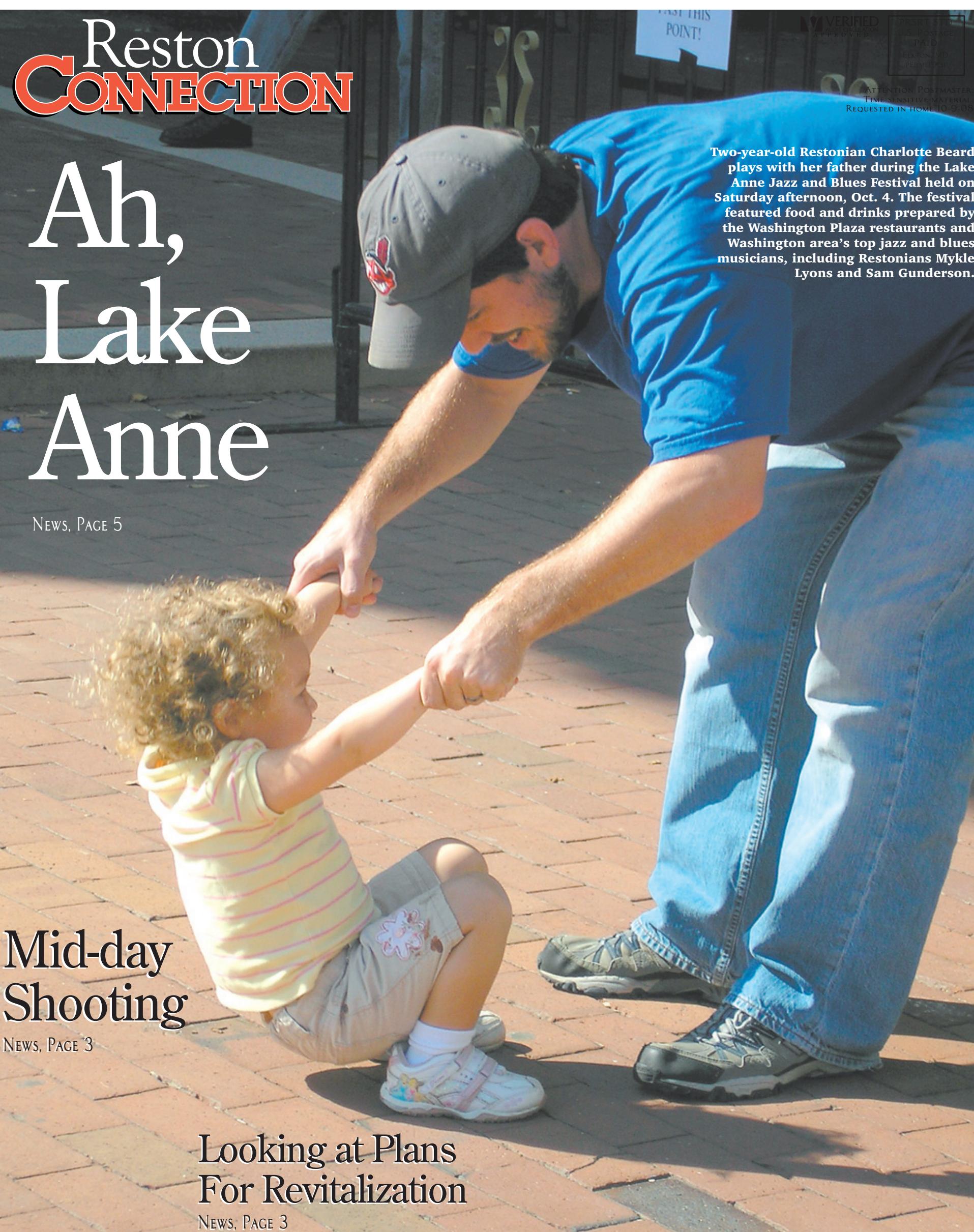


Reston **CONNECTION**



Ah, Lake Anne

NEWS, PAGE 5

OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ REAL ESTATE, PAGE 15 ♦ FAITH, PAGE 15 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 20

Mid-day Shooting

NEWS, PAGE 3

Looking at Plans For Revitalization

NEWS, PAGE 3

Two-year-old Restonian Charlotte Beard plays with her father during the Lake Anne Jazz and Blues Festival held on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 4. The festival featured food and drinks prepared by the Washington Plaza restaurants and Washington area's top jazz and blues musicians, including Restonians Mykle Lyons and Sam Gunderson.

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Fairfax County Police officers and detectives investigate the crime scene after two men were shot in an open area in the Glenvale Condominium in Reston on Monday afternoon, October 6.

Two Shot at Glenvale Condos

Shooting does not surprise neighbors.

By MIRZA KURSPAHC
THE CONNECTION

Two people were shot on Monday afternoon while sitting in a common area in Reston's Glenvale Condominium neighborhood on Freetown Court. Both men were in surgery on Monday afternoon and the police did not have updates on their status as of press time Tuesday afternoon.

Fairfax County Police responded to a report of a person shot at Glenvale Condominium at 12:26 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 6, and located two male victims. One of the two victims moved from the common area — a shaded open area with benches and swings where he was shot — to the front of a building. As of press time, the police did not have a suspect in custody.

According to Shelly Broderick, a Fairfax County Police Public Information Officer, there were many witnesses to the crime. Police detectives continued to arrive at the scene on Monday afternoon to interview those witnesses. "There are many people who stay here during the day," said Broderick. She said at the scene on Monday that one of the two victims was 20 years old.

According to a Fairfax County Police release, the two victims were sitting in a com-

mon area when three males, at least one armed with a gun, approached. The suspects all fled on foot. They were described as Hispanic males.

GLENVALE RESIDENTS said they were not surprised there was a shooting in their neighborhood. Joy Ezidinma, a mother of five boys, said she does not let her children

play in the neighborhood and instead takes them to a playground nearby. "We don't let them play out here. A lot of adults are always sitting out there," she said pointing to the crime scene. "The kind of people who sit out there, you start to suspect" they may be involved in gang activity, said Ezidinma.

A neighbor who did not wish to be identified

SEE SHOOTING, PAGE 4



Fairfax County Police marked two areas in their crime scene setup. This area is where one of the victims moved to after being shot in a common area behind the building.

Lake Anne Back On Track

Plan draft expected by November.

By MIRZA KURSPAHC
THE CONNECTION

Lake Anne revitalization is back on track now that a transportation and parking study of the area has been completed. The staff at Fairfax County's Planning and Zoning Department is expecting to present a draft of the plan amendment in a public meeting in early November.

"The purpose of a plan amendment is to create an envelope of recommendations" for future development at Lake Anne, said Heidi Merkel, the county's chief planner on the Lake Anne revitalization project. "A full set of recommendations is not designed to say, 'This is what is going to happen in the next five years,'" she said. When the first studies and focus groups took place in 2005, Merkel said, people probably thought that as soon as a plan amendment is in place construction would begin at Lake Anne. However, in today's economic climate, she said, the perception is different. "The market decides" when the developers might propose projects in the revitalization area. "With the current economic situation, the status quo might be here a while," said Merkel.

"With the current economic situation, the status quo might be here a while."

— Heidi Merkel,
Fairfax County
Department of
Planning and
Zoning

THE TRANSPORTATION and parking study by Parsons Brinckerhoff, an engineering firm the county hired as a consultant for the study, added time to the plan amendment process, said Merkel. "But, having obtained that information, we feel we are in a better position to say below-grade parking is something that can be done," she said. Merkel added that the consultant was not hired to tell the county how to design any future road or road realignment, but to study and recommend some possibilities. In terms of the parking, the PB study concluded

SEE LAKE ANNE, PAGE 6

WEEK IN RESTON

Police Investigate Two Robberies

Police are investigating two separate robberies that occurred within minutes of each other on Sunday, Oct. 5, in Reston. Officers were first called to a church in the 2300 block of Hunters Woods Plaza at 8:56 p.m. for a robbery. The victim, a 22-year-old Reston man, was sitting alone on a bench outside the church talking on a cellular phone when a man approached brandishing a handgun and demanded the victim's money. The victim complied and ran into the church and the suspect fled on foot.

The suspect was described as Hispanic, in his late 20s and about 5 feet 8 inches tall.

While investigating the first robbery, officers were called to the area of Colts Neck Road and Winterthur Lane for a second robbery. The victim, a 34-year-old Reston man, was walking near the intersection at 9 p.m. when a man approached him. The suspect brandished a handgun and demanded the victim's belongings. The victim complied and then noticed a second suspect waiting in the distance. Both suspects fled the area on foot.

The first suspect was described as Hispanic, in his 20s and about 5 feet 6 inches tall. The second suspect was also described as Hispanic, in his 20s and about 5 feet 6 inches tall. The second suspect was described as weighing 155 pounds.

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.

Attempted Armed Robbery

Two men attempted to rob two employees of the Giant Food Store on John Milton Drive in the Fox Mill area on Saturday, Oct. 4, after the store closed. They hid inside the store and waited to rob the two employees, 19 and 33-year-old Herndon area women, who locked the doors at 11:10 p.m. and began to clean. The two men wore masks and brandished a gun at one of the victims and assaulted her. The suspects took both victims to the office, bound one of them and demanded money. Before the victims could comply, the suspects received a phone call and fled. The victims did not require medical treatment and no money was taken.

The suspects were described as black and both were wearing masks and latex gloves. One was approximately 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighing about 150 pounds. The other was approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall and about 180 pounds.

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.

Home Tour on Oct. 18

The 7th annual Reston Home Tour will take place Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. A map of all locations is included on the Reston Home Tour ticket, available for purchase online at www.restonmuseum.org for \$30, and in person at the Reston Museum, Lake Anne Florist, The Wine Cabinet at North Point Village, Appalachian Spring and Greater Reston Arts Center, for \$25 until Oct. 10, and \$30 from Oct. 11 through 18. For information, call Reston Museum at 703-709-7700, or Reston Home Tour Chair, Bonnie Haukness at 703-437-3800, or e-mail restonhometour@yahoo.com. The Reston Home Tour is presented by Reston Historic Trust to benefit Reston Museum.

Oktoberfest Back in Reston

The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce is bringing Oktoberfest back to Reston on Oct. 10 and 11 at the main pavilion at Reston Town Center. The event will feature fall brews and traditional Oktoberfest foods from area restaurants, as well as live entertainment. Restaurant participation and sponsorship opportunities are limited. Contact the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce for more information at 703-707-9045 or visit www.restonchamber.org.

SEE WEEK IN RESTON, PAGE 6

NEWS



PHOTOS BY MIRZA KURSPAHIĆ/THE CONNECTION

Friends and family of Angélique "Kiki" Ptomey participate in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light The Night Walk. Ptomey, a 1994 graduate of James Madison High School, died after a battle with leukemia on Sept. 10.

Reston Lit

3,000 walkers participate in Light The Night at Reston Town Center.

Angélique Ptomey would have celebrated her third wedding anniversary on Oct. 1. Having been diagnosed with Acute Myelomatis Leukemia 13 months earlier, Ptomey died on Sept. 10, with a legacy of helping others until her last breath.

"She's my baby, she's my daughter," said John Pierre-Benoist. "When she passed, one of her last wishes was continued support for leukemia research," said Pierre-Benoist.

In fact, Ptomey spent the majority of the last year of her life at the National Institutes for Health receiving treatment and having tests done that led to a new protocol, "Ptomey's Protocol," developed to treat child patients with leukemia. "She always wants to help," said Matilde Pierre-Benoist, Ptomey's mother.

Ptomey's friends came together in February to form "Kiki's Krew," named after Ptomey's nickname, a team that would participate in Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light The Night Walk in Reston Town Center. "Kiki's Krew" raised more than \$25,000 for the Society.

The Reston Town Center walk, held on Saturday, Oct. 4, raised more than \$500,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. About 3,000 people participated in the Reston Town Center walk.

— MIRZA KURSPAHIĆ



From left, Stephanie Kurspahic, Greg Cox, Jessica Steinberg, Donna Steinberg and Andrew Kurspahic, in the stroller, participate in the Light The Night event in Reston Town Center on Saturday, Oct. 4, in memory of son and brother, Justin Steinberg, who died in 1999.

Shooting Does Not Surprise Neighbors

FROM PAGE 3

tified in the article said a trespassing sign fronting Glade Drive had been tagged with gang signs multiple times in recent months. Although he lives across the open area where the shooting took place, the neighbor said he did not hear the shots. However, the person who lives above him did hear them, at first two shots and then a succession of shots.

Juan Hill, a maintenance worker at Glenvale, said there had been a background of apparent drug dealings in the community. "We've been trying to get those people out," he said, "but there's only so much you can do." Hill said he was not really surprised that the shooting took place. "I knew something was going to happen," he said. Hill added that he was

told one of the two victims used to live in Glenvale.

The neighbor who does not wish to be identified in the article bought his home in Glenvale eight years ago. He said he did not wish for Glenvale, a community where families and nice people live, to be tagged as a bad neighborhood. The shooting, he said, was the first since he lived there and the first in the neighborhood in decades. Broderick said she did not have crime statistics on the area.

Meanwhile, Ezidinma, a resident since 2004, continues to worry about possible retaliation or other follow-ups to the crime. "I have little ones, I have to be concerned," she said. Glenvale Condominium is located on Freetown Court, and sits in the northwest corner of the intersection of Reston Parkway and Glade Drive.

NEWS



Reston-raised musician Sam Gunderson traveled from Birmingham, Alabama, to entertain visitors to the Lake Anne Jazz and Blues Festival on Saturday afternoon.



Eduardo Faubert, owner of Jasmine Café at Lake Anne Village Center, prepares specialties for visitors to the Lake Anne Jazz and Blues Festival.

Showcasing Its Own Community

Lake Anne Jazz and Blues Festival brings visitors to Washington Plaza.

By MIRZA KURSPAHC
THE CONNECTION

When Mykle Lyons moved to Lake Anne from New Orleans as a teenager, he envisioned Washington Plaza as an ideal place for a music festival. For the last two years Lyons, a prominent area musician, and Eve Thompson, a Lake Anne resident and Realtor, have organized the Lake Anne Jazz and Blues Festival at the plaza.

"It's just fun. It's what this place should be," said Lyons before taking the stage at this year's Jazz and Blues Festival, held on Saturday, Oct. 4, on Washington Plaza. He said the music featured in the six-hour fes-

tival came from a variety of backgrounds and included Washington area's top jazz and blues talent.

Sarah Croker, born and raised in Ireland, opened for the series of musicians that would entertain the festival's visitors. Sam Gunderson, raised in Reston but playing in Alabama, followed. Origem added a Brazilian flavor to the mix and Lyons and Dixie Power Trio closed the festival.

"In New Orleans when they have a jazz festival they want everyone to participate," said Lyons. "We wanted it to be totally diverse," he said of the musical acts that performed on Saturday afternoon.

"It's just fun. It's what this place should be."

— Mykle Lyons, Lake Anne Jazz and Blues Festival organizer

others who helped organize the festival wanted to

SEE FESTIVAL, PAGE 16

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Toll Road Transfer Case Heard Again

Court decision is expected by Oct. 17.

By MIRZA KURSPAHC
THE CONNECTION

Transportation Commissioner and the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

Raphael said the case had been identified as a hurdle for the federal funds to be released. He said missing the Oct. 22 deadline would mean that the release of the \$900 million to the Dulles Rail project would be delayed at least another year. "This is the centerpiece of Virginia's transportation improvements in Northern Virginia," said Raphael of the rail extension project.

McSWEENEY ARGUED, among other things, that the transfer of the Toll Road is a transfer of a Commonwealth of Virginia asset, which should have been authorized through the General Assembly, not members of the state's executive branch. "This is in plain circumvention of the General Assembly," said McSweeney. Anyone executing agreements that transfer the Commonwealth's assets, in this case collected tolls, should follow the procedures outlined in Virginia's constitution, he added. "That was not done here."

Raphael said the General Assembly defeated three bills in 2006 and 2007 that would have barred the transfer of the Toll Road to MWAA. "A clear pattern exists of the General Assembly saying we want Rail to Dulles and we want to use the tolls from the Toll Road to pay for it," said Raphael. He said that even though the General Assembly did not approve the agreement, "it clearly embraced it." Raphael added, "A part-time legislature simply cannot micromanage every contract the government enters."

Another challenge to the agreement is that the defendants empowered MWAA to collect and

SEE TOLL CASE, PAGE 7

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Family Walk, Tree Planting

Southgate Community Center is hosting a Family Walk and Tree Planting Ceremony to promote the health of families and the environment on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants will exercise, converse, partake in a tree planting ceremony, receive free T-shirts and enjoy free refreshments. Participants are asked to pre-register at 703-860-0676, TTY 711. Southgate Community Center is located at 12125 Pinecrest Road in Reston.

LWV on Voting Barriers

League of Women Voters will hold a series of meetings that will discuss barriers that stand in the way of citizens exercising their right to vote. The Reston meeting will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza. Study material for the meetings, "It's Not Always Easy to Vote," and information on other meetings in the area, can be found at www.lwv-fairfax.org.

Program on Russian History

The Reston-Herndon Branch of the American Association of University Women invites all who are interested to a program on Russian History by Rex Wade, a George Mason University professor. The program will be presented on Thursday, Oct. 16, at 6:45 p.m. at the Reston Regional Library. For more information call 703-759-5543.

Join 'Walk Like MADD'

Registration is now under way for the fund-raising "Walk Like MADD 2008" for Saturday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Lake Fairfax Park. The money raised through walkers' pledges would support MADD's mission to eliminate drunk-driving, support victims of this crime and prevent underage drinking. To register for this 5k non-competitive walk — open to children, teens, adults, families and pets — visit www.WalkLikeMadd.org and select "Fairfax, VA."

RCA: Citizen of Year Award

Reston Citizens Association is renewing its Citizen of the Year Award and is inviting nominations until Oct. 23. The RCA is asking for the following information:

- ❖ Nominee name, address and contact information (phone and e-mail)
- ❖ Nominating person name, phone and e-mail
- ❖ Tell why the nominee deserves to be Citizen of the Year.
- Also the RCA is asking that a description be attached on how the nominee meets the following selection criteria, including specific examples of nominee's actions in service to Reston:
 - ❖ Reston resident for at least five years
 - ❖ Nominee's actions promote/are consistent with Reston and RCA goals
 - ❖ Nominee's actions contribute to Reston quality of life
 - ❖ People in need benefitted from nominee's actions
 - ❖ Nominee's deeds were done without thought of personal benefit
 - ❖ Nominee is not currently an elected public official or board member of RA, RCA or RCC.

Submit nominations via e-mail to barbaraburleson@gmail.com or via regular mail to: RCA Citizen of the Year Committee, c/o Barbara Burleson, 11400 Washington Plaza West, Apt. 1404, Reston, VA 20190.

Free Meal for Area Veterans

Veterans will receive a free lunch or dinner entrée at McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants and M&S Grill restaurants Sunday, Nov. 9 in tribute to Veterans Day. Veterans should show proper identification (VA card, VFW card, veterans ID, discharge papers, etc.). Reservations strongly encouraged. Participating are McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants in Reston Town Center, 703-481-6600, opens at 11:30 a.m., and M&S Grill Restaurant at Reston Town Center, 703-787-7766, opens at 11:30 a.m.

For more information visit www.McCormickandSchmicks.com.

NEWS



RENDERING OBTAINED FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY

Bird's eye view looking down to the existing Washington Plaza depicts the stairs and fountains that would lead to the envisioned plaza extension.

Lake Anne Revitalization Back on Track

FROM PAGE 3

it was possible to construct some underground parking where the current surface lot serves the Washington Plaza. Lake Anne residents have pushed for underground parking since the plan amendment process took hold in 2005. "It is feasible to put some underground parking," said Merkel. "It will cost more, but it is not prohibitively expensive," she said of the PB finding. The study, said Merkel, also offered possibilities of realigning Village Road to provide better access to Lake Anne Village Center and considered realignments to North Shore Drive.

LAKE ANNE residents met with Merkel and Bridget Hill of Fairfax County's Office of Community Revitalization and Reinvestment on Thursday night, Oct. 2. Lake Anne resident Guy Rando, a landscape architect, displayed drawings of parcels of the revitalization area he obtained from Fairfax County, some of them through the Freedom of Information Act. He displayed drawings for the Crescent Apartments community and for Washington Plaza. "Every cluster president should see them," said Rando.

Regarding the drawings for Crescent, Merkel said the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority would handle any redevelopment on that land — county-owned land that is home to 181 affordable housing units. As for the drawings of the plaza, which she referred to as the Parsons Brinckerhoff sketches, Merkel said they represented one architecture firm's concept of how the parking possibilities studied at the plaza could work. "It is so we could understand at DPZ [Department of Planning and Zoning] what that would look like," said Merkel. "This has no context," she said.

"Every cluster president should see them."

— Guy Rando, Lake Anne resident

"Those are a tool to visualize opportunities," said Hill of the drawings.

During the meeting Merkel discussed a number of questions that were first posed in the focus groups held in 2005. She said the county did not want to go ahead with the Plan Amendment without first addressing those questions. One of the questions was how would the existing businesses at Washington Plaza survive through major redevelopment of the village center. "The key part of that will be, is there enough parking," said Merkel. Another question was how would all of the infrastructure improvements be paid for. One of the options, said Merkel, was to use new development to help finance those improvements. "There's not any specific proposal on the table. Those are decisions that are to be made later," she said.

Hill offered the Public Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act (PPEA) as a tool that could work to finance some of the redevelopment. "What I remember is furor over a certain public private partnership proposal in Reston," said Baba Freeman, recalling the resident uprising against a proposal at the South Reston Park and Ride lot at the end of 2006. "That would be an unfortunate mistake to repeat," said Freeman.

Merkel said a decision is yet to be made on whether more meetings will be held after the plan amendment draft is presented in November. The date and location for that meeting is yet to be confirmed. She said the current planning exercise differs a great bit from the exercise Bob Simon had performed in the 1960s. "We're not like Bob Simon 40 years ago, where he said, 'Here's my Master Plan and here's my money that I'm going to put behind it to build it,'" said Merkel.

NEWS

Court Hears Toll Case

FROM PAGE 5

raise taxes, through collection and fixing of tolls. "A toll is not a tax because it is a voluntary charge," said Raphael. He said the use of the Toll Road is a choice, buying a benefit for arguably faster travel. Although the paid tolls are used to pay for government services, for example road maintenance, the payment of the tolls is not imposed. The consumers have alternatives to the Toll Road, said Raphael.

"This is not just a right to collect, it's also a right to fix the tolls," said McSweeney of the transfer of Toll Road operation to MWAA. Even though there are alternatives to using the Toll Road, a toll is a tax "if its purpose is to generate revenue," said McSweeney. He added that there is no question that the purpose of the tolls on Dulles Toll Road is to generate revenue.

FRIDAY'S HEARING marked the reintroduction of the case to Spencer and Richmond's Circuit Court. Spencer dismissed the case in March 2007 on the grounds of "sovereign immunity," the notion

that "sovereign," or government, entities are protected from lawsuits. The plaintiffs then amended their suit to exclude MWAA, an original defendant with the four Virginia defendants, and appealed to the Virginia Supreme Court, which heard the case in April 2008. In June, the Virginia Supreme Court decided to send the case back to the Richmond Circuit Court. Raphael argued that the case should be dismissed again because it does not include MWAA, an "indispensable" part of the contract. Since MWAA is not named in the remanded suit, it is not represented in a case that affects its interests. "Because MWAA is out of the case, the case cannot proceed," said Raphael.

"This case would not have been remanded if MWAA had been an indispensable part of the contract," said McSweeney. He said the case is about whether personnel and agencies in the Commonwealth's executive branch had the authority to transfer the Commonwealth's assets to MWAA. "This simply is not a case where MWAA has to be a party," said McSweeney.

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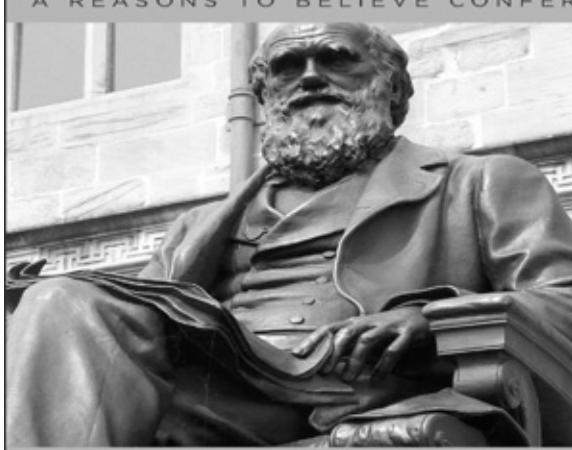
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Saturday's events will include **OF THIS EARTH**, an Alexandra Bryant musical interpretation of the wonders of creation, featuring a dance piece and string quartet.

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2009 marks Charles Darwin's 200th birthday (Feb. 12) and the 150th anniversary (Nov. 24) of his book *On the Origin of Species*. The Reasons To Believe, Washington, D.C., Network and Christ Church on Embassy Row are proud to announce an RTB Regional Conference addressing this all-important event. Hear RTB scholars Fazale Rana, Kenneth Samples, Jeff Zweerink, and Hugh Ross present the latest evidence that challenges Darwinism and supports the Christian faith.



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OPINION

Signs of Life

While the economic news is enough to ruin your breakfast (and lunch, and dinner), there are signs of life and resilience here in Northern Virginia.

While unemployment climbs in other parts of the country, employment is stronger here than almost anywhere. Proximity to the federal government in general, and to the Pentagon in particular, continues to boost our economy and employment.

We can look forward to new federal jobs created to support oversight of \$700 billion in federal investment in mortgage-related debt.

The Treasury, along with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, should waste no time in fixing some of the problems at the root of the current housing and mortgage crisis. Adjustable rate mortgages should be rewritten or refinanced for a fixed rate of 6 percent for 30 years. Prepayment penalties should be abolished and banned. Every effort should be made to keep current homeowners in their current homes, and rescue them from the threat of foreclosure if they are able to make payments on the actual value of their homes at a reasonable and fixed interest rate. These steps will go a long way towards restoring a sense of confidence in the value of most families' primary invest-

ment. It's critical to let would-be homebuyers know that the end is in sight for prices dropping due to foreclosures.

On the home front, August home sales showed signs of life here, even during a month notorious even in good times for low sales activity.

In communities that are served by the Connection Newspapers, in the month of August, more than 120 homes sold for more than \$1 million.

To give a sense of the variety of sales, the home that sold for the most money in the area in August was a four-bedroom, four-and-a-half bath condo in Arlington, which sold for \$5.3 million.

A three-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath home on an acre in Alexandria sold for \$3.875 million. Two homes in McLean and one in Great Falls each sold for more than \$3 million.

A dozen more condos and townhouses in Arlington and Alexandria sold for between \$1.09 million and \$2.325 million.

A four-bedroom home in Vienna sold for \$1.6 million on Aug. 27. A four-bedroom home in Oakton sold for \$1.45 million on Aug. 29. Ten more homes in Vienna and Oakton sold in August for more than \$1 million each.

A five-bedroom, six-bath home on more than five acres in Clifton sold on Aug. 1 for \$2.388 million. A seven-bedroom home on five acres in Fairfax Station sold on Aug. 25. Several

homes with Lorton addresses topped \$1 million, along with at least one in Springfield and one in Centreville.

A home on a little less than an acre on Broad Creek Place in Herndon sold for \$1.275 million on Aug. 21.

A six-bedroom home on half an acre in Ashburn sold for \$1.845 million on Aug. 6.

At the other end of the spectrum is a glimpse of affordability that we haven't dreamed of in this area in nearly a decade.

Some examples:

In Arlington, 10 condos sold in August for less than \$200,000, six of those for under \$150,000.

In Reston, 14 homes — condos and townhouses — sold for under \$200,000, with another 16 selling between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

In Herndon, more than 40 homes, mostly townhouses, sold in August for less than \$200,000, 15 of those under \$150,000. More than 20 more sold for between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

Even in McLean, more than a dozen condos sold for less than \$300,000.

With homes at the top of the market selling, and new opportunities opening up at the affordable end of the market, our area's real estate market and home values should be reassuring.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Educate Voters

To the Editor:

I recently received a presidential campaign advertisement in the mail from the Democratic Party of Virginia on the issue of U.S. Sen. John McCain's ties to former lobbyists advising his current campaign. Though the aggressive nature of the message is certainly nothing new in politics, the organizer's lack of due diligence and disregard for Virginians is dis-

concerting to this local voter.

First, the ad attempts to disparage a McCain advisor on the grounds of his relationship with corporations who support "outsourcing" jobs. Outsourcing occurs when businesses sub-contract certain operations to other firms and workers. Last I checked, there is nothing wrong with outsourcing jobs to specialized companies or people who provide services at cost-effective rates. What the ad might be referring to is "offshoring" which implies sending jobs overseas. Even then, should voters be

led to believe that corporations are inherently bad for the country because they are trying to find ways to cut costs during existing economic conditions and at a time when our 35 percent corporate tax rate ranks among the highest in the world? Probably not — that's for the voters to decide.

Second, the central theme of the ad in "exposing" Sen. McCain's campaign ties with former lobbyists is a bit deceptive given the loopholes that allow all politicians, including Sen. Obama, to maintain indirect relationships with lobby-

ists. While Sen. Obama's campaign maintains it doesn't accept money from registered federal lobbyists, it doesn't turn away donations from state and local lobbyists. Their pledge also ignores the millions of dollars accepted from attorneys and law firms who often employ lobbyists working on behalf of special interest groups.

Professor Larry Sabato from the University of Virginia sums it up best when he refers to all candidates who run for high office and their rhetoric against lobbyists: "They know they work with lobbyists. They have staffers who have been lobbyists. They are going to depend on lobbyists for a lot of the information on the decisions they make if they get elected. So, absolutely there's a lot of hypocrisy involved."

The current election season is highlighted in our region by increasing civic participation and the growing importance of our vote in a tight race. This is a momentous period for our democracy and what's more, the world is watching. Given the stakes, let us maintain civil standards in our political debates and educate, rather than propagandize, our voters.

Maseh Zarif
Reston

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION



On Display
The Z-Car Club of Northern Virginia held a Classic Car Show at the Reston Heights last month with around 20 participants taking part in the show.

THE CONNECTION

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OPINION

Teaching Ethics

BY JACK KENNY
PAST PRESIDENT, REPUBLICAN CLUB
OF GREATER RESTON

There is an old 1950's or so report that is often cited in teaching programs at institutions of higher learning. This report focused on a teacher in a midwestern elementary school who conducted an unauthorized experiment. One day she divided her class into two groups: blue-eyed students and brown-eyed students and changed the seating to the respective groups. She then told them that blue-eyed students were smarter than the brown-eyed students.

She then taught the class for a grading period and analyzed the scores. Sure enough, the blue-eyed students did significantly better. She then announced to the class that based on her analysis, the brown-eyed students were actually smarter. After the next grading period, she again analyzed the performance of the two groups. Sure enough the brown-eyed students did significantly better but did not rise to the same level of improvement as the blue-eyed stu-

dents. The blue-eyed students did somewhat poorer but not as low as the brown-eyed students.

At the start of the next grading period, she announced that her analysis showed that the blue-eyed students were smarter. Sure enough the blue-eyed students returned to their high level of performance. Suffice to say, the teacher was fired for her efforts.

In the past week, it came to light that the Virginia Education Association (VEA), the dominant teacher's union in the Commonwealth, decided to encourage focused campaign political action. Among other actions promulgated in a widely distributed e-mail, teachers were encouraged to actively guide their students to participate in, among other classroom and school activities, wearing blue on a designated "Obama Blue Day" showing support for a presidential candidate.

Transfer the feelings of the brown-eyed children to those students who, for whatever reasons chose not to wear blue on a designated "Obama Blue Day"? Here is an authoritarian figure with a cer-

SEE ETHICS, PAGE 11

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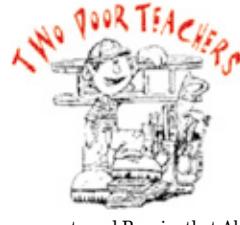
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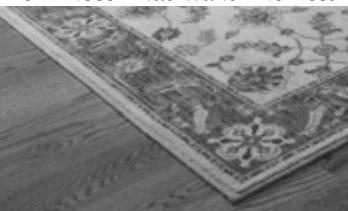
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OPINION

Energy Efficiency Savings

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

S ave some money and energy by purchasing Energy Star appliances during Virginia's sales tax holiday Oct. 10-13. During this period, purchases of certain Energy Star and WaterSense products purchased for non-commercial use and costing \$2,500 or less will be exempt from sales tax. Eligible Energy Star items include dishwashers, clothes washers, refrigerators, air conditioners, ceiling fans, compact fluorescent light bulbs, and programmable thermostats that carry the Energy Star designation. The exempt WaterSense items include bathroom sink faucets, faucet accessories, and toilets. Your immediate savings will be the amount of the sales tax, but your long-term savings will be in a reduced demand for energy to power the more efficient appliances.

Recent research indicates that similar savings could be realized across society, and our current energy crisis could be averted through energy efficiencies. The Alliance to Save Energy (ASE) terms energy efficiency "the quickest, cleanest, and cheapest solution to our current energy crisis — as a means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as to address issues such as energy security and pollution." (www.ase.org) A recent report from the Alliance, "Funding Mechanisms for Energy Efficiency," provides

information on other ways states can directly fund energy efficiency programs beyond the sales tax holiday as offered in Virginia.

A report by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) issued last month found that "by investing in energy-efficient technologies, the Commonwealth of Virginia can reduce its electricity needs by one-fifth; deliver cleaner, less expensive power to Virginia consumers; create thousands of new jobs; and better position the state to more cost effectively meet its future energy requirements." (www.aceee.org) The ACEEE report agreed with that of the ASE that "energy efficiency and demand response are the lowest-cost resources available to meet the growing energy demand and the quickest to deploy for near-term impacts." ACEEE estimates that an average household in Virginia could save \$5 on its monthly electricity bill by 2015 and \$20 per month by 2025 by participating in energy efficiency programs.

As a member of Governor Kaine's Climate Change Commission I will be working for inclusion of energy efficiency policies in its report and for passage of legislation to increase energy efficiency efforts. In the meantime, there are many actions that we as consumers can take to reduce our personal demand for electricity. In addition to purchasing Energy Star appliances, we can

SEE ENERGY, PAGE 11

10 ♦ RESTON CONNECTION ♦ OCTOBER 8-14, 2008

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OPINION

Energy

FROM PAGE 9

use programmable thermostats in our homes, use only CFL bulbs, turn off the lights when we leave the room, and have an energy audit completed on our homes. My weekly Virginia E-News electronic newsletter contains regular suggestions on energy reduction for homeowners. Go to www.kenplum.com to subscribe.

Ethics

FROM PAGE 9

tain power to affect the future aspirations of students applying for colleges and are vitally concerned about their grade point average (GPA) or such other scores. Do these impressionable youngsters feel that they are going to be penalized for not wearing blue?

There is a line that has been crossed here. Bringing partisan campaign politics into the classroom is a gross violation of the trust we place in teachers. What has happened to the ethical and moral compass of the teachers who perpetrate these activities, or for that matter the powerful, misguided union officials that are promoting this activity?

Do you know what some folks in Great Falls are doing behind closed doors?



- More than 75 of them are creating art in home-based studios. On October 18 and 19, between the hours of 10:00 am and 5:00 pm, a talented collection of painters, sculptors, quilters, photographers, potters, jewelry makers, computer gurus and paper magicians will open their doors to you for the Fifth Annual Great Falls Art Studios Tour.
- This year, the tour will feature 15 art studios and four exhibit venues. Some are located in artists' residences, others are in historic properties, barns and funky outbuildings on scenic back roads.
- The Great Falls Art Studios Tour is free. It's self-guided. And it's fun for the whole family.

For complete details, including a directory and map, visit www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

The Great Falls Studios Tour will be held on October 18 and 19, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Blue balloons and signs will mark all venues.

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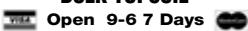
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CALENDAR

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6451. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 10

Reston Oktoberfest. The best in fall brews, traditional Oktoberfest fare from area restaurants and live entertainment. 3-11 p.m., Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St. Visit www.oktoberfestreston.com.

Campfire Fun. For senior adults, 55 years and older, an evening around the campfire ring on Soapstone Drive, between Glade Drive and Lawyers Road, Reston, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Call 703-435-6577 to register.

SATURDAY/OCT. 11

Reston Oktoberfest. The best in fall brews, traditional Oktoberfest fare from area restaurants and live entertainment. 3-11 p.m., Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St. Visit www.oktoberfestreston.com.

Out of the Darkness. Walk to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to fund research, education, survivor and awareness programs. Meet at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Registration at 8 a.m., walk begins at 9 a.m.

Artist Reception. Attend an artist reception and exhibition for environmental artist Shinji Turner-Yamamoto's "Sleeping Tree" at the Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., 5-7 p.m. "Sleeping Tree" on exhibit Oct. 10- Nov. 14. Call 703-471-9242 or visit www.restonarts.org.

Bluegrass Concert. David Davis & The Warrior River Boys perform at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Reservations: 703-435-8377. Cost: \$12.

SUNDAY/OCT. 12

New Line Brass Band. Concerts on the Square in the front yard of the Reston Sheraton and The

Westin, Reston Heights, 11790 Sunrise Valley Drive, 5-7 p.m. Free.

Haircuts for a Cause. Le Shoppe and Jouvence/Aveda Salons, both located in Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., are offering services at reduced prices from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. to benefit the Children's National Medical Center and the 7th Street Garden.

Haunting of Holy Cross. Hear spooky music to prepare for Halloween. Program features works on the pipe organ and trumpet at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon at 3 p.m. Free. Visit www.HolyCrossLutheranChurch.net.

MONDAY/OCT. 13

"Jester's Box." Blue Sky Puppet Theatre's "Table Top"

performance at Phoenix Worldgate Theatre, Herndon, 10:30 a.m. Cost \$4 advance/ \$5 at the door. Call Herndon Parks and Recreation at 703-787-7300 or visit www.herndon-va.gov.



Mr. Knick Knack. Listen to live music from Mr. Knick Knack at 2 p.m. at the Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Call 703-689-4699 or visit www.restontowncenter.com.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 15

Book Release. Author Katherine Neville will release her new book "The Fire," the sequel to the award-winning book "The Eight," at Barnes and Noble Reston, 1851 Fountain Drive, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY/OCT. 16

Comic Artist Exhibition. Exclusive images by DC and Marvel artists will be on display through Nov. at ArtInsights, located in the Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Visit www.artinsights.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

2 DAYS OF FALL FUN **Oktoberfest RESTON** **RESTON TOWN CENTER PAVILION**

Friday, October 10 3:00pm - 11:00pm

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Saturday, October 11 3:00pm - 11:00pm

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

Choosing Eyeglasses. Join Dr. Gammon and image stylist Anne Morgan to learn how to select the best frames that fit properly, harmonize with coloring, and balance features and face shape. 7-9 p.m.; call 703-709-5400 or visit www.eyewear-gallery.com

SATURDAY/OCT. 18

Halloween Family Fun Day. Come in costume and enjoy a puppet show, magic show and candy and prizes for free from 1-3 p.m. at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza. For children up to 8 years of age with adult guardian.

CPR Class. Learn the important skill of infant and Toddle CPR at Cradle & Crayon, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Limited seating; reservations at 703-437-0900. Also, gather in the Cradle & Crayon Nursery for Story Time every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

Autumn Adventure. Horse-drawn hayrides, hay maze, living scarecrows, arts and crafts, treat-or-treating, live music and more from 12-4 p.m. at the Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St. Proceeds benefit Reston Interfaith. \$5/child, \$20/family.

Home Tour. Visit five private homes and Linden Springs Manor House in the 7th annual Reston Home Tour. Jacques Haeringer will present cooking demonstrations and tastings throughout the day, and the tour will end at the Wine Cabinet at North Point for complimentary wine-tasting and appetizers from 4-6 p.m. Tickets: \$30. Call Reston Museum, 703-709-7700 or Bonnie Haukness, Reston

FOOD & DRINK

Oktoberfest Reston will be held at the Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market Street, Reston, on Friday, **Oct. 10** and Saturday, **Oct. 11**, 3 p.m. until 11 p.m. both days. Admission and parking are free. Food and drink will be available in exchange for tickets purchased onsite; each item ranging from \$1 - \$5 in value. A portion of ticket proceeds benefit INCspire, the business incubator program of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce.

Participating restaurants include: Clyde's of Reston, Il Forno, M&S Grill, McCormick and Schmick's Seafood, Market Street Bar & Grill, and Vie de France.

The **Wine Cabinet** at 1416 North Point Village Center, Reston, is celebrating five years in business with a week

full of food and wine pairings and special guest appearances from Tuesday, **Oct. 14** through Saturday, **Oct. 18**. Robert McFarlane will host a "birthday bash" on Thursday, **Oct. 16**, 5-8 p.m. and Matthew Tucker will discuss "Top Scoring Wines" on Friday, **Oct. 17**, 4-8 p.m. For more information see www.thewinecabinet.com or call 703-668-WINE (9463).

Vinifera Wine Bar & Bistro is taking guests on a tasting tour of Virginia's best vintages throughout the month of October to celebrate "Virginia Wine Month." Vinifera is offering half-priced wine flights designed to showcase the best of Virginia during October. The restaurant is located in the Westin Reston Heights at 11750 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Visit www.viniferabistro.com or

1; 3 p.m., Sunday, **Nov. 2**; 8 p.m., Friday, **Nov. 7**; 8 p.m., Saturday, **Nov. 8**; 7 p.m., Sunday, **Nov. 9**; 8 p.m., Thursday, **Nov. 13**; 8 p.m., Friday, **Nov. 14**; 8 p.m., Saturday, **Nov. 15**. See eldenstreetplayers.org.

"The Fisherman and His Wife," Theater for Young Audiences, Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Saturday, **Nov. 1**; 12 p.m., Sunday, **Nov. 2**; 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Saturday, **Nov. 8**; 8 p.m., Sunday, **Nov. 9**; 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Saturday, **Nov. 15**; 2 p.m., Sunday, **Nov. 16**. See eldenstreetplayers.org.

"Forbidden Broadway," Reston Community Players at CenterStage of the Reston Community Center, 8 p.m., Saturday, **Nov. 8**; 2:30 p.m., Sunday, **Nov. 9**; 8 p.m., Friday, **Nov. 14**; 2:30 p.m., Saturday, **Nov. 15**; 8 p.m., Saturday, **Nov. 16**. See eldenstreetplayers.org.

"Secrets of a Soccer Mom," Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 8 p.m., Friday, **Oct. 24**; 8 p.m., Saturday, **Oct. 25**; 8 p.m., Friday, **Oct. 31**; 8 p.m., Saturday, **Nov. 1**.

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SATURDAY/OCT. 25

Ladies Who Brunch. Preview new fall merchandise while enjoying brunch from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Midtown Jewelers, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Female friends and family are invited for fun and prizes. RSVP to 703-707-9664 or susan@midtownjewelersinc.com.

Beatles and Faith. Ken Mansfield, U.S. Manager of Apple Records for the Beatles, will speak about his experiences with the band and his faith at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon, at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$10/person, \$25/family; available at door only. To RSVP, call 703-295-2503 or e-mail 2008oct19@cox.net.

Yom Kippur. Chabad of Reston is offering services at no charge at the Tyson's Corner Marriott Hotel, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. To reserve seats visit www.chabadrh.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 26

Entertaining. Learn how to entertain with style at the Pottery Barn, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., 10 a.m. RSVP to 703-437-6001.

TUESDAY/OCT. 28

Blood Drive. INVOA Blood Drive from 12-7:30 p.m., beside the Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St. Schedule appointments at 1-866-256-6372 or inova.org/donateblood.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 29

Book Signing. Fairfax author Michael Sullivan will have a Q&A discussion and book signing at Barnes and Noble Spectrum Center, 1851 Fountain Drive, Reston, 1851 Fountain Drive.

THURSDAY/OCT. 23

Author Presentation. Author Andrew Meier will present "The Lost Spy: An American in Stalin's Secret Service" at 7 p.m. in the Barnes and Noble Reston, 1851 Fountain Drive.

SATURDAY/NOV. 1

"Walk Like Madd." Fund-raiser for MADD, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Lake Fairfax

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

call 703-234-3550.

Great American Restaurants has opened **Jackson's Mighty Fine Food & Lucky Lounge** in Reston Town Center. Great American Restaurants is a locally owned company that operates 10 restaurants and one bakery in Northern Virginia including Artie's, Best Buns Bread Co., Carlyle, Coastal Flats, Jackson's Mighty Fine Food & Lucky Lounge, Mike's "American," Silverado and Sweetwater Tavern.

Generous George's Positive Pizza & Pasta Place opened its first franchised location at 2321-C Dulles Station Blvd., Herndon. With seating for 150 and a game room, sports teams and large parties welcome. Call 703-793-3338.

day, **Nov. 15** (sign interpretation); 2:30 p.m., Sunday, **Nov. 16**; 8 p.m., Friday, **Nov. 21**; 2:30 p.m., Saturday, **Nov. 22**; 8 p.m., Saturday, **Nov. 22**, and 2:30 p.m., Sunday, **Nov. 23**. See www.restonplayers.org.

"The Sound of Music," Herndon High School Theatre Department, at Herndon High School, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, **Nov. 13**; 7:30 p.m., Friday, **Nov. 14**; 7:30 p.m., Saturday, **Nov. 15**; 2 p.m., Sunday, **Nov. 16**.

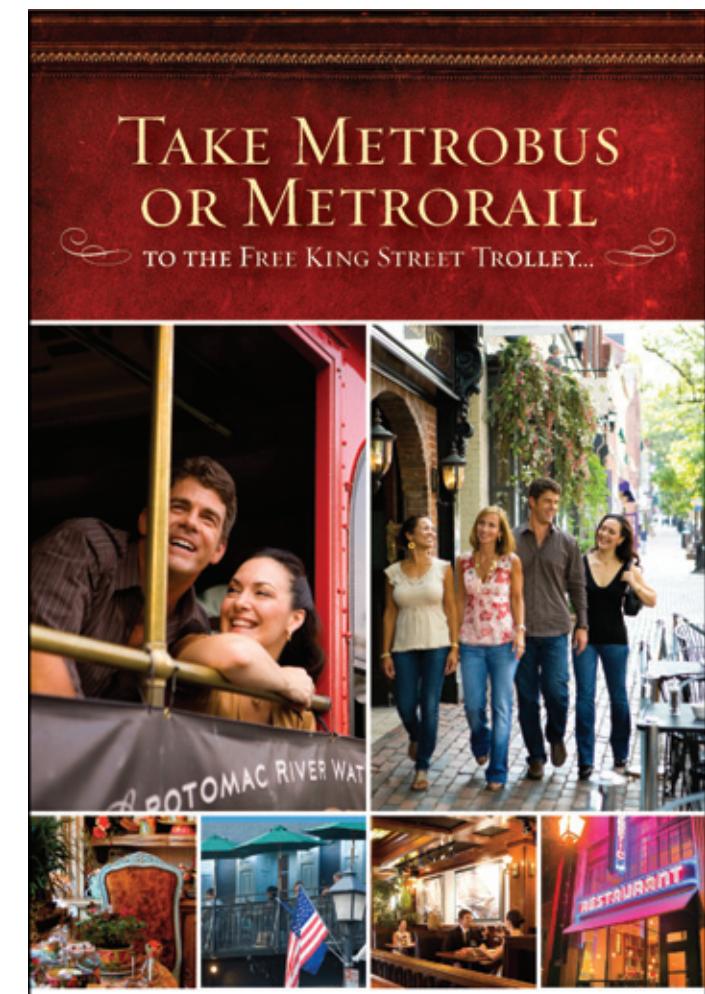
"Anne of Green Gables," Theater for Young Audiences, Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 7:30 p.m., Friday, **Dec. 12**; 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Saturday, **Dec. 13**; 2:30 p.m., Sunday, **Dec. 14**; 7:30 p.m., Friday, **Dec. 19**; 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Saturday, **Dec. 20**; 2:30 p.m., Sunday, **Dec. 21**. See eldenstreetplayers.org.

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OBITUARY

Eric Francis Hirt

Eric Francis Hirt of Herndon died on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008, after a brief illness. He was born on Nov. 18, 1955 in Ravenna, Ohio. Mr. Hirt worked at Alion Science and Technology as a Principle Software Design Engineer. He earned his BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Akron. He earned an additional MS in Information Technology from Virginia Tech in 2008.

Mr. Hirt was well known in the community as president of the Herndon High School Band Parents Association from 2003 to 2006, but he did much more. He volunteered thousands of hours over the 10 years he was associated with the high school and middle school bands. He chaired the Showcase of Bands Program at Herndon High School, ran the Solo and Ensemble Festival at Herndon Middle School in 2006, and was first Webmaster for the award-winning Herndon High School Band Web site.

Hundreds of The Pride of Herndon Band students knew him as the uniform truck driver, pit crew member and the Grillmaster. He was a member of the Herndon Middle School Band Parents Association Board where he took the minutes and gave input as the high school liaison. He recorded, duplicated and distributed CDs of band, orchestra and chorus concerts as a fund raiser for the band. Mr. Hirt received the Nancy Katz Award for his many hours of volunteer work for the Pride of Herndon. The Town of Herndon proclaimed June 17, 2005 to be "Eric Hirt Day."

He is survived by Tamela his beloved wife of 27 years. Devoted father of Justin (wife Ashley Lavender) of Jacksonville, Fla. and his daughters Erica and Melinda of Herndon. He was preceded in death by his father, Frank Karl Hirt and father-in-law, Earl Robbins. Also survived by his mother, Clara Hirt Norman of N. Canton, Ohio, sisters Sharon Sartain (Robert) of Houston, Texas, Valerie Sutter (Brian) of Winter Park, Fla., Victoria Crawford (Dwight) of Canton, Ohio and Jennifer Schlegel (Jeffrey) of Kettering, Ohio, godmother Bernetta Wiencek of Hudson, Ohio, sister-in-law Cindy (Robert) Goldsberry, brother-in-law Dave Robbins, mother-in-law, Martha Swickard and 17 nieces and nephews.

Contributions may be made to American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, The Pride of Herndon Band, and Herndon United Methodist Church.

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All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.

See www.ConnectionNewspapers.com on Saturday for open houses after deadline.



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NEWS

Festival Brings Visitors to Plaza

FROM PAGE 5

emphasize Lake Anne Village Center as a destination. "Whatever we can do to showcase our community," said Thompson.

"It's the best music festival in Reston," said Rick Thompson, Eve's husband.

There was a philanthropic side to the festivities on Saturday, too. Proceeds from the festival went to The Hub Theatre and a Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) program. The Hub is a nonprofit professional theatre company that is currently looking for permanent space in Reston, according to Maggie Ulmer, an artistic director. "We are focused on creating art that is acceptable to the community," said Ulmer. She added that the Jazz and Blues Festival was very focused on supporting regional art, both through benefiting The Hub and Grace and involving local musicians and artists to provide entertainment and designs for the festival.

"Art grows businesses, it grows education," said Helen Pafumi, a Sterling resident who is also an artistic director at The Hub. The reason for naming the theatre The



Maggie Ulmer and Helen Pafumi represented The Hub Theatre at Saturday's festival. Proceeds from Saturday's festival benefited The Hub and a program of the Greater Reston Arts Center.

Hub is that the directors want to make it a center of arts and commerce. Pafumi said business and community leaders would agree that arts bring people to a community that in turn support busi-

nesses. "The more art you bring in, the better the merchants do," she said.

To learn more about The Hub Theatre, visit www.thehubtheatre.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

SUNDAY/OCT. 12

Charity Fundraiser. Jouvence Aveda and Le Shoppe Salons raise will funds 9 a.m.-7 p.m. to benefit Children's National Medical Center & 7th Street Garden. All service proceeds will be donated to the foundations. Guests can book appointments online at www.jouvnencesalons.com or www.leshoppesalons.com. Jouvence Aveda is located at 11913 Democracy Drive and Le Shoppe is at 11934 Democracy Drive, Reston.

TUESDAY/OCT. 14

Community Dialogue Meeting. Provide input to Fairfax County's FY 2010 Budget Process. The meeting will be held at the Fairfax Government Center from 7:9:30 p.m. Registration required; call 703-324-2391.

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SPORTS

Seahawk Boys Fly High at Keyser Meet

Cross country squad grabs first overall at Maryland meet.

By RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The South Lakes High boys' cross country team left the area last Saturday to participate at the 31st Annual Frank Keyser Invitational meet in Boonsboro, Md.

While there, the Seahawks made the most of their time by capturing first place in the boys' larger schools division race. South Lakes (48 team points) earned the team championship by placing five runners within the top 15 overall individual finishers.

Twenty-six schools, most of them from Maryland, competed at the Keyser event. Two smaller schools races took place (one boys' and one girls' race), and two larger school races took place as well. The Boonsboro course is three miles in length.

South Lakes' Will Sickenberger finished fourth overall in the larger schools' race with a time of 16 minutes, 31.6 seconds. One of his teammates, Nick Guarnaccia, was sixth overall with a time of 16:33.5. The Seahawks' other three runners who contributed team points to the team's first place finish were Steven Zaboji (11th overall), Fred Kyle (12th) and Kevin Muir (15th). Also running for South Lakes at the meet were Alex Cough (18th) and Sean Williams (33rd).

THE TEAMS FINISHING behind first place South Lakes in the larger schools division race included second place Thomas Johnson (78 points), third place Chesa-



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

South Lakes boys' cross country runner Will Sickenberger (right), running here at the Monroe Parker races in September, led the Seahawks to a team championship at a meet in Maryland last Saturday.

peake (86), fourth place Linganore (91) and fifth place Urbana (122). Thirteen teams competed.

The South Lakes boys ran well together at the recent 100-school Oatlands Invitational meet on Sept. 20 in Leesburg. Sickenberger was the Seahawks' top team finisher in that event. South Lakes, at Oatlands, competed in the elite varsity boys' A race.

"I was pleased with the boys and the way they ran in the [Oatlands] race against nationally ranked teams," said South Lakes coach Kevin Donovan, of his fairly young boys' squad. "They were obviously a little nervous going in because they're young, but I was real pleased. The main reason of competing there was to get them experience. They had also run well at [Monroe] Parker."

At the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 16 at Burke Lake Park, the South Lakes boys finished seventh overall among 24 teams. Sickenberger, a sophomore, was 29th overall in that race, barely missing a top 25 medal. The annual Monroe meet brings together most of the schools of the Northern Region.

Sickenberger has been his team's top finisher in all but one race this season. Guarnaccia, a sophomore, has been the Seahawk boys' No. 2 runner on the team ladder throughout the season, and Zaboji, a junior, has run at No. 2 or 3 for the Seahawks.

Donovan said the Oatlands meet, a relatively young event, was well run. Freedom High of South Riding and Loudoun County were the host schools for the meet.

"Oatlands was one of the best meets I've been to," said Donovan. "It's like a big festival. The kids looked forward to it."

THE SOUTH LAKES GIRLS finished seventh overall out of 10 teams in the larger schools race at the Keyser meet. The Seahawks scored 151 points, finishing behind sixth place Musselman High (142). The girls' team champion was Thomas Johnson High.

The Seahawks' top girls' finisher was Val Moyer, who was fifth overall with a time of 19 minutes, 49.1 seconds. Other South Lakes girls' finishers were Sierra Scoggin (28th overall), Tess Deatley (33rd), Kari Cantwell (41st), Kayla Funaki (44) and Margo Moyer (45th).

The Seahawk girls' team, which like the South Lakes boys is a young squad overall, is led by No. 1 runner Val Moyer, who was 40th overall at the varsity girls' 'B' race at Oatlands.

At Oatlands, the Seahawks' girls ran particularly well in the girls' JV races, with the JV girls' underclassmen finishing 14th overall in a large field of teams. "They did enjoy it," said Donovan, of the underclassmen girls' competition at Oatlands. "It was nice for them to have some success."

The South Lakes' girls top varsity runners this season have been Val Moyer and junior Devin Erickson.

"Both are tough competitors," said Donovan. "They push each other well."

Last Wednesday, the South Lakes JV boys' team won a four-team Liberty District meet at Burke Lake Park. The competing team's on-hand were Marshall, McLean and W.T. Woodson.

Coach Donovan, the South Lakes' first year head coach, said he has enjoyed the autumn season at the helm of the Seahawks' program. "I've really enjoyed it," he said. "They are a whole lot of good kids."

Herndon Football in Hunt for Playoff Spot

The Hornets, at 4-2, are set to take on host Yorktown this Friday night.

By RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon High football team has positioned itself nicely to make a strong run for a Northern Region Div. 6 (larger schools) playoff spot this season. The Hornets, with last week's 16-13 win at Concorde District opponent Fairfax, now stand at 4-2 overall.

In the second year of the expanded playoff format, eight teams will qualify for the Div. 6 playoffs. The Hornets barely missed out on making the postseason last year, despite a strong finish to their season. This season, the team wants to break through

and get in to the postseason party.

"We're trying to win a district championship and to get into the playoffs," said Herndon coach Joe Sheaffer, whose team competes in one of the state's best districts, featuring such teams as Westfield, Oakton, and Chantilly. "We haven't been [to the playoffs] in a long time and that's something we're striving for. That's motivation to keep working hard."

Currently, Herndon is 2-1 in the district with the wins coming over Centreville and Fairfax, and the loss coming from Chantilly two weeks ago. Herndon plays a non-district game at Yorktown this Friday night in Arlington before closing the season with

three consecutive district games against Westfield (home), Robinson (away) and Oakton (away).

The Hornets will probably need to win at least two of their remaining four games to qualify for the playoffs.

"If we're going to reach our goals, it's no mystery that we'll have to win football games," said Sheaffer. "Our kids know what's ahead of them."

IN THE WIN over Fairfax last week, all the game's scoring came in the first half. The Hornets trailed 7-0 in the first quarter. But, behind two touchdowns from junior running back Devon Thompson, Herndon came back. His first score came on a 19-yard run which, following a point after kick from Nick Impellizzeri, tied the game at 7-7 in the first quarter.

A two-point safety, the result of a poorly

executed punt attempt by Fairfax, gave the Hornets a 9-7 lead going into the second quarter. Fairfax regained the lead, 13-9, with a second quarter touchdown. But Herndon scored a TD of its own before the half was over when quarterback Zack Ozycz found Thompson for a three-yard touchdown pass play. Following another extra point kick by Impellizzeri, Herndon led 16-13, and the lead would stand the entire second half.

Fairfax fell to 3-3 with the loss.

"I KNEW it was going to be a real tough game and we had to convince the kids it would be," said Sheaffer. "Fairfax is real competitive on offense and can move the ball. It came down to defense and stopping the big plays. We didn't give up many big plays. And on offense, we were able to move the ball consistently."

SPORTS

RYA REPORT



PHOTO COURTESY/COLONIAL ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

Two Reston residents are members of the Thomas Jefferson High girls' cross country team that finished first at the Carlisle Invitational in Carlisle, Pa. on Sept. 27. The team includes, from left: Katherine Sheridan (Vienna), Sarah Stites (Reston), Lisa Junta (Springfield), Neesha Schnepf (McLean), Sarah Nielsen (Reston), Margaret Coad (Arlington), and Stephanie Marzen (McLean).

The three-day pickleball competition, held from Sept. 30 through Oct. 2 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington, was the final event in the 2008 **Northern Virginia Senior Olympics** (NVSO). Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to seniors in four age groups: 50-59, 60-69, 70-79 and 80-89. A Gold medal in men's doubles went to David Sandidge (60-69 age group) of Vienna.

More than 500 seniors, 50 years of age and over, competed in this year's NVSO, which was sponsored by the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William. Gold Patron sponsors were Goodwin House Incorporated, Greenspring Village, Sunrise Senior Living, Humana, BB&T and Verizon Wireless; silver patrons were Realtor Debbie Miller, McNearney & Associates and Ruxton Health of Alexandria. For more information, call 703-228-4721 or check the Web site at www.novaseniorolympics.com.

More Senior Olympics Notes: Tennis and diving competitions in the 2008 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics were held at Wakefield Park, Annandale and Lee District Park, Franconia. A gold medal in diving was awarded to Muraji Nakazawa (age group 50-54) of Herndon. At Wakefield Park, a gold medal winner in tennis singles went to Jean Barsaloux (women 60-69) of Leesburg. In women's doubles, Jean Barsaloux and Harriet Middlebrook (women's 60-69 doubles) of Leesburg earned a gold. In mixed doubles, Gordon Shingleton of Sterling and Fern Walmer of Potomac Falls earned a gold in the 80-89 division.

The swimming competition was held Sept. 26 at Lee District Park in Franconia. Gold medals in breaststroke were awarded to James Chang (men 70-74) of Oakton; Bruce Herbert (men 75-79) of McLean; and J.R. Cassidy (90-94) of McLean. In backstroke, Dan Elliott (men 55-59) of Great Falls earned a gold. Gold medals in freestyle were awarded to Muraji Nakazawa (men 50-54) of Herndon and Daniel Elliot (men 55-59) of Great Falls. In the half mile race, a gold medal went to

James Chang (men 70-74) of Oakton. The 26th annual Northern Virginia Senior Olympics drew a record number of new participants with 186 new athletes registered to compete for the first time. A total of over 500 adults registered and competed in more than 25 events held at eight different venues in Alexandria, Arlington, Annandale, Fairfax and Franconia.

Open Water Championships took place on Sept. 20 at Smith Mountain Lake. The Curl-Burke Swim Club had the following athletes compete from Fairfax County: Brad Phillips (Oakton High School); Brian Phillips (Oakton); Michael Grimmett-Norris (South Lakes High); Cyrus Hashemi (Kilmer Middle School); Kurt Ratcliff (Westfield High); Christopher Grimmett-Norris (Franklin Middle School); and Tara Banks (Westfield High). Place finishers from the Curl-Burke Club included: Brad Phillips (first place); Grimmett-Norris (fifth place); Brad Dillon (South Lakes, sixth place); Cyrus Hashemi (10th place); Kurt Ratcliff (12th place); and Brian Phillips (Oakton High). All the Curl-Burke swimmers are coached by John Flanagan, who has coached extensively Open Water Champions.

On Sept. 21, Smith Mountain hosted a one-mile race. Bradley Phillips finished first with a time of 21:44, while Ian Decker of Leesburg placed sixth with a time of 22:17. Nick Mason of Ashburn placed 12th with a time of 22:55, Cam Lucas of Ashburn placed 14th with a time of 23:10, and Mark Sarman of Ashburn placed 15th with a time of 20:23:11.

The **Cougar Clinics** will be held this month by the Oakton High girls' basketball program. Girls ages seven to 12 are encouraged to sign up for the basketball skills clinics.

Instructors will include members of the Oakton High coaching staff as well as returning varsity players. The clinics will be held on the following Sundays: Oct. 12, 19 and 26 from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$15 per week or \$50 for all four sessions.

Checks should be made out to Oakton

Athletic Boosters. Send to Fred Priester at: Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna, Va. 22181.

The South Lakes and Yorktown High **girls' volleyball teams** will take part in the "Digging Pink" National Breast Cancer Awareness Rally event on Oct. 14 at South Lakes in Reston. The night of volleyball will be from 5 to 8. Both of the local teams will dedicate the upcoming match to cancer awareness and raising funds for research toward better understanding of the disease. This fall hundreds of volleyball teams from around the country will be participating in the Dig Pink Rally.

The **Reston Youth Basketball League** (RYBL) provides basketball instruction, games, and sportsmanship for boys and girls ages 7 and older who live in Reston and neighboring communities. RYBL offers both 'House' and 'Select/Travel' programs organized according to age. The House league activities go from late November through mid-March and the Select/Travel program begins in early October and ends in early March. This season, RYBL is again offering on-line registration. As an incentive the fee for on-line registration will include a \$5 discount. The service will accept VISA, MasterCard, and American Express credit or debit cards. Go to Restonbasketball.com.

Cascades Flag Football is a youth league open to boys and girls in grades K-8. Registration for the Spring 2009 is open online at www.youthflag.com/cascades. Early bird rates apply through Feb. 20. For more information on coaching or officiating, call 703-444-8805, ext. 112, or email cascades@youthflag.com.

Loudoun Field Hockey Association spring 2009 season is open for girls in grades three through 12 of all skill levels. Register online at www.loudounfieldhockey.org. Early bird rates apply through Feb. 20. Volunteer coaches and referees are needed. For more information, go to: meg@loudounfieldhockey.org, or call 703-444-1020, ext. 104.

Reston Youth Association enjoyed another successful week on the gridiron in week 4 action, the first weekend of October. Playing under perfect autumn weather that was meant for football, RYA youth football teams won eight of 11 games.

RYA is an all-volunteer organization. The 11 teams include a diverse group of about 220 players ranging in age from seven-year-old anklebiters to 16 year olds in the 125 pound weight class. Per RYA rules, all youths fully participate regardless of ability. At the midpoint of the regular season, the RYA teams have displayed good team work and sportsmanship on the way to winning over 70 percent of their games in competition against teams in the Fairfax County Youth Football League (FCYFL). This upcoming weekend, most of the RYA squads will travel to road games throughout Northern Virginia. Complete game schedule and league information can be found at www.RestonSeahawks.org.

The following is a recap of RYA action last week:

Anklebiter No. 1:
RYA 27,
SYA (Centreville) 0

Coach Tyson's anklebiter team snapped a two-game losing streak Saturday with a convincing win over SYA. After the Seahawks defense caused a fumble the first play of the game, Anthony "All Day" Agee ran in one of his three touchdowns from 60 yards out. The defense was instrumental in this game as it caused and recovered four fumbles. The remaining touchdown was scored on an impressive 30 yard run by Jaylen "J.J." Cole-Williams. All of Reston's extra points were pounded in by Izaiah "The Juice" Williams-Baffoe, who was a machine this game. Hats off to the beasts of the trenches on the offensive line, who handed out pancake blocks left and right. Their solid play allowed the RYA offense to click on all cylinders. Coach Tyson's team will face-off again Friday night at 6 in Vienna against the Broncos of Vienna.

Anklebiter Division No. 3:
Reston Seahawks 25,
Centreville Wildcats 0

The Seahawk "Green Machine" anklebiters are now 3-1 after beating the Wildcats. The Wildcat defense could not touch Zig-Zag Johnson, who scored on runs of two, 60, 45 and 58 yards out. He received great blocking from Ryan Ferzoco, Magnus Blanke, Anton Coughlan, Justo Esteve, Andre Johnson and Jacob Anikow. The Seahawks struggled to convert their extra points, but hard-running Farrell Thompson did score one extra point for the Seahawks. Hayden Lousedes did a great job leading the Seahawk offense at QB. The Green Machine defense completely shut down the Wildcat offense. They did not allow Centreville to cross the 40 yard line until the last minute of the game. Myles Boyd and Zig-Zag did stellar jobs at outside linebacker. Free safety Keyshawn Waters put in a fine performance, coming up and making tackles on the Wildcat runners. Middle linebackers Shane Martel and Jacob Anikow once again demonstrated why teams do not run up the middle. Pint-size linemen Justo Esteve and Bryce Thomas plugged up the middle for the defense, and Alivia Damper, Farrell Thompson, Brian Coppage and Andre Johnson shut down the off tackle and end. The Seahawks will face the first place Vienna Steelers on the evening of Friday Oct. 10 at Marshall High School at 6:30.

85 lb National:
RYA 25,
Lee-Franconia Wolverines 13
The Reston Seahawks 85 pound National team defeated the Lee-Franconia Wolverines last Thursday night in a home thriller. Braving rush hour traffic, the 6 p.m. start went off without a hitch and the Seahawks defense shut down the Wolverines throughout the first half. Vadim Konshin laid out some punishing hits and Sean Gordon, Tyquan Johnson, Elias Kassa, Ashwin Matur and Joel Alexander brought tremendous pressure and penetration on the defensive line. The Wolverines never seemed comfortable and the offense, led by Coach Steve Memery, converted key fourth downs and punched in 25 straight points before the Wolverines woke up. Late third quarter efforts by Lee-Franconia yielded a busted play, quarterback run that hit for "Pay Dirt". Another off tackle rush late in the fourth quarter brought the score within 12 points, but time expired on the Lee-Franconia squad. Tremendous leadership by QB George Bullen and the mixed and balanced offensive effort helped propel the National team to 3-1 overall. Next up for the mighty Seahawks are the McLean Mustangs at Stratton Woods this Sunday.

95 lb American:

RYA 24,
Vienna Warhawks 0

RYA's 95 pound team, playing in the elite American division, avenged a loss last year to Vienna, with a convincing shutout victory of the well-coached and talented Warhawks. The game was physical throughout with numerous crushing blocks and tackles. The first quarter began as a defensive struggle with both teams being forced to punt on their initial drives. RYA fumbled the ball away on its second possession, but RYA safety Akram Gibrel made a nice interception to get the ball back for RYA. RYA then scored mid-way through the second period to take a 6-0 lead. On RYA's next possession, QB Ryan McLaughlin made a beautiful throw to wide-out RJ Lee, but time expired as Lee was tackled on the Vienna 10 yard line. After a half-time pep-talk from RYA coaches Gambrell Lee, Dyson, Johnson, McBride and Monk, RYA came out fired-up for the second half. Dominique May recovered Vienna's onside-kick to start the second half. The RYA offensive line of Conor McBride, David Webb, Josh Forrest, Alex Woodward, Josh Height and Seth Ravenstahl then started wearing down the Vienna defensive line and opening big holes for the backs. Behind the line, the RYA backfield of Gibrel, RJ Lee and Devonte Johnson made numerous long runs, scoring three touchdowns in the second half. The RYA defense, while bending a bit under the disciplined Vienna attack, did not break and recorded its third shut-out in four games with excellent play all-around. Defensive end Delontaie Wingfield earned defensive player of the game accolades for his aggressive play throughout. Reston will be working on extra points this week and then travel to Gainesville on Saturday afternoon for their next game in an attempt to keep their undefeated season going strong.

125 lb Central:

RYA 34,
Lee-Franconia Wolverines 0

Though up 14-0, the Seahawk's first half was filled with a lot of mental mistakes and uncharacteristic plays. After a halftime lecture from the coaches and some adjustments, the Seahawks began the second half looking like their old selves. The defense caused multiple turnovers while the offense scored three more touchdowns. Robbie Walker, DeAndre Thomas and Kyle Savage scored touchdowns behind the blocking of Roger Lambert, Sam Evans, "Dre" Gambrell, Joseph LeSage, and Brandon Carelock. Defensive backs Chris Mancebo, Zac Parker, and Shyheim Johnson shut down Lee-Franconia's air attack and scored themselves another interception for the year. QB Drew Holmes engineered five scoring drives that included two touchdown passes.

Voter Profile: Military Veterans

Virginia veterans active in both McCain and Obama campaigns.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Retired Brig. Gen. John Johns supported Sen. John McCain's bid for the U.S. presidency eight years ago.

"The first political sign I ever put in my yard was for John McCain in 2000," said Johns, who lives in the Lansdowne development in Ashburn. The retired Army officer attended the National War College with McCain and considers the Arizona senator a friend.

But Johns, who left the military 30 years ago, will not be supporting McCain in the upcoming election Nov. 4. The veteran was the keynote speaker at a "Veterans for Obama" event Oct. 4.

"John McCain is the only one that insists we need to stay the course [in Iraq.] It is tearing our Army apart. ... It is wrecking our military and John McCain is stubbornly staying the course," he said.

A political independent, Johns said he has supported other veterans, including retiring Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), but does not think military service should be a prerequisite to the presidency.

"I commanded at higher levels than John McCain but to say this would qualify me to be president is nonsense," he said.

JOHNS' OPINION is far from the norm. Veterans, both locally and nationally, have thrown a significant amount of their support behind McCain.

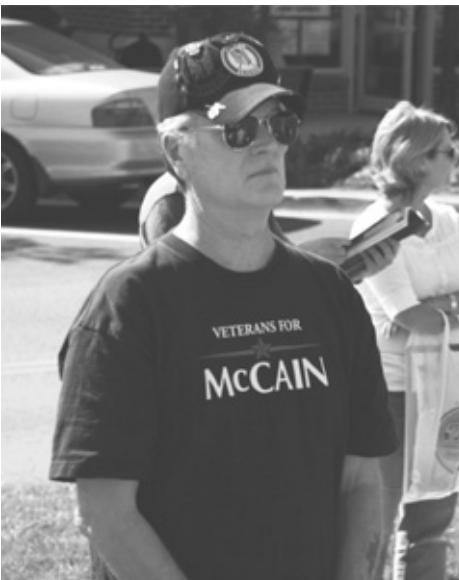
Only a few miles from the "Veterans for Obama" event where Johns spoke, the McCain campaign held a much larger event for supporters who are veterans. Twenty-one former leaders of the nation's largest veterans' organizations – the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars – also endorsed McCain Oct. 1.

"I have a wide audience of veterans and everyone I know supports John McCain," said John Hunter, an Arlington resident who is one of the McCain campaign's 31 "area coordinators" for veterans in Virginia.

"I am definitely more likely to support a veteran because of his military training and love of country," he added.

Approximately 13.5 percent of Virginia residents are veterans, the fifth highest percentage of veterans in any state population.

Arlington County (12 percent), the City of Alexandria (13.3 percent) and Fairfax County (11.8 percent) also have a higher



Arlington resident John Hunter attended a Veterans for McCain-Palin rally in Ashburn Oct. 4.



Loudoun County resident Thom Beres is a state director for Veterans for Obama.

erans and our issues. ... I haven't really heard either presidential candidate talk about veterans issues," said Lew Lipscomb, commander of American Legion Post 176 in Springfield.

Lipscomb knows several local veterans who are having problems acquiring adequate health care. Many veterans feel their illnesses are getting lower "ratings" and that they are receiving fewer benefits than they would if they had the same problem in other regions of the country, he said.

"We have veterans coming to us needing money. They think we are rolling in money and we aren't," said Lipscomb, at the Springfield Post's annual "Pig Roast."

According to Lipscomb, there are approximately 8,000 American Legion members in Northern Virginia and Post 176 is the largest, with about 1,600 members.

MANY VETERANS said they thought McCain, a former prisoner of war, would better meet the needs of the military and veterans if elected.

"He is one of us. He knows what it means to get shot at," said Charlie McKinney, an Ashburn resident and coordinator of the "Veterans for McCain" effort in Virginia's 10th congressional district.

But Beres said McCain does not have a track record of being interested in veterans' issues.

"During [McCain's] 27 years in congress, he never volunteers to be on any committee or subcommittee

that deals with veterans and veterans' rights," said Beres.

"I think you will find that officers skew Republican and enlisted folks skew Democrat."

— Thom Beres, Veterans for Obama in Virginia

in the military until 2006.

Raines, a McCain supporter, said he has a hard time identifying with or condoning Obama's recreational drug use as a young adult. "I didn't smoke a single joint in high school," he said.

Veterans also put a premium on a strong national defense and the Republican Party is perceived to favor a stronger approach to national security.

"In presidential elections, I tend to lean Republican because of national defense issues," said Springfield resident Bill Hurd, who also supports McCain.

But veterans supporting Obama said there is misconception about the link between the military and the Republican Party.

"I think you will find that officers skew Republican and enlisted folks skew Democrat," said Beres, a retired colonel who served for 26 years.

Beres added that recent reports also show people currently serving in the military – about three-percent of Virginia's total population – prefer Obama to McCain. Accord-

ing to the Center for Responsive Politics, active soldiers had contributed more money in larger numbers to Obama than McCain by the middle of August. Among those people who were deployed, Obama had a six-to-one advantage over McCain, the same analysis revealed.

Despite what Republicans might say, Democrats are not "weak" on defense, added Beres.

"The defense budgets increase under Democrats. Republicans tend to spend more money on fighter planes and bombers. Democrats spend more money on soldiers and benefits," he said.

VETERANS on both ends of the political spectrum agree that the next president should to focus more attention on the needs of retired and wounded soldiers.

"We veterans are looking at how our future president is going to take care of veterans," said Beres.

"I have a wide audience of veterans and everyone I know supports John McCain."

— John Hunter, Arlington

COUNTY NOTEBOOK

Fairfax Pushes To Extend Voting

Fairfax County wants to having the option of leaving the polls open later should the region experience inclement weather or another calamity on election day.

Over the objections of county staff, the Board of Supervisors may ask the Virginia General Assembly to provide them with the option of extending voting hours in special circumstances. The bill would not be considered until after the presidential election takes place Nov. 4.

Fairfax County chairman Gerry Connolly (D) said he was upset on presidential primary day last February when Maryland was able to keep their polls open late during an ice storm but Northern Virginia was not.

"People were prevented physically from voting because they got stuck on a roadway," said Connolly.

Still, staff members said giving elected officials this power could open the voting process up to abuse. People could start extending polling hours in certain places as part of an effort to turn out more votes for the candidate of their choice, staff said.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Black Businesses Organize

New group seeks to increase networking among region's African American businesses.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Billy Caldwell is an African American entrepreneur based out of Ashburn. A 22-year veteran of the Air Force, he started his own home security business four years ago.

Caldwell hands out flyers with his business' information and has ballpoint pens with his company's slogan and phone number on them. These promotions have been working, he said, but Caldwell is looking for more clients.

Last week, he attended the kickoff party for the Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce, a new group that advocates for the region's African American business owners and professionals. The event attracted more than 200 businesspeople to Arlington's Busboys and Poets restaurant and, for Caldwell, a room full of successful, high-powered African Americans was a networking bonanza.

"All levels of people are here, from senior [businesspeople] to those just getting started," he said. "The income is here. [These] people can afford my products."

CALDWELL is one of many local entrepreneurs looking to tap into Northern Virginia's black community. The Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce was created to help people like Caldwell do just that, its founders said. "We want to have a conduit where people can say 'Here's a place I can go where I can find people and I can find partners,'" Randy Philip, one of the group's founders, said.

Philip is an insurance broker who has been based out of Alexandria since 2000. He said that the purpose of a chamber of commerce or any other business association is to aid the small businesses that may not know where to turn for advice. "When you work at IBM you have a cooler and you can sit around and exchange ideas," he said. "When you're the sole proprietor or a small business owner, you really don't have anyone who you can ask 'Hey, what do I do?'"

Philip said that, while there have been smaller regional groups in Alexandria and Fairfax County for African American businesspeople, his group is the first region-wide chamber of commerce specifically devoted to African Americans. "I looked around and ... I saw other groups that had chambers of commerce," he said. "I thought it might be appropriate because there's nothing here in Northern Virginia."

"If you're a black entrepreneur or a business owner," said Gaea Honeycutt, another

"In an economy like this, you need some help."

—Randy Philip, Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce

of the group's founders, "A lot of times if you want to go to an event that focuses on minority businesses, you're heading out to Maryland and D.C. There's nothing here that's a focal point for building relationships with one another and with the community."

THIS DISPARITY between Northern Virginia and the rest of the Washington area when it comes to black-owned businesses was something that was brought up by several people who attended the event.

Less than 20 percent of the Washington area's black population lives in Northern Virginia. Krysta Jones, an Arlington-based political activist.

"Virginia has a really negative perception versus Maryland and D.C.," she said. "That's part of the reason why we're not able to attract people ... [Some] people don't even realize that there are black people in Virginia."

Isaac Lewis, a financial planner from Springfield, said that the Northern Virginia black community is "not as present as it needs to be ... There's a huge growth opportunity there."

Despite the negative perception some black people have of Northern Virginia, Alexandria City Council Member Ludwig Gaines (D) said that, "There are a number of great minority-owned businesses [here]. The problem is other jurisdictions are more organized."

Gaines said that the creation of the Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce was a great opportunity to increase diversity in the region and told the assembled African American businesspeople at the kickoff party that "When it comes to city contracts in Alexandria, you have an advocate in me."

HONEYCUTT, a media consultant based out of Mount Vernon, said that her group will be holding breakfasts, lunches and happy hours that will allow local black professionals and entrepreneurs to network. They also are planning on hosting a gala featuring the CEO of a prominent area corporation. "We're not really trying to reinvent the wheel," Honeycutt said.

With the country's economy quite possibly headed for a recession, business owners can't afford to operate on an island, Philip said. "If you're the only guy out there that you see, you deal with the problems you have and you might think 'Gosh I'm the only guy that's having these problems.' Then you come into a room like this," he said. "In an economy like this, you need some help."

More

For more information on the Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce, visit www.novabcc.org.

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a long-time customer server, I have had ample opportunities to do what I'm supposed to do; do what is right; and to do what is above and beyond, sometimes all together and sometimes independent of one another. As such, I feel somewhat qualified to discuss some of the customer service I receive and some of the customer service that I don't receive. And though \$4 per gallon gasoline and \$4.29 per gallon for home heating oil doesn't exactly put me in the best of moods, I'll try to be reasonable in my rant.

To quote the actor Peter Finch, in his role as "deranged ex-anchor," Howard Beale, from the 1977 release of the Oscar-winning movie, "Network," "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore." And furthermore, I have decided that I am no longer going to confront the foot soldiers, those front-line customer-servers with whom customers/consumers initially and most often engage, in their pursuit of truth, justice and what was once the American way, fairness. Henceforth, I am going to stop dealing with the infantry and follow Lt. Col. Sherman Potter's advice to Radar (from the long-running television show, M*A*S*H): "Always go to the top, Radar." To which Radar responded, "You're closer to it than I am, sir."

Well, I'm not any closer to the top than Radar was, but I am as close to a telephone as anyone else is, and since I am extremely comfortable and capable speaking on it, I have decided to complain up. The lack of on-site accountability has forced my hand — and fingers. No longer will I mumble in disbelief when treated disrespectfully, no longer will I grin and bear it when "policy" gets in the way of courtesy and this customer's satisfaction, and no longer will I attempt to resolve disputes with in-house management while backing up a line of frustrated customers waiting impatiently. I will remain calm. In fact, it will be as if I'm Katie Winters from the Secret brand deodorant commercials from yesteryear, "I will be cool, calm and collected." I will simply ask for a phone number for someone in customer service/customer relations at the main office/regional/corporate level to whom I can speak at a more convenient time.

I have never been a squeaky wheel, but after years of getting greased and neglected, of being disagreed with and generally speaking, taken for granted, I am officially mad as hell and I am now going to start doing something different about it. Enough is enough!

It is too difficult, especially in this economy, to make the money I make, incur the expenses I do and pay the bills I must, simply to be treated as if there's plenty more where I came from. And there may very well be, but that fact doesn't feed or assuage this bulldog. I'm done, locally.

In the future (heck, make that the present), I will be communicating my dissatisfaction to those in a position of authority. I am not going to waste my breath or expend my energy complaining to the unempowered person standing in front of me. I am going to follow Sherman Potter's advice. I have tried the other way and it doesn't work. It's time to start at the top and work my way down. Wish me luck. I'll probably need it.

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

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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Thank you St. Jude. J.K.

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29 Misc. for Sale

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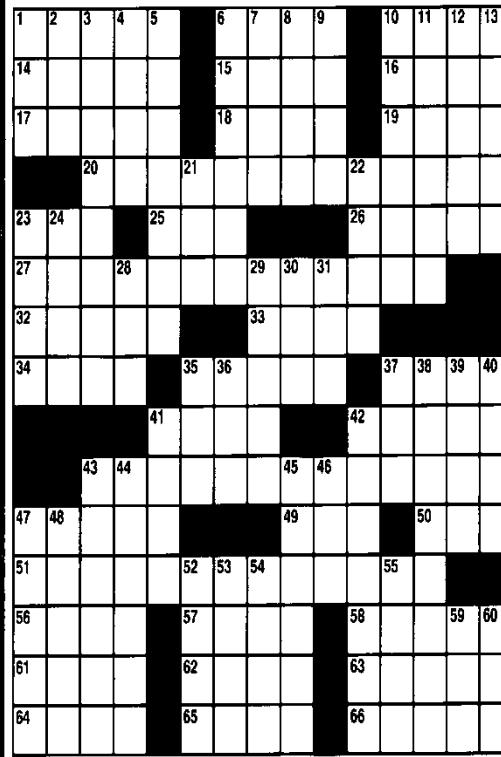
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ZONE I AD DEADLINE:
MONDAY NOON

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0401-1



- 28 Compose
29 Authority
30 Press for payment
31 Ginger —
35 — me?"
36 Band aid?
37 Air letters?
38 Making whole
39 Make known
40 Bear with us at night
41 Voiced
42 Times when you're not at your peak
43 Pinafores
44 Thirstiest
45 "Hey, check that out!"
46 Guitarist Paul
47 Class
48 Cop —
52 It's the truth
53 Spanish pot
54 Available
55 Vicinity
59 — standstill
60 Mateo or Miguel, e.g.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SNAG	ABODE	PAUL
TOFU	NODAL	EDNA
EARN	KNOCK	KNOCK
WHOSTHERE	APPLE	MAS
FLUID	SCROLL	NEATER
EAST	SALAMI	JAB
THEHANDYMAN	YOUR	ERR
ERR	VOIDED	ANNA
TUREEN	EMITS	SI MILE
KNITS	DOORBELLS	IBM
ONTHEBLINK	RAIL	AIRE
AIRE	VINCE	ECRU
LEES	DIKED	DEAR

SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT!

Be the first person to fax in the correct crossword puzzle answers each week, and we'll put your name here! Fax the completed puzzle, with your name, the puzzle number, and the time and date of the fax, to the Crossword Puzzle Desk, fax #703-917-0998.

The winner of puzzle #0331 is:

Jim Davis

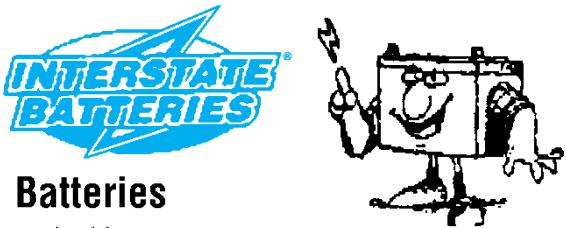
Note: Due to space limitations, the crossword may not appear from time to time. In that case, you may look on our Web site: www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "Print Editions" button. It should appear in a newspaper from a different Classifieds zone.

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(Rt. 123 & Burke Ctr. Pkwy behind McDonald's)

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