

Friends and family came together to trade memories of Siobhan Russell. . The 19-year-old Oak Hill resident was stabbed to death on Easter Sunday, April 12, in the home of the grandparents of a 17-year-old boy she had been dating.

Celebrating a Life Cut Short

News, PAGE 3

FISH Needs Volunteers

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Herndon Boys Show Good Soccer Progress

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3323 Fern Hollow Pl.....	\$569,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Sandra Miller RE.....	Sandra Miller.....	703-476-8848

LOWE'S ISLAND

118 Avondale dr.....	\$295,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Suzi Gellman.....	Long & Foster.....	703-437-3800
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POTOMAC FALLS

46932 Foxstone Place.....	\$660,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Debbie Melia.....	Re/Max Select.....	703-220-8864
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46390 Hampshire Station Dr.....	\$485,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Roxanne Southern.....	Samson Realty.....	703-407-1701
46230 Allsbrook Place.....	\$674,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Cathy & John McCambridge.....	Samson Realty.....	703-430-4234
20407 Cliftons Point Street.....	\$675,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Cathy & John McCambridge.....	Samson Realty.....	703-430-4234
47091 Garrett Place.....	\$699,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Lovette Liantos.....	Weichert.....	703-624-5685
11358 Jackrabbit Ct.....	\$1,194,375.....	Sun 1-4.....	Robin Bono.....	Weichert.....	703-216-330

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25151 Cutgrass Terr.....	\$399,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Lori Hall.....	Long & Foster.....	703-405-1601
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To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Don Park or Winslow Wacker

703-821-5050 or E-Mail the info to winslow@connectionnewspapers.com

All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.

NEWS

FISH Needs Volunteers

FISH Fling on May 9 marks 40th anniversary.

BY MARCIA DI TRAPANI
FISH PRESIDENT

This is the third and last in a series of articles about the history of Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc.

By 1990, FISH was well established as the organization in the Reston and Herndon communities that people turned to for emergency help in times of personal crisis. FISH was also working very closely with other organizations and the county to help people in need. For its efforts, FISH was presented several awards. In 1992, FISH received the Reston Community Association Community Service Award, its second from RCA. In 1994, FISH was named Best of Reston and the same year Malcolm Stringer received Herndon's Distinguished Service Award for his management of The Bargain Loft. Judy Duncan received the Best of



CONTRIBUTED

Lisa Groves, Barbara Guinee and Liz Leukroth selling Barbara's 'famous donated jewelry' at the Reston International Festival at Lake Anne

Reston award in 1996 for her outstanding service to FISH.

Fund raising continued to be a top priority as it is today. In 1991, FISH received the proceeds from the Town Center Skating Rink (FISH Night-at-the-Rink). In 1992, a Mardi Gras Casino Night party

at the Reston Hyatt was sponsored by the Reston Board of Commerce on behalf of FISH. When McCormick & Schmick opened in Reston Town Center shortly after, it donated proceeds from its sales of fish and chips entrees to FISH for a period of time.

Throughout the 1990s, the need for more volunteers was apparent. The same holds true today. Although FISH has many dedicated volunteers, more are always needed. Volunteer opportunities are available for The Bargain Loft, the Family Assistance Program and the Financial Workshops. Drivers are needed to take the elderly to medical appointments and to help with the Holiday Basket Programs in November and December.

The Bargain Loft is a major source of funding for FISH. The Loft celebrated its 20th birthday in 2001 and in 2003 it lost its lease and moved around the corner to its present location. In 2008, FISH hired Sherri Longhill, its first paid employee, to manage The Loft. Sherri has brought considerable expertise to her position and is planning new initiatives to help increase sales and interest in FISH.

The FISH Fling Gala & Fundraiser was first started in 2006 and has been a successful fund raiser ever since. On May 9, 2009, FISH will celebrate its 40th anniversary at the FISH Fling at the Dulles Crowne Plaza Hotel in Herndon. Anyone interested in being a sponsor for the FISH Fling and/or receiving an invitation can contact Marcia Di Trapani at fish@herndonrestonfish.org. The best way to support vulnerable populations in the community is through support of Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc.

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NEWS

Celebrating a Life Cut Short

Friends and family trade memories of slain Oak Hill teen.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Vanessa Saavedra remembered seeing Siobhan Russell's name on the desk next to hers on the first day of school sophomore year and hoping her new classmate would introduce herself, since Saavedra had no idea how to pronounce the name. Russell did introduce herself promptly, with a smile, she said.

During class, the teacher announced a test the following week, and Siobhan — pronounced "Shevaun" — and Saavedra panicked and began talking about fleeing the class immediately. "After meeting Shev, that class became the class I looked forward to each week," Saavedra said.

Now, she was speaking at Russell's memorial service at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Fairfax. The 19-year-old Oak Hill resident was stabbed to death on Easter Sunday, April 12, in the home of the grandparents of a 17-year-old boy she had been dating. The boy is being charged with her murder.

BEFORE THE SERVICE BEGAN, arrivals had circled the packed parking lot before leaving their cars on the lawn or in adjacent neighborhoods. Rows of folding chairs had to be set up behind the church's pews to accommodate the crowd.

King of Kings is not a small church.

"She was almost like a magnet. Everyone seemed to be drawn to her," Saavedra told the crowd.

She recalled the many hours she and Russell had spent talking in their basements, considering the activity a way of killing time because there wasn't anything better to do. Now, she said,

"She was almost like a magnet. Everyone seemed to be drawn to her."

— Vanessa Saavedra

those were the memories of her friend that she cherished most. An "amazing friend, sister and daughter," Saavedra said, Russell "was on a constant mission to help people, even if it meant getting into trouble, which she did, a lot."

Russell's 17-year-old brother, Jordan, said he had bonded with his sis-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Siobhan Russell

ter through their sibling love and shared writing skills, as well as the way they "used the English language to confuse the Yanks."

The family had moved to the area from England in 2000.

Jordan Russell recalled his sister as a graceful dancer and gifted writer.

Susan Lee, the special education department chair at Mountain View Alternative High School, said she thought it was fitting that the piece of Russell's art brought to her by the school's art teacher was a flower. "Shevey blossomed at Mountain View," Lee said.

Russell had enrolled at the school after leaving Chantilly High School. At Mountain View, she earned awards in English, art and social studies, as well as an award for academic excellence and the school's Merritt Family Memorial Scholarship. She was a student speaker at her graduation just three months before she was killed.

In a later interview, her father, Andy, said his daughter had planned to attend Northern Virginia Community College before transferring to a four-year school to study psychol-

"She focused on self-improvement, not self-pity."

— Susan Lee, Mountain View High

ogy.

Lee recalled one student saying of Russell, "She was impressive. She was inspiring. She was so good at what she did, but she never acted like she was better than anyone else." The student had told Lee that Russell probably never knew she had made him want to be a better person.

"She focused on self-improvement, not self-pity," Lee said. Her memories of Russell, she said, were of "her humility, her grace, the way she paid attention when someone spoke to her and when they didn't."

"She taught me to just go for it," said Russell's 11-year sister Francesca. She said she and her sister had both consoled each other and had fun together. "I would comfort her when she was sad and we would have the best of times together," she told the crowd.

"Shev was my best friend. Some of the

SEE SIOBHAN, PAGE 5

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

WEEK IN HERNDON

Community Day, Housing Fair May 2

An eclectic blend of performers, children's and nature programs, foods to satisfy all tastes and 500-plus attendees will all come together at the ninth annual Community Day and Housing Fair, slated for Saturday, May 2, from 12-4 p.m., at the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center, 1086 Elden St., in the Dulles Park Shopping Center.

A housing fair will take place in conjunction with the festivities. Information for first time homebuyers, with an emphasis on the home buying process and establishing credit as well as home maintenance and improvement, will be offered. Activities for children throughout the day include face painting, games, a nature tent and more.

Entertainment includes Peruvian vocalist Erika Reikendorf, Hutchinson Elementary Chorus, local pop singer Emma Bailey, Cardinal Cloggers, HK Lee's Tae Kwon Do Team, "Guitars not Guns" acoustic guitarists and the Herndon High Step Team.

For more information on the ninth annual Community Day and Housing Fair, contact the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center at 703-435-6830 or visit www.herndon-va.gov.

Hochstein Named Citizen of the Year

The Herndon Rotary Club has named Ted Hochstein this year's Citizens of the Year. Hochstein is the 44th recipient of this highest honor presented annually by the club. He has a long history of involvement in the Herndon community: Optimist, Youth basketball and softball, Herndon Festival Executive Committee, Fairfax County Athletic Council, Herndon Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. Hochstein has lived in and been involved with the Herndon Community for over 35 years, donating thousands of hours of service to the greater Herndon community.

He is a lifetime member and past president of the Herndon Optimist Club. As such, he has been a "Friend of Herndon Youth" for over 30 years. In support of the nomination, Phil Goetkin, past president of the Optimists said, "He spent years being a coach, a referee and a commissioner in basketball and softball. In each position of responsibility he occupied, he treated each child with the love and respect as if they were his own".

In support of this nomination, Arthur Anselene, town manager, wrote: "I have had the opportunity to work with Ted over the last 20 plus

SEE WEEK, PAGE 5

OPINION

Call for Mother's Day Photos — and Fathers Too

Also inviting contributions of photos and stories from the community from any local event.

Every year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of mothers and their children, grandmothers and their children and grandchildren.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10, and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Mother's Day photos.

Send in photos as soon as possible, including names of everyone in the picture, the date the picture was taken, the ages of the children, a sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to include your town name and neighborhood.

We prefer digital photos, but we also accept prints. We will do our best to return hard copies of photos that include a self-addressed-stamped envelope for that purpose, but please do not send us any photos that cannot be replaced.

EDITORIAL

THE CONNECTION'S photographers, Robbie Hammer and Louise Kraft won almost every possible award this year in the Virginia Press Association news contest. But they cannot attend even a significant fraction of the many newsworthy, photo-genic events that occur around our communities every week.

Many of our readers are accomplished photographers, and many more perfectly competent with their point and shoot digital camera. We invite you to send us photos and a short

Email photos to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com.

Send photos to The Connection, Mother's Day Photo Gallery, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102.

Father's Day, Sunday, June 21, will be here by the time we blink, and we will also accept Father's Day photos, with the same guidelines.

write-up of any local event you think might interest us.

Some examples: events, awards or other happenings at schools; fairs, charity events or any other gathering at a house of worship; a photo celebrating the anniversary of a business; a photo celebrating a local couple's milestone anniversary; engagement and wedding announcements; graduations; Eagle Scout projects and ceremonies; youth sports teams with trophies; community service projects by families, individuals or teams of employees; almost anything else you can imagine.

We prefer digital photos emailed along with the write-up. Be sure to include the name of everyone in the photo including where they live; we will almost certainly not use a photo if people are not identified. Please include age, grade and school for young people. And a paragraph or two that says where and when the event took place and what is happening. Include a phone number in case we have any questions.

Email photos to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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.

THURSDAY/APRIL 30

The Unintended Consequences of Cap and Trade. 7:30 p.m., Jo Anne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Donn Dears, former VP of the Reston Association and retired GE Company senior executive, will give a presentation on how the country will be affected when cap and trade does not work and examine if it is possible to cut CO2 emissions without serious damage to the economy and loss of personal freedom. Free.

FRIDAY/MAY 1

NARFE Virginia State Convention. Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. The National Association of Retired Federal Employees Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) will hold their annual convention May 1-3. The convention will feature U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), a member of the Office of Personnel Management, caucus meetings, exhibits, a reception and more. To register for the convention, go to www.vanarfe.org or contact the convention co-chair at 703-205-9041 or mkarpa@hotmail.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 2

Finding Passion and Purpose. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St., Herndon. Join a free discussion on ways to age positively as you chart your next chapter. Small groups will share their strategies for encore careers, civic engagement and volunteering, healthy aging and social

involvement. Registration required; call 703-534-1128 or e-mail candy@candyspitz.com.

Community Resources for Older Adults. 9-11 a.m., Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon. Sharon Lynn, Assistant Director of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, will present a seminar providing information on community resources for older adults. Free. Call 703-437-5500 or visit www.trinityherndon.org.

Swim Tests. 12-2 p.m., Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. The Town of Herndon is offering swim tests for children 3 and up as part of National Aquatics Month. Water Safety Instructors will evaluate swimming skills and strokes and will also offer recommendations for class enrollment in the Town of Herndon summer aquatics programs. Free. Call 703-787-7300.

Eagle Scout Blood Drive. Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 13224 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon. Inova Blood Services will be on hand to take blood donations as part of Scout Michael Grimmett-Norris' Eagle Project. Call 703-620-1977 or e-mail office@cof-umc.org to schedule an appointment.

SUNDAY/MAY 3

Volunteer Appreciation. 5-7 p.m., ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. ArtSpace Herndon will recognize and honor its volunteers with an evening of appreciation. The arts center is operated entirely with volunteers both on its board and serving in other volunteer capacities such as docents, graphic design services, event specialists and more. Contact Robin Carroll at 703-956-6590 or volunteer@artspaceherndon.com for volunteer information and other questions.

The Herndon High School Dance Team will be holding tryouts for all interested rising ninth graders through rising seniors May 13, 14, 15, 18 and 19 from 3-5 p.m. at Herndon High School. An interest meeting will be held in the Herndon High School Lecture Hall April 30 at 2:45 p.m. The team performs dance routines for home football games, basketball games, and competitions in the categories of "pom" and hip-hop. Dance team begins practice during the summer to prepare for camp and continues through February. Physicals (dated after May 1) are required. Contact Head Coach Rachelle Aiken at rachnjas@yahoo.com or 703-582-5960 for more information or visit www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS and go to "forms online" for physical forms.

The Herndon High School Student Services Department is looking for parent volunteers to help proctor AP exams on May 4, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14 and 15. E-mail Sonya Williams at sonya.williams@fcps.edu or Allison Ayoub at Allison.Ayoub@fcps.edu.

The Herndon High School Key Club and Keyettes and the Student Government Association will hold a spaghetti dinner to Benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation **April 15**, 5-7 p.m. at the Herndon United Methodist Church, 701 Bennett St., Herndon. Tickets are \$10 each for spaghetti w/meat or marinara sauce, Papa John's pizza, garden salad, garlic bread, beverages and desserts. Contact Mr. Tiernan edward.tiernan@fcps.edu or 703-727-9637 for tickets.

The Herndon Elementary School Kindergarten orientation will be held Thursday, **April 30**, 6-7 p.m. with registration from 7-8:30 p.m. Call the school at 703-326-3110 and make an appointment during school hours.

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.

Lola's Place, a Montessori-based school for toddler and children through age six, is now open at the site of the former Boyd School in Herndon. Lola's Place offers Montessori Education on a 12-month basis for toddler and primary programs. The toddler program hosts children ages 18 months to 3 years and the five day primary program educates children ages 3 through Kindergarten. Call 571-434-7555 or e-mail cascadesdirector@lolas-place.com.

The Math Department at Herndon High School put together a quick guide to the fourth year math options for rising seniors and their parents. This information may also be helpful to all HHS students and families for future planning. Visit www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/guidance/0809/4thyearmathoptions.pdf.

Herndon High School Student Services has compiled a one-page timeline listing all of the important dates for course registration, information meetings, testing dates, etc., to help families keep track of what is happening when. Timeline is available at www.fcps.edu/HerndonHS/guidance/0809/09StudentServicesDatestoKnow.pdf.

FCPS now has an **online job search** to help students find part-time and summer employment: www.fcps.edu/ss/CareerConnections/student/findjob.htm.

THE CONNECTION

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WEEK IN HERNDON

FROM PAGE 3

years. ... His business acumen and knowledge of the volunteer base and in working with volunteer groups has been very instrumental to the success" of the events he worked on.

Hochstein will be honored at a banquet on Wednesday, May 20 at 7 p.m., at the Dulles Hyatt, 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd. in Herndon. Reservations may be made before May 12 by contacting Tom Haselhorst at 703-761-4747 or thomas.haselhorst@wachoviasec.com.

Big Truck Days in Herndon

The Town of Herndon's Depart-

Siobhan Russell Remembered

FROM PAGE 3

best times of my life were with her," said JoJo Stipa. As children, the two had made up their own sign language, she said. Stipa remembered using the Movie Maker computer program to make a show called "Love Denied" with Russell and another friend in the sixth grade.

In ninth grade, they had helped to stage a haunted house in Stipa's backyard on Halloween, she said. They were tour guides for the haunted cave and were told to take turns guiding groups through. "We were like, 'No, we don't think so. We're doing this together,'" Stipa said. They worked out a routine in which they were identical twins and spoke in unison.

ANOTHER FRIEND, Megan Thomas, said Russell had taught her to be strong and to appreciate her life. She remembered lying on the beach and watching the stars with her friend, noting that the two had been able to "escape together and lay life's difficulties to rest." She said Russell had once told her, "If there was a lightning storm, I would run to you with a metal rod on my head just to save you."

When family friend Matt Stofko met Russell, her wardrobe was "a little on the punk rock side," he said. However, he said the girl's clothing became more conservative over time, and she came to look more and more like her mother, Lynne. When he saw the two together, he often remarked that they looked like twins, which he said delighted Lynne Russell and horrified her daughter.

After her death, Stofko had

ment of Public Works hosts its annual Big Truck Days, an opportunity for children and their parents to see the town's big trucks and heavy equipment on display. Light refreshments will be served and souvenirs will be provided to children. The event takes place Monday-Thursday, May 4-7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Friday, May 8, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Public Works complex, 1479 Sterling Road in Herndon. Groups are advised to call ahead for an appointment.

The town is collecting non-perishable food donations for the needy. Big Truck Days attendees are encouraged to bring donations. CONTACT: Works Maintenance Complex, 703-435-6860, public.works@herndon-va.gov.

Contribute to Memorial Fund

Contributions can be made to Mountain View Scholarship Fund, Attn: Pam Rutkowski. Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville, VA 20121; Reference: Siobhan Russell Memorial Award.

searched through Russell's writings and found 13 chapters of a novel she was working on. A note on the document asked her parents to read the story and provide input, adding that they could feel free to write on the pages. Stofko said he thought this indicated an uncommon relationship between a teenager and her parents.

The memorial service was to be a celebration of Russell's life, and her father noted that it was not the only such occasion. "We have other friends in other countries who are also celebrating with us," he said, noting that friends and family in Europe were planting trees and releasing balloons in memory of his daughter as he spoke.

He said that the level of support they had received since his daughter's death had consistently surprised him and his family. "Siobhan touched many different people in many different ways," he said.

Preparing to show a video of his daughter's graduation speech, Andy Russell said the speech was "real proof that you can overcome life's challenges." If it helped one person surmount his or her difficulties, he said, "that would be a real tribute to Siobhan."

The family has created a Siobhan Russell Memorial Award to help send one Mountain View student to college each year.

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Teen Rock Band Performs Fundraiser

Backfire raises money for Reston Interfaith.

Teen rock band Backfire will perform at Jammin' Java in Vienna on May 2 at 2 p.m. The performance will benefit Reston Interfaith and is open to all ages. Backfire is from Oak Hill, and band members Matt Moskowitz, Sean Kerrigan, Matt Summerill and Chris Eldering range in age from 14 to 16.

The band, which formed in early

2008, has played at competitions and charity events at venues including Jammin' Java, Jaxx and the 9:30 Club. The group has also been playing paid gigs and receives regular requests to play at community events and teen parties.

Backfire plays a blend of classic and newer songs. Typical covers include "Highway to Hell," "Walk this Way" and "Jessie's Girl," as well as newer tunes like "In Too Deep" and "Check Yes Juliet." Last summer the band also wrote several original songs.

Reston Interfaith is a leading social service provider in Northern Virginia, offering comprehensive programs for more than 13,000



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Teen rock band Backfire, of Oak Hill, will perform a concert at Jammin' Java in Vienna this Saturday afternoon to benefit Reston Interfaith.

individuals and families in Reston, Herndon, and the surrounding area last year.

For more information and tick-

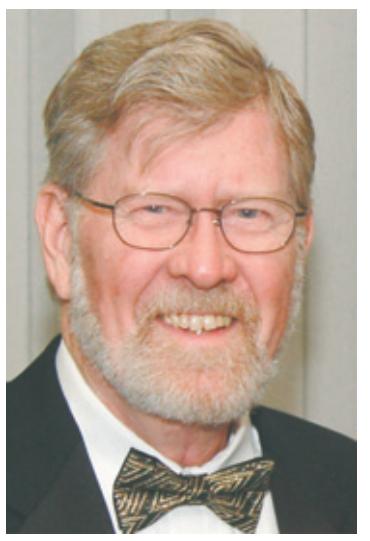
ets, visit www.wearebackfire.com or www.jamminjava.com/home/events/backfire-fundraising-performance-for-reston-interfaith.

CALENDAR

Send announcements to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6437. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 29

Live Improv: 9:30 p.m., Paolo's Ristorante, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Interactive improv games with audience suggestions and participation in the style of the television show "Who's Line is it Anyway?" will be played. Free. Call 703-318-8920 or visit www.paolos.com.



FRIDAY/MAY 1
Laughing Stock. The Reston Community Players (RCP) closes their 42nd season with the backstage comedy Laughing Stock by Charles Morey with 7 performances in three weekends. Reston Community Center's CenterStage; 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA. Box Office: (703) 476-4500.
Performance Schedule: Friday and Saturday Evenings - May 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16 at 8 p.m. Sunday Matinee: May 10 at 2:30 p.m. The Saturday, May 9 performance will be sign interpreted for the deaf and hearing impaired. Tickets, ranging from \$15 - \$18, may be purchased by calling (703) 476-4500, online at www.rcp-tix.com or in person at the Reston Community Center box office. Information and directions www.restonplayers.org.
Swing Dance. 8:30 p.m.-12 a.m., Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. "The Grandsons" will play live as you swing dance. A beginner swing lesson will held 8:30-9 p.m., followed by dancing 9 p.m.-12 a.m. \$15/person. Call 703-359-9882 or visit www.gottaswing.com.

Reston V.I.P. 2 p.m., Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Support for people with vision loss. Adults only. Call 703-689-2700.

SATURDAY/MAY 2
Pet Fiesta. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Intersection of Market Street and Fountain Square, Reston. This celebration for pets and pet lovers includes a dog walk, pet adoption contests, exhibitors, Fashion Show and more. On-leash pets of all kinds are welcome. Free. Visit www.petfiesta.org.
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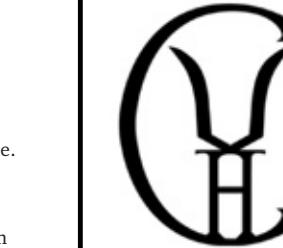
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SPORTS

Herndon Boys Shows Good Soccer Progress

Lanigan's squad has much different look than last year's district champions.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

A year removed from its magical spring of 2008, the Herndon High boys' soccer program is experiencing a less glamorous season and winning fewer games. Nevertheless, this younger Hornets' squad, while not the powerhouse, veteran team of a year ago, is taking nice strides forward in its development.

"This team is playing at the level of its ability right now," said Herndon coach Sean Lanigan. "They're very young, so we're trying to sort out how to play at the varsity level."

Last year, Herndon re-established itself as one of the Northern Region's best teams, capturing the Concorde District title, advancing to the Northern Region quarterfinals and finishing with an overall record of 15-2. It was a season in which Lanigan, who had led Herndon to three region titles between 1996 and 2000, returned for a second stint as the program's head coach.

The 2008 team's anchors were star players Sean Murnane and Christian McLaughlin, neither of whom is still with the team. McLaughlin, a center midfielder, graduated last spring, and Murnane, a potent scoring forward who began his high school career at Westfield before transferring to Herndon prior to his junior year, has returned to Westfield for his senior season.

So, from the start this spring, it has been a different-look Herndon outfit, which has utilized as many as five freshmen starters at times.

"We're trying to get the [team] to understand what the game plan is and how to execute," said Lanigan. "It's a slow process."

But the coach likes the way his Hornets have grown over the course of the season. Herndon lost to talented Robinson, 3-2, Thursday, April 23 at home. Even in the defeat, Lanigan was impressed by the things he saw from his squad.

"Robinson is a powerhouse team and we showed we could play with them," said the coach, whose team



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Herndon coach Sean Lanigan, right, shown here shaking hands following the Hornets' district tournament title win over Westfield last year, has faced a big challenge in molding a younger team into a winner this spring.

received goals from senior striker Uwem Etuk and freshman striker EK Korvah in the setback.

Herndon, following the loss to the Rams, had an overall record of 4-3-1. Lanigan said this year's challenge as a coach exceeds last year's scenario when he was making his return to the program.

"Last year, we put out a game plan and the kids knew how to execute it right away," said Lanigan. "This year, you get a lot of stares into space like, 'What's [the coach] talking about?' But we're on the brink of coming out of the shell."

Lanigan said it took about half of this season to figure out the best positions for a number of his players. But things are coming around nicely for the Hornets, whose wins this spring have come over Marshall, 3-0; Falls Church, 2-1; cross-town rival South Lakes, 2-1; and Fairfax, 2-0. The tie came against Arlington's Washington-Lee, 1-1, in a non-district home contest on April 17.

"We're just now figuring out where we are [as a team]," said Lanigan. "I think we'll peak. Hopefully, we'll reach regionals."

Going into this week, Herndon had three regular season games remaining on its schedule, including district contests this week against visiting Westfield on Monday (April 27) and host team Oakton on Thursday.

It is not a given that the Hornets will qualify for the upcoming 16-team region playoff field. In order to do so, the Hornets must win a first round game at the district tournament in two weeks. Herndon will enter the district tournament as the defending champion as a result of its run to last year's district tournament title when it beat Westfield in the finals. Herndon went on to beat Edison in a first round region playoff game last spring before seeing its season end with a 1-0 loss to Stone Bridge in the round of eight.

HERNDON'S KEY PLAYERS this season have included team captains Alex Darwiche and striker Etuk. Darwiche, the team's most vocal leader, has played solid soc-

"Robinson is a powerhouse team and we showed we could play with them."

— Sean Lanigan, Herndon High boys' soccer coach

cer at his right back position. Herndon lost important defenders to graduation last spring, so Darwiche was moved to a defender position this spring.

"We wanted Alex in the back to lead. He's played there for me with [McLean Premier U-18]. He doesn't like it as much. But he's been an inspirational, fired-up player who is trying to [rally] the younger arms," said Lanigan, of Darwiche's leadership with the younger players in the back. "He's provided us a spark."

Utuk, meanwhile, has quietly put together an outstanding season. He has shown his leadership by his consistent effort and play on the field. He has scored three goals, but has been especially outstanding as an assist man. He has a knack of getting teammates the ball in the right position and time.

"He's quiet and very gifted," said Lanigan, of Utuk. "He has led with his ability to play on the field."

Utuk, who plays club ball for the D.C. United 18-under team, has already committed to play soccer on scholarship at the University of West Virginia next school year.

Herndon's top scorer is Korvah, the ninth grade sensation who has scored six goals with two assists. Lanigan loves the young Korvah's play.

"He's extremely fast," said the coach, of the tall, lanky Korvah. "Uwem has set him up and he's hitting his one-on-one [chances]. He does have a nose for goals, and gets himself in good position."

HERNDON HAS RECEIVED a lift from junior Patrick Ramos, who saw little playing time last year in

his position as back-up goalie. Ramos expressed a desire to Lanigan to get more playing time this season. With returning goalie starter Alex Stopa back in the net, Lanigan tried Ramos out at a center back position, and he excelled.

"He was our back-up goalie last year and sat on the bench," said Lanigan, of Ramos. "I threw him in [at center back] one day [earlier this season] and he has really stepped up and done real well. He's surrounded by young players.

"Patrick just wanted to play," said the coach. "He said, 'I just want to get on the field.' He had that mentality and adapted real well [to the new position]."

Ramos, while now a fixture at center back, remains the team's back-up goalie if the need should arise.

Stopa, a junior, has had a good season in the net. Lanigan said the netminder, at times, has been too focused on the younger, less experienced defender teammates in front of him.

"He's having a decent year," said Lanigan. "A goal keeper of his caliber shouldn't have allowed two goals [on set plays] like he did against Robinson. He's worried about the players in front of him. I feel he's spending too much time where they are. Last year, he didn't have to worry about that."

Lanigan is confident Stopa will play well from here on out and be a key factor in Herndon's bid for a sustained postseason run in the weeks ahead. The Hornets, while young, have made big strides and could be one of the region's more dangerous region tourney entries should they qualify.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Reston Youth Association is sponsoring a winter cheerleading clinic. The registration fee is \$35. Practices are through May 21, Monday and Thursday, 6-7:30 p.m. at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston. Invite a friend and learn new skills while getting in shape for the fall season. For more information, contact Traci Waller at TraciWaller@aol.com, or call 703-391-0206.



PHOTO COURTESY/HRYL

The Local Herndon-Reston Youth Lacrosse league teams, both boys and girls, will be competing in week five games this weekend. For the latest HRYL report, go to connectionnewspapers.com, then go to Herndon Sports.

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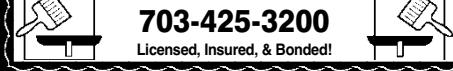
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28 Yard Sales

HUGE Community Yard Sale! Sat. 5/2, 8:30-12noon. Sycamore Lakes Community, Monroe St near Fox Mill Rd.

OAKTON -- HUGE CHURCH YARD SALE Saturday, May 2nd, 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM , UU Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road (1 Mile N Rt. 123)

Reston Community Yard Sale, 100 families. Sat 5/2 8:30am-12:30pm, Reston Assoc. 1930 Isaac Newton Sq. Rain Date 5/3

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-Werner Heisenberg

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11 a.m. • Friday, May 15, 2009

(Preview at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 9)

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NEWS



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Contest participants and coaches first row, from left, are Rhys Bergeron, Katie Brough, Sarah Betti, Kaitlyn Ernstmann, Rachel Delmontague, Maddie Kulick and Darlene Backus; and, second row, Joan Cargill, Katie Harrington, Abby Spires, Sarah Tierney, Elizabeth McNulty and Kathy Daughtry.

Herndon Optimist Hosts Annual Oratorical Contest

The Herndon Optimist Club, under the chairmanship of Mary Burger and Susan Michaely, conducted its annual Oratorical Contest on the evening of April 24 in the Herndon Town Council Chambers. Ten contestants participated, all from St. Joseph's School. The topic this year was "To me, Optimism Is ...".

First Place was awarded to Sarah Betti who spoke on the theme of never giving up hope and tying in such historic figures as Christopher Columbus and Helen Keller to demonstrate their tenacity and powerful

optimism. Second Place was awarded to Kaitlyn Ernstmann and Third Place to Elizabeth McNulty.

Betty Graves, retired English teacher from Herndon High School; Barbara Glakas, Fairfax County High School teacher; and Vice Mayor Connie Hutchison, executive director of the Herndon Dulles Visitor's Center, were the contest judges. Rick Thoesen, president of the club, was emcee for the evening. Jeff Delmontague and George Price of the Optimist Club and Nancy Rose of HCTV provided support for the contest.

Herndon Resident Wins Chevy Malibu Hybrid

Suzie Kolb and her husband opted to buy Powerball tickets instead of making an out of town trip for fireworks. They got quite the "bang" for their buck when their Feb. 17 entry D.C. Lottery's Powerball Second Chance Drawing won them a 2009 Chevy Malibu Hybrid.

"We couldn't believe it," said the 34-year old Herndon resident. "We bought tickets with the fireworks money. We'd have rather played the lottery than deal with travel and gas. I guess we were thinking 'green.'"

When Bowie, Md. resident Sheldon DeShong received a Fed Ex package, he thought it was a joke. "The driver asked me if I had won something from the lottery," said DeShong, who was in disbelief after reading the letter congratulating him on winning a 2009 Chevy Malibu Hybrid in the D.C. Lottery's Washington Auto Show Second Chance Drawing.

More than 90,000 contestants entered the D.C. Lottery "Goes Green" Powerball Second Chance Drawing — the highest participation of any second chance drawing in the history of the D.C. Lottery. This increase in



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Pictured from left are Suzie Kolb, WANADA's John O'Donnell, D.C. Lottery Executive Director Jeffrey 'Jay' Young and Sheldon DeShong.

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10 am Tails on Trails Dog Walk

10 am - 4 pm
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Proceeds benefit GoodDogz.org & RestonDogs
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10 am - 1 pm
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- Best Dressed
- Best Trick
- Fastest Frosty Paws Eater (2 contests)

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12 pm Dog House of Style Fashion Show
Meet the breed wearing the latest pet-wear
1 pm Pat's Blues Rhythm Band
Howlin' good entertainment
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