

Bark for Life Hosts Walk in Reston

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Cancer patient Julie Matthews calls her dogs, Jameson and Guinness, 'wonderful caregivers' and the 'best support.' They participated in the American Cancer Society's Bark for Life walk at Lake Fairfax on Aug. 22.

PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

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Dogwood Could Face 'Restructuring'

Options for No Child Left Behind sanction remain unclear.

BY MIKE DiCICCO
THE CONNECTION

Robyn Cochran took the job of Dogwood Elementary School principal five years ago in part because the school needed to be turned around, she said. Now, although school officials and Dogwood parents say the school has made impressive gains under her leadership, Cochran's job and those of her faculty could be in jeopardy.

Dogwood Elementary is the first school in Fairfax County to enter its fifth year of sanctions under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. According to the federal law, school officials must spend the next year developing a plan for "restructuring" the school next year, in case it fails to meet the annual yearly progress (AYP) goals this school year.

"We're not sure what that will amount to at this point," said Paul Regnier, Fairfax County Public Schools spokesman.

AMONG THE OPTIONS, the law provides for restructuring are turning the school into a public charter school, replacing all or most of the staff, contracting the school to a private company or putting in place "any other major restructuring of the school's governance arrangement" so long as the change is "consistent with the NCLB principles of restructuring." The plan would only have to be put in place if the school misses its yearly progress goal this year.

Dogwood met its AYP requirements in the 2007-08 school year but missed one requirement for the last school year. Regnier said a school must now make AYP for two years running in order to have sanctions lifted, just as it has to miss the benchmark for two consecutive years in order to incur sanctions.

The sanctions only apply to Title I schools, which have a high population of students from impoverished families and receive supplemental federal funding to deal with the challenges that such a student body presents. For a school to receive Title I funding, at least



PHOTO BY MIKE DiCICCO/THE CONNECTION

Dogwood Elementary is the first school in the county to be required to put together a plan for school restructuring, although it remains to be seen whether that plan will have to be implemented.

40 percent of its students must qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

At Dogwood, Cochran said, that number hovers around 65 percent.

The law sets a goal for each school's Standards of Learning (SOL) pass rate and requires that each of several demographics, such as Hispanic students, black students, those who come from low-income families and "limited English proficient" students, meet that pass rate. Often, students fall into more than one category. A school that falls short in a single demographic has not made AYP. The benchmarks are raised steadily, so that by 2014 all Title I schools would be required to have 100 percent pass rates for math and reading in all student demographics.

In Dogwood's case, the school missed this year's required pass rate in the category of black student reading by three students,

Regnier said, adding that the school was "actually doing a great job" overall.

Black student reading, Cochran said, "has been a challenge for us, in that we've seen the gap closing but it hasn't closed."

According to the school's official Virginia School Report Card, reading among black students is the only category that didn't show dramatic gains in the two years between the 2006-07 school year and the last school year. That's as far back as the document reaches.

PTA PRESIDENT Rylan Hutzler has a sixth-grade son who has attended Dogwood Elementary since kindergarten and a daughter in third grade at the school. "I've got some history," she said. "And, of course, I wouldn't keep my kids there if I didn't think it was a fantastic school and a great staff." She said the feeling was unanimous among PTA members she had spo-

ken with. "The attention that our children get is just the best that it can be," she said, adding that some parents who had opted for private school are now putting their children in Dogwood.

"Certainly, I don't think there is a need to do any restructuring of the school," she said. Hutzler said making the school a charter school or bringing in a contractor would be a waste of resources.

"I think the spirit of the law is admirable," she said. "If there wasn't that law there, I don't know if we would see these great improvements." However, she said, "On the flipside of that, you can't completely always judge a school based on test scores" or judge an entire school based on one category.

School Board Member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill) called Cochran "a very dedicated, driven principal who wants to see all her students succeed" and noted that she was president of the Fairfax Association of Elementary School Principals last school year.

He pointed out that, according to NCLB sanctions, Dogwood offered parents the option of transferring their children to another school, but only about 26 students were transferring, out of a student body of around 620. And he said 400 teachers had applied to work at the school last summer, attributing the large number of applicants to Cochran's reputation and that of her staff.

Cochran said one of her goals when she started at the school had been to reduce its high rate of turnover among teachers by offering them more support. That first year, she had 26 teaching positions to fill. Since then, she said, she has hired about four to seven teachers each year, a typical rate of turnover.

"Do we have work to do? Absolutely," Cochran said. But she added, "I love what we do and I'm so proud of what we do as a school and as a staff for the kids."

The school now operates year-round, with three intersessions during the school year and just a five-week summer break. This keeps the school routine more constant for students and leaves no large gaps in English Speakers of Other Languages students' exposure to English, Cochran said.

Also, the school fills its off-weeks with an optional "mini-university" that offers specialized courses. A child who is gifted in science may

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COUNTY LINE

Town Hall Meetings on Flu Season

The Fairfax County Health Department will hold a series of town hall meetings throughout the month of September to discuss the ongoing pandemic and prepare for the 2009-2010 flu season.

"Our goal is to ensure that residents understand how influenza is transmitted and what they can do to protect themselves and others from catching the flu and limit its spread within our community," said Gloria Addo-Ayensu, M.D., M.P.H., Fairfax County Director of Health, will begin each meeting with a presentation before taking questions from the public. Topics will include the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic and seasonal and H1N1 (swine) flu vaccine distribution and availability.

One town hall meeting will be held in each of the nine Board of Supervisors districts.

❖ Tuesday, Sept. 1, 7 p.m., Dranesville District, McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Rd., McLean

❖ Tuesday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m., Hunter Mill District, North County Governmental Center, 12000 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston

Information on seasonal and pandemic influenza and guidance for residents are available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu, or call 703-246-2411, TTY 703-591-6435.

Volunteers Needed

Fairfax County is in search of volunteers to help residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities advocate for their rights, resolve conflicts and improve their quality of life.

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers who can commit a minimum of four hours a week for one year. Volunteers set their own schedules with visits usually occurring between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays. Volunteers receive training and continuing support.

Call 703-324-5861 or 703-324-5422; TTY 703-449-1186, e-mail lisa.callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa/ombud>.

Works Sunday Gives Opportunity to Serve

Volunteer event continues to expand, with hundreds helping those less fortunate.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Two people, one of whom was experiencing chest pains, were sent directly to the hospital from a free health fair at the First Baptist Church in Herndon, said the event's chair, Suzanne Rudiselle, emphasizing the program's importance.

Although it was held on Saturday, the health fair was the largest of 20 volunteer activities that made up this year's Works Sunday, some of which will continue this weekend. What began 14 years ago with three Presbyterian churches has expanded to include hundreds of volunteers from 21 faith communities, including Christians, Jews and Muslims throughout Reston and Herndon.

"It's been very successful. We've gotten a lot of volunteers, more than usual, from the community," said Marilyn Silvey, who organized the event through Reston's United Christian Parish, the church that originated Works Sunday.

ABOUT 80 of those volunteers from nine religious institutions were at the health fair alone, where a wide variety of services were offered, from obesity and diabetes screening to chiropractic care to blood pressure checks. The Lions Club gave vision and hearing screenings.

The Reston Lions Club and the Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic were the primary cosponsors for the fair, where organizers estimated that close to 400 people came over the course of five hours to get checked out and learn about various health issues.

A nutritionist taught healthy eating habits, the National Institute of Mental Health gave presentations on drug and alcohol aware-



From left are Michael Moseley, Jim and Anne Ryan, Jacqueline Vasquez, Rae Crabtree, Dave Collyer, Sonja Vaughan, Suzanne Rudiselle and Raul Cruz, all of whom volunteered at Saturday's health fair. Some are members of the Lions Club, while others belong to area churches that support Works Sunday.

ness, an ultraviolet light was used to check for sun-damaged skin, and another such light was used in hand-washing demonstrations. "They put a special ink gel on your hands that only shows up under an ultraviolet light," said Reston Lions Club President Jim Ryan.

Everyone got a card with his or her height, weight, body mass index, blood pressure and sugar levels, which they presented to a volunteer doctor for personalized advice.

"We gave out a lot of important literature, both in English and in Spanish," Rudiselle said. Children got backpacks with educational game books and personal hygiene items.

Many of the people who came to the health fair had lost their health insurance when they were laid off, and some had found new work but had not been on the job long enough to get insurance, Ryan said. He said everyone who attended would be followed up on to make sure they were carrying out the recommendations made for them and had seen a doctor if

they were supposed to. And the Lions Club would be buying glasses for many of them after the Health Department had referred them to an eye clinic, he said.

The next afternoon, at a townhouse on Colts Neck Court, six men from United Christian Parish were working on a job they had started the weekend before and would not finish for another week. The house was one of three Gabriel Homes — residences for the mentally retarded who are able to live on their own — being repaired as part of Works Sunday.

"We try to wait for the second-hottest day of the year," cracked Elliott Wicks as he helped to screw another board into the front deck the men were rebuilding.

"The old deck was kind of a safety hazard," said Bob Pitulej, who was cutting the boards down to size with a circular saw. Earlier, a group of people from St. John Neumann Catholic Church and elsewhere had been working on the backyard, weeding, laying mulch, edging and trimming.

"It's just a good service project,



From left, Elliott Wicks, Lee Schmidt, Bob Mason and Roy Oishi, all of United Christian Parish, rebuild a deck in front of a Gabriel Home on Colts Neck Court in Reston.

helping those who are not as well-off as I am," said Jeff Confer, who was helping Pitulej trim the boards.

At the North Point Giant supermarket, Reston resident Des Horton of St. Thomas à Beckett Catholic Church was handing out lists of items needed for Reston Interfaith's food pantry to the steady stream of customers entering the store.

"It's something to do for the community and just help out, go outside our own little world," Horton said.

The Reston Interfaith food drive expanded this year from three to five supermarkets, with volunteers working two-hour shifts. Silvey said she had been worried that not enough people would volunteer, but the shifts all ended up being filled.

Lauren Wingate had been at the Gabriel House on Colts Neck Court earlier that day, and in the evening, she played with children at the Embury Rucker Shelter.

THE RESTON RESIDENT said she did not belong to any particular church but volunteered to look after children at the center a couple of times a month. When she

learned that someone was needed to entertain children during Works Sunday's games night at the shelter, she signed up. "I just feel like I'm fortunate in life," she said. "And I love kids."

Inside, about 10 residents were playing bingo for Target gift cards and having an ice cream social, accompanied by chips and soda, as games night got underway. Jodi Imel of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reston was overseeing the evening for the second year running. She said games night at the shelter had run for several years but only recently switched to bingo, as it was more social and gave an opportunity to give out prizes. "They really like to play too, especially when there are gift cards involved," she said.

Jean Banks of United Christian Parish had played the piano that morning for a Works Sunday service at Hunters Woods Fellowship House and was now helping Imel supervise games night.

"This community is really great, you know, in terms of caring," Silvey said. "I think that's the strongest thing about the Reston community is people really do care about their neighbors."

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THURSDAY, AUG. 27

Fairfax County Public Schools Parent Orientation. 10 a.m. at the Lake Anne-Reston Student Registration Office, 11484 Washington Plaza West, Reston. How parents can get involved, a discussion designed to help accelerate a family's acculturation to the United States, school registration, testing, safety, health services, technology tips, graduation requirements and more. 703-277-2640 or

robin.hamby@fcps.edu.
Information Session on NOVA's ESL for Employment Course. Intended for workers who want to improve their English language skills and advance their career. Time and location: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at NOVA's Reston Center, 1831 Wiehle Avenue - 3rd Floor. Free. Bring photo identification and a document showing eligibility for employment in the U.S. To register and obtain more information, call 703-764-7779 or e-mail ESLEmployment@nvcc.edu, or just show up.

MONDAY, AUG. 31
The Town of Herndon's

Downtown Master Plan Steering Committee will meet at 7 p.m. at Hoover Conference Room, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2

Baked Alaska: What's Happening to the Glaciers in Alaska. U.S. Geological Survey scientist Bruce F. Molnia will show many stunning photo pairs of Alaska's glaciers, landscape, and the profound changes they have undergone. Dr. Molnia will discuss the relationship between Alaska's glaciers, climate, and sea level. 7 p.m. at U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston.

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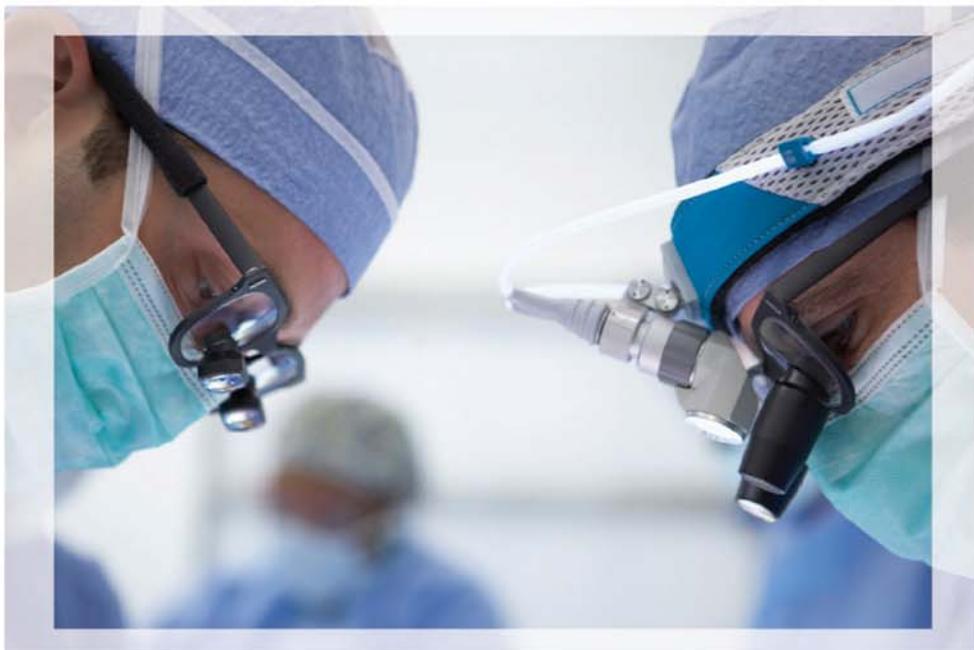
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People Need Food

Food pantries can't keep up with surging demand for food; donate now.

“Right now, things are so very bleak.” That’s how the coordinator of one local food bank described the situation, with demand for food up more than 50 percent from last year, and donations right now dwindling.

Schools and churches often provide the pipeline for food donations to pantries, food banks, but that pipeline runs dry in the summer.

Your family can help right now by donating food or money to your local food pantry. Plan to give again in early fall, and again at Thanksgiving and Christmas. You can organize a food drive at your place of work, or in your neighborhood.

The ongoing recession and loss of jobs are driving the surge in families showing up at food banks. There are more unemployed people in Northern Virginia than in any other part of the state, with more than 80,000 unemployed here according to the Virginia Employment Commission. While the employment rate is lower here as a percentage of the population, this area still has the largest number of people unemployed.

People have lost their jobs, are unable to find

new ones. In some cases people who own homes are stuck, unable to sell their houses because the homes are worth less than they paid for them, and are facing foreclosure as well.

These families have used up their safety net, spent their savings. They find themselves without being able to put food on the table, and they turn to local food banks, food pantries, churches and other charitable organizations for their most basic needs.

EDITORIAL

“The people coming in the door are people who have lost all their savings. The lack of jobs is the predominant theme we’re hearing,” said Bonnie Inman of Loudoun Interfaith.

The McLean SHARE Food Pantry, located in the McLean Baptist Church, is running low on food and other basic provisions. At this time of the year and because of the economy, food and other donations have fallen off significantly but the need for food and other necessities is growing, the organization says.

The message is the same around the area.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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Education Funding Threatened

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

With the lip service given to public school funding by politicians of every stripe, one could conclude that education funding must certainly be the highest priority. In actuality, public education funding has been threatened the last several years in the House of Delegates. This year, a proposal to change the Standards of Quality by which education funding for localities is calculated would have had a devastating effect on state aid to local school divisions. By reducing the number of support personnel in the funding formula, the state would have “saved” itself about \$600 million. I led the fight against this change. You can view one of my speeches on the subject at www.kenplum.com. The point I made in the debate was that our change in the numbers in the funding formula did not reduce the cost of schools at the local level. Support personnel would continue to be needed to operate the schools. All our action did was to shift more costs from the state to localities. Those costs would be passed on to local citizens through the property tax. I almost won my argument, and the close vote by which the proposal was passed caught the attention of the budget conferees. The Senate had not passed any such proposal. A compromise was reached by the conference com-



COMMENTARY

mittee to not accept the proposal in the budget that was passed this year, but the budget for the next biennium was to be presented in two formats: one using the current SOQ formula; the other the revised standards for support personnel.

Just last month, the State Board of Education received “preliminary estimates” of the budget for the next biennium to be \$12.7 billion. That is the state’s share of public education costs for two years. If the state reduces the number of support personnel it recognizes as being needed in the schools the estimate is \$11.9 billion. The difference has been described as a \$754 million savings for the state. In actuality, if it is adopted it will be a cost shifting of that amount to local governments. Public school programs will have to be cut, property taxes will need to increase to make up the difference in lost school aid, or both.

On top of this attack on public school funding is the Republican gubernatorial candidate’s transportation funding proposal. It is simple: take funds that have historically gone to funding the schools and use them to build roads. With the decline in revenue at all levels of government, with the economic recession and with proposed raids on school funding, it is easy to see how education funding faces several threats. You can expect me to be in the forefront of saving funding for our public schools and expanding it as additional revenues become available.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fear Mongering in Healthcare Debate

To the Editor:

Mr. Kenny seems to love walking in lockstep with those Republicans who sow fear among the populace in order to achieve their ends, in this case a defeat of healthcare reform [“Civil Activity,” Reston Connection, Aug. 19-25, 2009]. He uses half-truths and misrepresents selected points of the proposed legislation in hopes of scuttling much-needed improvements to our healthcare system. However, what I find downright scary, as an article in the Washington Post pointed out, is that an estimated 18,000 would die this year due to lack of healthcare insurance, while another 700,000 would be forced into bankruptcy due to healthcare costs. Kenny states, without citing any sources beyond his own opinion, that we have the best healthcare in the world, yet fails to address the facts that ours is also the most costly while at the

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
reston@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Justin Fanizzi
Editorial Assistant
703-224-3032
jfanizzi@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike DiCicco
Community Reporter
703-778-9441
mdicicco@connectionnewspapers.com

Julia O'Donoghue
Education & Politics
703-778-9436
jodonoghue@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Courts & Projects
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

Rich Sanders
Sports Editor
703-224-3031
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Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editors
Michael O'Connell, Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Robbie Hammer, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong,
John Heinly, Wayne Shipp,
John Smith
Production Manager:
Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Linda Pecquex
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS,
L.L.C.
Peter Labovitz
President/CEO
Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Executive Vice President
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller

Debbie Funk
National Sales, 703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

same time leaving 40 million without coverage. He also would trust that a bureaucrat at a for-profit insurance company would make better choices on his behalf than a state or federal worker who is held accountable to us through our elected officials.

In short, healthcare reform is needed because costs are too high and too many Americans, both Republican and Democrat, are left uncovered. Unless meaningful reforms are enacted, our healthcare costs will continue to climb higher and less of us will be able to afford it. Just ask any newly-unemployed person how they like their \$1,500 per month COBRA payments; that's real, death-panels aren't.

Jeff Stone
Reston

Welcome to da Vinci

To the Editor:

I was pleased to read that robotic surgery is coming to Reston ["Robotic Surgery in Reston," Reston Connection, Aug. 12-18, 2009]. I recently underwent robotic surgery at the Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, which has had the da Vinci equipment for some time. I am highly satisfied with the results, especially the short recovery time, and believe Reston Hospital Center's ability to perform robotic surgery will prove to be a boon to the community.

Roger Sievers
Reston

No 'Negativity' In Being Involved

To the Editor:

John Lovaas' recent column ["Summer of Negativity in Reston?," Reston Connection, July 29-Aug. 4] is unusually confused, rambling and disconnected from reality even for him.

Firstly, he claimed that opponents of the rec center at Brown's Chapel "flooded Reston with misinformation" and attempted to "overwhelm meetings and stifle discussion." If anything, it was the RA Board, not the opponents of the rec center, who flooded Reston with misinformation about the proposal, and Reston residents were absolutely correct to ques

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/AUG. 27

Unicycle Lady Pirate Show. 11 a.m. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

Farmers' Market at Reston Town Center Pavilion. 3:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry, bread and cheese, salsa and sausage. 703-689-4699.

SATURDAY/AUG. 29

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. 703-242-4020.

SUNDAY/AUG. 30

Salons for a Cure. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Salon Chakra at the Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Proceeds for hair services will be donated to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life; 100% of hair service receipts, 15% of retail product sales. Donations also accepted. Schedule appointments at 703-707-8484.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2

Baked Alaska: What's Happening to the Glaciers? Dr. Bruce F. Molnia. The US Geological Survey Science in Action public lecture series the first Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. at the Dallas Peck Auditorium,

ONGOING

The Northern Virginia Photographic Society presents a free exhibit at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Building, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. The exhibit will be open to the public Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

on the first floor of the USGS Building, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive in Reston. For additional information contact the USGS Visitor Center in Reston at 703-648-4748.

Mother Goose Time. 11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Songs, stories and action rhymes to share with your baby. Birth-23 months with adult. 703-437-8855.

Herndon Book Club. 6:30 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Call for title. Adults. 703-437-8855.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 3

Open Mic for Bands Night. 9 p.m. at Jimmy's Tavern, 697 Spring St., Old Town Herndon (on the Corner of Elden and Spring Streets). Bands will receive 30 minutes to play, and must pre-sign with Andre' Love at soulcraftmusic@yahoo.com or 703-984-9114. Walk-ins will only be accepted if time permits. All types of music welcomed. 703-435-5467.

Farmers' Market at Reston Town Center Pavilion. 3:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry, bread and cheese, salsa and sausage. 703-689-4699.

Classic Tales n' Tunes. 11 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven

from Sept. 2-29. A reception will be held in the Art Hall way on Friday, Sept. 11, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Many of the artists will be on hand to discuss their works. USGS.gov or NVPS.org/exhibits.

Place, Oakton. Music, stories, puppets and movement with Spanish and ASL. Donations of household products and school supplies to assist at risk families will be collected. 703-242-4020.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 4

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

SATURDAY/SEPT. 5

Sing-Along With Miss Belle. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Songs and hugs for everyone. Birth-5 with adult. 703-689-2700.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 6

Nation's Capital Jaguar Owners Club 45th Annual Concours d'Elegance, on Market Street, Reston Town Center, Reston. Jaguar car show and competitive judging event, including almost every vintage from the 1927 Swallow to today's 2009 XF Premium. Registration 8-10 a.m., vehicle preparation 10-10:30 a.m., judging of cars 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., and award ceremony 2:30 p.m.-3 p.m. 571-213-1847 or www.ncjoc.org.

Bark for Life Hosts Walk in Reston

Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.

By DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

Since 2005, Julie Matthews of Fairfax Station has battled leukemia through two episodes. She's been through chemotherapy and, last year, received a bone marrow transplant donated by her sister. Through it all, she said, her dogs were comforting companions, "wonderful caregivers."

"I've had these guys with me since my original diagnosis," said Matthews. "One night, I gave myself chemo at home. I was lying on the couch and Jameson laid his head on top of my neck to comfort me. These dogs are the best support."

The American Cancer Society [ACS] recognizes the healing power of canines. Through its Bark for Life program, it promotes canine therapy for cancer patients and their families. On Aug. 22 at

Lake Fairfax Park in Reston, the Northern Virginia ACS office, headquartered in Vienna, organized and sponsored a Bark for Life walk to raise funds for patient support.

"The focus of this event and Bark for Life is not just cancer, but also on the role our animals play in helping the healing process," said Pam Ahart, co-owner of Bark 'n Bubbles in Herndon and Ashburn.

Vendors from Hope Advanced Veterinary Care in Vienna to Bark 'n Bubbles were invited to promote their services at no charge for participation.

A highlight for humans was the opportunity to be photographed, along with their dogs, with a Washington, D.C.-area celebrity, Scooby, K9Rockstar. All of the photo fees collected went directly to the American Cancer Society.

Scooby is a certified canine good citizen, as well as movie-certified animal. He poses at events, dressed in appropriate attire, and visits with the residents of Sunrise Assisted Living in Reston. At Sunrise, K9Rockstar is a big hit, owner Kevin Kelly said.

"We were walking Scooby past Sunrise a year ago when someone from the center called us over. She



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION



Some of the dogs and their human companions at the close of the American Cancer Society Bark for Life walk at Lake Fairfax on Aug. 22.

asked us to come in," Kelly said. He and Scooby did go in and the residents responded so well that Kelly talked to the manager and asked if he and Scooby could visit

on a regular basis. "Scooby's perfect for that job," Kelly said. "He's nonshedding, hypoallergenic. He loves visiting there." Initially, Kelly and Scooby

Kevin Kelly and Scooby, K9Rockstar, visit Reston's Sunrise Assisted Living residences every Monday. The residents sit and wait for Scooby's presence.

knocked on room doors at Sunrise, introducing themselves. Kelly took photos of residents with the K9Rockstar, many of whom cherish their photos.

"Now, when we come, we have 20 people sitting, waiting, for us." Kelly and Scooby, usually with Patricia Andronicos, Kelly's girlfriend, along, visit Sunrise every

Monday evening. When K9Rockstar has an appearance conflict and is unable to make it to Sunrise, the facility announces the impending absence. "But residents come down, anyway, sitting, waiting," Kelly said. "They say, 'just in case you show up.'"

Andronicos recalled the time that Scooby stood up on his hind legs and pushed a wheelchair patient. "I love doing this stuff," she said. "It's great helping others. Scooby's a wonderful dog."

THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY offers free services to cancer patients, including a volunteer driver program for cancer treatment appointments, wig or soft-form prosthesis, personalized nutrition counseling and patient advocacy. See www.cancer.org or call the Vienna office at 703-938-5550 for more information on the ACS and its programs. For information on Bark for Life, go to <http://barkforlife.org/>. Scooby, K9Rockstar, is available to visit schools, hospitals, or community events, and offers private therapy. See <http://k9rockstar.com/> for more information.

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11205 LONGWOOD GROVE DR	4	2	1	RESTON	\$735,000	Detached	0.50			RESTON
11937 RIDERS LN	4	4	1	RESTON	\$718,000	Detached	0.37			FOX MILL WOODS
11908 BLUE SPRUCE RD	4	4	1	RESTON	\$690,000	Detached	0.35			FOX MILL WOODS
2118 SOUTH BAY LN	3	2	1	RESTON	\$670,000	Detached	0.10			RESTON
2011 CHADDS FORD DR	4	3	1	RESTON	\$669,000	Townhouse	0.10			RESTON
10728 MIDSUMMER DR	5	3	0	RESTON	\$645,000	Detached	0.32			RESTON
11440 HOLLOW TIMBER CT	4	3	1	RESTON	\$630,000	Townhouse	0.09			RESTON
11127 LAKE CHAPEL LN	3	3	1	RESTON	\$615,000	Townhouse	0.04			RESTON
1389 HERITAGE OAK WAY	3	2	2	RESTON	\$607,000	Townhouse	0.06			RESTON
2516 SOAPSTONE DR	4	2	1	RESTON	\$605,000	Detached	0.73			RESTON
1989 LOGAN MANOR DR	3	2	2	RESTON	\$600,000	Townhouse	0.07			RESTON
12059 SUMMER MEADOW LN	4	2	2	RESTON	\$600,000	Detached	0.17			RESTON
1984 LOGAN MANOR DR	3	2	1	RESTON	\$599,000	Townhouse	0.04			RESTON
11540 HEMINGWAY DR	4	3	1	RESTON	\$590,000	Townhouse	0.08			RESTON
11412 SUMMER HOUSE CT	3	2	2	RESTON	\$585,000	Townhouse	0.06			RESTON
2306 CAVESSON CT	5	4	1	RESTON	\$565,000	Detached	0.31			POLO FIELDS
1932 LAKEPORT WAY	3	3	1	RESTON	\$561,000	Townhouse	0.08			RESTON
11049 RING RD	5	2	1	RESTON	\$560,000	Detached	0.35			RESTON
1237 WOODBROOK CT	3	3	1	RESTON	\$560,000	Townhouse	0.06			RESTON
12494 FOX VIEW WAY	4	3	1	RESTON	\$550,000	Detached	0.13			COURTS OF FOX MILL
11607 CLUBHOUSE CT	3	3	1	RESTON	\$534,000	Townhouse	0.07			RESTON
11052 THRUSH RIDGE RD	3	2	2	RESTON	\$525,000	Townhouse	0.03			RESTON
2524 FARRIER LN	4	2	1	RESTON	\$522,000	Detached	0.32			RESTON
11492 WATERHAVEN CT	3	3	1	RESTON	\$521,000	Townhouse	0.05			TOWNES AT WATERFORD
11409 HERITAGE OAK CT	3	2	2	RESTON	\$512,000	Townhouse	0.05			RESTON
1351 PARK GARDEN LN	3	3	1	RESTON	\$511,000	Townhouse	0.05			WINDSOR PARK
11519 RUNNING CEDAR RD	4	3	0	RESTON	\$503,000	Detached	0.37			RESTON
2433 BRUSSELS CT	5	3	0	RESTON	\$490,000	Detached	0.35			RESTON
11284 HARBOR CT #11284	2	2	0	RESTON	\$485,000	Townhouse				HARBOR POINT
2224 CEDAR COVE CT	4	3	1	RESTON	\$476,000	Townhouse	0.08			RESTON
11742 GREAT OWL CIR	3	3	1	RESTON	\$471,000	Townhouse	0.04			RESTON
1962 LAKEPORT WAY	3	3	1	RESTON	\$460,000	Townhouse	0.05			RESTON
10712 OLDFIELD DR	3	2	0	RESTON	\$459,900	Detached	0.33			RESTON
1524 CHATHAM COLONY CT	3	3	1	RESTON	\$450,000	Townhouse	0.06			RESTON
12070 EDGEMERE CIR	4	3	1	RESTON	\$450,000	Townhouse	0.07			RESTON
1392 PARK GARDEN LN	4	3	1	RESTON	\$445,000	Townhouse	0.04			BALDWIN GROVE
11462 ORCHARD LN	4	2	0	RESTON	\$438,000	Townhouse	0.03			RESTON
1648 WAINWRIGHT DR	5	3	1	RESTON	\$425,000	Townhouse	0.06			RESTON
2225 DOUBLE EAGLE CT	3	2	2	RESTON	\$412,500	Townhouse	0.04			RESTON
2408 ANSDEL CT	4	2	1	RESTON	\$410,000	Townhouse	0.05			DEEPWOOD
11775 STRATFORD HSE PL#303	2	2	0	RESTON	\$405,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				STRATFORD
11404 FAIRWAY DR	3	2	1	RESTON	\$400,000	Townhouse	0.04			RESTON
11716 PUTTING GREEN CT	3	3	1	RESTON	\$395,000	Townhouse	0.06			RESTON
1557 AUTUMN RIDGE CIR	3	2	2	RESTON	\$395,000	Townhouse	0.05			RESTON
1607 PARK OVERLOOK DR	4	3	1	RESTON	\$388,000	Townhouse	0.05			BENTANA WOODS
11990 MARKET ST #906	2	2	0	RESTON	\$386,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				MIDTOWN AT RESTON
1512 FARSTA CT	4	2	1	RESTON	\$380,000	Townhouse	0.08			RESTON
2379 GENERATION DR	3	3	1	RESTON	\$379,000	Townhouse	0.06			GENERATION TOWNHOUSES
1539 TWISTED OAK DR	3	2	2	RESTON	\$365,000	Townhouse	0.03			RESTON
11890 BRETON CT #8B	2	2	1	RESTON	\$352,000	Townhouse				THE GLADE AT HUNTERS WDS
1855 STRATFORD PARK PL#203	2	2	0	RESTON	\$350,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				STRATFORD
2334 GENERATION DR	3	2	2	RESTON	\$349,000	Townhouse	0.04			GENERATION TOWNHOUSES
11882 BRETON CT	2	2	1	RESTON	\$349,000	Townhouse				THE GLADE AT HUNTERS WDS
11990 MARKET ST #806	2	2	0	RESTON	\$345,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				MIDTOWN AT RESTON
12001 MARKET ST #432	2	2	0	RESTON	\$336,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				MRKT ST AT TWN CNTR COND
1717 QUIETREE DR	3	2	1	RESTON	\$335,000	Townhouse	0.02			WHISPERHILL
2405 ALBOT RD	3	2	1	RESTON	\$334,000	Townhouse	0.03			DEEPWOOD
1739 QUIETREE DR	3	2	1	RESTON	\$330,000	Townhouse	0.03			RESTON
11533 MAPLE RIDGE RD	2	1	1	RESTON	\$329,000	Townhouse	0.03			RESTON
12000 MARKET ST #135	2	2	0	RESTON	\$325,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				SAVOY AT RESTON TWN CNTR
11782 BAYFIELD CT	3	2	1	RESTON	\$322,000	Townhouse	0.03			RESTON
2029 SARAZEN PL	3	2	1	RESTON	\$321,000	Townhouse	0.03			RESTON
2401 ALSOP CT	4	3	1	RESTON	\$320,100	Townhouse	0.05			DEEPWOOD
1601 BARNSTEAD DR	3	1	1	RESTON	\$319,900	Townhouse	0.00			RESTON
11510 UNDEROAK CT	3	1	2	RESTON	\$316,000	Townhouse	0.04			RESTON
1654 WHISPERHILL DR	3	2	1	RESTON	\$315,000	Townhouse	0.02			RESTON
2166 WHISPERWOOD GLEN LN	3	2	1	RESTON	\$312,000	Townhouse	0.02			RESTON
1648 VALENCIA WAY	4	3	1	RESTON	\$306,405	Semi-Detached 0.03				RESTON
12000 TALIESIN PL #35	2	2	0	RESTON	\$305,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				OAK PARK
1621 POPLAR GROVE DR	3	1	1	RESTON	\$303,000	Townhouse	0.05			RESTON
11608 WINDBLUFF CT #07/007	3	2	1	RESTON	\$300,000	Townhouse				RESTON
11011 BARTON HILL CT	3	2	1	RESTON	\$297,500	Townhouse	0.05			RESTON
11503 BUTTWOOD CT	2	2	1	RESTON	\$294,000	Townhouse	0.03			RESTON
12131 PURPLE SAGE CT	3	1	1	RESTON	\$292,000	Townhouse	0.03			RESTON
1720 LAKE SHORE CREST DR#15	2	2	0	RESTON	\$290,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				EDGEWATER CONDOS
1712 LAKE SHORE CREST DR#23	2	1	1	RESTON	\$290,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				EDGEWATER AT TOWN CNTR
1953 BELMONT RIDGE CT	2	2	0	RESTON	\$290,000	Townhouse	0.02			RESTON
11400 WASHINGTON PLZ W#503	2	2	0	RESTON	\$285,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				LAKE ANNE OF RESTON
11722 DECADE CT	4	3	1	RESTON	\$285,000	Townhouse	0.04			GENERATION TOWNHOUSES
1495 CHURCH HILL PL #1495	2	2	0	RESTON	\$279,900	Garden 1-4 Floors				HAMPTON POINTE
12000 MARKET ST #417	1	1	0	RESTON	\$275,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				SAVOY AT RESTON TWN CNTR
12000 MARKET ST #403	1	1	0	RESTON	\$270,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				SAVOY AT RESTON TWN CNTR
1331 NORTHGATE SQ	3	1	1	RESTON	\$267,000	Townhouse	0.03			RESTON
2261 COPPERSMITH SQ	2	2	1	RESTON	\$265,000	Townhouse	0.04			RESTON
2444 CLOUDCROFT SQ	3	2	0	RESTON	\$264,900	Townhouse	0.03			RESTON
1410 CHURCH HILL PL #1410	2	2	0	RESTON	\$262,500	Garden 1-4 Floors				HAMPTON POINTE
11800 SUNSET HILLS RD#1219	1	1	0	RESTON	\$262,395	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				CARLTON HOUSE
1931A VILLARIDGE DR #1931A	2	2	0	RESTON	\$254,900	Garden 1-4 Floors				VILLARIDGE
11618 IVYSTONE CT #04/300	2	2	0	RESTON	\$250,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				RESTON
1420 CHURCH HILL PL #1420	2	1	1	RESTON	\$250,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				HAMPTON POINTE
2221 LOFTY HEIGHTS PL	3	2	2	RESTON	\$247,350	Townhouse				RESTON
2389 SOUTHGATE SQ	3	2	1	RESTON	\$230,000	Townhouse	0.03			RESTON
1500 SUMMERCHASE CT #D	2	2	0	RESTON	\$229,900	Garden 1-4 Floors				SUMMERRIDGE
11800 SUNSET HILLS RD#1010	1	1	0	RESTON	\$225,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				CARLTON HOUSE
1415 NORTHGATE SQ #22C	3	2	0	RESTON	\$225,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				NORTHGATE
11760 SUNRISE VALLEY DR#306	1	1	0	RESTON	\$225,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors				MERCER
11021B VILLARIDGE CT#11021B	2	1	0	RESTON	\$220,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				VILLARIDGE
2371 OLD TRAIL DR	5	2	0	RESTON	\$218,000	Detached	0.13			RESTON
1506C SUMMERCHASE CT#1506C	2	1	0	RESTON	\$215,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				SUMMERRIDGE
1921A VILLARIDGE DR#1921A	1	1	0	RESTON	\$210,000	Garden 1-4 Floors				VILLARIDGE
2228 SOUTHGATE SQ	3	1	1	RESTON	\$207,500	Townhouse	0.03			RESTON

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Dr. Higdon is a 2008 graduate of The Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine and recently completed an internship at Veterinary Referral Associates in Gaithersburg, Maryland where she received advanced training in Internal Medicine, Surgery, Oncology, Ophthalmology, Radiology, Neurology and Critical Care from Board Certified Specialists.

Dr. Higdon joins Dr. Barry at The Animal Medical Center which is a full service veterinary medical facility; offering wellness care, surgery, laboratory diagnostics, radiology, and treatments. Our veterinarians are continually updating their knowledge and skills so that they may provide the best medical care possible for your pet.



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Parents Support School's Efforts

FROM PAGE 3

take an enrichment class about outer space, like the one offered last summer with the help of a Marymount University professor who worked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Meanwhile, if 10 students are having trouble with third-grade fractions, teachers can design a class and lobby the parents of those children to enroll them, Cochran said.

Teachers are "hired back" from their breaks to teach those classes.

However, the school will no longer operate year-round in the 2010-11 school year, as it lost funding for the program during the latest round of county budget cuts. She said the school was looking for other ways to provide supplemental learning for its students and would be using teacher leadership grant money to fund a summer session. But, she said, "It is taking away additional time for learning."

AMONG THE OTHER POLICIES Cochran has instituted is extensive conversation between teachers, including those at different grade levels, so that a fourth-grade teacher planning a unit on fractions knows what math her students learned in third grade. Each school day consists of dedicated learning blocks, with an hour apiece set aside for reading, writing and math. Also, lesson plans are to be made for full

groups, small groups and individual students.

She had conducted an initial brainstorming session with Cluster Assistant Superintendent Fabio Zuluaga but could not offer specific details as to what the restructuring plan might entail. "We're looking at some ways to continue to provide our teachers more time to do what they need to do for their students," she said. "The law gives the school system a lot of flexibility."

"This is uncharted territory for us," Gibson said. "They've got to submit a plan to the state, and I don't know exactly what has to be in that plan." He said the School Board would be minimally involved, as it does not get involved with individual school plans.

But he said he didn't think it was sensible to fail a school because a handful of students "didn't pass one test on one day" while the school was making so many gains. "It's unfair to students and it's unfair to teachers that a federal law says, either you're a good school or you're a failing school," said Gibson, who has been an outspoken critic of the law.

According to the Virginia Department of Education Web site, 28 percent of schools and 55 percent of school divisions in Virginia did not make AYP last year.

"We might be the first [in the county], but we won't be the last unless the law changes," Hutzler said.



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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

Freshman football Head Coach Galvin Morris said the lessons his players learn on the football field will be taken with them into the classroom this year.

Freshman Michael Shoebottom stretches during his first freshman football practice. "It was really tough out here but it's exciting," he said.

Freshmen Learn Life Lessons Through Football

Hard first day of practice makes some realize there's more to football than football.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

The freshmen of South Lakes High School in Reston entered their first day of football practice on Monday Aug. 17, behaving like, well, freshmen. They left the field realizing they had some maturing to do.

"Don't stop jogging until you get to that corner," said Galvin Morris, South Lakes' freshman football head coach. "I don't want to see you guys walking anywhere."

The start of freshman football season is in full swing at South Lakes, and though it may not be the school's top team, its players are the football program's future.

"A lot of these kids haven't played before," Morris said. "It's our job to teach them the positions and the game."

The 45 freshmen looking to make the team participated in a helmet-only practice, but Morris didn't shy from giving them a

taste of what's to come. "Freshman year is like being a deer in the headlights, you're nervous," Morris said. "The kids just don't know what to expect." Morris was right. Before the players had a chance to begin drills, Morris caught his squad off guard by disciplining a player for not paying attention.

"Run to that fence there," he said. "I'll tell you why I made you do it when you get back."

It didn't take a moment for the rest of the freshmen to immediately focus their eyes on the coach. It was obvious he meant business.

"I don't care what you did in middle school," he said. "We're trying to build a football team here."

FRESHMEN ENTERING high school can find the transition from middle school to high school tough to deal with, but programs like football can help ease them into school.

"[Football helps the transition] discipline-wise," Morris said. "They have to go to prac-

tice every day, they learn how to conduct themselves in the building and in the community," he said. "That's stuff we emphasize, not just football stuff. It's also about life."

Morris said that the respect he expects out of his players on the practice field is also expected of them in the classroom.

"I tell them to look people in the eye, have respect," he said. "We work in the building. Just because we are not in the classroom doesn't mean you shouldn't respect others. You should respect your teacher like they're a coach."

Some of the freshmen going out for the team are seasoned veterans if youth football. Others are just learning how to play football or are looking for an activity.

Regardless of the experience level, the tough practice took some by surprise.

"I've been slacking around all summer," said Ray Terry, 14. "It was just hard out there."

Others were affected by the muggy weather.

"I'm from Michigan, so I'm not really used to this heat," said Michael Shoebottom, 14. "It was really tough out there, but it was exciting."

Morris recognized that while the freshman football program doesn't have priority over the varsity team, the lessons learned at this level would strengthen the foundation of future teams.

"I've coached at the varsity level, so I know what it takes to get there," Morris said. "My job is to teach them the fundamentals. It's my goal to give these kids a shot at making varsity next year."

While varsity football might be on the minds of some of the freshmen, the life lessons that are embedded in the game and practice aren't lost on the young athletes.

"Football teaches discipline, a lot of discipline," Terry said. "You got to pay attention, you have to work together. It's the only way you can win."

Even though the first game against Herndon High School is still weeks away, the players are anxious to take the field for gridiron glory.

"I'm just looking forward to playing against other schools," Terry said. "I want to make varsity, win [the state championship] and play in college."

"Freshman year is like being a deer in the headlights. . . . The kids don't know what to expect."

— Coach Galvin Morris

Schlesinger Wins Four Medals in Colorado Springs

McLean figure skater shines at national scene.

Hannah Schlesinger, 10, of McLean, took home gold, silver, bronze and pewter medals at the 2009 United States Figure Skating Association's National Showcase Competition, which took place Aug. 13-15, at the World Arena in Colorado Springs, Colo. More than 190 qualifying skaters from around the United States participated in the National Showcase, which emphasizes artistic and theatrical figure skating. Schlesinger ended up fourth overall, earning a pewter medal, in

the Preliminary Extemporaneous category, an event in which all the skaters must choreograph their own programs to the same music in a closed-door, 45-minute warm up with no assistance from coaches. Her national medal-winning performance was choreographed by Hannah just moments before she took the ice, to Ray Charles' rendition of "Hit the Road, Jack." She earned a gold medal in her Light Entertainment qualifier, performing a program choreographed to the bluegrass classic, "Foggy

Mountain Breakdown." She finished fifth in the nation in that category. Schlesinger earned a bronze medal in her Dramatic Entertainment qualifier, performing a program choreographed to Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker." She finished sixth in the nation in that category. Schlesinger was one of only two skaters in her division to make all three final rounds, and one of only nine skaters to receive National medals. Her coaches, Inna Volyanskaya and Nick Perna, worked with Schlesinger for months prior to the competition, honing these programs. The full results of the event are available at www.icenetwork.com.



CONTRIBUTED

Hannah Schlesinger, 10, with the four medals she earned at the 2009 United States Figure Skating Association's National Showcase Competition.

A Study in Contrasts



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Getting accepted into a F.D.A.-sponsored "study" (through my health care provider) to determine the efficacy of an oral chemo medication which has been successful in treating brain cancer and is already F.D.A.-approved for that purpose, but which has not yet been approved for the treatment of lung cancer (ergo the study); the theory being, that since lung cancer spreads to the brain in approximately 30 percent of the patients so diagnosed, why not see if there are any preemptive qualities as well in the medication. Or not getting accepted into the study (for whatever diagnostic reasons the pharmaceutical company deems me unqualified; labs, scans, physical examination) and instead follow the "standard of care" for stage IV lung cancer patients after completion of the normal 4-6 rounds of chemotherapy which is to watch and wait, basically, for 12 months.

And I have to tell you, the possibility of doing something as opposed to doing nothing sounds pretty good to me. And given the fact that I have successfully completed six rounds of chemotherapy (with minor side effects) and have indeed experienced shrinkage, I am semi qualified for the study based on the broadest of parameters. Pending the results of some additional medical tests unique-for-study-applicants, I will learn if I am going forward (qualify) or standing pat (which seems like going backwards). There is a potential problem ahead though, even if I do get accepted into the "study."

This is a what's called a Phase 2 study, meaning among other factors, a randomized selection. I could get into the study but not receive the medication; in effect become a control group/means of comparison versus the patients who are receiving the medication. (Phase 2 also means no placebos.) If I am selected to receive the medication, I receive the actual medication; if I am randomized and not selected receive the medication, I am in the study still, receive the study-related care, don't pay any study-related expenses but am not receiving pills of any kind. If that were to occur, I wouldn't exactly be dead in the water, treading water maybe (for a good cause, presumably, but not for my cause). However, in my particular condition, treading water ain't gonna' feed the bulldog.

But who's to say any of it really matters or succeeds? Certainly not my oncologist. Oh, he's excited at the prospect of having a patient of his perhaps qualify for the study (especially considering that he's the local site/investigator) but this medication is not a magic pill, it's simply a pill with a good story. And for all I know, there are plenty of other pills (studies, clinical trials, etc.) that have equally good stories. No doubt there are a million "good" pill/medical stories in the medical world, enough to paper over your local medical facility. But none of it means anything unless you're the one receiving the medication and one of the lucky patients benefiting from it. "The exception," as my brother says, "that disproves the rule."

But doing nothing, receiving nothing seems so weak, so reactive. And if I were to guess how best to fight a potential - and proven - killer disease, I would further guess that being proactive is likely better.

I suppose if I don't qualify for this study or do and don't receive the medication, my life will go on (I feel fine, really, so I think it will regardless), but I can't help wondering, for how long and at what quality.

From what I've read and learned, this study sounds good, but I feel like I'm at a crossroads. I don't know if there's such a thing as momentum in treating cancer (or any other disease for that matter), but now is not the time to stop treatment. I realize that we're only talking four pills a day for 21 days per month for the next six months, but it feels like so much more: a wing and a prayer, and staff to lean on.

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

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Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Large Bank Licensing Lead Expert, Licensing Activities, Mail Stop 7-13, Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219, within 30 days after the date of this publication. The non-confidential portions of the application are on file with the Comptroller of the Currency as part of the public file. This file is available for public inspection during regular business hours.

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Last time, I explained how a Reston commercial real estate broker and winner of Reston's top citizenship award recently completed a hard-hitting analysis of the costs and the benefits of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. His analysis reveals shocking inequity both in costs and benefits. I related how billions in redevelopment profits will go to a handful of wealthy land owners/developers in Tysons Corner. Tysons residents and businesses will also be better served, nearly all will be within walking distance of one of four stations.

Now, let's talk costs. Our main role out here west of Tysons is to pay for their privileges and for the oligarchs' profits. Our benefits will be modest by comparison — few Reston or Herndon residents will be within walking distance of the sparse stations. Area developers will be shortchanged, especially in the early years. As now structured, we pay big time, up front and into the future.

The total rail project will cost an estimated \$5.3 billion, the total of Phase I-Tysons to Wiehle Avenue and Phase II-Wiehle through Dulles Airport to Route 772 in Loudoun County. Of the total, the Feds are committed to \$900 million or 17 percent; the grand Commonwealth of Virginia will pay \$299 million or 6 percent; Fairfax County will pay about \$830 million (\$730 million of which comes from landowners: \$410 from those in Reston/Herndon, \$320

from those in Tysons, \$100 from county property taxes-us) or 15 percent; Loudoun County (three stations) pays only \$120 million or 2 percent; the Airports Authority (MWAA) will pay \$103 million or just over 1 percent; and, the balance of \$3.1 billion or 59 percent comes from Dulles Toll Road tolls (\$440 million from Tysons [8 percent] and [are you ready?] \$2.660 billion [51 percent] from Reston/Herndon tolls!). In Phase I alone, 43 percent of the cost for rail from Tysons (four stations) to Reston (one station) comes from tolls, 86 percent from us, 14 percent from Tysons folks. In Phase II, tolls cover 81 percent of the total: we pay 86 percent, Tysons folks pay just 14 percent. The estimates, excluding finance costs, paint a picture of staggering inequity. (See analysis at www.rctv28.com).

MWAA is not responsible for this. The only mechanism MWAA has to fill the gap is tolls. The culprits: Fairfax County, especially former Chair Gerry Connolly (D-At-large) whose employer, SAIC, even got its own rail station. Fairfax will make billions in property taxes, while Reston/Herndon residents and businesses again get shafted. While the shafting was planned, where was Supervisor Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill)?

Can the outrage be undone? In part, here's how: add toll booths where none now border Tysons; adjust all tolls to bring equity; our congressmen must aggressively pursue federal funding for Phase II; and, require MWAA to remedy the fallout from commuter parking in Reston /Herndon neighborhoods.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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tion this information. Reston residents were obviously justified in attending community meetings and expressing their opposition to the proposal. The widespread "negativity" voiced at these meetings reflected the fact that most people opposed the RA's proposal, not that favorable opinions were stifled. Does Lovaas seriously contend that Reston residents should not attend community meetings and express their opinions? Will Lovaas complain about excessive community involvement and too much "negativity" when something he detests is on the agenda, such as redevelopment of Lake Anne Plaza?

Next, Lovaas scoffed at those who oppose raising tolls on the Toll Road to pay for rail to Dulles. The primary beneficiaries of rail to Dulles are businesses in Tysons Corner, developers who want to turn Reston into another Ballston and the Airport Authority, a huge corporation that effectively taxes the citizens of Fairfax County without being responsive to them. Why does a good "progressive" like Lovaas think that individual commuters should bear an ever-increasing financial burden to pay for the rail line

rather than any of these commercial interests? Should nothing be said about the MWAA's efforts to kill express bus service, which increases their toll revenues while increasing congestion?

Lastly, Lovaas argued that somehow "free speech" had taken a hit in the recent RCA election because a candidate's views about the Holocaust were widely publicized. The candidate's views were not misrepresented, so how does it "offend free speech" to publicize them? Does Lovaas seriously think that in the interests of free speech, the media should withhold knowledge from the voters? Nobody prevented the candidate from having his views or from expressing them, and nobody should prevent the voters from knowing exactly what he said in order to form their own judgments about him.

Community involvement and free speech do not always lead to the outcomes we personally prefer. We should nevertheless support these principles without making unmerited attacks on the motives and character of those who disagree with us.

James Perry
 Reston

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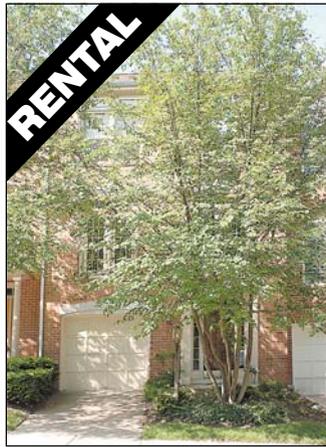
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