

Recalling 'Pied Piper' Of Reston

NEWS, PAGE 3

Area robotics teams won a number of trophies at the recent state championship. The Lake Anne Elementary School Sea Monsters are, from left, first row, Samuel Kobayashi (Reston) and Gizelle Walter (Herndon); second row, Evan Luczko (Reston), Nico Legendyk (Vienna) and Andrew Barrett (Vienna); and, third row, Patrick Keefer (Herndon), Madeline Emmert (Reston) and Ian Hulbert (Reston).



Robotics Teams Bring Home Trophies

NEWS, PAGE 13

RA Finds New Home

NEWS, PAGE 3

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 13 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12

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PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

By this time next year, this will be the building that houses the Reston Association.

RA Finds New Home

Location, price, cooperative owner distinguished Penzance building.

Reston Association President Robin Smyers said location was one aspect of the building the association had selected for its new headquarters with which she was especially pleased. "It is truly a park-like setting," she said, noting that the building is in a "mature area" befitting of Reston, with large trees and even picnic tables.

In one of the three Penzance buildings located at the intersection of Sunrise Valley Drive and Reston Parkway, she said, the new headquarters will also be easy to find, while first-time visitors often have a hard time locating the current headquarters on Isaac Newton Square. The site is also easily accessible by road or by footpath and has plenty of parking, Smyers said.

"I'm most happy that staff will have space to house the folks that make sure the association runs every day," she said.

When the association issued a referendum in the spring to ask whether it should be authorized to buy a headquarters, most members who attended meetings on the subject agreed that space at the current headquarters — about 20,000 square feet — was inadequate. Many, though, took issue with the estimated space requirements of about 35,000 square feet and price tag of up to \$15 million. The referendum failed to meet the required 30 percent quorum. Of the approximately 28 percent of Reston Association members who responded, a slight majority favored granting purchasing power, but a two-thirds

majority would have been required. The association set about finding space to lease.

"We were very conscious of the concerns that were brought to us by members," said RA CEO Milton Matthews.

WITH THE HELP of corporate real estate firm Cresa Partners, the association settled on a space of about 29,000 square feet at an annual leasing rate of \$27 per square foot, for a total of about \$784,000 a year. The first year will be rent-free.

Matthews said the RA pays about \$19 per square foot at the current headquarters, which would total about \$380,000. He pointed out that the headquarters at Isaac Newton Square, which has housed the association for the last 35 years, is in a "vintage building" built in 1968, while the Penzance building, constructed in the 1980s "will have all the features you would expect in a modern building." The RA will now have high-speed, wireless Internet, where the current headquarters is served by T1 lines, he said, adding that the association plans to have a studio in the new building.

The current headquarters also has climate control problems and is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Matthews said the new headquarters would have enough public meeting space to hold 150 people, and the space could be partitioned off into three meeting rooms. The current headquarters can accommodate about 80 people in the board room, its only public meeting space, and high-profile meetings tend to spill into the reception area.

The association signed a 12-year lease on the new headquarters, with an option to renew for another 10 years. "There's a possibility we could be there for 22 years," Matthews said, noting that the RA wanted

SEE RA HEADQUARTERS, PAGE 7

"We were very conscious of the concerns that were brought to us by members."

— Milton Matthews, RA CEO

Recalling 'Pied Piper' of Reston

Friends, family, colleagues of Ann Rodriguez gather in memory of leader with many causes.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) recalled attending an event with Ann Rodriguez and chatting about the upcoming weekend. Rodriguez had told her she had an exciting date scheduled, one that would involve a motorcycle ride.

"She wanted to know where she could find a great pair of leather pants," Hudgins said. "She made it clear that she wanted to have fun and that was what she needed to get there."

It was Rodriguez's leadership in countless organizations of widely varying missions that brought hundreds of community members and a number of high-profile guest speakers to the memorial ceremony put on to celebrate Rodriguez's life. But the stories told at Center Stage in the Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods last Wednesday, Dec. 2 filled out the personality behind the Reston resident's many accomplishments.

When she died of cancer on Oct. 28 at the age of 66, Rodriguez was president and CEO of the Arts Council of Fairfax County and a commissioner for the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority. She also was on the boards of Virginians for the Arts, the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington and the Lorton Arts Foundation.

PREVIOUSLY, Rodriguez had served as vice chair of the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) board of directors and as interim executive director of GRACE. Founder and CEO of her own small business, which she sold before taking over the arts council, Rodriguez had mentored other entrepreneurs, and she helped to found the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce in the 1980s, chaired the chamber for a year and hosted its local cable show, "Business Focus" for 10 years. She was a trustee of Reston Hospital, for which she created and hosted the health education show "Healthfocus," and was a former trustee of WETA. She also



Ann Rodriguez

PHOTO COURTESY OF MYERS PUBLIC RELATIONS

was a 15-year volunteer with Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

When Hudgins was thinking of running for supervisor, she said, she knew some residents were pushing Rodriguez to run for the position, so she met with her and told her of her political plans. Rodriguez responded by offering to help with her campaign, Hudgins recalled. "What I learned was that Ann did not want or need this job to feel accomplished."

RODRIGUEZ'S SON Paco, who has spent years traveling around the world, remembered calling her last year from a retreat where he was staying in the Catskills and asking her to visit. He said the place was "full of potential but entirely lacking a business plan," and he had wanted his mother's advice. "She didn't ask the typical parental questions like, 'Is this going to lead to gainful employment?'" he said, adding that she had instead stayed and helped with a business model.

"She liked to help others and had a hard time saying no, and a lot of people benefited from the time and attention that she bestowed on them," said Tracey White, who worked with Rodriguez at the Reston Chamber and the Reston Hospital Center. She said Rodriguez had also mentored her in the ways and principles of her community. "She was a passionate defender of Reston's ideals and, through the years of our explosive corporate

SEE LIFE DEDICATED, PAGE 4

Life Dedicated to Art, Community

growth, always made sure that the chamber represented the community and its roots well," White said.

Though she considered Rodriguez a mentor, she said, "There were many times that she made me feel like an old fuddy-duddy despite the fact that I was 20 years her junior." She recalled asking about the past weekend one Monday, to be told that Rodriguez had gone to the opera on Friday and then attended a rock festival the next

day, where she ended up in the mosh pit because she thought it looked like fun.

"Ann had an aura about her that was special. She was like the pied piper, creating a following wherever she went," White said.

Peter Fields, president of the Virginians for the Arts Foundation, noted that his board came from all over Virginia and only met three times a year, making it hard to get to know each other well. "Ann was one of those people that you could know in-

stantly," he said. "I knew I was going to be delighted to serve with her."

He said Rodriguez was driven to work hard by her passion not only for the arts but also for justice for everyone. While others could talk about her service to Reston and the county, he said, "I'm here to let you know her service to the entire commonwealth was very significant."

Since Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) was away on

"Ann was the absolute sparkle in our family."

— Judith Bauer, sister-in-law

business, Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason) read a letter from Bulova expressing her sense of loss for the county. "Ann was the face of the arts in our county," Gross read, adding that Rodriguez had increased the arts council's ability to get grants and would leave a lasting legacy in the form of a county arts policy that she had helped to create.

JOHN MASON, chair of the arts council's
SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 10

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 17

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. Extensive networking on site; attendees are asked to bring business cards. Lunch will be provided. Pre-registration required at 571-323-5300 or dullesherndonregionalchamber.org.

Dulles Airport Manager's Annual Update. At the Westin Washington Dulles Airport, 2520 Wasser Terrace, Herndon. Reception 11:30 a.m., lunch 12 p.m. Airport Manager Chris Browne's annual review of how Dulles Airport fared in 2009 and what is coming in 2010. Committee for Dulles Members in advance \$45; at the door \$50. Non-members in advance \$55; at the door \$60. www.committeefordulles.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 18

Pat Mullins at the Republican Club of Greater Reston. 7:30 p.m. in the Reston Community Center's Rose Gallery, Lake Anne, Reston. Pat Mullins, chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia, at the RCGR Christmas party. The public is welcome to this informal holiday gathering; appetizer or dessert contribution appreciated. Liquid refreshment provided. 703-406-9740.

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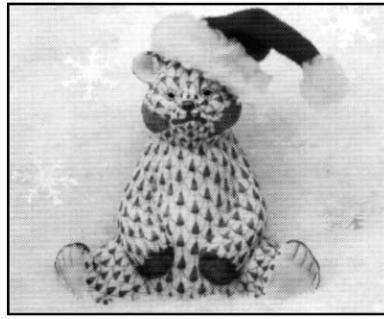
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RESTON CONNECTION ❖ DECEMBER 16-22, 2009 ❖ 5

OPINION

Clearing the Air

New rules on smoking are flawed and fail to protect many workers, but still great step in right direction.

Non-smokers and families looking to eliminate exposure to second-hand smoke got an early and unlikely Christmas present from Gov. Tim Kaine and Virginia General Assembly on Dec. 1, when substantial restrictions on smoking in restaurants and bars went into effect.

Restaurants and bars in the Commonwealth are required to go smoke free. But many establishments will still be able to offer a smoking area.

If the business has the space and the financial ability, it is allowed to construct a separate smoking area, if it is completely walled off and has its own ventilation system.

This exception is unfortunate for several reasons.

First it is unfair to the businesses that do not have the space or wherewithal to add smoking rooms.

Other jurisdictions, like the District or Montgomery County, Md. have passed true smoking bans, leaving a level playing field for businesses. And overall, in Montgomery County and many other places, receipts at restaurants increased after the smoking ban went into effect.

Second, such restrictions fail to protect workers from the serious detrimental health effects of second-hand smoke, one of the key objectives of smoking restrictions. Especially in the current job market, restaurant workers are

more likely to feel compelled to continue to work in conditions that are hazardous to their health. A full ban on smoking in restaurants and bars would protect more workers.

Third, even with a separate ventilation system, many smoking rooms will continue to leach smoke into non-smoking areas every time the door is opened and closed. Those who want a truly smoke-free dining environment will still have to do a little research.

But even with all its flaws, the successful implementation of smoking restrictions in Virginia remains a bit of a miracle, and a blessing.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

State-Written History

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



COMMENTARY

My studies in history and political science at the institution that is now Old Dominion University were eye-opening, exciting and fulfilling, but my resulting bachelor of arts degree did not provide me any specific career training. That is why I entered a master in education program at the University of Virginia where I was placed as an intern teacher in Fairfax County in 1967. My teaching of United States and Virginia history was at a pivotal time in the teaching of history. The Civil Rights movement that was having an impact on society generally was also having an influence on the teaching of history.

In my classroom, I was given "Rise of the American Nation" as the state-approved textbook. As it turned out, I had two editions of the same textbook. The edition of the 1950s explained 1619 as being an important year for

the Virginia colony because a representative assembly met for the first time, women came to the colony and Negro slaves were brought to the colony. The mid-1960s edition of the same textbook explained the importance of 1619 as the representative assembly meeting, women coming to the colony and Africans who came as indentured servants were later enslaved. I had students read both accounts because it provided an important lesson in the writing of history.

Teaching social studies and history in Virginia was challenging because the textbooks provided were published under the direction of the Virginia History and Textbook Commission, a political body established to maintain the values and beliefs of the segregated Old South. The 11th grade Virginia history and government textbook, "Cavalier Commonwealth," was shocking in its distortions of history. According to the "Virginia Magazine of History and Biography" (Vol. 117, No. 4, Virginia His-

torical Society), that was just published, the textbook sparked national outrage by claiming that "the slave enjoyed what we might call comprehensive social security." I turned to source materials that I collected on my own rather than use the provided textbooks.

To learn more about the political establishment's attempt to control the writing and studying of history in Virginia, go to the current issue of the "Virginia Magazine of History and Biography" and read the article, "Who Controls the Past Controls the Future: The Virginia History Textbook Controversy." You may be shocked to learn the extent of the effort to control the telling of the state's history. Fortunately, the Textbook Commission no longer exists having been abandoned in the 1970s. I was pleased to take part in the writing of a Virginia history textbook in Fairfax County that was later adopted statewide. It was neither directed nor approved by the Textbook Commission. It reflected an honest attempt to tell the true story of Virginia with its glories and its warts. The government should never write the history books our students use.

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.

The United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive in Reston, will hold four Christmas Eve services on Thursday, Dec. 24. The United Christian Parish is an ecumenical church combining the United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ. Contact 703-620-3065 or www.unitedchristianparish.org.

❖ 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. For families with young children.

❖ 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Including scripture lessons and special music.

A Birthday Party for Jesus at Reston Presbyterian Church, 10610 Sunset Hills Road, Reston, on Saturday, Dec. 19, 1-2:30 p.m. for parents and children. Play games and eat birthday cake. New shoes for needy children overseas through Buckner International and canned goods for the Salvation Army Food Bank will be collected. 703-759-5515, rpckids@ilovejesus.net or www.rpccconnected.org.

Dranesville Church of the Brethren, 11500 Leesburg Pike, Herndon, will hold several Advent and

Christmas events. Contact 703-430-7872 or www.dranesvillebrethren.org.

❖ **A Chance to Serve: Grate Patrol.** 2:30 p.m. Dec. 19. Collecting Christmas cookies to be distributed along with bag meals, soup and clothing to the homeless in D.C. Volunteers will also be needed to help bag cookies and prepare meals.

❖ **LINK Toy Collection.** 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 19. Volunteers are needed to help distribute toys to families. Unwrapped toys, batteries included, will be collected through Advent, and transported to Herndon United Methodist Church 4 p.m. Dec. 18 for distribution.

❖ **Christmas Worship Service.** 11 a.m. Dec. 20. Theatrical reading and

music to focus hearts and minds on the coming of the Christ Child.

❖ **Peace Service: Remembering the Battle of Dranesville.** 7 p.m. Dec. 20. Worship and remembrance to recall the historic battle, remember those who lost their lives, and pray for peace.

❖ **Christmas Eve Worship.** 7:30 p.m. Dec. 24. Traditional Christmas music, worship and communion to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 13224

Franklin Farm Road, Herndon, will have several holiday services. Contact www.cof-umc.org or 703-620-1977.

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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

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RA Looks Forward To New Headquarters

FROM PAGE 3

to be sure it could accommodate a growing membership and increased services during that time, given the high number of jobs that are predicted to move to the area.

“You don’t move into a new building trying to accommodate existing needs,” he said.

Matthews estimated that the association and Cresa Partners considered at least 40 buildings during the hunt, which lasted about seven months.

“We were specifically looking for space we could lease on a long-term basis,” he said. The headquarters also had to be within the borders of the Reston Association or the Reston Center for Industry and Government (RCIG). In addition to the new building’s desirable location, he said Penzance made almost \$3 million worth of renovations to the building, offered a bargain and showed a willingness

to work with the RA. “It’s great to feel wanted and they made us feel wanted from the very beginning,” he said, adding, “We feel very comfortable with the dollars.”

THE HEADQUARTERS will occupy all of the building’s first floor and part of the second. Matthews said he did not know yet who else would be renting space in the newly renovated building.

He said Cresa Partners, being a full-service real estate firm, was still assisting the RA, having helped to put construction work to bid and find an architect and an audiovisual consultant, and the firm might even help with the move.

Smyers said the association hoped to move into the new building in August, and much preparatory work had to be done in the meantime.

— MIKE DICICCO

“It is truly a park-like setting.”

— Robin Smyers, RA president

Lake Anne Elementary has established a Bayscapers Club for students in grades 2-6 who want to learn about the Lake Anne environment, do some gardening, create outdoor and indoor artistic projects about the environment, publish a newspaper, and build a shed. Bayscapers members will also add to the school’s compost pile, build a frame for a garden sign, and transplant plants.

Khrystyna Chekhata of Reston, Pratt photography freshman, was honored with a Young Photographers Alliance Award and \$2,000 at an award ceremony and benefit auction in New York City.

Reston residents **Vanessa Oakes, Katie Cleveland** and **Larry Stern** 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.

Sareenah Sayall of Reston has received a master of business administration in business administration and management from Boston University of Boston, Mass.

Emilia Saunders of Reston has been accepted as a student at The Culinary Institute of America (CIA).

Tiara Hairston of Reston, a sophomore majoring in communication, theatre arts in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, was chosen to be a resident advisor at Virginia Tech.

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, also known as “Operation Warrior Forge,” 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.

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 at 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.

Jane E. Carey graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. Carey is a student at the University of Richmond. She is the daughter of William D. Carey Jr. of Cobblestone Lane, Reston, and a 2006 graduate of South Lakes High School.

RESTON ASSOCIATION ELECTION INFORMATION SESSION & CALL FOR CANDIDATES



Reston Association Members are invited to attend an Election Information Session on Wednesday, Jan.

13, 2010, 7 p.m. at Reston Association, 1930 Isaac Newton Square.

Reston Association is seeking candidates to fill three open positions on the Board of Directors this spring. These positions are one at-large director, the North Point District director and the Lake Anne/Tall Oaks director.

Board members determine the Association’s goals and policies, making a significant and lasting contribution to the community. For additional information log on to Reston Association’s Web site, www.reston.org or call 703-435-6512.

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8103.290	Wednesday, Dec. 30	9 a.m.-Noon

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Activity No.	Day and Date	Time
8105.290	Monday, Dec. 28	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
8106.290	Tuesday, Dec. 29	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
8107.290	Wednesday, Dec. 30	9 a.m.-4 p.m.



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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/DEC. 17

Roosevelt, Truman and the Founding of Israel. 8 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Speakers will be Allis and Ronald Radosh, co-authors of A Safe Haven: Harry Truman and the Founding of Israel. Free and open to the public. 703-437-7733 or www.nvhcreston.org.

Elden Street Players in It's A Wonderful Life. 7:30 p.m. at Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. \$10, \$7 age 10 and under. www.eldenstreetplayers.org or 703-481-5930.

Holiday and Christmas Party. 7 p.m.-2 a.m. at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring St., Old Town Herndon. Casino games, photos with Santa, dancing, prizes and more. Proceeds benefit Operation Homefront. 703-435-JIMS or www.jimmystavern.com. Visit operationhomefront.net.

Giant Menorah Lighting on the Plaza. 6 p.m. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. A giant Menorah lit by Robert E. Simon, Jr., Reston's founder. Family entertainment, prize drawings, Chanukah donuts, latkes and chocolate gelt, free dreidels and balloons. Free, reserve at www.chabadrh.org.

in Cape Breton. 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Celtic melodies and classic Christmas carols. Tickets are \$23-\$46. Youth through grade 12, half price when accompanied by an adult. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Elden Street Players in It's A Wonderful Life. 7:30 p.m. at Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. \$10, \$7 age 10 and under. www.eldenstreetplayers.org, or 703-481-5930.

Sidewalk Book Sale and Signing. 5-8 p.m. Outside Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, at Elden and Spring Streets in Herndon. Civil War authors Chuck Mauro, Don Hakenson and Eric Buckland will sign and sell their books and movies on the Civil War and Herndon history. Partial proceeds to The Friends of Laura Ratcliffe. 703-435-JIMS.

SATURDAY/DEC. 19

Colvin Run Christmas Ball. 9 p.m. at Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Rd., Great Falls. Live music by The Helmut Licht band. \$15 dance, \$5 lesson. 703-795-2003 or www.colvinrun.org.

A Rockapella Holiday. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$21-\$42. Youth through grade 12 half price. Pre-Performance Discussion held 45 minutes prior to the performance. 703-993-8794.

Elden Street Players in It's A Wonderful Life. 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. At Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. \$10,

\$7 age 10 and under. www.eldenstreetplayers.org or 703-481-5930.

A Holiday Celebration at Reston Museum: The 45th Anniversary of Reston Pioneers Arrival & Lake Anne Lights Walk. 4:30 p.m. at 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Meet some of Reston's original residents, hear and share stories of moving to Reston, and how it was back in the day. Watch a short video featuring first resident Julia Rogers. Refreshments and hot drinks provided. Starting around 5:30, walk around Lake Anne to view holiday lights, then return to the museum for carols. Dress warmly and bring flashlights for the walk. www.restonmuseum.org or 703-709-7700.

The League of Reston Artists Bluejeans and Bowties Holiday Party. 6-9 p.m. at Camden Dulles Station, 2330 Dulles Station Blvd., Herndon. Guests are encouraged to enter the "Edible Art" contest. Over 300 pieces of art on display in addition to artists selling small gift items. Canned food donations for Reston Interfaith will be collected. 202-607-6223 or www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 20

Elden Street Players in It's A Wonderful Life. 2:30 p.m. At Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. \$10, \$7 age 10 and under. www.eldenstreetplayers.org or 703-481-5930.

Music Winter Solstice Celebration. 3:30 p.m. at 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton.

FRIDAY/DEC. 18

Natalie MacMaster: Christmas

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Remembering 'Quiet, Elegant and Tenacious' Friend

FROM PAGE 4

board of directors, said the agency "could not have been more fortunate than to have Ann as our ambassador," with her smile and positive outlook. He said she deserved much of the credit for "repositioning" the arts as a major priority in the county.

He noted that Rodriguez had appreciated upbeat performing groups and always requested a mariachi band at the annual International Children's Festival, which is produced by the arts council. For this reason,

Mariachi los Amigos was invited to perform at the memorial ceremony, along with the Dixieland Band unit of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, which kicked off the event.

Gerry Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, whose mission is to attract and retain businesses in the county, said Rodriguez's greatest contribution to the organization, aside from providing a voice of calm and reason during heated debates, was

"to constantly remind us that part of what we sell ... is our quality of life" and that much of that quality stemmed from the arts.

"Ann was what I would call quiet, elegant and tenacious," said Bill Bouie, chair of the Fairfax County Park Authority and vice chair of Reston Community Center. When he was appointed to head the Park Authority, he said, Rodriguez asked him out to coffee, and they talked about the importance of art. He became the liaison between the parks and the arts council. Later, just after a parks

bond had passed, Rodriguez invited him out to visit her at the arts council's headquarters in the Packard Center in Annandale. Once he had arrived at the building that he would later dub a "hellhole," she didn't have to say anything. Renovations for the building are planned for the near future. "Quiet and tenacious," Bouie said.

Holli Ploog, chair of the Greater Reston Arts Center, said Rodriguez had served on the group's board during a period of

SEE RODRIGUEZ, PAGE 11

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Rodriguez Remembered As 'Inspiration'

FROM PAGE 10

"growth and strategic visioning" and had taken over as interim director at a time that required her to oversee the organization's transition to a new location. "She was a mentor to me and she provided an unbelievable amount of wisdom during very turbulent times in our organization," Ploog said. She announced that the annual GRACE arts scholarship for local high school seniors would henceforth be called the Ann B. Rodriguez Scholarship award.

SPEAKING on behalf of Rodriguez's family, her sister-in-law Judith Bauer said, "Ann was the absolute sparkle in our family." She said Rodriguez was the subject of the most outrageous growing-up stories, knew all the songs and kept the family up-to-date on the exploits of celebrities large and small. "She had a real talent for friendship," Bauer said. "When I think of the many circles she was part of, I marvel at her ability to hold so many people in her heart."

She said Rodriguez had been dauntlessly faithful to the Reston community and recounted how, during her final weeks, the two had talked about what more could be done for the area, with Rodriguez proposing various fund-raisers, including a regatta.

At a public art symposium in Charlottesville in April of 2007, Rodriguez had "very serendipitously" found a lunchtime audience with longtime Reston developer and advocate Joe Ritchey, GRACE President and CEO John Alciati and Reston

Town Center Association Executive Director Barbara Rovin, Ritchey recalled. That conversation, he said, "was the moment of inspiration to create the public art master plan for Reston."

Ritchey said IPAR was now working to create a memorial sculpture garden for Reston. "Once again, Ann has provided the inspiration to create something beautiful and timeless," he said, adding that Rodriguez was to be the first recipient of a sculpture in the garden.

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SPORTS

Reston Little League Names New Board of Directors

Sports Notes:
gymnast Strug visits local community.

Reston Little League recently implemented a Board of Directors. The members of the youth organization met on Oct. 25 and voted to form a Board of Directors composed of 18 positions to govern and guide the activities of the league. At a meeting on Nov. 12, the board met to determine and vote on the duties for which board members would be responsible. Also at the meeting, Outgoing President Jeff Thomas and Vice President Alan Altschuler were recognized for their contributions to Reston Little League. During their four years of leadership, both provided outstanding service to the community through their stewardship of the league.

During the 2009 season, Reston Little League opened a new concession stand with permanent restrooms and a new training center. The season ended in July with the league successfully hosting the Virginia State Baseball Tournament for 10/11-year-olds at Fred Crabtree Park.

The new board will continue Reston Little League's focus on the development of baseball skills, sportsmanship and developing a love for the game of baseball through a fun, family-oriented organization.

The new Board of Reston Little League is: Craig Sablosky (president); Frank Lynch (vice president); Bob Waggoner (treasurer); Paul Allen (secretary); Mike Curcio (League information officer); Kent Overholt (player agent); Brian Schweppe (director of safety and training); David Pollock (chief umpire); David Grossman (quartermaster); Tom Fahey (Majors commissioner); Jeff Gallo-way (Triple-A commissioner); Will Hilder (Double-A commissioner); Kevin Smith (Single-A commissioner); Mike Louko (T-Ball commissioner); Scott McIntosh (Challenger commissioner); Tom Dubler (fields commissioner); Greg Arakelian (scheduler); and Mike Nielsen (member at large). Participating on the Board in non-voting positions are: Jeff Thomas (capital improvements); Tammy Heinemann (fund raising); and Ray Boatwright (registrar). Reston Little League was established in 1972 and is a member of Virginia's District 4. The League's boundary includes the greater Reston and Herndon community with more than 600 players participating every spring. Reston Little League offers a fun and competitive baseball experience for players ages 5 to 12.

Former Olympian gymnast Kerri Strug, who captured the heart of the U.S. at the 1996 Summer Olympics (Atlanta) with a one-legged landing on vault that solidified the USA team's winning of the gold, was in Sterling last month. Strug stopped by NVGA Gymnastics, which she has been visiting regularly, to share her gym-



The Northern Virginia Blaze U-18 girls' travel softball team, made up of players from all around Northern Virginia, captured the championship at the Winchester Fall Shakedown Tournament last month. The team was 6-0 for the weekend. Back row, from left, are assistant Eric Cohen, assistant JJ Foster, Kayla Lherisse, Debbie Ward, Rachel Leonard, Emmaline Lofaro, Karysa McPherson, Hanna Joseck, Laura Jennings, Karen Johnson and head coach Eric Snyder; and front row, Nina Rodriguez (Reston), Natalie Eichner, Courtney Conklin and Ali Cohen.

nastics knowledge and to work with the NVGA program's competitive gymnasts.

At the 1996 Olympics, Strug competed with six other American gymnasts, including Shannon Miller and Dominique Moceanu, under the direction of head coaches Marta and Bela Karolyi. The team, often called the Magnificent Seven, struggled against the Russian team to win the all-around gold medal. On the last day of team competition, Strug needed a high score on vault in order for the American team to win. On her first attempt, she severely injured her ankle, causing many spectators to fear she could not complete a second attempt. Despite the injury, Strug went on to complete her second attempt, scoring a 9.7 and winning the gold medal for the Americans. She is famous for her perseverance, resilience and sportsmanship at those 1996 Games and continues to be a positive role model for young gymnasts.

Registration is now open for the Spring 2010 season of **Herndon-Reston Youth Lacrosse**. Registration is open through February to youth in the Herndon and Reston areas for girls and boys, ages 6 to 15. No experience is needed. Separate teams are available for boys and girls in age divisions U-15, U-13, U-11 and U-9, with various levels of play based on experience and skill level. The teams compete in the Northern Virginia Youth Lacrosse League (www.nvyll.org) against opponents from throughout Northern Virginia. Equipment rental and financial assistance is available. The season begins in March and runs through the second week of June. For more information on the league and to register, visit www.HRYL.org.

The Sterling Lions Club hosted the 31st Annual Terry McGowan Invitational Wrestling Tournament on Saturday, Dec. 12 at Park View High School. Participating teams were expected to be the host Patriots along with West Potomac (Alexandria), Charlottesville High (Charlottesville), Rappahannock High (Washington, Va.) and

local Briar Woods High. Individual medals were to be awarded to first through fourth place finishers. There was to be a Sportsmanship Award given to the wrestler exhibiting the qualities of fair play, enthusiasm and discipline in the tournament.

Sterling Lion member Dwight Brooks has chaired the event for the past 16 years and has worked on the event for 29 years, since becoming a member of the Sterling Lions Club in 1980. Brooks took over the chairmanship of the event after the original chairman and namesake, Terry McGowan, moved from the area to retire in Victoria, Texas in 1993.

The event allows ranked teams and their wrestlers to compete against other top contenders from schools that they may not compete against during the regular season schedule.

Sterling Lions President Dale Pontiff said the Sterling Lions depend on the support of the local community. "The event is no longer a fundraiser, but a youth outreach service project," Pontiff said. For more information on the Lions Club of Sterling, see the group's Web page [SterlingLions.googlepages.com] or call Mike Ryan, at 703-723-0077.

Fit Kids is hosting basketball classes for youngsters ages 3 to 5 at the Douglass Community Center beginning Jan. 14 for three weeks. Classes will introduce children to the basics of dribbling, shooting, passing and more. Sign up at webtrac.loudoun.gov or call 703-771-5913. Class registration numbers are 204123-01 for age 3 and 204123-02 for ages 4 and 5.

Get those future NHL-ers off to a good start. Floor Hockey is a super sport for young players with tons of energy. This class for ages 3 to under-7 is aimed at developing physical skills and hand-eye coordination. It will focus on the fundamentals of hockey, teamwork and sportsmanship. Classes take place at the Claude Moore Recreation Center on Tuesdays Jan. 5-26 from 12-12:40 p.m., with another class at 4:45-5:25 p.m. Class registration numbers are

273140-01 and 273140-02. Register online at webtrac.loudoun.gov or call 571-258-3600.

Fire and Ice Girls Fast Pitch Teams, ages 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U have limited openings for experienced players on their spring travel teams. For more information, call Mother Ice at 703-980-9951.

Lower Loudoun Little League has opened registration for the Spring 2010 season for players ages 5 to 18 (age as of April 30, 2010) living in the Sterling/Cascades/Potomac Falls area. Early Bird registration ends Dec. 31. Visit the league Web site at llbaseball.com for more information or to register online.

Matt McLean of Sterling, a junior at the University of Virginia and a member of the Cavaliers' swim team, recently received a pair of swimming honors. He earned ACC Performer of the Week accolades (Nov. 10) and was also named the NCAA Division I Men's Swimmer of the Week by CollegeSwimming.com. In UVA's 165-125 team victory over Kentucky, McLean won both the 200 and 500 freestyle events. He clocked a mark of 1:38.08 in the 200, which qualified him for the national "B" cut. He also won the 500 in 4:26.48, the fastest time in the ACC this season, for another qualifying "B" cut.

The Sterling Golf, Swim and Tennis Club had its fifth annual Mega Scramble. The weather, unfortunately, did not cooperate. Top prize was a four-day, three-night travel package to each member of the winning team. First place went to Don Christenson, Ken Albanese and Todd Murphy. The second-place team, made up of Doug Mallory, Sean Mallory and Thomas Breedan, received a three-day, two-night travel package. Dave Bryant won the Carnival Cruise in the Putting Contest and Mike Yannello won the opportunity for a 60-foot putt, but was 2 inches short for the \$5,000 prize.

Cascades Flag Football League in Sterling concluded its fall season. Consisting of 375 players on 39 teams and four grade divisions, the league had its annual end of season tournaments Nov. 7-8. The tournaments featured 35 games on three fields. Four teams won championships with the Vikings finishing off an undefeated season and winning the kindergarten-first grade division. Other division winners were: the Patriots (grades two and three); the Rams (grades four and five); and Falcons (middle school division). Registration for the Spring 2010 season is now open at youthflag.com/cascades.

Cascades Flag Football is a youth league open to boys and girls grades kindergarten to eighth. The Spring 2010 season starts April 5. Early bird rates apply through Feb. 12. For more information on coaching or officiating, call 703-444-8805, ext. 112, or e-mail cascades@youthflag.com.

Area Students Win State Championship

Team Vector 67 wins first place overall.

A number of robotics teams from the Northern Virginia area participated in the FIRST Lego League (FLL) Virginia/DC State Championship Tournament at James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

The tournament had 750 children on 99 qualifying teams from all over Virginia and D.C. competing over two days. The teams were divided into two age groups: 49 Division I teams made up of children ages 9-12, and 50 Division II teams made up of children ages 9-14. Each team was scored in four categories or events of the tournament: Robot Performance, Robot Design, Research Presentation and Teamwork.

The Sea Monsters (#1055), a Division I team sponsored by Lake Anne Elementary School in Reston, was made up of nine children who all attend Lake Anne Elementary School and reside in Reston, Herndon and Vienna. They were the winners of the Second Place Trophy in the category of Robot Performance.

Team Hakuna Matata (#5361), a Division II team representing Franklin, Herndon and Langston Hughes middle schools, consisted of four team members and a volunteer junior coach residing in Herndon, Reston and Oak Hill. They were the winners of the Second Place Trophy in the category of Teamwork.

Team Vector 67 (#6089), a Division II team, consisted of three team members representing Langston Hughes Middle, Herndon High and South Lakes High schools residing in Herndon and Reston, and four home schooled members residing in Herndon, Leesburg and Lovettsville. Their combined score in all four categories won them First Place overall, making them



Vector 67 members are, from left, first row, Zane Holdstock (Leesburg), Jeffrey Russell (Herndon), Isabella Loparo (Lovettsville), Joshua Kobayashi (Langston Hughes Middle, Reston); and, second row, Luke Loparo (Lovettsville), Will Schrag (Herndon High, Herndon), and Justin Kobayashi (South Lakes High, Reston).

the winner of the State Championship Tournament.

They were awarded the prestigious First Place Champion's Award.

The next level of competition is the FLL 2010 World Festival in April 2010 where 84 teams from the U.S. and all over the world meet to compete in Atlanta, Ga.

In the event that Virginia/D.C. receives an invitation to attend the FLL 2010 World Festival, Vector 67, as the Division II winner of the State Championship Tournament, will represent Virginia and Washington, D.C. at this Festival. This invitation process will be finalized at the end of February 2010.

More information on the State Tournament and the World Festival invitation process can be found at: <http://www.vadcfll.org/championship/awards.html> and <http://usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/fl/content.aspx?id=766>.



Hakuna Matata are, from left, Amaani Sirajuddin (Langston Hughes Middle), Julia Morgan (Herndon Middle), Isabel Hansen (Franklin Middle), Natalie Schauer (Langston Hughes Middle) and Junior Coach Priya Seetharaman (Langston Hughes Middle.)

"Serve-Us" Contracts?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Can someone please explain to me the pros and cons of these after market, service contracts, available for purchase after your car dealer's/manufacture's warranty/warranties have expired? Their solicitations on television, radio and print are almost replacing the credit card companies in their vigorous pursuit of American consumers. Just yesterday, I received in the mail, what looked like a very official, certified-type, for your-eyes-only directive, aimed very specifically at yours truly, owner of an expiring automobile warranty. When I tore the four perforated sections and opened the remaining fold, what I found was yet another "If your car is not more than 15 years old and has less than 200,000 miles on it" offer of automobile repair and maintenance relief.

However, since I wasn't born yesterday (or even the day before), I can't help being cautious and concerned about the "relief" offered. Moreover, I can't help thinking that there's likely so much fine print, finely printed, that I won't be able to read or, won't likely understand, that as a car owner with future repair bills ahead, what I'll likely be relieved of is my money, not my worry about those future bills. But what do I know? As has been proven in this space many times before, not much.

My instincts, as a former Life & Health insurance broker, is to be concerned – and to plan for – worst case scenarios and pre-existing conditions (meaning exclusions). With respect to life and health insurance, I am well aware of the issues and conditions under which medical and lifestyle-type, pre-existing conditions/considerations might adversely affect one's coverage. However, I don't have near that same level of experience and instinct when it involves car repairs and maintenance. What little I can say is, with absolute certainty, that the longer a car is driven/owned and the more miles it accumulates, the more likely repairs will be needed. And if I may presume a little bit more, the more expensive and involved those repairs likely will be.

That presumption being logical and agreed to, in theory; why would companies take on that unfunded – and likely undocumented by the car's owner – commitment, to assume liability of future repair bills likely to be "major:" engine, transmission, struts, gaskets, etc., as listed in the company's advertisements? Further presuming that these companies are not in business to lose money and are not advertising (putting their money where their marketing mouths are) because they are stupid, I'm left with no other conclusion than to paraphrase one of my recently deceased father's favorite expressions: the idea must have merit.

Still, I can't get past the "If it sounds too good to be true..." feel of these promotions/assurances. Are these companies regulated in some way like Life and Health, and Property and Casualty insurance companies are? Must these service-contract companies have a certain amount of cash reserves on hand to to pay for their future – and as yet undetermined – liabilities? Have they been vetted/investigated/researched and/or evaluated by consumer groups, consumer magazines or even Consumer Agencies? Has the Better Business Bureau done any due diligence?

I understand the coverage is not free. However, if I am to believe – and ultimately buy in to – all that I hear, read and see about these reassuring offers, I'd have to be crazy to not to want to learn more and see if I really can eliminate the worry I will admit to having, about these inevitable future car repairs. But I'm hesitating. I must be crazy, right? (Maybe that's a side effect of the oral chemotherapy?)

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

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WEEK IN RESTON

Nominations for Community Service Award by Friday

The 25th Annual Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Planning Committee is accepting nominations for the 2009 Community Service Awards to be presented on Monday, Jan. 18.

In keeping with this year's theme "Are We Keeping the Promise?" the celebration will present three awards to recognize members of the community for their significant efforts in the past year that upheld the legacy of King and improved the lives of others. The three Award categories are youth, adult (older than 21), and a Greater Reston business or organization.

Eligibility Criteria:

- ❖ Frequently works for or contributes to the community to support tolerance and equal opportunities for people in all aspects of education, employment, and community participation;
- ❖ Frequently works for organizations or contributes to efforts that reduce poverty;
- ❖ Frequently works to promote non-violence in conflict resolution;
- ❖ Performs acts or makes contributions to benefit those in need with positive and long-term impacts;
- ❖ Serves the community without concern or desire for award or recognition.

The following categories are considered

ineligible for the award: elected officials holding federal, state or county office; schools or congregations as single entities; posthumous nominations.

Nomination forms are available on Reston Community Center's Web site, www.restoncommunitycenter.com. Applications may also be requested by calling 703-476-4500. Any questions regarding eligibility or the nomination process should be directed to the Reston MLK Day Planning Committee c/o Kevin Danaher, Community Events Director, at the Reston Community Center, 703-390-6161, or via e-mail to: Kevin.Danaher@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Chipotle Opens in Reston Town Center

Chipotle's newest burrito eatery opened to the public at 11913 Freedom Drive at Fountain Dive in Reston Town Center. The eatery is wheelchair accessible, with seating for 36 inside and four outdoors, hot music and cool atmosphere. Fax and online order pick up window. For fax forms or to order on-line, go to www.chipotle.com.

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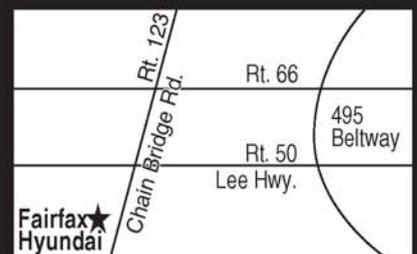
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