

Dilemma of Station Location

NEWS, PAGE 3

The search for a site to build a replacement for the aging Herndon Fire Station continues, as the most recent site to be discussed is deemed too expensive.

FAIRFAX COUNTY
HERNDON STATION
CO 4

Community Honors Ms. Coates

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APR Task Force Reincarnated

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703-821-5050 or E-Mail the info to Lauri@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.

WEEK IN HERNDON

Charged With Vehicle Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department fire investigators charged a 20-year-old man of 12500 block of Summer Place, in the Franklin Farm area, with two felony charges.

He was charged for burning a vehicle valued over \$200 (Class 4 Felony, Virginia Code 18.2-81), and for starting a fire capable of spreading (Class 6 Felony, Virginia Code 18.2-86). The charges are in connection with a vehicle fire, Aug. 18, 2008, at 12509 Summer Place. No were reported Injuries. Damages have been estimated at \$7,000.

The man is being held at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

Program on Jewish Medieval Medicine

The Hazak Active Retirees Chapter of Congregation Beth Emeth, 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon, presents Dr. Louis Blumen, who will give a lecture entitled "Jewish Medicine in Medieval Times" Tuesday, March 17, 1 p.m.

For more information, call 703-860-4515, ext. 127.

Town Council Seeks Attorney

The Herndon Town Council is seeking a resident of the town who is also an attorney to serve on the Architectural Review/Heritage Preservation Review Boards (ARB/HPRB). These boards determine whether property owners and buildings are maintaining architecturally compatible qualities throughout the town and ensure that the historic integrity of buildings and sites is preserved. The vacancy on the boards is created by the retirement of longtime member Michael Davies-Sekle.

A full term on the ARB/HPRB is three years and members receive \$100 per month for their service. Public hearings are Monday following each month's first Town Council regular session, and work sessions are on the Wednesday prior to the public hearings.

Applications for the vacant ARB/HPRB position are available on the town's Web site at www.herndonva.gov, (Government/Town Clerk/Related Links), or contact the Office of the Town Clerk at 703-435-6805 or town.clerk@herndonva.gov.



PHOTO BY MIKE DiCICCO/THE CONNECTION

HERNDON CONNECTION EDITOR
KEMAL KURSPAHC
703-917-6428 OR
HERNDON@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

\$100 for Sex Conviction

Casey Cox, 23 of Herndon, pled guilty Thursday, March 5, 2009 to sexual enticement of a minor.

Cox offered to pay \$100 for sexual activity with a 14-year-old girl after he responded to an Internet ad from an U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement undercover agent, according to Dana J. Boente, acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Officials arrested Cox when he arrived at a pre-arranged location in Chantilly.

Cox faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years and will remain under court supervision for at least five years after his release, according to Boente. Cox also will be required to register as a sex offender in any U.S. jurisdiction in which he lives, works or attends school.

U.S. District Court Judge Gerald Bruce Lee is scheduled to sentence Cox in federal court in Alexandria in May.

The Northern Virginia-Washington, D.C. Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force investigated the case, which is being prosecuted by Andrew McCormack, a special assistant U.S. Attorney on detail from the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Department of Justice.

— KEN MOORE

County Executive Tony Griffin has directed staff to look for other alternatives for a new Herndon fire station, after deciding that the site of the Herndon Police Department would be too costly.

Dilemma of Station Location

County suspends talks regarding purchase of town property for new fire station.

BY MIKE DiCICCO
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Fire Station is too small to properly house all of its equipment and its staff. It doesn't have separate facilities for men and women and its parking is deficient. "It's just an old station that needs to be replaced, and we'd like to put it wherever the town of Herndon would like it put," said Dan Schmidt, Fire and Rescue spokesman.

However, the long search for an appropriate site, recently thought to be over, continues. In the face of a budgetary crisis, County Executive Tony Griffin has sus-

pended talks with the Town of Herndon regarding a site adjoining the town's police department and has directed county staff to look for other options.

"I've got an obligation to ensure that we're getting a reasonable price," Griffin said, adding that what Herndon was asking was reasonable for that site but still too much to pay for a site for a fire station.

The spot was considered ideal because it has adequate acreage and ready access to primary roadways and is centrally located. If the county is unable to find another location that meets those specifications, it may return to the police station site, Griffin said. "It is a possibility, but it's a pretty steep price to pay."

However, Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) pointed out that the town leases out the buildings on the property and "can't just wait around" for the county to reach a decision.

"If we can't, for understandable reasons, make a deal with the town, it will be a disappointment, because it's such a perfect location," Foust said of the police station site. He noted that the location had the bonus of being away from residential properties that could be disturbed by a fire station.

One reason the site is so expensive, Foust said, is that it is developed. The county would be paying not only for the land, but also for relatively new buildings, which it would then have to demolish and rebuild.

He said the continued search should not hold up the process for replacing the old station, as the county has money to buy land and pay for preliminary designs, but no

funding is available for construction of the station. That would come from the next public safety bond referendum.

Griffin said the referendum would probably be on the ballot next year. He assured that the new station would be built, one way or another. "This is not a situation where the county is backing away from building a new fire station," he said.

APR Task Force Reincarnated

At what was to be the Dranesville District Area Plan Review Task Force's final meeting, Chairman John Ulfelder made an announcement: Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) had requested that the group stays together for a second incarnation as a special study task force to come up with recommendations regarding the developments being proposed between the town of Herndon and Route 28 in Loudoun County.

In a divided vote in late February, the task force voted to defer any decisions regarding three developments that were being proposed in anticipation of the arrival of a Metro station just east of the interchange of the Dulles Toll Road and Route 28. The group had recommended that the matter be examined by a task force.

The three interlocking developments, as

proposed, would include almost 3,300 dwelling units, 4.7 million square feet of office space, 850,000 square feet of retail and 600,000 square feet of hotel space.

One of the proposals included only the 22 acres located in Fairfax County out of about 92 acres held by the property owners, meaning the development could grow considerably in Loudoun. The development being proposed by the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) includes about 25 acres, all within Fairfax County, and the proposed Dulles World Center includes about 75 acres, only four of which are in Fairfax County.

Ulfelder said a couple more Herndon residents would likely be added to the group, since that is the locality abutting the area in question.

Foust appointed the task force members, all residents from across the Dranesville Dis-

After voting to refer Fairfax-Loudoun development proposals to a task force, Dranesville group becomes that task force.

trict, to make recommendations on proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments. Their work will be reviewed by the county Planning Commission, which will make its own recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The process for the special task force will be similar, and a set of recommendations is to be expected by the end of the year.

How many members of the task force will volunteer to undertake almost another year's worth of work is yet to be determined. Ulfelder said he had agreed to carry on as the chairman, only after consulting with his divorce lawyer. Task force member Rich Bliss noted that his own wife was "watching suspiciously" from the small audience at the meeting.

Ulfelder said the biggest complication

would be that Loudoun was beginning a study of the Route 28 corridor, which could have unforeseen consequences.

However, county planner Clara Quintero Johnson said members of the two counties' planning staffs were already sharing information on traffic data and the sort of assumptions they were making about the proposed developments' probable impacts.

Task Force member Jody Bennett said she thought this could provide an opportunity for cooperation between Fairfax and Loudoun.

"Loudoun is full of people who used to live in Fairfax, so that ought to work," Ulfelder quipped.

— MIKE DiCICCO

OPINION

A Million Trees?

Landscape architect, sound walls are small consolation for loss of leafy canopy.

If you've driven on the Beltway lately between McLean and Springfield, you might find some understatement in this week's announcement that VDOT wants "to help mitigate concerns with the tree canopy loss."

Along the 14-mile path of planned HOT-lanes, Fairfax County communities appear to have lost more than two square miles of tree canopy and a million or more trees.

The approval of the construction of "high occupancy toll" lanes along the Beltway via a public private partnership came swiftly, and with little fresh consideration of the impact on local communities. Most local residents became aware of the project as they watched the clear-cutting of mature trees and stands of forests that have sheltered birds and wildlife along the Beltway for decades. Elected officials were also caught by surprise at the extent of the tree clearing and other work.

The project will add two lanes in each direction on 495 between Springfield and McLean, available free for vehicles with three or more

occupants, and by a variable toll for the rest. The contractor, Fluor-Transurban, will keep the toll revenue for 50 years or more to pay for the construction.

VDOT, we're told, will hire a landscape architect to develop landscaping plans in coordination with adjacent communities, "to help

mitigate concerns with the tree canopy loss and to take advantage of available green space as the project develops."

The work of the landscape architect and coordinating with local communities should have come before the project began. But better late than never.

See VirginiaHOTLanes.com for more.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Local Culture

This weekend, the Fairfax Symphony will audition Gregory Vajda, 35, as its fifth of six prospective music directors.

It's an audition anyone can attend, and offer feedback. The Fairfax Symphony is a local treasure, remarkable in quality and well worth seeing, hearing and supporting.

The Fairfax Symphony is in search of its first new music director in 37 years, choosing six finalists, selected from a pool of 249 applicants.

Vajda will serve as guest conductor this Saturday, March 14, and will speak at a free talk at 7 p.m. before the 8 p.m. concert, with guest soloist Andre Armstrong on piano. The concert will include Liszt, Les Préludes; Bartok, Piano Concerto No. 3; and Schumann, Symphony No. 2 in C Major.

George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive in Fairfax. See www.FairfaxSymphony.org. Tickets are available at the door, just come by.



PHOTO BY ROB WILE/THE CONNECTION

Herndon Middle School students cram the auditorium for annual Black History Month Assembly.

Herndon Middle School Celebrates Diversity

Teachers, students and administrators crammed into Herndon Middle School's auditorium March 6 for the school's annual Black History Month Assembly, sponsored by the School's Diversity Committee.

Organized by Assistant Principal Vanessa Jackson and History Teacher Belita Heron, the abbreviated program featured a keynote speech from former Redskins offensive lineman and two-time Super Bowl winner Raleigh McKenzie, a Herndon parent and now an elementary school teacher at Rolling Ridge El-

ementary School in Sterling. Charles W. Durant, an attorney and former captain in the Naval Reserves, also delivered a rendition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech. The seventh and eighth graders in attendance also heard performances from their classmates in the band and choir, as well as readings of poems. The event was rescheduled for March after scheduling conflicts arose in February, according to Jackson.

— ROB WILE

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6437 with questions. Deadline is Friday.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Reston Accessibility Committee. 10

a.m., United Bank, 1801 Reston Parkway, Reston. The Reston Accessibility Committee will meet as they work to improve accessibility for mobility-impaired persons to a variety of establishments in Reston. Contact Ken Fredgren at 703-391-9019 or fredgren.k@gmail.com.

NCNW Meet and Greet. 3-5 p.m.,

Woods Recreation Center, 44020 Louisa Drive, Ashburn. The National Council of Negro Women Reston-Dulles Section will host a Meet and Greet. Socialize with friends and neighbors while learning about NCNW Reston-Dulles Section. Call Deborah Rogers at 703-729-1287.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Send information to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6437. Deadline is Thursday. Photos/artwork welcome.

The **Fairfax County Police Department** is seeking residents to attend the upcoming Spring Citizens Police Academy, held Thursday evenings March 12-May 16, 6:30-10 p.m. The Citizens Police Academy is a 10-week program and classes are a combination of lecture and interactive activities. Topics include SWAT and special operations, gangs, 911 communications center, patrol, crime prevention, crime scene, identity theft and a tour of the Adult Detention Center. The program is offered free of charge. Applicants must live or work in Fairfax County, be 18 and provide their own transportation. E-mail CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-280-0713 for applications.

Mothers First-Herndon/Reston is a nonprofit support organization helping women transition from careers to at-home motherhood. Meetings are on the **first and second Wednesdays** of each month at 10 a.m. at the Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Mothers First will go on a field trip to the Udvar Hazy Air and Space Museum Feb. 18, 4:15 p.m. RSVP to 703-467-0391.

Square dances at the Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St., Herndon, **every Saturday**. \$5 for 6 classes for seniors, \$10 for non-seniors. Call 703-464-6200.

Latin movement classes at Dance With Me Ballroom Dance Studio. No partner needed. Cuban motion, free style dancing and dance styling taught plus a fun exercise. Drop-in **every Sunday**, 2-3 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person. The studio is located at the border of Reston and Herndon at 251 Sunset Park Drive. Visit www.dancewithme.net or call 703-444-3061.

THE CONNECTION

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NEWS

Community Honors Ms. Coates

Residents vote to name new school after local African American teacher.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Phillip Calvin Bush has gray hair and walks with a cane now. It has been several years since he attended public schools in Fairfax County but he still has fond memories of one grade school teacher, Ms. Coates.

Without her, Bush would have been far worse off, he said.

Ms. Coates knew Bush's family had eight boys and they would not be able to send all of them to college. She harped on him to learn a trade when he got to high school so he would always be able to make a decent living.

Bush took Ms. Coates' advice and learned how to be a bricklayer while attending Luther Jackson, Fairfax's only high school for African Americans in the middle of the 20th century. He then worked as a bricklayer for the next several decades.

"I made twice as much money as other people were and I always had a job. Thanks Ms. Coates," said Bush.

BUSH and a handful of others advocated for naming Herndon's newest school Lutie Lewis Coates Elementary, after their beloved grade school teacher.

Coates, who is deceased, taught at the Floris Colored School and Luther Jackson High School in the 1940s and 1950s when Fairfax County's school system was still racially segregated.

The Floris Colored School – which was managed separately from Floris Elementary School – was located only a half a mile from



Herndon residents Paige and Deanne Perez vote on the name of their neighborhood's new elementary school.

the new elementary school site at 2480 River Birch Road.

The Fairfax County School Board will ultimately decide on a new school's name April 2 but residents living within the new school's boundary had the opportunity to vote on a recommendation for the board during a community meeting at McNair Elementary School March 5.

People who qualified to vote, only handful of the 20 people attending the meeting, overwhelmingly supported calling the new school Lutie Lewis Coates, though other name suggestions included Albert Einstein, Horace Mann, Coppermine and Dulles.

If the school board chooses to name the school after Coates, it will be only the second school in the county named after an African American woman and the first since the school system was integrated.

"She promoted, pushed and lived education ... Boy, what joy this would have brought her," said Sheila Coates, the teacher's daughter-in-law, at the meeting.

RICCI GIBBS said she was inspired to join the civil rights movement by Coates, who talked about



Herndon resident Trina Robinson votes on the name of the new school.

racial and gender equality every morning when teaching Gibbs' eighth grade homeroom class.

"She was a fixture in this neighborhood. She was very stern. We listened to her and we respected her ... I would love to see her name over that door," said Joseph Carpenter, who had Coates as a teacher in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Yvonne Johnson, a historian with Frying Pan Park, said selecting a local person to honor instead of a national figure like Einstein could also make the school's name more meaningful.

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SPORTS All-Connection Basketball Teams



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION



First-team All-Connection boys' selections include: (from left to right) Skylar Jones (Mount Vernon), Edward Jenkins (T.C. Williams), John Manning (Chantilly), Dominic Morra (Lake Braddock) and Kendall Marshall (O'Connell).



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

First-team All-Connection girls' selections include: (from left to right) Shelby Romine (Westfield), Myisha Goodwin (Edison), Tracy King (Mount Vernon), Tierra Ruffin-Pratt (T.C. Williams) and Erin McGartland (Oakton).

Boys' First Team

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| SKYLAR JONES — MOUNT VERNON | 19 PPG | 9 RPG | 1 BPG |
| KENDALL MARSHALL — O'CONNELL | 16 PPG | 8 APG | 7 RPG |
| DOMINIC MORRA — LAKE BRADDOCK | 30 PPG | 7 RPG | 3 SPG |
| EDWARD JENKINS — T.C. WILLIAMS | 21 PPG | 5 APG | 3 RPG |
| JOHN MANNING — CHANTILLY | 13 PPG | 10 RPG | 3.5 BPG |

Girls' First Team

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| TIERRA-RUFFIN PRATT — T.C. WILLIAMS | 18.5 PPG | 14.5 RPG | 4.5 APG |
| SHELBY ROMINE — WESTFIELD | 16.5 PPG | 4.5 RPG | 4 APG |
| TRACY KING — MOUNT VERNON | 19.1 APG | 8.3 RPG | 3.4 SPG |
| MYISHA GOODWIN — EDISON | 25 PPG | 5 APG | 7 SPG |
| ERIN MCGARTLAND — OAKTON | 11.7 PPG | 8.2 RPG | 2 APG |

Boys' Coach of the Year

JULIAN KING
T.C. WILLIAMS

Boys' Player of the Year

EDWARD JENKINS
T.C. WILLIAMS

Girls' Player of the Year

TIERRA RUFFIN-PRATT
T.C. WILLIAMS

Girls' Coach of the Year

FRED PRIESTER
OAKTON

Second Team

T.J. WILSON — HAYFIELD
GIVEN KALIPINDE — EPISCOPAL
FRANK HOLLOWAY JR. — LEE
STEPHEN STEPKA — W.T. WOODSON
CHRIS KEARNEY — WESTFIELD

Honorable Mention
Warren Denny (Centreville)
Simon Kilday (Yorktown)
Derek Baker (Langley)
Will Clarkson (Madison)
Isaac Johnson (Herndon)
Erick Green (Paul VI)
Justin May (Chantilly)
Travis Williams (South Lakes)

Second Team

SIMONE ANTWI — SOUTH COUNTY
SAM LANDERS — WEST SPRINGFIELD
JALINDA VENABLE — MOUNT VERNON
PRISCILLA MOSEH — LEE
LAUREN BURFORD — FAIRFAX

Honorable Mention
Melissa Gallo (W.T. Woodson)
LaNia Charity (Yorktown)
Danielle Williams (St. Stephen's/St. Agnes)
Khalia Boston (T.C. Williams)
Audrey Dotson (Langley)
Sam Partonen (Robinson)
Danielle Landry (Madison)
Kelcyn Manurs (South Lakes)

Welcome to the 2008-09 All-Connection basketball issue. In this special section, the Connection's sports department honors the best and brightest on this year's Northern Virginia hoops scene. For a complete look at this year's basketball landscape, check out www.connectionnewspapers.com.
Special thanks to Lawrence Foong, Robbie Hammer, Louise Krafft and Craig Sterbutzel.

Seahawk' Williams, Manurs Thrived at Point Guard

Both named to All-Connection team, along with Herndon's Johnson.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

This season, the South Lakes' High boys' and girls' basketball teams had no worries when it came to manning the point guard position.

Kelcyn Manurs, the Seahawk girls' prolific playmaker, helped South Lakes capture the regular season title and qualify for the Northern Region playoffs for the first time in a decade. Travis Williams of the South Lakes boys stood out as arguably the top point guard in the region. The Seahawk boys did not qualify for regionals, but Williams' play was, for the most part, spectacular.

Both of the seniors were recently recognized as Honorable Mention members of the All-Connection Team.

Also named Honorable Mention on the All-Connection Team was Herndon High boys' player Isaac Johnson, also a 12th grader.

Manurs, a team tri-captain, was named the Liberty District Girls' Player of the Year this winter. She played a huge role in leading South Lakes to a 19-4 overall record. The Seahawks, as the district tournament's top seed, lost to eventual tourney champion Madison in a semifinals game. A few days later, the Seahawks' breakthrough season ended with a home loss to South County in a first round region playoff game.

Manurs, who scored 14 points in her team's season-ending loss to the Stallions, was a terrific scorer, ballhandler and passer for the Seahawks this season. Her unselfish play and willingness to distribute the ball were keys to her team's big season.

"She trusted her teammates," said South Lakes coach Christy Winters Scott, this season's District Coach of the Year. "She'd have games where she'd have triple-doubles with eight or nine assists. She would find her teammates and she believed in them."

Manurs and fellow seniors Jasmine Jones and Kacey Liscomb served as team tri-captains this season.

WILLIAMS was a region force for the South Lakes boys. His ability to hit the three-pointer and to create his shot was perhaps unmatched in the district, and his defensive prowess and will to win were evident every time he played.

The 5-9 Williams, who averaged 19 points a game, earned First Team All-Liberty District accolades.

"He plays with a lot of poise and confidence, and he's a competitor," said Stone Bridge coach Sonny Green, of Williams.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL
THE CONNECTION

Kelcyn Manurs, shooting, was District Player of the Year.

South Lakes coach Darryl Branch loved Williams' all-around game.

"He's got energy and he's a game-changer," said Branch. "He's a very tough kid and shoots the ball well. He's very strong on defense and loves to take on bigger kids."

HERNDON'S JOHNSON led the Hornet boys to a solid 9-3 record in the Concorde District. Herndon, 13-10 overall, saw its season end with a first round region playoff loss to Stuart. The 6-3 Johnson, a forward, scored 22 points in the postseason game.

For the season, Johnson, a second-year team captain, averaged 18 points and seven rebounds per game on way to earning First Team All-District honors. He scored around the basket with a variety of moves and also developed a consistent mid-range jumper.

"He is quicker than most of his defenders and can drive to the basket. He will score at will inside," said Herndon coach Chris Whelan. "And he's a very good defensive player."

Whelan said Johnson is a terrific on-court leader who plays hard from start to finish.

"He leads by example," said the coach. "He's not very vocal, but the players see how much he works."

The Oakton High girls are represented by head coach Fred Priester, who has led the Cougars to the state AAA semifinals with a perfect 29-0 record, and senior standout player Erin McGartland, one of the more versatile players in the Northern Region. Priester was named The Connection Girls' Coach of the Year, while McGartland was named to the First Team All-Connection girls' squad.

Meanwhile, from Madison, Will Clarkson made Honorable Mention on the All-Connection boys' team and Danielle Landry made Honorable Mention on the girls' team.



South Lakes' Travis Williams was perhaps the Northern Region's best point guard this winter.

Landry was instrumental in leading the underdog Madison girls to the Liberty District tournament title. She was the Warhawks' lone starter back from the previous season, and a settling influence on this year's squad, which started the season 0-5 before things began to turn around under first year Madison coach Kirsten Roberts.

A forward, Landry averaged nine points and nine rebounds per game for the 13-12 Warhawks. She played outstanding defense and earned First Team All-District honors. Following the Warhawks' district tournament finals win over Langley, Landry, who scored 11 points against the Saxons, was named the tournament MVP.

"She's just a workhorse and she's all over the court," said coach Roberts, of Landry. "She plays forward, but sometimes she has to bring the ball down the court. She is almost always our leading rebounder. She's 5-foot-10 going against girls who are 6-3. She's pretty much our senior leader."

Meanwhile, the Madison boys, who were unbeaten at home this season, were led by First Team All-District player Clarkson, a senior post player who excelled as a defensive player while also averaging 19 points per game and shooting an uncanny 62 percent from the field. The 6-foot-5 inch Clarkson, Madison's football QB last fall, saw limited basketball minutes as a junior, but emerged into a star this season for the 14-9 Warhawks.

"He's a post player that can score as a guard," said Madison coach Chris Kuhblank. "Will does everything. He draws charges, blocks shots, rebounds and scores inside and outside."

THE OAKTON HIGH GIRLS are represented on the All-Connection Team by head coach Fred Priester, who has led the Cougars to the state AAA semifinals with a per-



Herndon's Isaac Johnson was close to unstoppable inside the paint this season.

fect 29-0 record, and senior standout player Erin McGartland, one of the more versatile players in the Northern Region. Priester was named The Connection Girls' Coach of the Year, while McGartland was named to the First Team All-Connection girls' squad.

The Cougars have a fabulous leader and all-around player in McGartland, a 5-8 forward who excels both inside and away from the paint.

"She's a do-everything player," said Priester. "She can shoot the three and has solid post-up skills. She's very intelligent and knows every position on the floor."

A team tri-captain, McGartland averaged 12 points and 10 rebounds per game this season. She earned MVP honors following Oakton's Concorde District tournament finals win over Westfield. McGartland scored 16 points and pulled down nine rebounds in Oakton's Northern Region title game win over T.C. Williams last week. In postgame ceremonies, she was named to the seven-member all-tournament team.

Her unselfish, team-first mindset has set the tone for the Cougars' success this season.

"Erin is without a question our best leader," said Priester.

Priester earned The Connection's Coach of the Year accolades because of his ability this season to blend his team's experienced and new players into a cohesive winner. The Cougars have been playing their best basketball in recent weeks during the postseason, running the court when it can and also playing a solid half court game in which movement without the ball and crisp, fundamental passing has led to high percentage shots and open three-point looks.

Oakton's region title game win over T.C. last week was the program's third in nine years under Priester, one of the region's best-ever girls' basketball coaches.

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THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Leighton Gage. 7 p.m., Barnes and Noble, 1851 Fountain Drive, Reston. Leighton Gage, author of "Blood of the Wicked," will present his new book, "Buried Strangers." Call the store at 703-437-9490.

FRIDAY/MARCH 13

Songwriters Association. 8-10 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church of Reston, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Meet members of the Songwriters Association of Washington or perform music. \$10/person. E-mail Mary Ann at queen_mozart@yahoo.com to sign up to perform.

Titans Breakfast. 7 a.m., Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. Gary Shapiro, President and CEO of the Consumer Electronics Association, will diagnose the government's response to the crumbling financial system and will demonstrate that technology is the lynchpin of the economy. NVTC Member: \$65, non-member: \$85. Visit www.nvtc.org/events/geteventinfo.php?event=TITANS-27.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Voce Chamber Singers. 7:30 p.m., St. John Neumann Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston. The Voce Chamber Singers are celebrating their 20th anniversary by singing some of their favorite songs. Voce's



Singer/songwriter Gary Ferguson, pictured, will team with Jordan Tice to perform original bluegrass material live Saturday, March 14, 7:30 p.m., at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Tickets: \$12/person. Call 703-435-8377 for tickets.

founding director, Carol Hunter, will return to conduct a few songs. Tickets: \$18/adults, \$13/seniors, \$8/students in advance; \$2 more at door. E-mail VoceVa@hotmail.com or call 703-277-7772 for tickets.

Contra Dance. 7:15-10:45 p.m., Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Janine Smith calls a contra dance to the music of the June Apple Band. Beginners' workshop held 7:15-8; dance 8-10:45 p.m. Admission: \$7 (workshop free). Partner not necessary. Bring snack to share (juice provided). Call 703-476-4500.

SUNDAY/MARCH 15

Voce Chamber Singers. 3 p.m., St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The Voce Chamber Singers are celebrating their 20th anniversary by singing some of their favorite songs. Voce's founding director, Carol Hunter, will

return to conduct a few songs. Tickets: \$18/adults, \$13/seniors, \$8/students in advance; \$2 more at door. E-mail VoceVa@hotmail.com or call 703-277-7772 for tickets.

Tribute to Robert Simon Concert. 4 p.m., Hunters Woods Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Community Orchestra will perform at a concert to honor Reston founder Robert Simon. The Reston Chorale will also perform.

Tulip Festival. Lake Anne Florist, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Buy Holland Tulips for special prices. Vased arrangements and cash and carry available. Call 703-437-8686.

MONDAY/MARCH 16

Book Club. 7:30 p.m., Reston's Used Book Shop, 1623 Washington Plaza, Reston. The Reston Used Book Shop's book club will meet. Call 703-435-9772.

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THEATER

"The Full Monty," Reston Community Players at CenterStage of the Reston Community Center, 8 p.m., Friday, **March 13**; 8 p.m., Saturday, **March 14** (sign interpretation); 2:30 p.m., Sunday, **March 15**; 8 p.m., Friday, **March 20**, and 8 p.m., Saturday, **March 21**; 2:30 p.m., Sunday, **March 22**; 8 p.m., Friday, **March 27**, and 8 p.m., Saturday, **March 28**. See www.restonplayers.org.

"Falsettos," Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, **March 13-April 4**. See eldenstreetplayers.org.

"Something Different 2009," Theater for Young Audiences, Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, **March 21-April 5**. See eldenstreetplayers.org.

"Laughing Stock," Reston Community Players at CenterStage of the Reston Community Center, 8 p.m., Friday, **May 1**; 8 p.m. Saturday, **May 2**; 8 p.m., Friday, **May 8**; 8 p.m., Saturday, **May 9** (sign interpretation); 2:30 p.m., Sunday, **May 10**; 8 p.m., Friday, **May 15**, and 8 p.m., Saturday, **May 16**. See www.restonplayers.org.

"The History Boys," Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, **June 5-27**. See eldenstreetplayers.org.

"Fairytale in Training," Theater for Young Audiences, Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, **June 13-28**. See eldenstreetplayers.org.

"Amour," Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, **July 31-Aug. 22**. See eldenstreetplayers.org.

ART

The **Reston Art Gallery and Studios**, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston, is hosting an exhibition entitled "Four Seasons" through **April 2**. The exhibit features contemporary works by Marie Straw. The Gallery will also host Youth Art Month MARCH 3-30. Call 703-476-4500.

An exhibition of art by students from Herndon High School entitled "Emerging Visions: ROOTS" will be on display through **April 14** at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston.

Works by **Matthew Best** will be on display through **April 6** at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston.

The **Reston Museum** will be closed for renovations through **April 17**. A new interior and new exhibits are in the works. Children's Art Workshops will be on hiatus during the renovations, but Pat McIntyre's Art Workshop will continue Saturdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

The **Elden Street Players** have been recognized for outstanding performances by the Washington Area Theater Community Honors program. At its annual awards banquet Sunday, March 1, the Elden Street Players received 3 WATCH Awards for Outstanding Performance. The awards received are: Outstanding Performance as a Lead Actress in a Play, **Jane MacFarlane** as "Sister Aloysius" in Doubt, A Parable; Outstanding Performance as a Lead Actress in a Play, **Karen Jados Shotts** as "Hedda Gabler" in Hedda Gabler; Outstanding Achievement as a Cameo in a Play, **Lolita-Marie** as "Mrs. Muller" in Doubt, A Parable.

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A Scale of Two Weights



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," there were euphoric highs, there were abysmal lows, there were numbers I thought I'd never see, there were other numbers I was tired of seeing. Overall, I've had a dickens of a time finding the proper balance between diet and exercise, risk and reward, pain and pleasure, finding clothes that fit and throwing a fit when clothes couldn't be found.

As a former shopper in the "Husky Department" in some of Boston's finest department stores (at least when I was younger): Jordon Marsh, Filene's and Kennedy's, I know all too well the frustration and disappointment the effect one's over-weight can have on their appearance and disposition. Every year that I went clothes-shopping with my mother, from childhood through adolescence, it was the same story; only the specific sizes, colors, styles, etc. changed. And though I never had great expectations that one day, one of these visits to downtown Boston wouldn't consume an entire day and/or that I wouldn't experience excruciating anxiety during the entire ordeal, still, I had hope that something would fit on the first try, anything, even if it were just the shoes.

Occasionally, something did fit, but more often than not, it was socks or underwear. Most everything else — pants, shirts, sweaters, sport coats, jackets — had to be tried on, then taken off, then another size selected, then that other size tried on, then taken off, and on and on. My dressing room would always be littered with the clothes that didn't make the fit. Pants were hanging on a hook, shirts and sweaters were piled on the bench, pins and needles and cardboard and plastic wrapping from the items I opened were scattered about like Halloween candy the morning after, except that there would be no inspection of this haul.

This haul was going nowhere, at least, nowhere with me. It had not made the cut, or more specifically, couldn't make it over my hips or around my stomach or over my shoulders. Either it was to be seen and approved by my mother and thus considered for a ride home and a place in my closet — ultimately to be worn and seen at school where occasionally a discouraging word was heard — or it would never be seen or heard from again. The reality was, when you're young and not exactly "a perfect 36," clothes don't exactly make the man, they embarrass and humiliate the man.

If I were to characterize my clothes-shopping in the past, my clothes-shopping in the present and my likely clothes-shopping in the future, my emotions would run the gamut from the sublime to the ridiculous with a few stops in between for apathy and indigestion. I don't really see how it could have been (continues to be) any different though. It's my body, it's my eating habits, it's my choice. I have no one to blame but myself but also I have nothing to fear. So far I'm healthy (relatively speaking), but unfortunately not wealthy.

A little extra weight never hurt anyone. The question is, how much is a little? Don't ask my wife, Dina, we don't exactly agree; so what else is new?

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

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SCHOOLS

Inova Hospital is sponsoring the **"Reality Check Teen Driving Safety Program" March 14, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.** at Herndon High School. Reality Check is a joint student/parent program aimed at giving newly licensed and soon to be licensed drivers a real-life look at the consequences of unsafe driving behavior and decision-making. For more information or to register, call 703-776-3259 or e-mail ashley.elzein@inova.org.

Herndon Elementary School, 620 Dranesville Road, is holding a Career Fair Thursday, **April 2**, with session one from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and session two from 1-3 p.m. Call 703-326-3117, fax to 703-326-3197 or e-mail Tiffany.Bryant@fcps.edu or Donna.Neil@fcps.edu to register.

Amanda Courtney of Herndon was named as a recipient of the Veritas Award at Oakcrest School in McLean, an independent Catholic school for girls grades 6-12. The Veritas Award is the school's merit award for current students and applying students entering the ninth grade at Oakcrest. Awarded annually, it consists of a \$7,500 tuition remission per year for four years at Oakcrest School for up to two students.

Catherine O'Doherty, Christopher Blough, Diana Weigel, Nicholas Jacobs, Karleen Kovalcik, Nora Allen, Allison Godart, Katherine Geary and Kimberly Dennis, all of Herndon, were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at the University of Mary Washington. Also, **Daniel Garcia** was named to the President's List.

During February and March, **Glory Days** will donate a percentage of your purchase to the Herndon High School Class of 2011. Submit an itemized receipt (not credit card copy) to Sherry Amado or Keysha Moon. Ask your neighbors, friends, relatives to save and donate their receipts. Receipts can either be mailed to the high school c/o Ms. Amado or Ms. Moon or placed in the box located in the main office.

The **Herndon High School Ice Hockey** team just finished its best season in its 9-year history with a 3-1 loss in the Northern Virginia Scholastic Hockey League semi-final game against Prince William County's Forest Park High School. **Ville Rutanen, Sam Stone, Max Kortegast and Andrew Norman** were selected to the NVSHL All-Star team.

The **Herndon High School Girls Indoor Track Team** was the regional runner-up for the first time in school history. Hiruni Wijayaratne (3200 m) and Emily Palmer (Triple Jump) were regional champions. Hiruni, Emily and teammates Carina Peter, Danielle Theberge, Carolyn Hennessey, Ashley Banks, and Millie Kidder-Goshorn will compete in the State championships. On the boys' team, Rich Roethel will compete at states.

Herndon High School swimmers Mark Rodakowski, Danny Camozzo, Brian Via, Molly Cudahy, Jenna Van Camp, Christian Matthews, Christian Polito, Will Cormier and Ryan Williams all competed in the state competition.

Students from Carson, Herndon and Hughes Middle Schools and Herndon and South Lakes High Schools won regional awards in the Scholastic Art Awards competition sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. Their work will be on display at Northern Virginia Community College's Ernst Community Cultural Center in Annandale Friday, Feb. 13-Thursday, Feb. 26. An awards ceremony for Gold and Silver Key winners is planned for Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.

Oakton High School's Web site was named as one of the winners of the quarterly WebStar Awards for outstanding school web sites. **Adam Hatchl** is the site's curator. WebStar Awards are given quarterly to three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school that best demonstrate the following criteria: usefulness of content, clarity of design, frequency of updates, ease of navigation, and adherence to FCPS web policies.

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