

# Trying to Save a Patch of History

News, Page 6

David and Win Meiselman want to save their house, the former home of a Confederate spy, for posterity, but time is limited.



Nostalgia,  
Excitement  
Mark Graduation

News, Page 3

PHOTO BY MIKE DiCICCO/THE CONNECTION

Beating  
Recession with  
Technology, Lunch,  
Hooters Girls

News, Page 2

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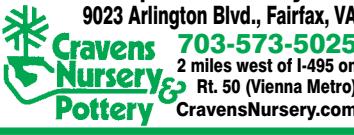
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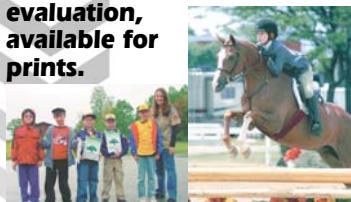
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## NEWS

# Countering Recession

## New CNR Lighting branch draws crowds.

Who says there's no such thing as a free lunch? On Wednesday, June 17, not only did CNR Lighting of Herndon offer the proverbial impossibility, but the meal was even served by three young women from the Centreville Hooters Restaurant.

The lighting outlet has been luring in potential customers with free lunches since it opened in late April. "We've been doing counter days every Wednesday," said business development manager Stacey Garrison. "This is the one that got the most attention."

**ROB MILLS**, president of CNR, said the events offer a chance not only to pitch products but also to educate the public on environmentally friendly lighting solutions. "It's an interactive training center as well as a store," he said, noting that local contractors had been coming to the shop to learn about the latest in sustainable lighting technology.

The Herndon location is the second branch of C.N. Robinson Lighting Supply Company, which has been operating out of Baltimore since 1870. Mills decided to open this branch, located in Oak Hill's Renaissance Park, with an emphasis on environmental responsibility and dubbed it CNR's Center for Sustainable Lighting.

He noted that the company had long been at the forefront of energy-saving lighting and had offered compact fluorescent bulbs before most people had heard of them. With the "green" movement exploding over the last few years, he said, "We were filling this niche and there was a need for that. So, as we started to design this place, we thought, 'Let's focus on that.'"

"It's not the best economy to be opening a new store," Mills said. "But we think certainly the world is moving in the direction that there will be a need for these products."

The store's last training activity educated contractors on the latest Lutron digital lighting management system, which controls all lights in the building. Mills said the system saves energy, for example, by dimming lights closer to the front windows according to the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Girls from the Chantilly Hooters Restaurant signed autographs for visitors and employees alike at CNR Lighting's counter day last week. Here, CNR director of construction sales John McIntyre gets an auto-graph.**

daylight coming in and by using ultrasound and infrared sensors to turn different lights on and off depending on whether anyone is in the room.

**THE SYSTEM** also keeps track of savings, which it calculated to be \$412, 2.1 tons of coal and 3.9 tons of carbon dioxide emissions since the store opened.

"We feel we're uniquely positioned to be an educational facility because we have expertise other distributors do not possess," Mills said, noting that the company's two directors of sales were the only people in the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore area who were certified by the National Council on Qualification for Lighting Professionals and worked for a distributor.

Garrison said the store also walked its environmental talk by using only Energy Star-rated products and stocking its goods on reused shelving. The conference table is made from salvaged wood, and even the ink in the printers is organic, she said.

Following an outdoor barbecue scheduled for today, June 24, the store's public events will be monthly, with more emphasis on promoting specific environmental programs than the store's presence and its products, Mills said.

Whether the Hooters girls will return is yet to be determined, but Mills said last week's counter day pulled in around 50 people, as opposed to the usual crowd of about 30.

— MIKE DICICCO

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# Nostalgia, Excitement Mark Graduation

**Herndon High School's class of 2009 celebrates at Patriot Center.**

BY ANNA McCORMALLY  
THE CONNECTION

A sea of red and white caps and gowns flooded the George Mason Patriot Center on June 17 as Herndon High School's Class of 2009 processed in with much pomp and circumstance for its commencement.

The Herndon High School NJROTC and the mixed chorus, directed by Dana H. Val Slyke, opened the ceremony with the presentation of the flags and the National Anthem. Class Secretary Danielle Kraner was the first speaker, with words of nostalgia combined with excitement for the future in a speech peppered with inside jokes that made her classmates in the audience whoop and cheer.

**THE CEREMONY** turned to academics as Herndon High School Principal Agustin Martinez honored graduates who were in the National Honor Society, those with a grade-point average of 3.8 and above, and those with a grade-point average of 4.0 in all four years at Herndon.

Class President Brenda Brown-Igboegwu presented the senior class gift, a new wireless PA system for the main gym at Herndon. Brown-Igboegwu spoke to her classmates of the importance of what she called "respecting the future."

"Life is more than just a text message," she said. "Don't be afraid to shoot for the stars." She advised her classmates to dream big, and finished with more nostalgia.

"I am very happy for your success, but I am sad to depart from your company," she said.

Martinez presented the faculty award, an honor given to one student voted on by the faculty. To heighten the suspense and excitement, the winner of the faculty award is a secret to the students until it's announced at graduation by the principal.

"[This student] manages to raise fellow peers to a higher level of excellence by example," Martinez said in his description of the award-winner, Emily Palmer.

**GUEST SPEAKER** U.S. Frank Wolf (R-10), three of his children having attended Herndon High School, focused on importance of moral courage and strong character. He advised the graduates to ask themselves: "Do I want to be a person of excellence or a person of expedience?"

Soudalat Soudachanh gave the farewell address, as the last speaker before the names were read and diplomas handed out.

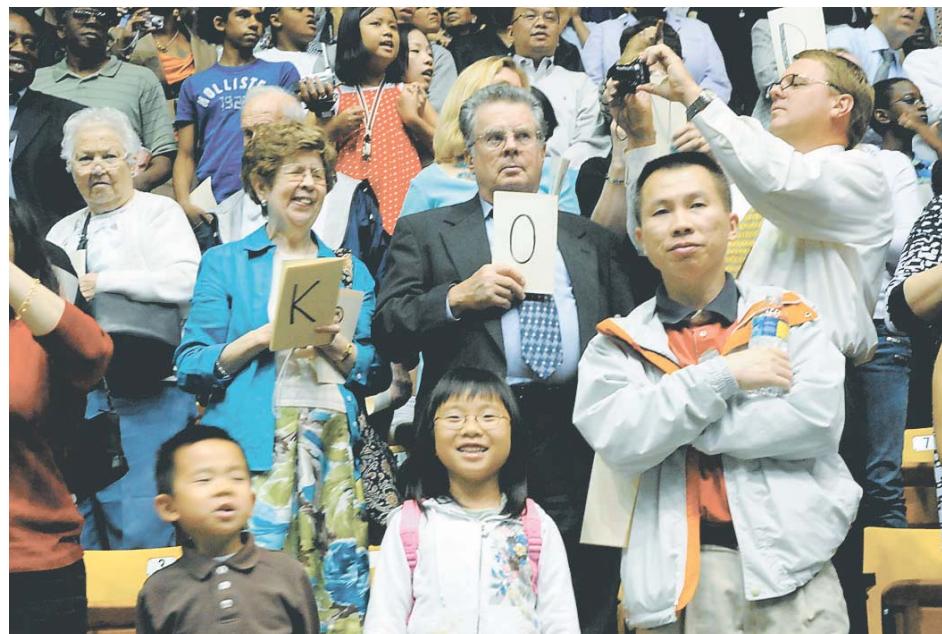


**The Herndon High School Band directed by Kathleen Schoelwer performs Pomp and Circumstance.**

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION



**The 2009 faculty award winner Emily Palmer pictured with the Assistant principal Prosperanta Calhoun.**



**The audience cheers as the class takes their seats.**

## VIEWPOINTS

**Herndon graduates discuss their next steps**

— ANNA McCORMALLY



**Joey Hutchette**  
"I'm going to Rice University in Houston, Texas."



**Sarah Bentley**  
"I'm going to UVA ... probably going to study chemistry. I'm excited to meet new people."



**Shon-nay McNeil**  
"I'm probably going to study information systems at Virginia State University."



**Muhammad Malik**  
"I'll be going to George Mason. I'm going to study engineering ... whatever kind I can get in to. I'm glad I'm out of high school."



**Preet Randhawa**  
"I'm going to NOVA. I'm going to try to become a dentist."

"As we go on with our lives, we should always remember what our experience at Herndon have taught us. ... We are all adults now, and no one will be handing us cookies on a platter," said Soudachanh.

She advised them to live to the fullest. "You only get to live once, you know?"

# OPINION

## Top Ten Secrets

This is a month filled with graduations and graduation messages. Last month the speech for graduates at my daughter's Earlham College struck me as one of the best. Here, squeezed to less than 20 percent of its original, are excerpts from the Baccalaureate address by Chuck Yates, professor of history.

—MARY KIMM

**N**UMBER TEN: Figure out what you like to do and then find someone who'll pay you to do it. But don't go where the money is good; go where the work is good, where the good comes from the difference the work makes in your life and the lives of others.

**NUMBER NINE:** Get to know the locals. Remember: they live here; they know how the system works here; they know who the movers and shakers are. The locals are your neighbors. The locals are your community. The locals are your lifeline.

**NUMBER EIGHT:** Ask for directions. You might as well get used to the idea that you're going to get lost now and then. So ask for directions. There's no shame in not knowing the way.

**NUMBER SEVEN:** "To thine own self be true." ... And when you mess things up, be the first one to step up, and own up, and do what you can to fix what you broke.

And forgive — always forgive. Forgiveness is not about letting the other person off the

hook; it's not about the other person at all. It's about you, about the kind of person you want to be, about how you define yourself as a moral agent. And forgive yourself when you trip over your own feet and fall flat on your face.

**NUMBER SIX:** Know what you think, but more important, know why you think it. What you believe is nobody's business but your own, but the rub is that belief guides behavior, so knowing why you think what you think is a precondition for knowing why you do what you do.

**NUMBER FIVE:** Remember that other people want you to take them just as seriously as you want them to take you. If you don't understand your opponent's position well enough to make your own persuasive defense of it, at a minimum that probably means you haven't been paying attention.

**NUMBER FOUR:** Take care of yourself. Hold it in your heart that taking care of yourself is not the same thing as being selfish. ... And there's this one other thing that's absolutely essential if you want to do your best job of taking care of yourself: never take yourself too seriously.

**NUMBER THREE:** Remember that most of the time, most of it isn't going to make much sense to you. But that doesn't mean it doesn't make sense. Most of us spend a lot of time and

energy trying to make the math come out even. The trouble is, the only place where the math comes out even is in math.

**NUMBER TWO:** Keep your scriptures handy. We all need scriptures. What's good about scriptures is that they put us in touch with the wisdom of others who've gone a lot farther down the road than we have. The scripture I rely on most frequently is very simple, and goes like this: "God, grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference."

**NUMBER ONE:** Love. Paul told the Corinthians, there are three things that last forever. They work together — faith, hope, and love — each one woven through the other two into a fabric that never tears, never wears out, and always gives warmth and shelter. But love, Paul said, love is the main thing.

So here I am, telling you to love. Love yourselves. Love each other. Love this magical mysterious heart-breaker of a world we live in. Love it for what it can become. But love it for what it is too. If you choose love, you create a center of gravity for yourself that will help you stay balanced no matter what happens.

Yate's address ended with a crowd-pleasing round of the Beatles' "All You Need Is Love." For the full address, see [www.earlham.edu/documents/pdf/baccalaureate/2009address.pdf](http://www.earlham.edu/documents/pdf/baccalaureate/2009address.pdf)

of Public Works (DPW) will increase on July 1, for all residential and commercial customers located within the town.

The new rates will be as follows: water, \$2.90 per 1,000 gallons; sewer, \$3.72 per 1,000 gallons; and service charge, \$7.50 per quarter. This results in an average increased cost per customer of \$21.48 per quarter, or \$7.16 per month. No increase will occur in peak water use rates.

According to Robert B. Boxer, director of Public Works, the rate increase is necessary due to increases in treatment costs as well as costs to properly maintain the system. The service charge, Boxer said, covers costs associated with meter reading, billing, meter repair/replacement and customer service calls.

All water and sewer customers will receive a "frequently asked questions" document in upcoming water bills that explains the increase and outlines ways to conserve water. The FAQ document is also posted on the town's Web site at [www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov), town services, water and sewer.

The Closet of Greater Herndon awarded college scholarships to 15 high school graduates in ceremonies this month at five local high schools. Each student received a \$1,000 college scholarship, which is being forwarded in the student's name to the college they are attending. The names of the 2009 Closet Schol-

The Closet welcomes new volunteers at any time Monday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The Closet also welcomes student volunteers. Go to [www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org](http://www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org) for further information.

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## WEEK IN HERNDON

### Additional Arrest in Graffiti Cases

The Herndon Police Department has charged a 17-year-old male of Reston with ten destruction of property cases and seven counts of gang participation. These criminal charges stem from a rash of incidences of graffiti appearing in various locations throughout the town during the earlier part of 2009.

This latest arrest follows the arrests of an 18-year old male and two juvenile males in May 2009 charging them with felony and misdemeanor counts of destruction of property. On June 22, the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relation Court ordered the two juveniles to pay restitution of \$6,697 to victims.

Said Herndon Police Chief Toussaint E. Summers, "The department will continue to aggressively investigate graffiti cases, charge those responsible and seek restitution for their victims."

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Herndon Police Department at 703-435-6846 or e-mail at [Herndon.police@herndon-va.gov](mailto:Herndon.police@herndon-va.gov).

## Increase in Water, Sewer Rates in Herndon

The rates for water and sewer services provided by the Town of Herndon's Department

## The Closet Awards 15 Scholarships

The Closet of Greater Herndon awarded college scholarships to 15 high school graduates in ceremonies this month at five local high schools. Each student received a \$1,000 college scholarship, which is being forwarded in the student's name to the college they are attending. The names of the 2009 Closet Schol-

# CALENDAR



American singer-songwriter Livingston Taylor will perform a free concert Saturday, June 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Call 703-787-7300 or e-mail [holly.popple@herndon-va.gov](mailto:holly.popple@herndon-va.gov).

Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@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](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

## THURSDAY/JUNE 25

**"The History Boys."** 8 p.m., Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Euden Street Players continue the 2008-2009 season with Alan Bennett's Tony award-winning play "The History Boys," a play about an unruly bunch of bright, funny senior boys in a British boarding school. Tickets: \$19/adults, \$16/seniors and students. Call 703-481-5930 or visit [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).

## FRIDAY/JUNE 26

**"The History Boys."** 8 p.m., Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Euden Street Players continue the 2008-2009 season with Alan Bennett's Tony award-winning play "The History Boys," a play about an unruly bunch of bright, funny senior boys in a British boarding school. Tickets: \$19/adults, \$16/seniors and students. Call 703-481-5930 or visit [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).

## SATURDAY/JUNE 27

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**The King's Brass.** 7-9 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1133 Reston Ave., Herndon. The King's Brass will perform in concert. \$10/person. Call 703-439-2755.

**Concerts on the Town.** 7:30-10 p.m., Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Rudy Gonzalez Y Su Lukura will perform Latin dance, salsa, merengue, cha-cha and bolero music. Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets; alcohol permitted at restaurants only. Free.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 28

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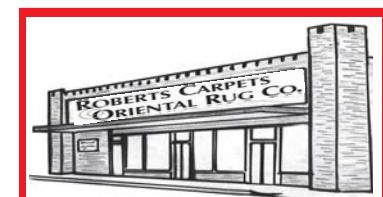
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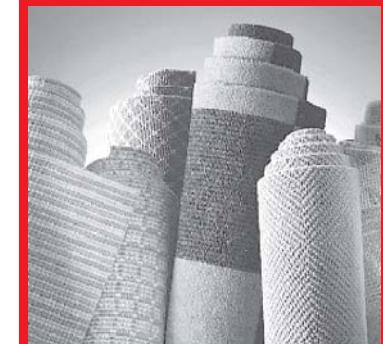
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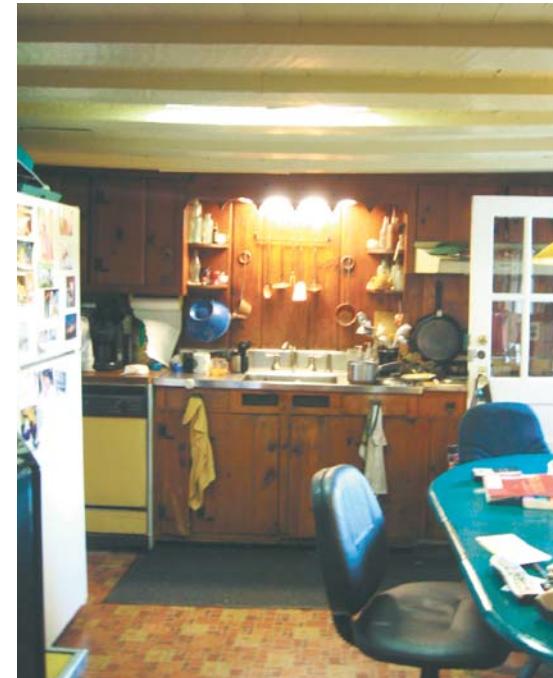
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From the right angle, looking at the Merrybrook house is still like looking back in time.



The kitchen at Merrybrook is about 170 years old, its low ceiling made of wood from an old C&O Canal barge.



Beyond the well house in the yard, acres of soon-to-be-developed land are now visible after a buffer of large, old trees were cut down.

# Trying to Save a Patch of History

**Group looks for ways to save former home of Confederate spy.**

By MIKE DiCICCO  
The Connection

In 2007, the Meiselmans buckled to the pressures of progress and development and sold their property to the Launders estate, which owned the surrounding land and then sold it to the Carbon Thompson development company. The proposed development could not link to her still around.

Ratcliffe did not live in the Merrybrook house, then known as Brookside, until after the Civil War. During the war, she lived with her mother and sisters in a house on Centreville Road just south of McLean Road, Mauro said. Not far off was the headquarters of Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, who noticed Ratcliffe while she was tending to wounded soldiers at Frying Pan Church. She would soon become a confidante of Stuart, as well as Col. John Mosby.

They found the house known as Merrybrook, parts of which date back to the 1820s, with the help of a real estate agent, and she said it wasn't until they had moved in that the former owner mentioned, "Oh, by the way, this was the home of Laura Ratcliffe, a Southern spy."

That was 38 years ago. Now, the house sits on three acres surrounded by razed land that once was a neighboring farm. Across nine lanes of Centreville Road, the Embassy Suites Dulles Airport Hotel towers over an Archstone apartment complex. A Dulles Toll Road overpass is visible from the bottom of the road that is being built through the Merrybrook property.

Nonetheless, the old house managed to retain an aura of the nineteenth century, shielded by a buffer of century-old trees, until last month, when the trees along the northwest border of the yard were cut down to reveal an expanse of bare earth that is now a blasting zone.

**"The house is still there, so there's some physical link to her still around."**

— Charles Mauro,  
local historian

One member of the group's board of directors is local historian Charles Mauro, who published a book on the house's most cel-

ebrated occupant just in time for the fund-raiser. "I just think it's fascinating that here's this woman who had a secret life and lived right here and was very familiar with the Confederates," Mauro said. "And the house is still there, so there's some physical link to her still around."

Ratcliffe did not live in the Merrybrook house, then known as Brookside, until after the Civil War. During the war, she lived with her mother and sisters in a house on Centreville Road just south of McLean Road, Mauro said. Not far off was the headquarters of Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, who noticed Ratcliffe while she was tending to wounded soldiers at Frying Pan Church. She would soon become a confidante of Stuart, as well as Col. John Mosby.

When he pulled out of the area several months later, Stuart left Ratcliffe with a book in which he had written four poems dedicated to her, two of them original, and the book ended up being signed by 26 Rebel officers and soldiers and 14 civilians, Mauro said.

His book is about Ratcliffe's book, Mauro tracked down all the people who had signed the album, and he found out how they might have known its owner. The one-time Herndon resident had amassed the signatures over the period when she provided information and safe

refuge for Confederate forces.

Most famously, Mauro said, Ratcliffe is credited with having saved Mosby's life by informing him of a trap that had been laid for him. Although Northern troops were aware of Ratcliffe's loyalties, a Union soldier had informed her of the plot to ensnare Mosby, adding that she would never be able to tell him because she had no horses and the mud was too deep for a woman to walk through.

Ratcliffe walked to her sister's house in Herndon, where the Marriott Suites Dulles Airport Hotel now stands, and told Confederates about the plan. She was never caught abetting

Rebel troops, but Mauro said she was aware of the risk, as her friend, Antonia Ford, was arrested for spying and served three months in prison. "She had to be very brave to do what she did," he said.

Ratcliffe moved into Merrybrook with her mother in 1869, Mauro said, and she lived there for the rest of her life.

After the Meiselmans moved into Merrybrook, they began to hear stories about Ratcliffe from the neighbors. "Some of the older people coming by actually knew Laura because she lived until 1923," Win Meiselman said.

The efforts underway right now are to make sure there's a feasible plan to save the house and also to educate the community," she said.

Meiselman said the group had raised "a few thousand dollars" with the recent fundraiser, although the final receipts had not yet been counted. She added, "We made contact with some people who are dedicated preservationists, which I consider more important than money at this stage."

The event consisted of dinner, dancing, singing, a silent auction, a talk by State Sen. Mark Herring (D-33) and a reading by Mauro.

His book, "A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe," should be available sometime next month on the Amazon Web site, at the Reston Barnes and Nobel, and at the old train depot in Herndon.



Laura Ratcliffe.

## Learn More

To learn more about Merrybrook and the Friends of Laura Ratcliffe, visit [www.lauraratcliffe.org](http://www.lauraratcliffe.org).

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# SPORTS

## Local Swimmers Jump In

Summer swim teams bring community and competition to kids in Northern Virginia.

ANNA McCORMALLY  
THE CONNECTION

For his high school swim team — the Oakton Cougars — Bradley Phillips has performed on some of the area's biggest stages. Because of Phillips and several other talented swimmers, Oakton captured the Northern Region boys' title this past winter.

But Phillips, who won the Virginia AAA 200-yard freestyle title with a time of 1 minute, 40.62 seconds, has another passion: He spends his summers swimming for the Pinecrest Piranhas, a routine Phillips has followed since he was 6 years old.

Phillips will be able to participate in the Northern Virginia Swim League for one more year before he will be too old, and it's something that he'll definitely miss.

"It's going to be sad when I leave," Phillips said. "I've had so many memories and made so many friends. That's my favorite part: all of the people I've met over the years."

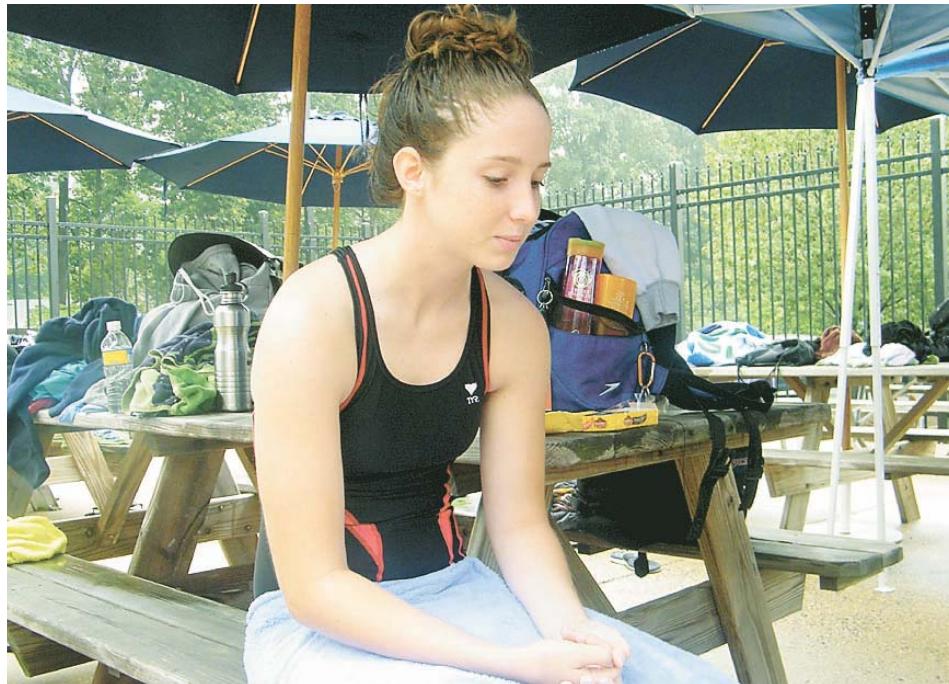
"I remember getting disqualified as a little kid ... You know, for not being able to swim across the pool."

**THE PIRANHAS** swam against the Virginia Run Riptide on Saturday morning, June 20 but suffered a 231-171 loss. Both are Division 5 teams in the Northern Virginia Swim League, a popular summer swim organization with teams that have long histories of close-knit swim communities.

**"That's my favorite part: all of the people I've met over the years."**

**Bradley Phillips,**  
**Pinecrest Piranhas swimmer**

The NVSL gives kids ages 5-18 a chance to get in the pool and race, and it draws the same swimmers year af-



**Hiddenbrook's Sarah Hamilton anxiously awaits the result of an event during the Hurricanes' swim meet last Saturday, June 20 against Great Falls.**

PHOTOS BY ANNA McCORMALLY/THE CONNECTION



**Sarah Doyle, left, of Virginia Run and Katie Sanfield of Pinecrest take their marks for the U-8 girls' 25-meter freestyle event on Saturday, June 20.**

ter year as they make friends on the team. Having fun while fostering a spirit of competition can be a difficult balance for some NVSL coaches to find.

"It's tricky because we want to make it fun," said Caitlin O'Brien, one of the Piranhas' coaches, who also competed in the meet. "But at the same time, swimming is competitive and you want to win."

The Piranhas keep practices fun by having 'Game Day' once a week. Conversely, Virginia Run co-coach Stasia Schlatter and her fellow coaches also go to great lengths to make sure swim practice is fun and not all work for their swimmers.

"We try to keep it fun, so we're not stressed out about winning or losing," she said. "We try to do a lot of different things at practice. We do a lot of hard stuff, but on Fridays we have 'Fun Friday.' We work hard

all week and we have fun on Friday. That's one of the ways we balance it."

**WHILE SOME** swimmers like Phillips take the competitive aspect of the NVSL very seriously, winning isn't the only point — or even the main one — of summer swim season. Tyler van Vierssen, a junior coach with the Hiddenbrook Hurricanes, believes that there is more to swimming than winning meets.

"Pep rallies are always good," said van Vierssen, whose team faced off with the Great Falls Rapids on Saturday at Hiddenbrook but suffered a 187-153 loss. "We make banners and things."

Pep rallies are a very popular part of swim meets. Before meets, teams gather to make banners, practice cheers and get pumped up with their teammates.

Being with friends is a huge aspect of the summer swim league, too. Sarah Hamilton of Hiddenbrook called the friendly environment of the swim team one of the best parts.

"We're like a family," said Hamilton, 17, who remembered looking up to older kids on the team when she was younger. "People call it a swim family because you grow up with them and watch the kids grow up. You know everything about everyone, and they cheer you on."

Her teammate on both the Hurricanes and also the Herndon swim and dive team, van Vierssen agreed.

"The swim team here is almost more like a community than it is a swim team," van Vierssen said. "Everyone here is pretty close, and I like that a lot."

### WEEK IN SPORTS

## Herndon Soccer Advances

By winning the U.S. Youth Soccer Virginia State Championship, two Herndon-area soccer teams — the U-14 boys' Herndon Real Juniors and the U-15 boys' Herndon FC — have qualified to compete in the U.S. Youth Soccer Region I (East) Championships. The teams will join the 282 top U.S. Youth Soccer teams from 15 associations that are competing for a regional title, July 2-7 at the U.S. Youth Soccer Region I Championships in Barboursville Soccer Complex, Huntington YMCA Kennedy Center and Scott Orthopedics Soccer Complex in Barboursville, W.Va. The Region I Championships feature top teams in the U-12 through U-19 age groups and start on Thursday, July 2. The champion will be crowned on Tuesday, July 7.

## Register Now for RYA

Registration is open for Reston Youth Association's (RYA) fall 2009 football and cheerleading programs. Registration is also open for RYA football camp and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament to be held the week of July 18. The RYA programs are open to youth ages 6-16 in Reston and the surrounding areas. No experience is needed and full player participation is guaranteed regardless of ability or experience. There are three levels of play in each weight-class based on age, weight and experience. Games will be played on the turf fields at Lake Fairfax Park. Practice begins Aug. 10 and the first games are Sept. 19. The season ends by Thanksgiving. Obtain information on the RYA programs and register online at [www.restonseahawks.org](http://www.restonseahawks.org). For questions, call the RYA Hotline at 703-620-2019 or send an email to [vp@restonseahawks.org](mailto:vp@restonseahawks.org).

## Grab a Stick and Go

This summer, Academy International will host two week-long girls' lacrosse academies at Cooper Middle School in McLean on Aug. 3-7, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., and Aug. 10-14, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. A field hockey camp will also take place July 27-31 at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington. Renowned coaches from Canada and Britain will group players by age and skill level to customize training and make playing lacrosse fun. To register, visit [www.academyinternational.net](http://www.academyinternational.net) or call 703-816-0244 for more information.

## COMMUNITY

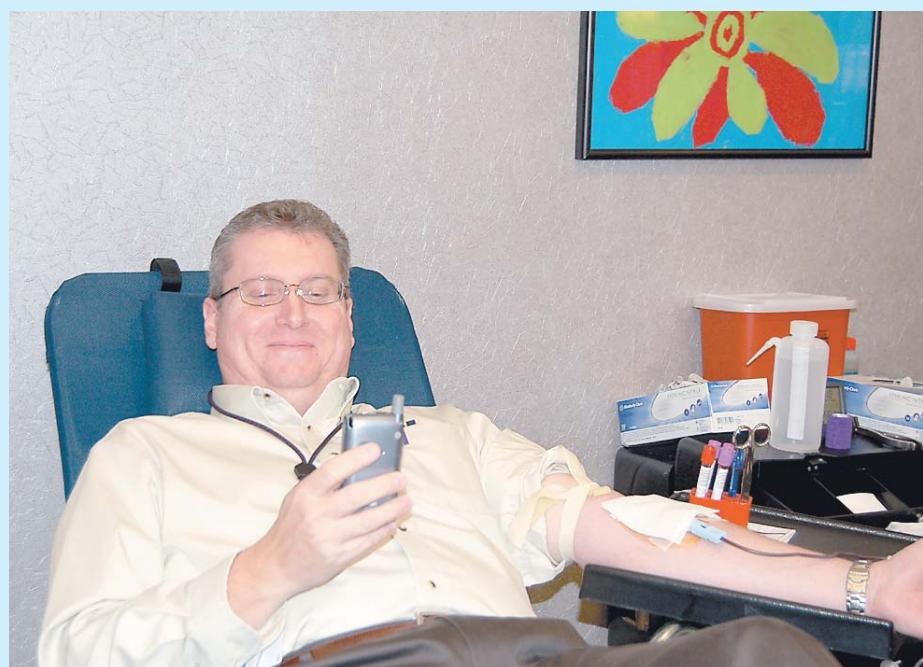
### Blood Drive at Herndon Credit Union

**N**orthwest Federal Credit Union (NWFCU) is hosting a community blood drive at its Herndon office complex on Tuesday, June 30. Inova Blood Donor Services will convert the credit union's first floor conference space at 220 Spring St. into a mobile blood bank, complete with waiting lounge, recliners and refreshments.

NWFCU has established an automated scheduling center on its Web site.

Anyone interested in making an appointment can go to [www.nwfcu.org/donate](http://www.nwfcu.org/donate) to select a time slot. Appointments are available every 15 minutes from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. and walk-ins are welcome. Donors should allow one hour for their visit.

"Our offices are at the corner of Herndon Parkway and Spring Street, making popping in during a lunch hour or en route to/from errands convenient for area residents and business commut-



CONTRIBUTED

**Northwest Federal Credit Union's Senior Vice President William Cook multitasked on his BlackBerry during the credit union's fall on-site blood drive. Local workers and residents converged at the 220 Spring St. location in October to donate 83 pints of blood through Inova Blood Donor Services.**

ers," said Jenn Womack, NWFCU blood drive coordinator.

For more information and donor eligibil-

ity requirements, visit Northwest's Web site or call Womack at 703-709-8900, extension 6242.

### Herndon Garden Tour on Sunday

**T**he fifth annual Herndon Garden Tour, featuring six gardens at Herndon homes, will be Sunday, June 28, 12-4 p.m. The tour is self-guided, with suggested tour route and directions are provided.

Featured gardens include: 878 Station St., Ellen Kabat, owner; 1119 Burwick Drive, Teresa and Ehab Yacoub, owners; 1009 Charlton Place, Jeremy Radosh, owner; 410 Madison St., Jeanette and David Drake, owners; 402 Greear Place, Jim and Sharon



**Featured gardens include: 878 Station St., owner Ellen Kabat, above; and 1009 Charlton Place, owner Jeremy Radosh.,**

McKenney, owners; and 496 Virginia Ave., Bessie Denton, owner.

Admission is \$10. Tickets are available in advance at the Herndon Florist, 716 Lynn St. and the Herndon Dulles Visitor's Center, 717 Lynn St.

Tickets are available the day of the Garden Tour at participating gardens and at the Herndon Dulles Visitor's Center.

Sponsored by the Cultivating Community Initiative, a program designed to encourage neighborhood beautification and build community spirit. All programs are developed through the input of resident volunteers.

CONTACT: [www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov) or call 703/435-6800 X2222.



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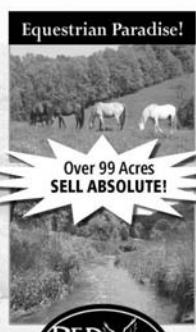
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF HORRY

Dorothy E Darling  
Petitioner

IN THE PROBATE COURT  
CASE NUMBER:  
2007-ES-26-1731

SUMMONS AND  
HEARING NOTICE

vs

HEIRS-AT-LAW OF HOWARD N. DARLING and all persons unknown who are or might to claim to be heirs-at-law of Howard N. Darling, all such unknown persons being collectively designated as JOHN DOE and MARY DOE, including any unknown persons in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, any minors, persons non compos mentis and persons under a disability of any kind of nature who might claim to be heirs-at-law or Howard N. Darling. Respondents.

TO: RESPONDENTS NAMED ABOVE

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Petition to Determine Heirs, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the Petition to Determine Heirs on the subscriber at his office at 4702 Oleander Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577, within thirty (30) days of service. If you fail to answer the Petition to Determine Heirs within the time aforesaid, the Petitioners will seek default against you.

CLIFFORD H. TALL, P.A.

Clifford H. Tall  
SC Bar No: 005463  
Attorney for Petitioner,  
Dorothy E. Darling  
4702 Oleander Drive  
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YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Merits Hearing in this matter will be held at the Horry County Probate Court 1301 Second Avenue, Courtroom 2A, Conway, SC 29528 on July 23, 2009 at 8:30 AM. Interested parties are encouraged, should they require additional information, to contact Guardian ad Litem, Mary W. Tovornik, 201 Beatty St, Suite 107, Conway, SC 29526 843-438-8251 or Petitioner's counsel, Clifford H. Tall 4702 Oleander Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 843-497-9777.

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# Skinny!?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If I ever felt like Robert Di Niro (which would be never), it was recently when my co-worker, Winslow, called me skinny. She couldn't have been talking to me, could she? But since it was she and I speaking on the telephone (and it wasn't a conference call), it had to be me. Granted, I've lost weight, chemotherapy has an affect of doing that, but skinny?

If there's an adjective, disparaging or otherwise, that I haven't been called in my entire life, it's skinny. In fact, growing up, my nicknames (most often given to me by my older brother, Richard) almost exclusively had to do with my girth. Other than being called by my first and middle initials, K.B., I was called a variety of synonyms for fat: Fatso, Goodyear Blimp, Endicott "Chub" (after a former Massachusetts Governor, Endicott "Chub" Peabody; he wasn't skinny either) and my personal least favorite, cor-pulent. Look it up in the dictionary/thesaurus, my brother did; it means fat.

So for me to react, literally, when anyone calls me skinny, is beyond any sense of reality or proportion I've ever known. It's simply not relevant, accurate, possible, etc. However, as a cancer patient, surviving through six days of six-hours of chemotherapy (every three weeks) over the course of 15 weeks, give or take, will, as many of you might already know, dampen your eating enthusiasm, you might say. Food begins to matter less, sort of. Its unique taste disappears or worse, changes. Food you used to love now inspires zero interest. Food you never thought to eat becomes food you tolerate because it tastes no different (no worse) than the food you formerly loved but now only ingest as a matter of need/routine. And so, the passion for food is gone. The lust for food is gone. The desire to eat diminishes as the taste and flavor of food likewise diminishes.

Combine this disappointing change in your senses with the depressingly low energy level you're progressively struggling to maintain — a direct result of the chemotherapy destroying your red blood cells (in its battle to destroy the cancer cells) and causing anemia in the process, and your interest in food; physically, mentally, emotionally becomes practically nil. And unless you're incredibly diligent or disciplined, the result is, you lose weight. It's not exactly an ideal scenario for a chemo/cancer patient since your body needs sustenance/energy to fight/destroy the cancer but the demands on your body during this time can be overwhelming. As such, forces beyond your control (or so it seems) make it extremely difficult to maintain your weight.

And so I've lost weight. But skinny? 215 pounds is not skinny. Sure, it's 20 pounds that I've lost in the last three months, and perhaps 40 that I've lost in the last 30 months (due to a pre-diabetes diagnosis in Sept. '06), but 215 is a long way from skinny (especially so if I told you my lack-of-height). Heck, it's even a long way from the weight I've listed on my driver's license.

And though I'm hardly a shell of my former self, I can certainly appreciate and respect the perspective of friends and family members who've seen the changes, I'm not exactly shriveling up to nothing.

But neither am I "around" 250 pounds anymore.

Such is life as a chemo/cancer patient. I just hope its cheating death as well.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for  
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