Celebrating Black History

Community, Page 8

Musical Tribute to Simon

News, Page 4

Stream Restoration Continues

News, Page 3
**NEWS**

**A Girl’s Best Friend**

Diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a girl finds a source of inspiration and companionship in her pet dog.

*By Julian Laurent*

Shea Megale, an eighth grader at Stone Middle School in Centerville, came to Armstrong Elementary School this past Friday to talk with the student body about a particular set of circumstances making her an extraordinary teen.

At the age of 2, Shea was diagnosed with a rare condition called Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a progressive disease that causes muscle weakness and atrophy. Shea’s condition has meant that she must spend her life in a wheelchair, and for a while, it meant she was dependent on her parents and those around her for assistance in nearly every aspect of her day-to-day life.

However, when the Megale family adopted Mercer, a black Labradoodle from the Canine Companions for Independence program, Shea found both herself and her imagination suddenly opened to a world of opportunity.

A specially trained dog, Mercer knows over 60 commands. He can pick up a pencil, carry Shea’s backpack, turn door handles, flip a light switch on or off and do much more. Joined by Mercer and her Canine Companion, Mercer, Shea shared with the students how she and Mercer have transformed what some might see as a restrictive situation into an awe-inspiring and exciting series of children’s books.

In the Marvelous Mercer series, Mercer helps Shea with a number of chores and tasks throughout the day. But when Shea goes to sleep at night, the mischievous dog sneaks out of the house to embark on a series of adventures in the neighborhood.

“I had no idea that Shea had been trying to imagine what all of these different activities were like,” said Megan Megale, of her daughter’s stories. Though Shea jokes about having her privacy invaded, her mother’s having stumbled upon the diary is likely better thought of as a blessing. In the diary were

*See Mercer. Page 5*
Stream Restoration Continues

Citizens’ involvement improves planning process.

By Mike DiCicco
Connection Newspapers

While some residents who studied plans for the next phase of stream restoration in Reston still did not approve of the project, Gavin Small said, “overwhelmingly, people were in support.” Small and about 50 other residents walked along Reach 4 of the Glade watershed with Mike Rolband, the president of Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc. (WSSI) and his workers Saturday morning, March 7, as the company unveiled the first draft of its plan for that portion of the stream.

Reach 4 runs from Steeplechase Drive to Soapstone Drive. Including two tributaries, a little over a mile of streambed is to be restored. The Reston Association’s Design Review Board approved plans for reaches 1 to 3 in late January, and work is underway there.

Small said most concerns voiced Saturday related to tree removal, particularly with regard to larger trees.

A total of 115 trees are to be removed. Only one has a diameter of more than 30 inches, but 19 are more than 18 inches across and are considered medium-sized. Forty-two of the trees to be axed have 6- to 9-inch diameters. Many are on the banks of the stream and have had their roots undercut.

“I think it’s wonderful,” Small said. “The planning has been done as well as it could have been done.”

While nobody wants to see trees cut down, “we have to look beyond our noses,” said Carolyn Badila, noting that the long-term effects of not having the work done would outweigh the loss of trees now. Badila, a member of the environmental committee that advises the Reston Association, also went along on the walk. “It’s not just restoring a stream,” she said. “It’s going to restore ecosystems. So we’re on the ‘yay’ team.”

A FEW MONTHS ago, that team was lagging behind. The stream restoration project in the Snakeden watershed went largely unnoticed until late last fall, when hundreds of trees were removed during the restoration of the stream’s badly damaged lower reaches. Residents turned out in droves to oppose the project.

Rolband has responded by soliciting public input, and he revised plans for the first stretches of the Glade in order to minimize tree removal and avoid areas that were special to residents. In February, scores of people turned out to support the resulting plans.

“We’re just amazed by how thoughtful and inclusive Mike Rolband is,” said Joanne Bauer, who had also gone along on the stream walk. “A lot of community input has made this a better project.” While the project would probably always have its opponents, she said, “The level of civil discussion has improved dramatically since this whole process began.”

“Generally, I think most people were very supportive,” Rolband said. He said that he had been surprised by how few specific issues had been raised.

A major topic of discussion was which of the two trails that run along the stream should be used as access for machinery. WSSI had recommended that the unpaved trail be used because fewer people walk on it. “Way more people use the paved trail. But the people who use the unpaved trail are very passionate,” Rolband said. He said he had agreed to continue the discussion.

The reach is split into sections 4A and 4B, divided by the point where runoff from St. John Neumann Catholic Church empties into the stream. After that point, damage is heavier.

However, work on all six reaches of the Glade would be much less intense than it was in the Snakeden watershed, as it is not as badly damaged. Much less of the land surrounding the Glade is covered by imperious surfaces, Rolband said.

If the final plans are approved by the Design Review Board in mid-June, the work in Reach 4 could be completed by the holidays, Rolband said, although bad weather could tack on a month or two.

Residents and Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc. workers chat over plans that were presented Saturday for the next phase of stream restoration. In front are Nicki Foremsky of the Reston Association, Kelly Stanforth of WSSI and Jay Monroe, citizen chairman of RA’s Parks and Planning Advisory Committee. Behind them are Bethany Bezak and Roy Van Houten of WSSI and Claudia Thompson-Deal of the RA.

Get Involved

A second community-wide meeting will be Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., and then the preliminary plan will be revised. The Design Review Board will review the plans on Tuesday, April 21 at 7 p.m. Community meetings on the final plan will be Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturday, May 30 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. The plans will again be revised and will receive their final review by the DRB Tuesday, June 16, at 7 p.m. All community meetings are at the pavilion at the intersection of Steeplechase Drive and Triple Crown Road. The DRB meets at the Reston Association headquarters at 1930 Isaac Newton Square.

Opportunities To Discuss RA Headquarters

Reston residents will have new opportunities to discuss the referendum on whether the Reston Association’s (RA) board should be allowed to spend up to $15 million to build or purchase a new headquarters facility.

Community meetings are scheduled for Thursday March 12, Monday, March 16, and Thursday, March 19 during Newcomers’ Night. All meetings are at 7 p.m. Another meeting will take place Saturday, March 21 at 10 a.m. All meetings will convene in the Reston Association main conference room at 1930 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. Members can vote online at www.reston.org or by completing and returning the ballot that was mailed to homes on Feb. 24, 2009.

Adult Fitness Classes Now Available

The Reston Community Center is now offering a new fitness class for men and women. The “Dancin’ to the Oldies” class will improve endurance and muscle tone through aerobic dance movements. Groove to the music of the ’60s, ’70s, ’80s in this low impact class. Sign up is located at the Hunters Woods or the Lake Anne facility. Classes run March 21-June 6.

Reception To Honor Student Artists

Public Art: Through the Eyes of Children, an exhibit featuring artworks from eight Reston elementary schools is currently on display at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery through March 30, in honor of Youth Art Month. All members of the community are invited to a reception to honor the artists on Sunday, March 15 from 2-4 p.m. in the Gallery. Join students, their teachers and their families and friends to celebrate Reston’s arts instructional program. Representatives of Fairfax County Public Schools and the Initiative for Public Art - Reston (IPAR) will make remarks at 2:30 p.m.

Recycling Program Benefits Reston Library

A recycling program recently instituted by AAA Trash & Recycling allows people to earn coupons and other retail rewards in exchange for their recyclables. Noting that the RecycleBank also benefits 501(c)(3) charities, the Friends of the Reston Regional Library requested that they be included as an option for supporters.

AAA Trash & Recycling began offering the national program RecycleBank to its customers early in 2009. In the program, people earn points based on the weight of their recycled items. Those points can then be redeemed, through coupons, offers and other rewards, at a variety of local and national retailers, as well as licensed non-profit charities.

Program on Jewish Medieval Medicine

The Hazak Active Retirees Chapter of Congregation Beth Emet, 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.

Blumen, a retired cardiac and thoracic surgeon, is a graduate of Brown University in Providence, R.I. He received his M.D. from Tufts University Medical School and did his residency and further training in cardiac and thoracic surgery in Boston and went on to practice surgery for more than 50 years. His talk will focus on the role of the Jewish physician in both the Jewish and secular communities of Medieval Europe. For more information, call 703-860-4515, ext. 127.

Musical Tribute to Simon

Reston Community Orchestra and Reston Chorale come together to honor the town’s founder.

By Dr. Michael McKee

President, RCO

Never before, in the last 21 years of their co-existence, have the Reston Community Orchestra and the Reston Chorale ever produced a combined concert. However, a special date is approaching and history is about to be made.

Robert E. Simon Jr., the man who sold his legendary Carnegie Hall, purchased land and then founded Reston some 45 years ago is about to celebrate his 95th birthday. And so, the entire event will be dedicated to Bob Simon, who will be the official host for the program and who has selected some of the music that an expected capacity audience will enjoy.

To honor this visionary developer, both music directors, Governing Boards and all members of both the Reston Community Orchestra (RCO) and the Reston Chorale (RC) have decided to play and sing together. This special performance on Sunday afternoon, March 15, at 4 p.m. in the Reston Community Center (RCC) in Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Collins Neck Road. The orchestra, under the direction of its Maestro, Dingwall Fleary, will perform Haydn, Mozart, Ravel and Strauss. Then, as the concluding musical number, the two groups will combine their talents for the first time ever to perform the Randal Allen Bass composition “Gloria.”

Simon has an extensive musical background and his family used to own the famous concert auditorium, Carnegie Hall, in New York City. Some of his unknown early musical background will be highlighted in the printed program for the concert. Following the introductory remarks of the RCO president, Simon will speak to the audience about the importance of supporting cultural activities and of how music enriches people’s lives. Early indications are that many elected and appointed officials and well-known community leaders in the area will be attending this event. The Community Center has indicated that it will be prepared to handle the large crowd honoring Simon.

The final number will be dramatic. What those who attend will be fortunate to hear will be an expertly prepared orchestra, joined for the concluding number by fully 100 voices, representing the finest choral group in Northern Virginia. Maestro Fleary will turn over his baton to Fred Wygal, the music director of the Chorale, for this piece.
Mercer Comes to Armstrong ES

Since then, Shea has signed a six-book deal with a publisher and has already published three Marvelous Mercer stories. The Build-A-Bear company even took notice of the young Shea’s awareness efforts, hosting a fund raiser and creating a Black Labrador design that one could decorate like an assistance-dog. Currently, Shea, her mother and Mercer are preparing for a national book tour where they will offer signings for the third Mercer book and speak in New York City, Orlando, Chicago, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Philadelphia, as well as other locations. All of the proceeds from the Marvelous Mercer book series go to Spinal Muscular Atrophy research and to support funds for the Canine Companions for Independence program.

When a student asked Shea what her life would be like without Mercer, Shea looked at her companion’s wagging tail and said “Mercer is a gift from Heaven.” For more information, visit MarvelousMercer.com.

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Opinion

A Million Trees?

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

I f you’ve driven on the Beltway lately be-
tween McLean and Springfield, you
might find some understatement in this
month’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
cosmopolitan 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
loss.

“...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 co-
ordinating with local communities should have
come before the project began. But better late
than never.

See VirginiaHOTLanes.com for more.

—— Mary Kimm

mkkim@connectionnewspapers.com

Legislator’s Work Is Never Done

By Del. Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum

I n last week’s column, I was cel-

ebrating the signs of spring in Richmond
and the adjournment of the annual legisla-
tive session. Jane was happy that I got home
in time to dig us out of the first big snowfall
of the year; usually, I have been in Richmond when it snows. The combination of the early adjourn-
ment of the legislature compared with most years and the lateness of the snowfall gave me the much-
needed exercise of cleaning the walkway and digging out the cars. Hopefully, March will go out like a lamb, so I can get to work re-
starting some lawn that suffered badly in the heat of late summer.

That will be my avocational work and interest. Otherwise, I
will continue my work as a legis-
lator. The pay is for part-time ser-
vice, but the demands of the position
require more than full-time effort. The session in Richmond in the winter months is the high vis-
ibility part of the job, but my work back home is some of the most sat-
isfying of my office. I pride myself on the constituent services of my office and my legislative assistant.

Getting an answer from the state bu-
reauacracy can be diffi-
cult for most citi-
zens, but with the
relationships my of-

cive has developed with agency representatives we can often get a response in a matter of days. That is not say that every problem can be resolved to the satisfi-
tion of constituents, but every-
one seems to appreciate finding out where they stand or what they need to do.

There is official work to be done during the interims. Study commit-
tees meet and consider problems and solutions that might become bills to be introduced in the next legisla-
tive session. I serve on the Joint Commission on Technology and Science and am the senior Democ-
rat on the panel having in-
troduced legislation that estab-
lished it. I continue to serve on the Commission on Electric Utility Restructuring although this com-
mision is less active now that the electric utilities have been re-regu-
lated. I may be appointed to other study committees by the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

As a legislator, I also serve on the boards of the Jamestown-
Yorktown Foundation and the American Frontier Culture Mu-

num. My professional develop-
ment activity for this year will be attendance at the National Confer-
ence of State Legislatures in Phila-

delphia in July. This meeting is invaluable in learning how other states deal with issues and prob-
lems.

With 2009 being an election year for all 100 members of the House of Delegates, I have to pay attention to my own re-election and plan an appropriate cam-
paign. As chair of the Minority Caucus in the House of Delegates, I am also involved in recruiting candidates and assisting their camp-

aigms throughout the Common-
wealth. A shift of six seats would put Democrats in power and could increase my influence consider-
ably.

My work as a legislator is never done. That is what makes the job
exciting and fulfilling. Please let me know if I can ever be of assis-
tance to you: kplum@aol.com.
Spring in Reston?

By John Lovaas
Civic Leader and Reston Impact Producer/Host

It must be spring time in Reston! The ice has finally thawed on Lake Newport, Lake Thoreau, Lake Audubon and right here on Lake Anne. Now the daffodils and crocuses not only are up, some are already in bloom. The Canada Geese and other birds are starting to exhibit those springtime behaviors—chasing each other round and round, and beginning to piece together nests along the shores and in every nook and cranny in the yard.

We see folks are traipsing by the roads and pathways picking up accumulated trash carelessly tossed alongside over the winter. The traipsers are community groups such as the American Association of University Women and good-hearted neighbors who participate in Reston Association’s “Adopt A Spot” program. The Reston-Herndon Branch of AAUW group is a dedicated lot and is rightfully proud of their designated area between the Uplands Pool and the other side of the Wiehle pedestrian overpass.

And, preparations are well under way for another major rite of spring in Reston — the opening of the Reston Farmers Market on May 9. The volunteer Market Masters are hard at work organizing the 2009 Farmers Market at Lake Anne. Rumor has it that it will strongly resemble last year’s market, the one that was named the best farmers market in all of Northern Virginia by Northern Virginia Magazine. It will again feature 28 vendors plus the Master Gardeners, who are available to help you solve most problems that may arise in your own home garden. You will recognize 27 vendors returning from last year’s winning team, plus a new one, a purveyor of fresh donuts to start your Saturday’s off perfectly at Lake Anne. Soon the Plaza at Lake Anne again will be alive every Saturday morning with the crafts and flea market as well as activities for budding young artists at the Reston Museum directed by renowned Reston artist Pat Macintyre.

I know spring does not officially start until March 20, but after a long, cold winter, can anyone blame me for jumping the gun just a bit?

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Celebrating Black History

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Starting with our Irish Breakfast with Jody Marshall 8 a.m.-11 a.m.
Book lunch or dinner seating with Sarah Croker 11:45, 2:15, 4:45 and 7:30
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Join us for our 28th celebration
Our Party Tent opens at 9 a.m. and the Pub and Patios open at 10 a.m.
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Reston Connection

SUNDAY/MARCH 15
Your Chamber Singers... 7 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church, 11900 Buren St., Herndon. The Your Chamber Singers are celebrating their 20th anniversary by singing some of their favorite songs. Voce’s founding director, Carol Hunter, will return to demonstrate that technology is the necessary. Bring snack to share (juice provided). Call 703-476-4500.

Saturday/March 14
Your Chamber Singers... 7:15-10:45 p.m., Reston’s Used Book Shop, 3635 Washington Plaza, Reston. Voce Chamber Singers are celebrating their 20th anniversary by singing some of their favorite songs. Voce’s founding director, Carol Hunter, will return to demonstrate that technology is the necessary. Bring snack to share (juice provided). Call 703-476-4500.

Monday/March 16
Book Club... 7:30 a.m.; Reston’s Used Book Shop, 3635 Washington Plaza, Reston. Call 703-476-4500.

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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.
All-Connection team, along with Herndon’s Johnson.

By Rich Sanders
The Connection

T his 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 Seahawks girls’ prolific playmaker, helped South Lakes capture the region 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 Seahawks 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. South Lakes coach Darryl Branch loved Williams, shooting, was District Player of the Year.

Williams’ all-around game.

“He’s got energy and he’s a game-changer,” said Branch. “He’s a 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’s quicker than most of his defenders and can drive to the basket. He will score at will,” 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.

“Her 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’s Girls’ Coach of the Year, while McGartland was named to the seven-member all-tournament team.

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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 and against girls who are 6-3. She’s pretty much our enforcer.”

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 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’s Girls’ Coach of the Year, while McGartland was named to the seven-member all-tournament team.

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

Craig Sterbutzel
THE CONNECTION

Photos by Craig Sterbutzel
THE CONNECTION

March 11-17, 2009 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
The Full Monty,” Reston Community Players at 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.


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

Laughing Stock,” Reston Community Players at CenterStage of the Reston Community Center, 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 edlenstreetplayers.org.

Amour,” Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, July 31-Aug. 22. See edlenstreetplayers.org.

ART

The Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston, is hosting an exhibit 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: ROBERTS’ 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 the Award 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 Actor in a Play, Karen Jadlos Shotts as “Hedda Gabler” in Hedda Gabler; Outstanding Achievement as a Cameron in a Play, Lolita-Marie as “Mrs. Muller” in Doubt, A Parable.

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EMPLOYMENT

EDEN STREET PLAYERS
Strength Theatre, edlenstreetplayers.org, June 13-28
Audiences, Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, edlenstreetplayers.org; 8 p.m., Friday, Saturday, May 9-May 2
Elden Street Players at CenterStage of the Reston Community Center, 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.


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The full print editions of all 16 Connection Newspapers are now available on our Web Site in PDF format, page by page, identical to our weekly newspaper editions, including print advertising. Go to www.connnecknewspapers.com and click on “Print Editions.”

Faith Notes

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6437. Deadline is Thursday.

Adult Sunday school will be held every Sunday, at 9:30 a.m., at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow every Sunday at 11 a.m.

Congregation Beth Emeth Hazak ChapTer, 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon, has prominent speakers and entertainers on the third Tuesday of each month, at 1 p.m. Free light refreshments are served. Call 703-860-4515, Ext. 127. The guest list is as follows:

- March 17: Dr. Louis Blumen, Jewish Medieval Medicine
- April 21: Steven Gross, The Holocaust in Hungary
- May 19: Speaker from Embassy of Israel

Every Wednesday, at 12:15 p.m., St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon, offers a lunch-time Healing and Holy Communion service. This half-hour service is offered to all and allows people an opportunity to worship during the work week when they may be away from their regular church. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the sacrament and all who have not been baptized may receive a blessing at the altar rail. Call the church Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at 703-437-3790 or visit www.saint-timothys.org.

Knitters needed the first and third Wednesdays of the month, at 7 p.m., at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The church’s Shawl Ministry is offering free knitting instruction while providing shawls, blankets and other knitted items for people in need. No cost and yarn can be provided. E-mail shawl@saint-timothys.org or visit the Pastoral Care page at www.saint-timothys.org.

There will be a Yard Sale in the front parking lot at Aldrin Elementary School Saturday, March 14, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Money is being raised to support the Grade 6 production of “Annie,” which will take place in June. The rain date is Sunday, March 15, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Call 703-904-3864.

The Sunrise Valley Elementary Green Team has received a Johnnie Forte, Jr., Memorial Grant to support the school’s butterfly garden. The Green Team, a sixth grade leadership team, will use the funds to purchase a composter to recycle leaves and grass clippings gathered at the school. Once it is ready, the compost produced by the recycling will enrich the soil of the butterfly garden. The garden is available to all Sunrise Valley classes as they study science and stewardship of the environment.

Contact principal Elizabeth Cary at 703-390-5600 or ellen.cary@fcps.edu or news liaison Heather Dix at heather.dix@fcps.edu.
March RCC Art Exhibits

- **Hunters Woods:**
  - RCC Darkroom Photography Exhibit
  - Reception: Sunday, March 15
  - 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
  - Jo Ann Rose Gallery at RCC Lake Anne

- **Lake Anne:**
  - Public Art: Through the Eyes of Children
  - Exhibit from Reston Elementary School Students

**CenterStage Performances**

- **Rennie Harris/Pure Movement**
  - Wednesday, March 18
  - 8:00 p.m.
  - $16 (R) • $24 (NR)

- **The Ahn Trio**
  - Saturday, March 21
  - 3:00 p.m.
  - $16 (R) • $24 (NR)

**You’re Invited!**

- **Save the Date!**
  - EGGnormous Egg Hunt Carnival
  - Saturday, April 4
  - Carnival Games
    - 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
  - Egg Hunt 10:30 a.m. sharp!
  - Rain Date: Saturday, April 11
  - Golf Course Island Pool Complex
  - 11301 Links Drive
  - Reston, VA 20191

**RCC IS HIRING!**

- **Camp Counselors are Needed for Camp Goodtimes (6-11) and Road Rulz (11-16) for Summer 2009**
- **Saturdays, March 28 • April 18 • May 9 + 30**
- From 9 a.m. - Noon
- At RCC Hunters Woods

**Send Resume or Questions to Debbie Heron, Director of Youth Programs, at deborah.heron@fairfaxcounty.gov or Kish Jordan, Director of Teen Programs, at nakish.jordan@fairfaxcounty.gov**

**Open Interviews will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis. Candidates must be at least 21 years old for Road Rulz and at least 17 years old for Camp Goodtimes.**