 visits). Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

Popsicle Mania. Summer is hot, so come cool off at the pool and enjoy an ice cold popsicle while sitting poolside at the Dogwood Pool, 2460 Green Range Road, Reston, 2 p.m. Call 703-435-6577.

Book Babies. Interactive storytime for you and your child at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston, 10:15 a.m. Age 13-23 months with adult. Call 703-689-2700.

Children's Show. Circus Lady will perform at the Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston from 11-11:30 a.m. call 703-620-5554.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 6,

Fun in the Sun. Stories, activities, and a craft, 10:30 a.m. at the Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Age 2-3 with adult. Call 703-437-8855.

Preschool Storytime at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston, 10:15 a.m. Call 703-689-2700. Age 2-3 with adult.

Book Signing. Author Robert Wallace will sign and discuss his book, "Spycraft: The History of the CIA's Spys from Communism to al-Qaeda," at 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 1851 Fountain Drive, Reston. Call Ginna Brahm at 703-437-8147.



Breaking Dawn Party. The Reston Barnes & Noble, 1851 Fountain Dr., Spectrum Center, Reston, bookstore will host a "Breaking Dawn Party." The store will remain open late on Friday, Aug. 1, and sell the fourth and final book in Stephenie Meyer's Twilight Saga, "Breaking Dawn," at the stroke of midnight, when it officially goes on sale. It will be a night of photo opportunities, themed activities, trivia contests, crafts and prizes. Visit www.bn.com/breakingdawn.

THURSDAY/AUG. 7

Farmer's Market Fun Day will run from 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.. Mr. Brian and the Boppets will perform a Rock

n' Roll puppet show at the Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Free. Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

Farmers' Market from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. at 765 Lynn St., Herndon. Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

Senior Cinema, 10:30 a.m. Come to the Herndon Community Center for light refreshments and a movie. This is a great way to see friends and to make new ones. Enjoy a feature film, new release, or classic. To find out what's playing or to be placed on the mailing list, please call 703-787-7300.

Girls Read. All-female book discussion at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston, 7:15 p.m. Call 703-689-2700. Age 8 and up.

Children's Show. Peter McCory will perform at the Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston from 11-11:30 a.m. call 703-620-5554.

Take a Break Concert. Mama Jama will perform at the Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston, from 7-9 p.m. Call 703-476-4500.

FRIDAY/AUG. 8

Kiddie Open Gym, 10:30-11:45 a.m. Bring toddlers and enjoy open play, tumbling on the mats, and kiddie basketball. Don't forget to pick up the calendar on the first day and a prize after each visit. Play with parent. Ages - Walking - 5. Drop in Rate - \$4. 5 Visit Pass - \$17. At the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

Friday Night Live will be from 6:30-10:30 p.m. on the Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Junk Food and Fools & Horses will perform. Call 703-481-6133.

Community Cookout. Bring the family

out for a free cookout at Golf Course Island Pool, 11301 Links Drive, Reston, 5-7 p.m. Cookouts are co-sponsored by the Reston Association and the Reston Community Center. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and sodas are provided along with live Caribbean music and activities at various pools throughout Reston. Call 703-435-6577.

Concert. Frank Solivan and Dirty Kitchen will perform at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon at 8 p.m. with doors opening at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Call 703-435-8377.

MONDAY/AUG. 11

Herndon Centennial Golf Junior Open, 8 a.m. at the Herndon Centennial Golf Course. Call 703-435-6864.

Once Upon a Story. Stories and activities at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston, 10:15 a.m. Call 703-689-2700. Age 4-6.

Walker's Rangers: Reston's Most Extreme! Learn about all the extreme animal life that live in and around Reston and Herndon from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. \$32/RA members, \$54/non-members. Call 703-435-6530 for more information.

TUESDAY/AUG. 12

Youth Night. Youth Nights are back at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon, 8 -10 p.m. Have fun playing basketball, volleyball, or other games, hang out in the teen room or game room playing Xbox or pool and munch on snacks. Ages 10-15. \$4 Drop in Fee. \$30 Youth Night Pass (8 visits). Visit www.herndon-va.gov.

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FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6449. Deadline is Friday.

Tibetan Buddhism. Rare Avalokiteshvara Singhanada tantric initiation given by Gyumed Khensur Rinpoche Losang Jampa, **Aug. 9**, 3 - 5

HCTV SCHEDULE

HCTV-23 Herndon Community Television, Cox Communications Channel 23. Tune in to the video web pages on channel 23 for updates. Call Jan Tirrell at 703-689-2323. HCTV is also looking for volunteers, training is provided.

THURSDAY/JULY 31

7 a.m. Jazzercise
8 a.m. Army Newswatch
9 a.m. Travel TV
10 a.m. Vintage HCTV
11 a.m. Guitar Instruction 2
Noon Jazzercise
12:30 p.m. National Night Out 2007
1 p.m. Reigning in the Storm
1:30 p.m. Temple Hall Farm
3 p.m. Army News Watch
4 p.m. Concert: Army Blues Jazz Ensemble
6 p.m. Jazzercise
6:30 p.m. Army News Watch
7 p.m. Travel Television
7:30 p.m. Jimmy' Old Town Tavern Open Mike Night
9 p.m. Guitar Instruction 1
10 p.m. Vintage HCTV

FRIDAY/AUG. 1

7 a.m. Jazzercise
7:30 a.m. The Reading Lady
8 a.m. King Henry Show

p.m. At the Unitarian Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Register: registration@guhyasamaja.org, or 703-774-9692.

Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation recently began a support group, "When You Lose a Loved One," for congregants and members of the community who are in grief after the recent

death of a loved one. The facilitated group, open to members of the community who are seeking bereavement support in a Jewish context, will continue to meet on the **first and third Tuesdays** of each month at 7 p.m. at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. For more information, contact the synagogue at 703-437-7733 or info@nvhcreston.org.

9 a.m. Town Square Singers-"Come Rain or Come Shine" Spring 2008 Concert
10:30 a.m. Buffalo Soldiers-The Colors of Ft Bayard
11 a.m. After the Storm
Noon Jazzercise
1 p.m. Travel Television
1:30 p.m. Herndon High School Orchestra Spring 2008 Concert
3 p.m. King Henry Show
4 p.m. Concert: Frank Fotusky
6 p.m. Jazzercise
6:30 p.m. The King Henry Show
7 p.m. Jimmy's Old Town Tavern Open Mike Night
8:30 p.m. Guitar Instruction 2
9:30 p.m. Woody's Western Theater

SATURDAY/AUG. 2

7 a.m. Jazzercise
8 a.m. Music and the Spoken Word
8:30 a.m. Small Green Domicile
9 a.m. The Reading Lady
9:30 a.m. King Henry Show
10 a.m. Guitar Instruction 1
10:30 a.m. Guitar Instruction 2
11 a.m. My Health, My Medicare
Noon Jazzercise
12:30 p.m. Jimmy's Old Town Tavern Open Mike Night
3:30 p.m. Music and the Spoken Word

4 p.m. Concert: David Bach Consort
6 p.m. Jazzercise
6:30 p.m. Inside Herndon
7 p.m. Guitar Instruction 1
7:30 p.m. Guitar Instruction 2
8:30 p.m. Travel TV
9:30 p.m. Music and the Spoken Word
10 p.m. Jimmy's Old Town Tavern Open Mike Night

SUNDAY/AUG. 3

8 a.m. Music and the Spoken Word
10:30 a.m. David Young - A Musical Journey
12 p.m. Vintage HCTV
1 p.m. Guitar Instruction 1
1:30 p.m. Guitar Instruction 2
2 p.m. Policing Our Town-Meet the Officers of HPD
2:30 p.m. National Night Out 2007
3:30 p.m. Music and the Spoken Word
4 p.m. Something Different 2008
5 p.m. Travel Television
6:30 p.m. Music and the Spoken Word
7 p.m. Jimmy's Old Town Tavern Open Mike Night
8 p.m. Guitar Instruction 1
8:30 p.m. Guitar Instruction 2
9:30 p.m. Woody's Western Theater

COMMUNITY



From left, the foursome from Aspen Jewelers of Herndon, Larry Pegden, Will Grein, Ed McComas and Kurt Rose won the second net prize at the Golf Classic.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Golfing To Help Kids R First

Approximately 144 members of Northern Virginia's corporate and civic communities recently took the day off to play golf for a good cause — the Kids R First's 7th Annual Golf Classic at Hidden Creek Country Club in Reston. The event netted about \$40,000 for its programs.

This year, Kids R First — founded by retired teacher and Vienna resident Susan Ungerer — expects to help more than 15,000 students from families in need, attending 85 elementary schools and 19 high schools in Northern Virginia, with school supplies and mini-scholarships.

The classic is Kids R First's largest fund-raising event, and 98 percent of the monies raised, like the total budget of this nonprofit group, goes to programs for children.

Kids R First volunteers will be organizing school supplies for distribution Aug. 4 to 15 at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston.



Susan Ungerer, right, president and founder of the Kids R First nonprofit group, gets together with Rick "Doc" Walker at Kids R First's 7th Annual Golf Classic, June 23, at the Hidden Creek Country Club in Reston. A veteran of nine NFL seasons, Walker was a starting tight end for Coach Joe Gibbs 1982 World Champion Washington Redskins.

Several former Redskins participated at the behest of Mike Fisher, director of corporate hospitality for the Redskins and a Kids R First supporter. Among

those enjoying the day of golf were Rick "Doc" Walker and Zion McKinney. Also there was former sports anchor and actor Greg Williams, who portrayed a detective on HBO's "The Wire" and is now the host of AARP's lifestyle magazine TV show "My Generation," broadcast on the new Retirement Living TV.

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21598 Goodwin Ct.	\$674,900	Sun 1-5	Sarah Armstrong	Weichert	703-298-0686
19973 Hazeltine Pl.	\$794,900	Sun 1-5	Sarah Armstrong	Weichert	703-298-0686
22050 Hyde Park Dr.	\$749,000	Sun 1-4	Lisa Thurston	RE/MAX	703-652-5773
43183 Riders Sq.	\$399,500	Sun 1-5	Sarah Armstrong	Weichert	703-298-0686
43316 Lochdon Ln.	\$685,000	Sun 1-4	Kathy Worek	RE/MAX	703-401-4376

Hamilton

17391 Madison Ave.	\$434,900	Sun 1-4	Sherry Wilson	RE/MAX	540-338-6300
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Leesburg

412 Blue Ridge Ave., NE	\$359,500	Sun 1-4	Christopher Antonelli	Long & Foster	703-904-3700
138 Burrell Pl., SE	\$549,000	Sat 1-4	Lisa Thurston	RE/MAX	703-652-5773
18756 Harmony Church Rd.	\$425,000	Sun 1-4	Hunter deButts	Keller Williams	571-258-1515
812 Vanderbilt Ter., SE	\$299,900	Sun 1-4	John McCambridge	Samson	703-430-4234

Waterford

15426 Loyalty Rd.	\$589,900	Sat 12-2	Kristin Pangle	Long & Foster	703-779-2900
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Fairfax County

Herndon

12915 Alton Sq #205	\$247,000	Sun 1-4	Christopher Pezzana	Weichert	703-264-0000
2408 Hay Rake Ct	\$379,900	Sun 1-4	Sheryl Lambson	Keller Williams	703-535-3610
13451 Lake Shore Dr	\$499,999	Sun 1-4	Lorraine Arora	Coldwell Banker	571-435-8021

Reston

11208 Beaver Trail Ct	\$199,900	Sat 1-4	Carolyn Capalbo	Keller Williams	571-248-4999
2230 Cedar Cove Ct	\$478,314	Sun 1-4	William McKaig	Weichert	703-698-1399
1504 Church Hill Pl #1504	\$329,000	Sun 1-3	Sheri Daniel	Long & Foster	703-759-9190
1369 Garden Wall Cir #714	\$359,000	Sun 3-5	Sheri Daniel	Long & Foster	703-759-9190
1401 Newport Spring Ct	\$450,000	Sun 1-4	Kathleen Shipley	Long & Foster	703-437-3800
11408 Running Cedar Rd	\$529,000	Sun 1-4	David Young	Keller Williams	703-636-7300
11776 Stratford House Pl #808	\$579,900	Sun 1-4	Rula Mufti	Remax	703-648-1870
2032 Upper Lakes Dr	\$1,099,000	Sun 1-4	Debbie McGuire	Weichert	703-406-9009

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SUMMER SPORTS ROUNDUP

The Herndon Braves compiled a 3-3 record over the past week, defeating the College Park Bombers, the Bethesda Big Train, and the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts.

Keith Hessler (Coastal Carolina) pitched a gem against College Park on Thursday evening, tossing seven shutout innings and allowing just two hits. Infielder Alex Ferrera (Columbia) recorded five RBI on the week, three of those coming on a three-run, inside-the-park homer in a Friday loss. Left fielder Joe Charron (SUNY Binghamton) also had a good week with the bat, as he finished 6-for-20 with three runs knocked in.

Center fielder Mike Jones (Miami-Dade Community College) recorded six hits in 19 at-bats, walking four times, and scoring six runs. He also made some excellent defensive plays, including a leaping catch with one foot on the wall at Shirley Povich Field in Bethesda on Saturday. Joe Devlin (Lynchburg) was the other starting pitcher to earn a win for the Braves on the week, giving up two runs in six innings of work against the Thunderbolts on Sunday.

Herndon entered this past week 14-23 on the year with just five games remaining on its regular season slate. The Braves were only a half-game behind the Rockville Express for fourth place in the Cal Ripken Sr. League standings.

This week, the Braves were scheduled to play on Thursday night at Silver Spring-Takoma before also playing on the road this weekend with a Saturday doubleheader at College Park, and a Sunday afternoon game at Alexandria. The games begin at 7 p.m. Thursday, 5 p.m. Saturday, and 1 p.m. Sunday.

Herndon's final home game of the season will be this Friday evening at 7, when the Braves will host the last-place Maryland Redbirds. Fans can also listen to all of the Braves' games, home and away, by logging on to www.herndonbraves.com.

The Reston Swim Team Association (RSTA) 2008 All Stars meet was a resounding success last Saturday. Congratulations to all swimmers who were invited to participate.

Special congratulations to the newest team record holders, who broke records going back as far as 1985!

The following records were established:

Women 15-18:

Katherine DeCrosta (NH), Backstroke, 33.39, beating the old record of 34.17 set in 2007.

Katherine DeCrosta (NH), Freestyle, 29.49, beating the old record of 29.67 set in 2004.

Men 15-18:

John Baldwin (NB), Freestyle, 25.94, beating the old record of 26.10 set in 1985.

Jonathan Christensen (GL), Butterfly, 27.29, beating the old record of 27.38 set in 1991.

Jonathan Christensen (GL), Breaststroke, 30.84, beating the old record of 31.46 set in 2008.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Braves, going into the final week of the Cal Ripken Senior Colligate Baseball season, were one-half game out of fourth place in the league standings. The Braves' final home game is at Herndon High School this Friday night at 7.

Christopher Clark (NH), Backstroke, 29.39, beating the old record of 30.49 set in 2006.

Mark Rodakowski (AN), Backstroke, 28.21, beating the old record of 28.34 set in 1996.

Mark Rodakowski (AN), Breaststroke, 32.24, beating the old record of 32.68 set in 2007.

Michael Ziaii (AN), Freestyle, 25.33, beating the old record of 25.41 set in 1996.

Medley Relay (AN), 1:58.28, beating the old record of 2:01.36 set in 1996. The members of the relay are: Michael Ziaii, Mark Rodakowski, Christopher Hall-Tipping and Nicholas Adagio.

Medley Relay (NH), 2:05.18, beating the old record of 2:08.49 set in 2008. The members of the relay are: Christopher Clark, Will Chantry, Will Fehringer and Will Cormier

Girls 13-14:

Rachel Swarts (NH), Backstroke, 33.52, beating the old record of 34.11 set in 2008.

Rachel Swarts (NH), Freestyle, 29.82, beating the old record of 29.86 set in 2008.

Medley Relay (NH), 2:27.13, beating the old record of 2:29.52 set in 2008. The members of the relay are: Christina Poirier, Keara Jones, Rachel Swarts and Kayla Kent.

Girls 11-12:

Medley Relay (LA), 1:08.33, beating the old record of 1:08.40 set in 2008. The members of the relay are: Callie Chute, Sabrina Groves, Sasha Avilov and Madeleine Daum.

Boys 9-10:

John Hughes (LA), Backstroke, 39.10, beating the old record of 39.21 set in 1995.

Girls 6-18:

Mixed Age Relay (AN), 2:12.49, beating the old record of 2:13.17 set in 2001. The members of the relay are: Claudia Ruder, Kathryn Paiewonsky, Tope Oladimeji, Suzanne Ziaii and Kat Mckinstry.

Reston Youth Association (RYA)

football practices begin Aug. 4. Practices will be held Monday through Friday throughout August from 6 to 8 p.m. at Langston Hughes Middle School. RYA looks to build on the success of the 2007 season when RYA squads won nearly 70 percent of their games and saw eight of their 11 teams qualify for the playoffs. Reston-area youth ages 7 to 16 as of Oct. 1 are welcome to sign-up. Players can register at Langston Hughes before practices. No experience is needed and players will fully participate regardless of ability or experience. There are three levels of play at each weight-class based on age, weight, and experience. Games will be played on the new turf fields at Lake Fairfax Park. For questions call the RYA Hotline at 703-620-2019 or send an email to vp@restonseahawks.com. Go to www.RestonSeahawks.Org to register and for additional information.

Nick Bollettieri, legendary tennis coach of nine No. 1 players in the world – such stars as Agassi, Becker, Courier, Hingis, Rios, Seles, Sharapova, Venus and Serena Williams – will be featured at the highly anti-

ipated LPSM Tennis Clinics in Reston, presented by PSM Academies. Bollettieri will spend the entire day with student athletes and adult players enrolled in the clinics on Friday, Aug. 8. The clinic will take place at the North Hills Tennis Courts (1325 North Village Rd., Reston, 20194). During this special session, Bollettieri will share with participants his knowledge and techniques that have consistently elevated players to the elite level.

There will also be clinics Aug. 4-7. For further information please contact Mr. Lumahn Brown of LP Sports Management at 913-231-7027 or by e-mail at lumahn.brown@psmworldwide.net

Ashburn resident Wyatt Toregas, a minor league baseball player at double-A Akron (Cleveland Indians affiliate), recently earned Eastern League Offensive Player of the Week honors for the week of July 7.

Toregas, a catcher who played high school baseball at both Park View and South Lakes (Reston), batted .421 (8-for-19) for the week for Akron. Five of those hits were home runs and he also knocked in 13 runs. He hit three homers on July 2 in Akron's 10-6 win over Erie. His round-trippers that game came in the second, seventh and ninth innings. Later in the week, in his team's 14-5 win over Binghamton, Toregas knocked two doubles and also hit a homer.

Toregas played high school ball at Park View in Sterling for three years before transferring to South Lakes, where he graduated from in 2001. He was selected by the Indians in the 24th round of the 2004 first year player draft.

The Joy of Cappies

“Starz!: A Midsummer Night’s Frolic” performed in McLean

BY NOAH MARTIN
THE CONNECTION

Founded by William Straus and Judy Bowns, The Cappies International Theatre offers a program to recognize the talent and cultural importance of high school drama departments. There are more than 50 schools that participate each year. Each school has student critics that critique other schools’ performances. After the shows have all been reviewed, more than 300 critics will meet; nominate performers, technical crew, writers, and critics; and vote for the recipients of the Cappie Awards. There are 42 awards given out each year.

THE CAPPIES International Theatre initially included only schools within the D.C. metropolitan area. With passing years though, it has expanded to encompass schools across the United States and Canada. Each region hosts its own Cappies Awards’ Gala. The winners of those competitions are invited to participate in productions comprised of other winners across North America. Families of local Cappie Award recipients host the traveling actors.

This year, one Cappies troupe of 23 actors and four technicians performed “Starz!: A Midsummer Night’s Frolic” on Sunday, July 27 at McLean High School and Monday, July 28 at the Alden Theatre in the McLean Community Center.

I had the privilege of attending a dress rehearsal and speaking with the actors about their Cappies’ experience. One is never quite sure what to expect as a stranger when walking into an acting troupe that has been rehearsing for weeks and has sequestered themselves from the other responsibilities of reality in order to fully enter the world of their drama. What I found at McLean High School was talent, enthusiasm, and a genuine feeling of camaraderie — a feeling that quickly develops when people work in close proximity for extended periods of time. It was the day before the premiere of STARZ and yet the actors seemed relaxed and playful — even under the stress of last-minute additions and changes to the performance.

When I initially approached the actors lounging on their lunch break and announced that I was a reporter there to interview and observe them, I was immediately bombarded with a cry of, “Don’t tell him anything. Those blasted reporters will twist everything you say, take it out of context, and make you sound like an idiot.”

“Here we go,” I thought.

It had been a jocular aside from actor Chris Weschler but representative of the joviality particular to this group of performers.

Kim Ness, a rising senior from Edison



Hanna Spear (Edmonton) and Kimberly Ness (Alexandria).

High School, had no problem plopping herself down next to me in the hall way/lunch corridor to discuss her participation in the Cappies’ production. “It was great right from the very beginning. It’s like nothing that any of us have ever done before. Getting together with people we have never met in a place we have never been and being part of something so big,” she said. When asked about the difficulty of working with strangers she replied, “Well, we are all so out there that we get along really well ... we are all so different but we all click so well.” “The people,” she said, “have been my favorite part of the whole experience ...”

“**THAT’S WHAT** she said,” said an unsolicited commentator from down the hall.

Introducing himself as the token Canadian, Rob Lippe-Lineker approached me to discuss his road to the Cappies, a road that had brought him all the way from Edmonton, AB — over 2,300 miles. Rob had won best lead actor in a performance for his role as George Gibbs in the play “Our Town.” Before he could say much however, Rob was drowned out by the sound of Jacob Zumoff, a Cappies award winner from Philadelphia, tuning his voice (at least I think that is what he was doing). “Meeting everyone has been my favorite experience and hanging out after our rehearsals, especially when we went to “The Dark Knight” said Rob. “Heath Ledger’s performance was incredible. He didn’t act the character, he was the character.”

“That’s what she said.” Again, from someone, somewhere.

Katie Ryerson, traveling from Ottawa, ON, and Cappies winner for best lead actress in a musical, said, “All the people came together like pieces of a puzzle and just fit together.” The culture shock of accents and mannerism differences only took a few days to get over, said Katie, but what she was most shocked by was the food proportions in restaurants. “We all went to Chipotle one



Sarah Schwartz (Manassas), Max Lebeuf (Edmonton), Tim O’Brien (Philadelphia), Justin Reekie (Ottawa), and Rob Lineker (Edmonton).

night and the burritos were like small children. I took pictures so that my friends back at home would believe me.” When asked about the oft repeated and ever present phrase “that’s what she said” Katie simply tilted her head back, laughed, and replied, “that’s like our theme song. Its pretty much every second sentence.” To which a passing actor whispered, “That’s what she said.”

After speaking with Katie I made my way backstage to see the actors in their element. Margaret Berkowitz, McLean resident and youngest Cappies performer in the history of the program, sat quietly while awaiting her stage entrance. She had been chosen for the program at the age of 14 and had just turned 15 three days before the start of rehearsals. “I fell in love with the theatre when I was 8 years old,” Margaret claimed. Her sisters and brother had all performed in the community theatre and she followed in step.

MIMI LYNCH, a rising senior and technical director for the drama department at Robinson Secondary, was responsible for the sound and general technical support for the Starz! production. The last three years, Mimi has been the sound assistant for the Cappies’ Gala. She was in charge of creat-

ing a list of actors, characters, stage entrances, microphone positioning, acrobatics, etc. Her task was to design a schematic with all of the details and give it to the technical staff at the Kennedy Center prior to the show.

Kim Ness hopes to draw upon the experience of the Cappies and take what she has learned into the collegiate theatre. Rob Lippe-Lineker wishes to pursue a career in education while continuing drama as a hobby. Katie Ryerson will attend University for performance acting in Toronto, ON, in the fall. Margaret Berkowitz is optimistic about continuing her musical performance career into college and beyond. Mimi Lynch wants to be a doctor and will keep her involvement in the theatre as a recreation. The troupe will be performing its second production, “Anasazi” (written by co-founder of the Cappies, William Strauss), on Aug. 3 at McLean High School and Aug. 4 at The Kennedy Center Theatre Lab.

What seemed to echo from all the actors — besides, “That’s what she said” — was companionship and potential. Recognized for their talent in the dramatic crafts I am sure that this troupe’s chemistry and enthusiasm will translate into two great productions.

Athens Meets Michael Jackson

“Starz! A Midsummer Night’s Frolic” combines a narrative border with a heart of song and dance that made for a delightful evening. Opening with Act IV, Scene 2 of a “Midsummer Night’s Dream,” the cabaret quickly deviates from the play’s more traditional route. With a lesson from Hamlet on the do’s and don’ts of acting, a last-minute performance of “Let’s Hear it for the Boy”, and an intrusion of a “Deus Ex Machina” to prevent the tragic fate of Euripides’ Medea, and the nonsensical periodic interruption of an out of place messenger, the performance took great liberties with time, place, costume, and dramatic accuracy — but liberties that worked well to entertain.

The more tragic acting scenes were well balanced with song and comedy to keep the overall all mood of the play jovial. The costumes were simple yet effective in immediately describing to the viewer the period in history during the radically shifting time-machine performance. The stage was simply decorated with two white columns wound in ivy and lights but the show’s energy left the audience without want for anything more. Lighting was effectively employed to

keep attention focused on the actors.

Difficult as it may sound, the writing seamlessly sutured the diverse song progression of the run. Songs included an all modern repertoire with pieces such as, “Rich and Famous” from “Senioritis,” “Playa” from “Edit:Undo,” “Stop in the Name of Love,” “Let’s Hear it for the Boy”, and “Thriller”.

Highlights from the show included the unexpected grand finale of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller,” the frighteningly mature performance by the young Margaret Berkowitz, the technical difficulty of an actor playing a bad actor within a play while dressed in drag by Justin Reekie, and the captivating dramatic weight of Hannah Spear’s Medea.

Overall, the show was simple yet enchanting, the actors all proved to have deserved their recognition before traveling to Washington, D.C., and the content mingled well with the cast’s and crew’s chemistry I had previously observed. All around, an achievement the Cappies International Theatre can be proud of.

— NOAH MARTIN

Learning Proves Fun at Music Camp

FROM PAGE 9

it for me and I liked the sound so much," said Christina. "I might even do it for a career." Speaking after a flute sectional during which she was introduced to the piccolo, she said, "I just started it today and can already play the really high notes that took me two weeks to learn on the flute. I've met a lot of new friends and I don't like it when camp ends each day."

Flute instructor Wendy Lane, who teaches privately, taught at the camp this summer for her first time. Her daughter Allison attended last year and loved it, and Lane has "tons of flute students" who come here every year. It's the equivalent of two years of elementary-school playing because they only have it there once a week.

"Plus the caliber of the teachers here is so high," said Lane. "For example, [trumpet player] Dave Detwiler has played with the National Symphony, so it's humbling to teach with them. And Mr. Walker is so calm and makes a point of the camp being fun — and that's a lesson for all of us. If children enjoy what they're doing, they'll continue it."

DRUM AND PERCUSSION teacher Gary Lang, a junior at Chantilly High, attended the camp four years and has taught there the past two years. "The kids are great; I love teaching them," he said. "They love the camp and love learning. It's their choice to come, and I like seeing them have fun."



Clockwise, from top left, are tuba players Nick Welham, Rachel Carson eighth-grader, and Jay Cowen, Centreville High freshman, plus baritone player Catie Reed, Franklin eighth-grader.

He said it's helped him become a better teacher and a couple students even signed up for private lessons with him. Lang, himself, got tips from another percussion teacher on holding the drumsticks and keeping the students playing in time. As for the students, he said, "The camp will help them

a lot in their school bands and later on in life. Some of the elementary and middle schools don't teach percussion very well. But here, they learn straight percussion and, if a particular student is having trouble, we can help them."

Reston's Erin Miller, whose 6-year-old

daughter Olivia has played violin by the Suzuki method for several years, was the youngest camper — and Miller raved about her progress.

"They've taught her note-reading in a matter of a month — it's amazing," she said. "There's been a definite improvement in her, doing it every day. She came in playing, but not reading music. And now, it's really easy for her."

Miller said schools normally begin teaching music in third grade but, at the camp, children can start much younger. "The cost of private music instruction is very expensive — \$60-\$90 an hour," she added. "Here, it's \$155 for four weeks of four hours a day, so it's unbelievable. I would completely recommend it to others. We're new to Fairfax County and we're very impressed."

So are the students.

Willow Springs Elementary sixth-grader Larry Gong has played cello two years and attended the camp for his second time. "My mom thinks it's a good experience, and it has been," he said. "The teachers are nice and I've learned how to play some notes on the G string. It's a fun camp and you learn more than you'd learn in school."

Lauren Cheetham, a Stone Middle seventh-grader, is in her second year of violin and came to camp so she could play better. "I've improved lots," she said. "I've learned harder songs and different strings. And camp is fun — you have a lot of choices about songs and the songs are really happy. I'll come back again."

Self-Confidence

FROM PAGE 7

Ann-Marie Dewald hopes that after the program her son, J.T., will be able to enjoy biking with the rest of the family.

"We're a very active family and big bike riders. Even the little ones ride their bikes," she said, gesturing to her two young sons, "so to be able to include J.T. in those activities would be great."

J.T. suffers from cerebral palsy, a condition that has made learning to ride a bike difficult for him in the past.

"When he got on a bike his right side would immediately tighten up and he would just fall to that side," she said, "and due to that he was afraid of even getting on the bike because he was afraid of getting hurt."

Little of that timidity was evident on Friday, the last day of the session. J.T.'s volunteer spotters were struggling to keep up with him as he powered around the course. Although she doubted that J.T. would be riding entirely on his own by the end of the day Dewald was impressed, and touched, by his progress.

"It's very exciting, you can just see his confidence getting greater and greater with each day," said DeWald. "Most of what you do in life is just a matter of self-confidence and this is giving him that confidence."

"You can just see now in his face that he knows he can do it."



At the ground-breaking for Arrowbrook Wetlands Preserve are, from left, Frank de la Fe, Representative, Fairfax County Planning Commission; Bill Bouie, Representative, Fairfax County Park Authority; Sandy Stallman, Manager, Park Planning - Fairfax County Park Authority; Mike Rolband, Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.; Cathy Hudgins, Supervisor, Hunter Mill, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Win Meiselman, Laura Ratcliffe House; Tom Field, President, Thompson Realty; Anita Grazer, Director of National Marketing, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority; Jeff Fairfield, Esquire, Trustee, Launderers Charitable Trust; Peter Garahan, Garahan Capital Partners.

Preserve Under Way

Members of the County's Park Authority, Economic Development Authority and Board of Supervisors celebrated the groundbreaking of Arrowbrook Centre Wetlands Nature Preserve last week.

Hunter Mill district Supervisor Cathy Hudgins said that the park, with an educational nature preserve, sports courts and state-of-the-art playing field further fulfill the "mission of our county" to preserve open space and to steward high environmental standards.

The preserve and park are part of Arrowbrook Centre, a pedestrian-friendly mixed-use environment that will begin construction in the summer of 2009. When complete, the neighborhood will feature 407 residential units, 160,000 SF of retail space and 422,000

SF of office space, situated at the intersection of Sunrise Valley Drive and Centreville Road.

The project is one of Carbon Thompson Development Corporation's three area projects.

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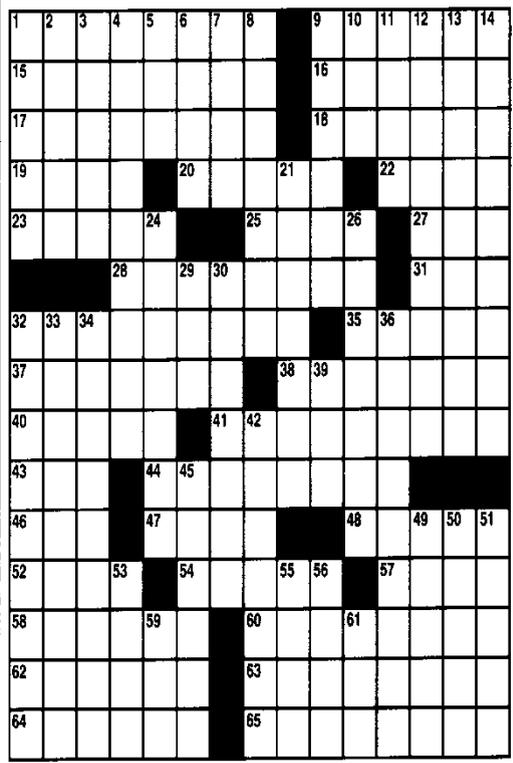
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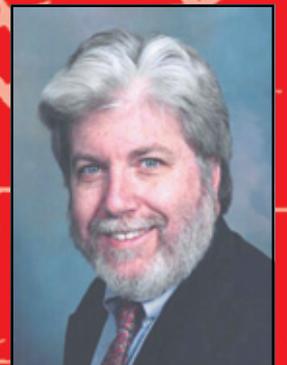
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