

Oak Hill ♦ Herndon CONNECTION

Herndon Town Council Hails 'Return of the Train'

NEWS, PAGE 3

Violet, played by Stephanie LeBolt, argues with Mildred (Chelsea Casanave) and Angela (Esther Workman) during the Oakton High School premiere of 'A Tisket, a Tasket, Four Dames and a Casket.'

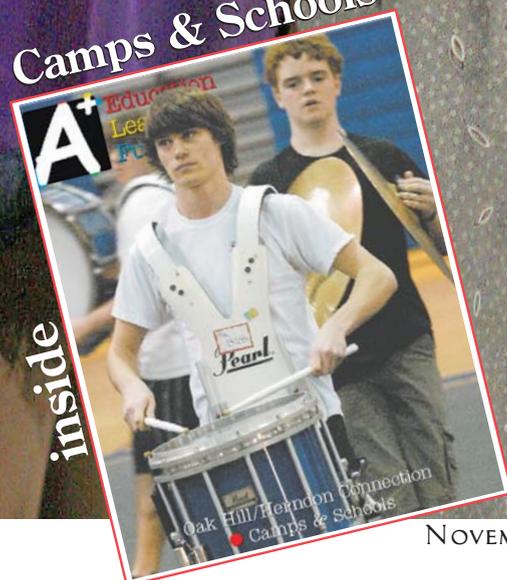
Three Arrested in Burglary Spree

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World Premiere At Oakton High

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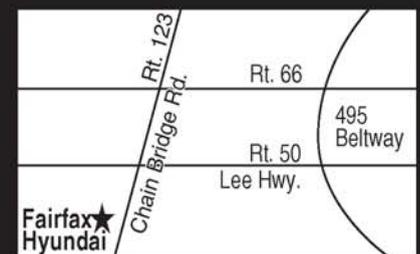


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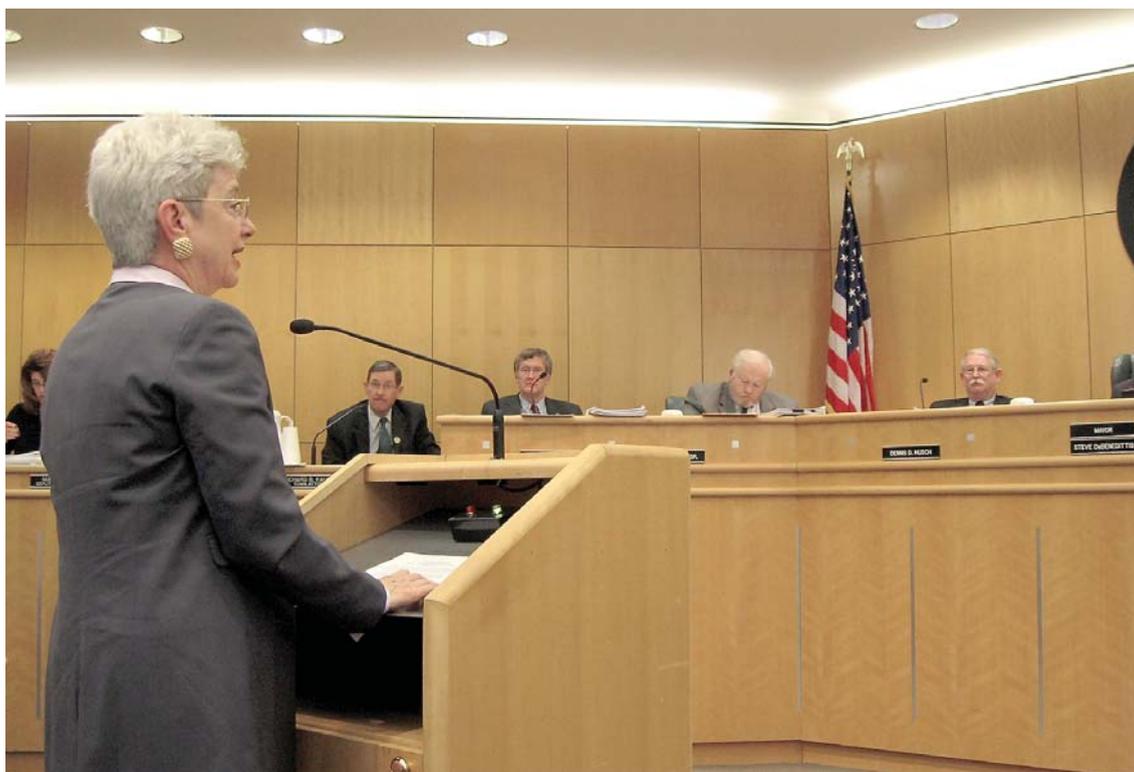


PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Patty Nicoson, president of the Dulles Corridor Rail Association, expresses her support for the Phase II Tax District before the Herndon Town Council.

Herndon Town Council Hails 'Return of the Train'

With unanimous endorsement of Metro's Phase II Tax District, rail should serve town once again.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Mark Bredesen, owner of the Autoscandia car repair shop, told the Herndon Town Council that he had just learned the day before that his business was to be included in a new special tax district that would place an additional levy on commercial properties in order to help fund Phase II of Rail to Dulles. "I'm proud to be part of this tax district and I'd like to see this project move forward," he said.

It was a comment that at least one council member said made him more comfortable with endorsing the special tax district, which the council did unanimously following a well attended public hearing on Tuesday, Nov. 10. All but three speakers supported the measure.

Early last month, an effort spearheaded largely by business and property owners within the proposed tax district succeeded in gathering signatures from the ownership of more than half the assessed value of the district, a requirement for imposing the tax. In the absence of the tax district, which is how Fairfax County has planned to pay for the rest of its 16.1 percent share of the rail funding, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority had said it would build the rail without the three planned stops between Wiehle Avenue and Dulles International Air-

port.

As of the public hearing, Lerner Corporation had just signed on, bringing the property ownership that had agreed to tax itself close to 60 percent.

THE DISTRICT is to run from Wiehle Avenue to the county line along the Dulles Toll Road, where the rail will run, and it is to include properties in the Town of Herndon. Its total assessed value is \$8.6 billion.

"This project enjoys an unprecedented level of support," said Peter Johnston, president of the Western Alliance for Rail to Dulles (WARD), senior vice president of Ballston Properties, which owns property in the Phase II district, and a Herndon resident. He called the consensus for self-taxation "an extraordinary step." With studies

predicting that as many as 2 million people would move into to the region in the next 20 years, he said, it was important to have transportation infrastructure in place.

According to a staff report, the money to be raised by the tax district is capped at \$330 million, and the district can be left in place no longer than 50 years after its creation or 40 years after the first levy of its ultimate tax rate, whichever comes first. The rate is to be 5 cents per \$100 of assessed value in 2010, climbing by 5 cents per year until 2013, when it will plateau at 20 cents.

"Transportation projects are not easy undertakings
SEE TAX DISTRICT, PAGE 11

"This project enjoys an unprecedented level of support."

— Peter Johnston, Western Alliance for Rail to Dulles president



PHOTOS BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Morgan Wagner, 6, colors a banner giving thanks to God in the children's activity area at Herndon United Methodist Church's annual Harvest Bazaar.

Herndon United Methodist Church Reaps Its Harvest

Annual Harvest Bazaar and celebration raises money for next year's mission work.

Members of Herndon United Methodist Church will travel to help the less fortunate at home and abroad next year, and the church raised a good portion of the funding for those mission trips on Saturday, with its annual Harvest Bazaar.

About 20 vendors and crafters filled the church's Doe Hall for the bazaar, and the women staged a bake sale, while the men sold homemade Brunswick stew. The event also included a morning car wash and yard sale and a silent auction. "That's a great fund raiser for us because it's all donated stuff," Cheryl Brock, director of congregational life, said of the baskets full of goods in the silent auction.

For children, the event offered a games area and an afternoon

puppet show, and the day was capped with a Brunswick stew dinner and a gospel concert featuring the band All 4 Hymn.

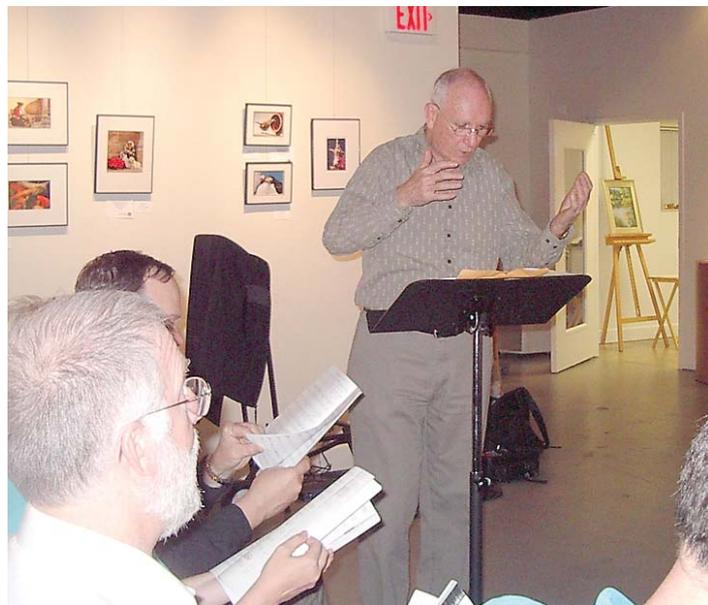
Next year, adult mission teams will go to New Orleans, Costa Rica and Haiti, Brock said, adding that the funds raised Saturday would also help pay for the adults to assist low-income local residents in rebuilding their homes through the Rebuilding Together program, formerly known as Christmas in April. Meanwhile, youth mission groups will work in Houma, La., just south of New Orleans, and Raleigh, N.C., and college-aged youths will carry their mission to Costa Rica. The youths also participate in activities to help needy locals every month.

"We're very mission-oriented here," Brock said.

— MIKE DICICCO



As the bazaar winds down, Doris Fletcher, Kim Hall, Dawn Waters, Denise Blankenship and Claudia Arreguin gather around the table displaying Waters' jewelry and Hall's Christmas ornaments.



Harlon Reece and members of Herndon Towne Square Singers.

Towne Square Singers Welcome New Director

The Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department has appointed Harlon Reece as the Herndon Towne Square Singers choral director. Reece brings to the role a wealth of music and leadership skills, with more than 50 years of choral experience and four terms on the Town Council. His conducting experience includes music director of a military chorus in the Marine Corps, director of several church choirs and as assistant director of the Town Square Singers since 1995. Reece has a masters degree in management and an undergraduate degree in music education.

The Herndon Towne Square Singers perform from memory and incorporate choreography in several numbers. To learn more about the Towne Square Singers and their winter concerts Friday and Saturday nights, Dec. 4-5, and Sunday matinee, Dec. 6, visit www.herndon-va.gov or call 703-787-7300.

Town Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

Town of Herndon government offices and services will be impacted by the Thanksgiving holiday as follows:

Town Offices - Closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26-27.

No refuse collected Thursday, Nov. 26. Refuse normally collected on Thursday will be collected Friday, Nov. 27.

Herndon Community Center -Closed Thursday, Nov. 26, Open Friday, Nov. 27, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

Herndon Centennial Golf Course - Open Thursday, Nov. 26, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. and Friday, Nov. 27, 7 a.m. - dark.

For more information, visit the town's Web site at www.herndon-va.gov.

Guident Receives Oracle Recognition

Guident, a leading integrator of business intelligence, management consulting, and systems engineering services to the government and commercial marketplaces, received an Honorable Mention in the 2009 Oracle North America Titan Awards program. The program, open to Oracle PartnerNetwork companies, recognizes innovative and successful uses of Oracle technologies.

"Guident is a longstanding partner of Oracle, leveraging its products in numerous government and commercial implementations," said Dan Ackerman, executive vice president and partner at Guident. "As such, our staff has extensive expertise in utilizing Oracle's solutions to increase efficiencies and provide measurable return on investment for our customers."

Guident, headquartered in Herndon, is being recognized for its use of Oracle technologies in the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Multimodal HazMat Intelligence Portal (HIP).



Dietrich Stephan gave Fairfax County chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) and Gov. Tim Kaine (D) lab coats to celebrate his medical research nonprofit, Ignite Institute, moving to Fairfax County.

Igniting Growth

Ignite is latest in string of high-profile operations to locate in the county.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Gerald Gordon, the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority's chief executive officer, called the new biomedical nonprofit Ignite Institute's decision to settle in Fairfax County an "economy changer."

To say so is a bold statement for Gordon. Even in the middle of a recession, Fairfax's economy is unusually resilient. It is hard to imagine one startup could have such a large impact, particularly when you consider other newcomers to the county's business community.

In the past six months, two high-profile businesses, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) and Hilton Hotels, decided to relocate their headquarters to Fairfax.

And four of the five "Fortune 500" companies Gov. Tim Kaine (D) has helped woo to Virginia over the last four years have moved to Fairfax over other locations in the commonwealth.

Gordon's organization, whose sole purpose is to attract business to the county, has offices not only in Tysons Corner but also in San Francisco, India, Germany, England, Korea and Israel.

"This is a global business location and Fairfax County is a global brand," said Kaine to an audience packed with Fairfax employees and elected officials at the county government center Nov. 16.

KAINE, Gov.-elect Bob McDonnell (R) and Fairfax County chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) spoke at a ceremony celebrating Ignite's decision to open in Fairfax County.

Virginia employs more technology workers per capita than any other state in the country, said Kaine. Still, Ignite had the potential to open new doors for economic growth and improvements in the local quality of life for residents, he said.

The nonprofit organization is partially modeled after Arizona Genomics Institute located in Phoenix, Ariz. It will apply the latest genomic, biomedical and technological innovations to personal medical care, like a routine check up at the doctor's office.

In addition to performing research, individuals will be able to get diagnoses and treatment through Ignite. The organization will be broken into different teams, where a world-class doctor and a world-class scientist will be paired up to work on a particular problem, like autism.

Ignite founder Dietrich Stephan expects that physicians at the institute would split their time between the nonprofit and Inova Health System, which will work in tandem with the organization.

"This will make a dramatic, long-term difference in health care in this region and in this commonwealth," said Knox Singleton, Inova's chief executive officer, about Ignite's decision to move to Fairfax.

Ignite will also partner with George Mason University and The George Washington University.

"Fairfax County and Virginia will become major players in the field of biotechnology," said Bulova.

LURING IGNITE to Fairfax took some monetary promises on the part of Virginia.

Kaine has allocated \$3 million from the Virginia governor's opportunity fund to help Ignite build "wet lab" space at the Center for Innovative Technology building in Herndon. He also hopes the Virginia General Assembly will agree to hand over \$5.5 million annually for the next four years to Ignite, about one eighth of the approximately \$200 million in initial funding Ignite intends to raise.

"\$25 million for this state is an awful lot of money," said Kaine, who added that Ignite would bring approximately 450 jobs to the region.

The nonprofit anticipates moving out of the Center for Innovative Technology within two years and is currently considering three to four sites for its permanent \$150 million facility.

Stephan would not say where Ignite is scouting locations, though access to internet broadband and a Metro station are factors in the decision.

The Ignite Institute also wants to remain close to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's facility in Loudoun County.

Traditionally, Maryland, particularly Montgomery County, has had more success attracting biomedical research organizations than Virginia has.

According to Gordon, Maryland has been "more aggressive" in offering benefits to biomedical research groups in the past and has benefited from being home to the National Institute of Health in Bethesda.

"We had a hard time competing with Maryland before because we didn't have wet lab space," said Gordon.

PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

SCHOOLS

Herndon Middle School seventh and eighth grade students meet weekly to repair gears and brakes, sand and repaint handlebars or forks on bicycles which are then distributed to needy children in the community. The Herndon Middle Bike Shop accepts donations year round and is currently focused on its Bikes for Kids for the Holidays program, which last year donated approximately 15 bikes to the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center. Donated bicycles can be dropped off at the Herndon Middle School main office, 901 Locust St., Herndon, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. 703-904-4800 or rmdim@fcps.edu.

The **Crossfield Elementary choral department** and SCA will collect new toys for Partners for Kids in Care, the D.C. Child and Family Services Agency, beginning Monday, Nov. 16. Contact principal Jerry Kovalcik at 703-295-1100 or jakovalcik@fcps.edu or Emily Gatesman at ecgatesman@fcps.edu.

Oakton Christian Preschool, located at Oakton United Methodist Church, is now enrolling for a 2 1/2 year old class beginning January 2010. Children do not need to be potty-trained. 703-938-1233 or ocp@oaktonumc.org.

Army Pvt. **Nicholas Turse** has graduated from the Infantryman One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. The training consists of Basic Infantry Training and Advanced Individual Training. Turse is the son of Gary Turse of Berwick, Pa., and Patricia Samper of Tamarack Way, Herndon. He is a 2008 graduate of Berwick High School.

John B. Thibault graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. Thibault is a student at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. He is the son of Michael J. Thibault of Lakeport Way, Reston, and Mary B. Thibault of Arusley Court, Herndon. Thibault is a 2006 graduate of Oakton High School, Vienna.

Herndon residents **Robert Smith, Angela Thompson, Jenna George, Michelle Gervasio, Kristofer Kusano, Thomas Martin and Kyle Poulsen** have gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech. To qualify for the marching band students must audition one week before the beginning of classes each fall. Commonly known as The Spirit of Tech, Virginia Tech's marching band is celebrating their 35 anniversary this year. Under the direction of David McKee and Tony Marinello, the band will present music by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Chicago, the Four Seasons, and other artists during the 2009 season.

Alyssa Homyk of Oak Hill has gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech. To qualify for the marching band students must audition one week before the beginning of classes each fall. Commonly known as The Spirit of Tech, Virginia Tech's marching band is celebrating their 35 anniversary this year.

Humphrey E. Matthew graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. Matthew is a student at Indiana University, Bloomington, and the son of Frank M. Humphrey and Alexis L. Mazzocco of Otsego Drive, Oak Hill.

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Children's Connection

Every year, over the winter holidays, the Connection turns the pages of one entire issue over to the contributions of local students.

We will feature artwork of many kinds, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories, reflections and more. Artwork can include paintings, drawings or any media; photos of sculpture, ceramics or other works too large to submit are also encouraged.

We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are

home schooled. Past contributions have come from children from nursery schools through those preparing to graduate from high school.

Sometimes an art or English teacher will assign a project and submit the work of an entire class, but individual submissions from any young person in the community are welcome.

You can see last year's Children's Connections on our Web site. Go to www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, click on

"print Editions Online" in the red bar and scroll down to "Children's Connection."

We prefer digital submissions, delivered on CD or via email. Please send in submissions as soon as possible. Our address is 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. E-mail to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com. Please be sure to include the name of the artist or author, and include age, grade, school attended and name of the home town, along with address and phone number to be used for verification purposes only.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protecting Those Who Need Us Most

To the Editor:

Elizabeth and I want to express our profound gratitude to each and every person who helped with our campaign for the 86th House of Delegates District. No candidate can make a credible run alone, but the extraordinary effort so many of you provided was nothing less than awe-inspiring. This wasn't a good year for our party, but you were part of a good race that, I can tell you, has earned the praise of all our state leaders, right up to Tim Kaine himself. No one involved in this campaign has anything to apologize for, to second guess, nor to regret.

It will be tempting, for some people, to blame our statewide candidates for the losses down the ticket. I would ask you, as one more favor, not to be among them. Instead, remember that our strength lies in our unity that is based on common ideals of respect for others, tolerance of difference, and commitment to progress. As I complete my remaining two years as a county supervisor, I will continue to dedicate myself to the protection of those who need us most: the very young, the very old, the oppressed, and the victims of hate and prejudice. But, like a good campaign, I cannot do that all on

my own. Please stay united with me, and with each other, as we set the stage for next year's elections, and the elections after that. Never forget what we said last year, and always remember what we promised for the future. Yes we can. Yes we did. Yes we will again.

Stevens R. Miller
Sterling Miller

Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow

To the Editor:

Please forgive the line lifted from the Fleetwood Mac song. But it's oh, so true.

Americans cannot stop thinking about the impact that enacting true healthcare reform will have upon our generations to come. Despite the doomsday prophecy fodder that the ultra-conservative, ultra-right wing is pushing, the reality of this legislation would simply be twofold: accountability mandated for the huge insurance companies and a cost-effective public solution for the 50 million plus citizens and permanent residents without healthcare.

That's it.

Let's revisit those lies again, shall we?

No, undocumented workers/illegal aliens would not be given access to this public program.

No, small businesses would not

suffer from the public program. They are already paying through the nose for expensive private health insurance.

No, America will not become a socialist state because we do what every other country (count'em, every single one) in the developing world did decades ago — invest in the long-term health of their most prized possession, their human capital.

Why do you think medicine here costs a grossly more amount than in Canada or Cuba? Somebody's getting very, very rich, and it's not you or me. Or at least not me.

There's nothing unethical about stopping private insurers from denying care and discriminating against small groups based on an individual's health status, gender or age. There is something sickly, though, about leaving a fellow American to die because of money. (If that last sentence doesn't make sense to some of us, then there's our real problem.)

We as Americans made excellent strides with the recent passage of health reform including a public option in the House. That common-sense concern needs to now translate to the Senate and into reality with a public option that includes affordability measures, tax credits for small businesses and subsidies for our workers.

Or we can continue our slow march to death, financial and otherwise.

Parvez Khan
Herndon

Rise in Child Deaths

To the Editor:

Recently, a new report by the advocacy group Every Child Matters focused on the disturbing rise of child deaths in the United States due to maltreatment. Local reports earlier in the year also pointed to an increase in family violence

across Northern Virginia as well.

What readers need to know is that the majority of children who die from maltreatment had no prior contact with child protective services. We need to understand that each one of us is responsible for the children in our community — not just child protective services — and that we each have the power to prevent these tragedies.

Another grim statistic? Over 75 percent of the children who die from maltreatment are under the age of 4. We must provide new parents in our community with support, including parenting classes and support groups, early childhood home visitation and universal access to affordable health and mental health services.

The report (released on Capitol Hill) calls for more federal funding — which is certainly critical as governments on every level face tough budget cuts. But this report should also be a wake-up call to the individual community member. When we see a sign of abuse and neglect right here in our own neighborhood, are we pausing for that child long enough to report it to Child Protective Services? When we know a new parent struggling with the stress of young children, are we pausing long enough to offer support or suggest they contact one of the many organizations in Northern Virginia offering parenting resources?

Perhaps while the federal government figures out the funding for this issue affecting millions of children and parents across the country, we each could be having an impact on just one right here in our own community.

Diane Charles
Executive Director, SCAN of Northern Virginia

To report child abuse or neglect in Fairfax County, call 703-324-7400. Or call the 24-Hour Virginia Helpline/Hotline at 1-800-552-7096. If a child is in immediate danger, call 911.

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Phase II Tax District Approved

FROM PAGE 3

and are the culmination of years of effort," said Fairfax County Board Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) to the council, noting that the coming rail line had been in the works for 40 years. Bulova said the Dulles corridor was the fastest growing part of the county and that rail service would be "a major economic boon" to the area while providing a needed transportation option.

Patty Nicoson, president of the Dulles Corridor Rail Association, said businesses wanted to move to the sort of high-density, mixed-use developments that the coming rail would allow for, and she said those businesses would increase the town's tax base, providing relief for residents.

"We feel the pros outweigh the cons. It's time for us to support it," said Don Owens, vice president of the Herndon Chamber of Commerce. "You get these things sometimes once in a generation, once in a lifetime."

Former Town Council member John De Noyer remembered fighting the tax district in 2003, when no evidence existed that rail would extend past Wiehle Avenue. "Now, there is a plan. Now, there's a way to do it," he said. "The time is now to say yes."

THE PROPOSAL was not without its detractors. Chris Walker, who started the Dulles Toll Road Users Group to oppose the funding strategy for the rail, said he wanted some transparency in the collection and expenditure of funds and some public involvement in the process. With more than half of the rail's

total funding coming from tolls, he said, western Fairfax residents were paying more than 70 percent of the project's costs and reaping little of the benefit. Taking debt financing into account, he said the funding plan amounted to a tax increase of \$22 billion over 40 years. Walker predicted that tolls would eventually rise to \$11 to cover the cost, while they could be done away with if they weren't being used to fund rail. "If it weren't for rail, we could dump the tolls forever," he said.

Resident Tom Kellner said he doubted that rail would take cars off the road, but it would require roads and buses connecting the proposed Herndon/Monroe station to the town. He said Metro and not the county should fund buses. Also, he said, with hundreds of millions of dollars being sunk into the project, none of the money was accounted for online. "Who the hell is in charge of this thing?" he asked.

Resident Jeffrey Quisenberry said he understood concerns about transparency, but he pointed out that the county did already help fund Metro buses. "It's not an incremental thing. It's transformational," he said of the rail. "As far as cars taken off the road, mine's taken off the road."

Moving to endorse the tax district, council member Dennis Husch pointed out that the decision would have no impact on tolls, which the airports authority would collect either way to fund the rail line. As concrete rises around the Metro stations, he said, "We'll know where these dollars are going." Husch also noted the favorable response among businesses

SEE RAIL OPPORTUNITY, PAGE 13

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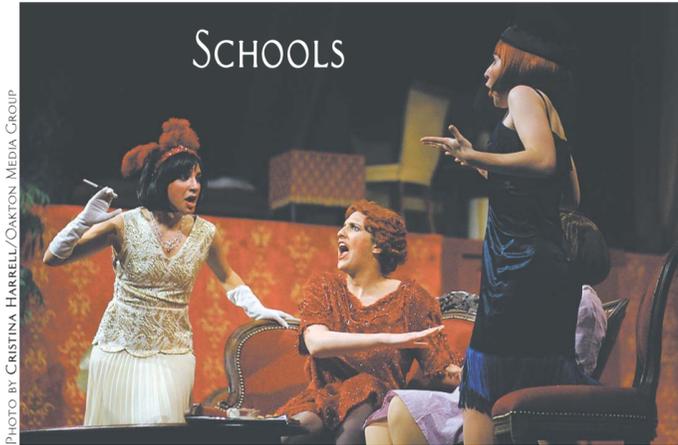
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Ivy, played by Nyah Collier, confronts Mildred (Chelsea Casanave), about the horrible condition of the hotel in Oakton's premier of 'A Tisket, a Tasket, Four Dames and a Casket.' The play was written by Oakton senior Haley Herrinton.

World Premiere at Oakton High

School presents play written by Oakton senior Haley Herrinton.

By CHRIS PAPAS
OAKTON OUTLOOK

Oakton High School's drama department has put on shows before. "A-Tisket, A-Tasket, Four Dames, and a Casket," was a whole new experience, however. The play still had all the usual trappings, but it was written entirely by Oakton senior Haley Herrinton.

Set in 1920s New York, "Tisket" is a farce and revolves around a group of con artists led by Tommy Steinham (played by Albert Anderson) out to sell a casket full of stolen jewels in the middle of a hotel lobby. The cons' arrival coincides with the news that the hotel's manager (Carlie Robbins) must marry or lose her hotel. When the two cross, chaos reigns.

Herrinton wrote the script from scratch to provide girls with more roles. "In drama, I was sick of people getting double casted, especially the girls, because all we could find were shows that were heavy on guys and low on girls. And so I said to myself, 'We need a show that's high on estrogen.'" Vanessa Gelinis, theater director, decided to take on the show after Herrinton approached her. "Haley came to us at the end of last school year and said she was writing a play, and she brought Act One. I said if you can finish it, we'll do it."

Having the playwright at their disposal was an interesting experience for the company. The role of Mrs. Carroll, a senile old

'Rehearsal for Murder'

Oakton's season of productions has only just begun. They will produce "Rehearsal for Murder" Nov. 19-21, at 7 p.m. at Oakton High School. A whodunit mystery set in the 1950s, "Rehearsal" revolves around the death of a famous Broadway actress and her fiancée's search for the truth. Was it the stage manager, the young ingénue, or the aging comedian? Only time will tell.

woman, was originally written to be played by an actress, but after an entertaining audition, the role was given to Zak Goldberger, who played the part in drag.

"It was hard to take the role seriously sometimes," Goldberger, a junior, laughed, "because it's kind of funny being in drag and sometimes I'd even crack myself up because it was weird."

The enormity of taking on an untested show provided a challenge. Herrinton described the difficulties of writing a script.

"Writing the script was actually a really fun, often stressful effort because as I was writing it I would get ahead of myself and I'd be like, 'Oh my gosh. I have so much to write left.' It was pretty ridiculous."

Gelinis had worried about the time constraints of the production. However, all involved were happy with the outcome; Goldberger was ecstatic.

"It couldn't have gone better in my opinion. Even the mistakes that were made ended up enhancing the show, and everyone did a fantastic job."

Herrinton, too, was thrilled seeing her show come to life on the stage.

"I've never seen so many people come together for such a cause. Everyone did such a good job with it. It went above what I ever could have expected."

Gelinis warns that surprises await the audience.

"I think the audience will be very surprised at the twists and turns the plot takes."

COMMUNITY

Area Rotarians Sponsor Monte Carlo Night

Sunday, Nov. 8 rocked at the Fairview Marriott as five Northern Virginia Rotary Clubs sponsored their 12th Annual Rotary Monte Carlo Night. Good food, silent and live auctions, dancing to The Loudoun Jazz Ensemble and "gambling" at Blackjack, Roulette, Craps and Poker. Burt Heacock, chairman of the event, called this "the best ever Monte Carlo night these clubs have sponsored."

Five Rotary Clubs joined together to host the event — Tysons Corner, McLean, Herndon, Burke and Dunn Loring. The idea is to have fun raising money for the various local charities helped by the clubs. Rotary's motto is "Service Above Self" and to that end the Rotary Clubs assist the youth and elderly of the county. They also sponsor community events, such as Fairfax County's Arts in the Park.

Over 400 Rotarians and their guests attended the black-tie optional event. It was the place to meet and greet guests included Rotary District Governor Elect for 2011-12 Jon Allen; Assistant District Governor, Tom "Obie" O'Bryon; Supervisor John Foust (R-Dranesville); and Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Gero Schachthoefer of the German Armed Forces Command USA and Canada.

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographic areas.

Members of a Rotary club are part of a diverse group of professional leaders working to address various community and international service needs and to promote peace and understanding throughout the world.



The Loudoun Jazz Ensemble has guest swinging to 'In the Mood.'

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Ed Beck deals to David Danner, Will Soza and guests in a game of Texas Hold 'Em.

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/NOV. 19

The GMU Players present Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's "The Exonerated." 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Black Box Theater. \$6, \$3 students and seniors. 703-993-8888.

Fairfax Christian School's Fall Concert Salute To America. 7 p.m. at Reston Presbyterian Church, 10610 Sunset Hills Road, Reston. Featuring the Lower School students, Colonial Fife and Drum Corps and A Cappella Choir. 703-759-5100 or www.FairfaxChristianSchool.com.

Special Twos. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Stories and activities. Age 2 with adult. 703-689-2700.

Our Daily Bread 25th Anniversary Celebration. 7-9 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Business casual. Light appetizers, cake, wine tasting provided by The Wine House. Children's activities for age 5 and up. Donations welcome. 703-273-8829 or info@ODBfairfax.org. www.our-daily-bread.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 20

The GMU Players present Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's "The Exonerated." 8

p.m. at George Mason University's Black Box Theater. \$6, \$3 students and seniors. 703-993-8888.

SATURDAY/NOV. 21

The Junior League of Northern Virginia Enchanted Forest. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Reston Sheraton, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Entertainment and crafts for children, gifts and holiday decorations to purchase, afternoon tea, silent auction, and an evening gala celebration.

Holiday Food Drive. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. next to Safeway at Courthouse Plaza, 10376 Willard Way, Fairfax City. Proceeds to benefit Our Daily Bread. www.our-daily-bread.org.

The GMU Players present Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's "The Exonerated." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Black Box Theater. \$6, \$3 students and seniors. 703-993-8888.

Trinity Presbyterian Church 50th Anniversary Concert. 5 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon. With the Westminster Choir, the Trinity Ringers handbell choir, brass instrumentalists, timpani and organist/pianist Tom Pandolfi. Free. 703-437-5500 or www.trinityherndon.org.

St. Timothy's Annual Holiday Shop. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. Books, toys, household items, Christmas decorations and more. Lunch available for purchase. The church will also collect new, unwrapped gifts for Toys-for-Tots and canned goods and non-perishables for the area LINK food bank. 703-

766-0294 or www.saint-timothys.org.
Greater Reston Arts Center at 12001 Market Street, Suite #103, presents The Empty Landscape - Doug Moulden and Small Worlds - Sharon Fishel and Nancy Sauser. Nov. 20 - Dec. 23, 2009.
Artist Talk - Saturday, Nov. 21, 5 - 6 p.m. followed by Reception, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Join or renew your membership today. http://www.restonarts.org/support/Membership.htm

Elvis Tribute with Leon Reyes. 7:30 p.m. at Café Montmartre, 1625 Washington Plaza North, Lake Anne, Reston. Music from the 1930s to the 1980s. Latin, ballroom, swing and disco dancing. No cover charge. 703-904-8080.

Morning at the Movies. 9 a.m. at the Reston Town Center Multiplex Cinemas. \$10 adults, \$8 children. Proceeds benefit the Ashley Fister Cole Foundation melanoma support group. 703-435-7528 or www.ashleyfistercole.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 22

The Junior League of Northern Virginia Enchanted Forest. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Reston Sheraton, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Entertainment and crafts for children, gifts and holiday decorations to purchase, afternoon tea, silent auction, and an evening gala celebration.

The GMU Players present Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's "The Exonerated." 2 p.m. at George Mason University's Black Box Theater. \$6, \$3 students and seniors. 703-993-8888.

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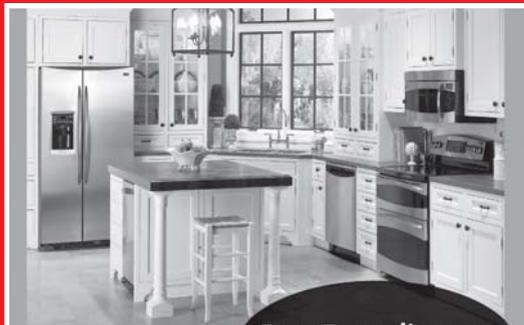
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Melinda Soto

Three Arrested in Burglary Spree

Thieves went after gold jewelry in South Asian households.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, police arrested three people suspected of a string of 26 burglaries across Fairfax County since late January. Most of the victims have been of South Asian descent, a population that appears to have been targeted because its members traditionally own relatively large collections of high-karat gold jewelry, often passed down through the generations.

More than half of the burglaries in the county took place in the Fair Oaks police district.

According to a police release, Francisco Gray, 39, of Nassau County, N.Y., 27-year-old Dagoberto Soto-Ramirez and his wife, Melinda Soto, 33, both of Queens, N.Y., were stopped and arrested in the Clifton area, near Centreville. They have each been charged with four counts of burglary; four counts of grand larceny and one count of conspiracy to commit burglary in connection with four thefts perpetrated last month in the Fair Oaks area. The three are being held without bond.

Police spokesman Bud Walker said the charges were based on burglarious materials found in the

vehicle they were driving.

It was a U.S. marshal who spotted the three suspects in the Cavalier Woods neighborhood. Walker said the marshals had been involved in the case for a number of weeks. "We had over 30 law enforcement individuals out in the field and we had them out there for several weeks now," he said.

According to an affidavit to search the suspects' vehicle, witnesses in neighborhoods where burglaries were committed in late October had described a blue SUV. As with earlier cases, they also described a Hispanic female with red-tinted hair and a Hispanic male in a blue jumpsuit. On Oct. 29, a man matching that description knocked on a neighbor's door and asked whether Ahmad Khan was home. When the woman said he had the wrong address, he asked if she needed any plumbing work done and then left. Since then, the affidavit says, police had been canvassing neighborhoods, looking for a blue SUV with suspects matching the description.

It was on Tuesday, Nov. 10, about 1:30 p.m., when the marshal saw such a car on Cavalier Woods Lane. When the driver noticed the marshal's vehicle, the affidavit says, the car "made several U-turns attempting to leave the

neighborhood and evade him" before he initiated a traffic stop. After the vehicle was stopped, police arrived and saw, in plain view, a laptop, a GPS device, a backpack, a utility bag and a police scanner tuned to the Fairfax County frequency in the vehicle, along with an invoice for plumbing work for an Ahmad Khan.

Walker said police had been in touch with authorities in New York, as well as neighboring jurisdictions, including Loudoun and Prince William counties, which may have also had burglaries that were part of the spree. Four similar incidents were reported in Loudoun's South Riding area since late June. Walker said he did not know whether the three suspects were known to New York authorities. "We'll be executing search warrants at various locations that may include places in New York," he said.

"Even though we take comfort in these arrests, the police want to warn the community not to relax their guard," Walker said, noting that the media attention could encourage similar crimes. On that front, he said, the communication lines that were strengthened between police and the South Asian community during the burglary spree would continue to be useful. "Continued dialogue and communication with the South Asian community is needed and will continue," he said.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/NOV. 19

Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce new and prospective members lunch, 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Dulles Regional Chamber's Chantilly Office, 3901 Centerview Drive, Suite R, Chantilly. Learn about the impact of this regional chamber and avenues for promoting a business. Extensive networking on site; attendees are asked to bring business cards. Lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is

required at 571-323-5300 or dullesherndonregionalchamber.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 26

Chantilly-Centreville Chamber of Commerce Monthly Power Networking Breakfast, 7:45-9:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Select, Expo Center, Chantilly. Network, exchange business cards, develop prospects and introduce your company to other attendees. Those who register prior to the event will have their contact information provided to all attendees at registration. \$30 dollars for members. 703-815-6060 or dullesherndonregionalchamber.org.

MONDAY/NOV. 30

Open Season Workshop for Federal Employees and Retirees, with Congressman Gerry Connolly, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Featuring OPM's Dean Schleicher, the project leader for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program annual Open Season, and Walt Francis, author of Consumer CHECKBOOK's Guide to Health Plans for Federal Employees. FEHB plan representatives will be on hand to answer questions and help participants. Call Congressman Connolly's District Office at 703-256-3071.

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New Logo Inspires Holiday Gift Items

The Advisory Council of the Herndon Senior Center recently selected the in their logo contest. The contest encouraged entrants to design a compelling logo for use in the Advisory Council's ongoing promotional and fund-raising activities, which benefit all of the members of the Herndon Senior Center. "We were pleased that the Council had many fine submissions to consider," said Senior Center Director Ruth Junkin.

The winning entry is a simple yet strong design in red, white, and blue, with an outer circle that contains the name "Herndon Senior Center" above

and "Fairfax County, Virginia" below. Within the circle is a small globe within a heart that sits within a diamond, having one word on each edge to describe the benefits of the Center: Fun, Health, Friendship, and Learning. As a result of the contest, Herndon now has the only Senior Center in Fairfax County using its own logo in addition to the County Seal.

The contest winner, Lee Powell of Herndon, enjoys spending time at the Herndon Senior Center. She is an active participant in the ceramics and card-making classes, and she often has lunch at the Center as well. A party took place

at the Center on Nov. 4 to celebrate the award and to have the winner share details about the ideas "behind the design." The prize for the contest was a sweatshirt bearing the new logo, which was rendered as wearable artwork by local business EmbroidMe of Herndon.

EmbroidMe has been selected to produce a range of logo-branded items that will be sold by the Advisory Council over the coming months. "We're thrilled to make these items for the Senior Center," said Co-Owner Bob Packard. Located at 311 Spring St., EmbroidMe of Herndon specializes in customized apparel and promotional products for corporations, teams, schools, and individuals.

Just in time for the upcoming holidays, the Advisory Council is offering a variety of reasonably priced items carrying the new logo including lapel pins, glass sun-catchers, and apparel by EmbroidMe such as sweatshirts, T-shirts, denim or polo shirts, hats, and tote bags. Center Members and their friends and families are invited to purchase "spirit wear" for themselves or for others as a great way to show support for the Center, which is a wonderful resource in our community. To order, visit the Senior Center at 873 Grace St. in Herndon, or for more information, contact the Center by phone at 703-464-6200.

FAITH NOTES

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

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

TOUR THESE WONDERFUL HOMES THIS WEEKEND! Check Out These Open Houses on November 21 & 22



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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

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12000 Aintree Ln.....\$1,349,000.....Sun 1-4.....Long & Foster.....Deb Gorham.....703-581-9005

11186 Saffold Way.....\$304,900.....Sun 1-4.....Owners Express.....Sally Ritter.....703-728-5580

OAK HILL/HERNDON

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VIENNA

1708 Landon Hill Rd.....\$1,050,000.....Sun 1-4.....Long & Foster.....Debbie Tencza.....703-597-4667

502 Spring St.....1,240,000.....Sun 1-4.....Samson Realty.....Casey Samson.....703-508-2535

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To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call **Winslow Wacker** 703-821-5050 or E-Mail the info to winslow@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.

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SPORTS

Cougars' Football Season Concludes With Playoff Loss

Oakton falls to red-hot Woodson in Division 6 quarterfinals.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Oakton High football coach Joe Thompson paid credit where it was due following his team's season-ending, 31-16, Division 6 Northern Region playoff loss to host W.T. Woodson Friday night, Nov. 13.

"Woodson didn't make any mistakes and played very well," said Thompson. "Offensively, they moved the football. They made more plays than we did. Our kids hung in there."

Oakton, which finished 5-6 this season, was less experienced than last year's 2008 Cougars' squad that captured the Division 6 region championship. This fall, Oakton started well, winning three of its first four games. But the Cougars won just two of their final seven games.

Thompson said his team's effort was solid all season long. Oakton simply could never put things all together on the field.

"I think we performed inconsistently," said Thompson. "We couldn't get the consistency in practices or in games. We just had a tough season. These are great kids. We just had a tough season. We should have been able to win a couple more



Jimmy Boone, Oakton's junior quarterback, completed 21 passes for 246 yards and a touchdown against the Woodson defense.

games. Our kids played hard with a lot of passion and intensity."

Woodson (10-1), which will host South County in a Division 6 semifinals game this Friday night, won the battle of field position against Oakton. On three different occasions, the Cougars began drives inside their own one-yard line. Meanwhile, the Cavaliers were regularly beginning possessions at around the midfield area.

Oakton had a poor night on special teams, especially in punting situations. The Cou-

gars struggled in their punt return efforts and also had one scenario where they were not able to get a punt down field following a bad snap.

"We made some big mistakes on special teams that cost us," said Thompson.

OAKTON, which trailed 17-3 at halftime and 24-3 in the fourth quarter, showed resilience by fighting back with two fourth quarter touchdowns to get within 24-16. But the Cavaliers iced the game with a late

touchdown.

Oakton junior quarterback Jimmy Boone, completing his first season as the Cougars' starting signal caller, had a busy night throwing the football. He completed 21-of-39 passes for 246 yards with a touchdown and an interception. The scoring strike was a 46-yarder to Luke Willis in the final quarter. Boone also ran the football 13 times for 47 yards.

Oakton's leading ball carrier was senior running back Alvaro Cabal, who rushed for 66 yards on 20 carries and scored one touchdown from a yard out.

Oakton's lone first half points came on a 25-yard field goal by senior Ray Goins in the second quarter, which got the Cougars within 7-3. Goins, a team captain, was Oakton's top receiver for the game, grabbing seven balls for 64 yards. Other big receiving nights for Oakton came from Willis (four catches, 86 yards), Tuck Masker (five for 70) and Matt Chandler (four for 23).

Woodson quarterback Connor Reilly (nine-of-18, 84 yards) threw a touchdown pass and ran for a touchdown as well. The scoring pass was a 22-yard hook-up with running back Jonathan Stokes. James Johnson (88 yards rushing) was the Cavaliers' leading ball carrier.

Woodson's only loss this season came in a week three road setback at Lee, 27-7. Since then, the Cavaliers have won eight in a row. Oakton's wins this season came over Madison, West Springfield, Annandale, Herndon and Chantilly.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The Capital Area Golf Tour (CAGT) is having a November tournament event Nov. 28-29 at the Raspberry Falls Golf Club in Leesburg. The tour consists of nationally-ranked junior golf events in Suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia during a split fall/spring season. Several local players are among the points leaders in various divisions. **Jackson Lizardo** of Fairfax (Oakton) and **Chas Bassing** of Great Falls (The Heights School) currently sit in second place in their respective age divisions. In the boys' 10-12 division, **Nathan Chuwait of Herndon** is the points leader. Among girls, **Nicole Flores of Ashburn** (Briar Woods High) leads in the 13-15 age division, and **Amber Liu of Vienna** leads the 10-12 year-olds.

Lori Walker of Reston experienced a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity by taking pictures from the sidelines of the Redskins' game against the visiting Kansas City Chiefs on Oct. 18. It was part of Canon U.S.A.'s 'Shoot Like a Pro' Sweepstakes. Walker had Redskins team photographer Ned Drashman by her side throughout the afternoon. Drashman offered advice, suggestions and tips on how to shoot action sports photographs. In addition to shooting from the sidelines, Walker received four tickets to the game along with a Canon EOS Digital Rebel T1i SLR camera kit.

AC Cugini, an official Italian soccer school, is conducting weeknight tryouts in Reston for guest spots on its 10, Play Soccer in Italy tournament teams, which will be traveling to Rome and the Italian Adriatic beach during the 2010 World Cup, June 23-July 7. A three-day training camp with the Italian Olympic Committee is included in addition to tournament play against Italian teams and a review by talent scouts for professional Italian teams. Boys and girls, ages 10-to-16, are eligible. Entire teams are welcome. For every 14 registered, the 15th person travels free. For further information, contact Cugini President Fabio Diletti at 703-477-5957; or go to info@cuginisoccer.com.

Preston Bacon of Oak Hill was a recent recipient of the Champions of Character Awards in ceremonies last month at the Fairfax County Government Center. Members of the Fairfax County Athletic Council and the Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services presented the honor to Preston and other members of the athletic community throughout Fairfax County.

Preston, 9, is a member of the Fairfax Stars' traveling basketball team. He is an outstanding young athlete and, as important, a top-notch student in the classroom. For the Stars, he is the starting point guard for the programs' 9-under boys' Gold Team.

Last month, the Stars participated at the AAU Division 1

National Championships in Orlando. Preston and his teammates had a successful tournament and finished ninth nationally in their age group. Preston is considered the Stars' floor general at point guard. He has displayed solid leadership skills and is known for encouraging and inspiring his teammates. On the floor, Preston is an exceptional shooter and scorer but focuses on team play first and passing to open teammates. He is a true competitor but always displays good sportsmanship.

On most evenings, one can find Preston playing basketball at home with his two older brothers. He loves being an athlete and also enjoys doing his best at school.

The Champions of Character Awards were designed to honor young athletes like Preston as well as other deserving members of the local athletic community.

"Youth sports play a key role in youth development," said Mark Meana, chairman of the Fairfax County Athletic Council. "The relationships kids build with adults and peers through sports, and the lessons they learn on the playing field are integral to keeping kids safe from gangs, violence, drugs, and other problem behaviors. Fairfax County values the benefits youth sports programs provide our community."

For more information about the Champion of Character Awards or a complete list of all recipients, contact Jesse Ellis at 703-324-5704.

COUNTY NOTEBOOK

County Employees Get More Holiday Leave

Fairfax County employees will get an additional day and a half of paid leave in December thanks to a Board of Supervisors decision Nov. 16.

The supervisors voted to give county employees one half day off on Dec. 24 and a full day off on Dec. 31 that were previously not included in Fairfax's work calendar.

The supervisors said they wanted to reward the county staff for "doing more with less," as a result of budget cuts. The extra paid leave, which Fairfax County chairman Sharon Bulova (D) and Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross (D) brought to the rest of the board, will cost the county approximately \$1 million.

At first, Bulova and Gross had suggested giving county employees two half days on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. But Sully District supervisor Michael Frey (R) convinced the supervisors to give county employees a full day off Dec. 31, saying that little would get accomplished during a half day of work on New Year's eve.

"A half day of work on Dec. 31 would not necessarily be a productive day," said Bulova, agreeing with Frey.

Several supervisors said the additional vacation days were also supposed to ease the pain of the one furlough day county employees had to take during the first week of January this year.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Fairfax Administers 21,000 H1N1 Vaccines

The Fairfax County Health Department administered 21,000 H1N1 vaccines over two Saturday clinics held Oct. 24 and Nov. 7 at the Fairfax County Government Center, according to a written statement by Fairfax County chairman Sharon Bulova (D).

The county limited its vaccinations to people considered most at risk for developing complications if they contract the H1N1 strain of the influenza. These groups included children and pregnant women.

A few residents were so anxious to get the vaccine that they camped out before the Oct. 24 clinic to ensure a good place in line. By 9 a.m. on the day of the first clinic, the line of people for the vaccination stretched from the government center door almost to Fairfax Corner shopping center about two blocks away, said Bulova.

The second clinic, on Nov. 7, ran more smoothly, with a very short wait for people who came to be vaccinated after 3 p.m.

According to Bulova, the county medical corps put in 3,900 hours of service, which costs \$96,292 per clinic. The Health Department call center is currently averaging 250 per day from the public about the H1N1 flu.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Rail Seen As 'Opportunity'

FROM PAGE 7

in the tax district. "That constituency weighs in pretty heavily on the decision," he said.

Charlie Waddell hailed "the return of the train," saying Herndon likely owed its existence to the rail that served its area for two decades before the town was incorporated 130 years ago. He said he thought the decision to ensure the town's access to the new rail was close to being the most important choice in the town's history, second only to the decision to incorporate. One of the intangible benefits, Waddell said, would be the recognition that would come with having a stop on the Metro system, and he said he hoped the proposed Route 28 station would also be named for Herndon.

"From everything I can tell, this is not the way to finance a regional transportation project," Richard Downer said, but added that it was "the only way we've been able to come up with."

David Kirby said he had harbored concerns about the fact that, although the property owners signing the petition to enact the tax district represented a majority of the property ownership, they only constituted about 16 percent of the actual number of landowners. But he noted that none of them had come to the

hearing to voice dissent. "So, obviously, they're not too upset."

Bill Tirrell said he hadn't delved into the rail's financing, but he said he wanted the two members that the town would appoint to the projects advisory board to make sure that all the money was accounted for. He also said he didn't know whether rail would decrease congestion but added, "What I do know is it offers another brand of transportation." And he said the ensuing transit-oriented development represented "a wonderful opportunity."

MAYOR Steve DeBenedittis said he, too, wanted to see transparency in the rail's finances. But he said he could already see how transportation hubs, such as Dulles Airport, drew businesses to the town. He hoped what is now known as the Herndon/Monroe station would officially be named simply the Herndon station.

When the toll road was built in 1984, "The Herndon Town Council had to go to bat to get an exit off that access road for Herndon," Connie Hutchison said. "I see this as basically the same type of position, that if Metro goes by and we don't get some kind of access to it, then we're missing the boat."

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