

Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) receives a Herndon High School hat from Principal William Bates.

# McDonnell Comes to Herndon High

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Charges Not Sticking To Gold Burglary Suspects

PEOPLE, PAGE 2

## Herndon Officials Meet With Legislators

NEWS, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 4 ❖ CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 8 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 9

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## Michael Murphy, 30, Dies of Cancer

**M**ichael Murphy died of cancer Thursday, Feb. 11, at his parents' home in Fairfax. He was 30. Murphy was born July 27, 1979 in Herndon to James and Martina Murphy.

He graduated from Chantilly High School in 1997 and was in the class of 2001 at the Citadel Military College of South Carolina where he graduated with departmental honors in Education. While in High School, Mike Murphy was active in the Boy Scouts; Chantilly High School's Symphonic Band, Marching Band and Drum Line. He also volunteered for five years at Ashgrove Adventure Day Camp for the Girl Scouts. At the Citadel, he was a drummer in their bagpipe band.

After college, Mike Murphy lived in Charleston, S.C. where he played for the City of Charleston Police Bagpipe Band, grades 2 and 3. He was the drum instructor for the group's grade 4 band as well. In 2008, he joined the City of Washington Pipe

Band. At the time of his death, he was also the drum instructor for the MacMillan-Birtles grade 4 bagpipe band in Montgomery County, Md.

His brother, James Murphy, predeceased him in 1977.

Mike Murphy is survived by his parents and three sisters: Kathleen Murphy of Creede, Colo.; Christy Leonard and Jaime Osborne both of Fayetteville, N.C. He is also survived by four nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the Mike Murphy Scholarship Fund c/o Wachovia Bank, Sully Plaza Financial Center VA1138, 13960 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Chantilly, VA 20151. This scholarship will continue Mike Murphy's passion for Scottish bagpipe drumming.

Visitation services will be Friday, Feb. 19, from 6-8 p.m., at Adams-Greene Funeral Home, 721 Elden St., Herndon. Funeral Mass will be at St. John Neumann's Catholic Church, 11900 Lawyer's Road, Reston, on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 11 a.m.



Michael Murphy



Dagoberto Soto-Ramirez



Francisco Gray, also known as Cristhian Oliva-Penaranda



Melinda Soto, also known as Marie Soto-Melinda

## Charges Not Sticking to Burglary Suspects

### Fairfax, Loudoun counties dismiss all charges so far; grand jury indictment possible.

By MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

**R**aman Kumar said the Indian-Americans he had spoken with in the Northern Virginia region were becoming nervous as they wondered whether the three suspects arrested in November in connection with a long string of burglaries targeting the South Asian community were going to be released. "They are scared now. They are very, very scared these guys will be set free," Kumar said.

The burglary of his Centreville home about a year ago fit the pattern for a string of at least 26 incidents in Fairfax and Loudoun counties between January and November of last year, and Kumar has become the unofficial spokesman for the victims of the spree.

**AT A PRELIMINARY HEARING** on Tuesday, Feb. 9, Loudoun County Judge Julia Cannon dismissed all six charges against Francisco Gray, also known as Cristhian Oliva-Penaranda, Gray, 39, as well as Dagoberto Soto-Ramirez, 27, and his wife Melinda Soto, also known as Marie Soto-Melinda, 33, all of whom were arrested on Nov. 10, also each had 11 charges placed against them in Fairfax County. Judge Ian O'Flaherty dismissed 10 of those charges for each defendant at a preliminary hearing on Jan. 20.

Each of the suspects still has one charge pending in Fairfax County, with the collective preliminary hearing set for Feb. 24, and Soto-Ramirez and his wife are scheduled to appear before a Loudoun County judge on March 4, each facing the same six charges that Gray had dismissed.

"It was quite obvious that the commonwealth didn't show they had probable cause for the arrest and the prosecution at that point, and the court dismissed it," defense attorney Bobby Stafford said of the hearing in Fairfax County. Stafford is defending Soto Ramirez in both counties.

Fairfax County Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Ian Rodway said the county was considering seeking an indictment, in which case a grand jury would hear the dismissed charges and decide whether there was enough evidence to prosecute, but he said no decision had been made.

Loudoun County prosecutor Steve Sincavage said he wasn't sure whether the county would pursue an indictment.

Attorneys would not discuss details of the case, as it is ongoing.

Rodway confirmed that four more New York residents had been extradited to Virginia in connection with the burglaries.

Initially, all three of the suspects arrested in November were listed as New York residents, but Gray has since been listed as a resident of Hurst, Texas by the Loudoun courts, and Fairfax now considers him an Arlington resident.

The string of burglaries involved the theft of high-karat gold jewelry that South Asians traditionally keep in their homes, as well as electronics, passports and other valuables and documents. More than half of the incidents took place in the Fair Oaks Police District, but they spread through Oak Hill, Reston, South Riding, Lorton and McLean.

**POLICE** said the November arrest was based on "burglary materials" in the vehicle the suspects were driving.

Kumar, who attended the preliminary hearing in Fairfax County, said prosecutors had presented as evidence gold-detecting equipment, cell phones that had called the homes of victims before they were burglarized and a list of names and phone numbers, many of them labeled "indio," among other items found in the suspects' possession. "But the prosecutors, they were unable to tie up the evidence," he said. He noted that the burglaries, which peaked in October, had ceased after the arrest.

He said he hoped for a grand jury indictment. "If that's not going to happen, we have to be a lot more proactive and take care of each other and look out for each other's houses." Dismissing the cases, he said, could embolden others to commit similar crimes in the area.

In response to the burglaries, Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) proposed legislation increasing the penalty for dealers repeatedly convicted of purchasing gold without complying with the Precious Metals Dealer Law. The law requires that sellers present identification and dealers keep records of each sale, and noncompliance is punishable by revoking a dealer's license for a year.

Hugo proposed that precious metal dealers should face a mandatory two-year revocation of their licenses if convicted a second time. The bill became law on Thursday, Feb. 11.

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PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/THE CONNECTION

Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) presents the children with their Hong Bao.

## McDonnell Comes to Herndon High

### Governor celebrates the Chinese New Year in Herndon.

Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) joined the celebration of the Chinese Lunar New Year with The Hope Chinese School on Saturday, Feb. 13 at Herndon High School. The Hope Chinese School, which is the largest Chinese school system in the Washington D.C. area, teaches basic Chinese characters, Chinese history, and culture to children in the area.

Since 2010 has been named the Year of the Tiger, the governor received a framed painting of a tiger as a symbol of this new year.

The governor also handed out Hong Bao to the children at the celebration. Hong Bao is a monetary gift in a red envelope; red because this color promotes good luck. This is a Chinese tradition for many events, including weddings and the New Year.

After dispersing the Hong Bao to the children, the governor enjoyed performances by students of the Hope Chinese School.

For more information on the Hope Chinese School, visit [www.hopechineseschool.org](http://www.hopechineseschool.org)

— STEPHANIE KNAPP



Gov. McDonnell admires the 3D Chinese letters being given to him by fourth graders of the Hope Chinese School.



Governor standing with the 2010, Year of the Tiger, painting.



Herndon Mayor Steve DeBenedittis, Town Council member Dave Kirby and Vice Mayor Connie Hutchinson at VML/VACo Legislative Day.

## Herndon Officials Meet With Legislators

BY JOANNA MORENO  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Herndon officials met with state lawmakers Thursday, Feb. 10 to advocate for key legislation as part of the 20th annual Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties (VML/VACo) Legislative Day.

Co-sponsored by the VML and the VACo, the event encourages local governments to lobby their legislators and participate in committee meetings at the Capitol.

Mayor Steve DeBenedittis, Vice Mayor Connie Hutchinson and Herndon Town Council member Dave Kirby participated in the all-day event.

“Our biggest focus is just to make sure the treatment of towns is favorable here at the state level,” DeBenedittis said.

Herndon officials were lobbying in favor of such legislation as:

- ❖ House Bill 513, which would authorize localities to impound a person’s car on the second offense after driving without a license.

- ❖ HB 350, which would allow localities to prohibit street solicitation to cars, including the distribution of handbills or the sale of merchandise or services.

- ❖ HB 972 and Senate Bill 218, which are intended to preserve Herndon’s taxing authority by adding language to make sure the transient occupancy tax in Fairfax County would not apply to its towns.

**THE TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX** is of particular interest. According to DeBenedittis, the bills are an attempt by Herndon’s legislators,

Del. Tom Rust (R-86) and Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), to fix previous laws that did not exclude the town from the tax. Both bills have passed their respective houses, so the mayor said he is hoping that they’ll go through.

“Being in an incorporated town has its own legislative prerogatives and taxing authority,” DeBenedittis said. “We always want to keep that intact.”

The day began with a keynote address by Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli and reports by VML and VACo about legislation concerning local government. Afterward, local officials from across Virginia met with their legislators and discussed issues.

**DeBenedittis** said it’s important to play a “strong role in representing the town’s interest in Richmond.” VML/VACo Legislative Day is part of that effort, in addition to dropping by the Capitol occasionally throughout the legislative session to monitor the progress of issues affecting Herndon.

Hutchinson said Herndon officials have improved their preparation and research in recent years. That effort involves finding out which legislators are on the committees that will hear certain bills and talking to them as well as to Rust and Howell.

Kirby said it also helps to work with local officials from other communities.

“I think just the interaction with other communities and other elected officials as well as some of the staff people that they bring with them is just educational and enlightening in a lot of cases,” Kirby said.

# New Housing Blueprint

Ending homelessness, moving beyond preservation of affordable housing.

BY SHARON BULOVA

Several years ago, on a freezing February morning, I rode the VRE into Washington, D.C. for a Council of Governments meeting. As I was leaving Union Station, I noticed a middle-aged woman, with sacks of belongings and bedding gathered around her. She was clearly a person with mental illness, muttering to herself and batting the air at imaginary objects.

I remember thinking, "I'm so glad I live in Fairfax County. We have social services programs that would help someone like this woman." But later that week, while jogging down an old alignment of a road near my home, I spotted a tent tucked way back in the woods. It was a homeless person's encampment.

Fairfax County has established a "hypothermia program" to shelter homeless individuals during the cold winter months. The program is a partnership among county agencies, area houses of worship and nonprofit organizations. The hypothermia program has served to crystallize how inadequate our human services network is for dealing with homelessness.

In March 2008, our Board of Supervisors endorsed a "Housing First" strategy to end homelessness as we know it. Working with houses of worship and charitable organiza-



Sharon Bulova

tions, Fairfax County has adopted a strategy for making sure people in our community have a roof over their heads and receive the help they need to get back on their feet. At our Jan. 26 meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved a new Housing Blueprint to address the challenge of ensuring there is accessible, affordable housing for all members of our community. Affordable housing was a key topic when the Board considered our current Fiscal Year 2010 budget and the Board dedicated considerable time to discussing housing issues at our post-budget retreat last June.

At the retreat, we agreed that our housing programs must emphasize serving those with the greatest needs, that affordable housing represents a spectrum of needs, and that we can be most effective in accomplishing these goals by working with Faith Community and non-profit partners in the community.

The Housing Blueprint is a strategy for addressing these priorities and represents a new direction compared to the previous policy of

## Blueprint Highlights

Resolved: End homelessness; provide affordable housing options to those with special needs; cut the waiting lists for affordable housing in half; produce workforce housing to accommodate projected job growth.

preservation. The new goals stated in the Blueprint are comprehensive: to end homelessness in 10 years, to provide affordable housing options to those with special needs, to cut the waiting lists for affordable housing in half over 10 years, and to produce workforce housing to accommodate projected job growth.

The Blueprint is the product of impressive collaboration by county agencies, concerned citizens, houses of worship and local non-profits. Because of the metrics it includes, the Blueprint sets short and long term goals and can be used to evaluate our programs.

**TO VIEW** the Housing Blueprint, please visit <http://www.e-ffordable.org/>.

If you would like more information, or would like to volunteer in efforts to address homelessness, the County's Office to End Homelessness can be reached by going to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless>.

*Sharon Bulova is chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.*

spends money. Polls show voters favor transparency. The voters have responded well to this.

In the current session of the General Assembly, our signature issue is to stop using Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF) federal block grant funds for everything under the sun. Because funds are distributed through "earmarks," we support Del. David Englin's (D-45) proposal (HB 80) for good government and transparency by moving to a competitive TANF Funding Pool. HB 80 would ensure scarce dollars are targeted to effective and efficient programs and would de-politicize the allocation

of these funds. Additionally, the McDonnell Administration and the Department of Social Services supported the bill as a needed accountability reform.

Regrettably, to avoid accountability, on Monday Feb. 8, HB 80 was "tabled by a voice vote" in the House Appropriations subcommittee. Without a recorded vote, it is impossible to know who voted to table. Unfortunately, the legislators who currently have the power to direct "earmarks" are also the legislators who must approve reforming the earmark process.

It is amazing how legislators who profess to support account-

ability will not vote yes for good policy. They can get away with this because with "the voice vote" their votes are never recorded. Unless you get up at the crack of dawn and are lucky enough to get into the meeting room to see the vote occur, or have a video recorder it's nearly impossible to know what happened. Even being in the room is no guarantee.

The question is one of accountability. The public ought to know what happened.

**John Horejsi**

Coordinator, Social Action Linking Together, Vienna

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### 'Voice Vote' vs. Accountability

To the Editor:

In many ways Virginia is a progressive state; it's rated as the best managed state and so forth. But in the area of our state legislator's transparency we are stuck in the past century.

The strong message the voters sent last November is that it's time for a change. During the campaign, candidate McDonnell introduced a "good government" plan to bring more responsibility to Richmond in the way the state budgets and

## BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 17

**Herndon Community Center Preschool Open House and Registration.** 2-4 p.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. The Herndon Community Center Preschool will host an open house and registration will be taken on a first-come first-served basis for the 2010-2011 school year. The preschool is a state licensed program for children ages 3-5. Ann Hoy, 703-435-6800, ext.

2119.

**The Advisory Board of the Northwest Center for Mental Health Services.** 7-9 p.m. at Northwest Center for Community Mental Health, 1850 Cameron Glen, Reston. Volunteers are needed to serve and act as advocates for women's shelters, homeless shelters, etc. The Board meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Contact Cleveland at 703-435-0868 or leaderwilliams@gmx.com.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 18

**Update on the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.** 11:30 a.m. at

the Sheraton Reston, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Sam Carnaggio, P.E., Project Manager, Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, will share details on what's happening in the construction and the next steps for both Phases 1 and 2. [info@committeefordulles.org](mailto:info@committeefordulles.org).

**The Greater Reston Newcomers and Neighbors Club.** 10 a.m. in St. John Neumann Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston. Program and refreshments. Contact Virginia at 703-437-6866.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 19

**Republican Club of Greater Reston Eighth Annual Lincoln-Reagan Dinner.** 6:30 p.m. at the Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Clubhouse Road, Reston. Speaker, George Allen, former governor of Virginia. \$55 per person. 703-742-0149 or 703-406-9740.

**Interjurisdictional Meeting with Loudoun and Fairfax Counties and the Town of Herndon.** 1:30 p.m. at Mary Ingram Council Chambers, 765 Lynn St., Herndon. Elected officials from the Town of Herndon and the Counties of Loudoun and Fairfax will meet to discuss future planning efforts in the Route 28/Dulles Toll Road area. 703-435-6804 or [www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov).

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PHOTOS BY BILL TOMS

This picture has been named 'Cardinal Convention.'



'No Vacancy' in this bird sanctuary in Herndon.

# Birds Find Shelter in Storm

Evelyn von Barby and Bill Toms, avid bird watchers who participate in a Project Feeder Watch by Cornell University, took many photos of birds during the recent snowy days. The pictures shown here were taken by Toms in his backyard in Herndon. "We have created quite a sanctuary there with five different feeders. Watching the birds has

become a highlight and a moment of peace in our busy lives. With Project Feeder Watch, we count the number of species and the number of individuals on two consecutive days each week from November to April. The greatest number of species so far has been 15 and the greatest number of individuals close to 50," said von Barby.



It would have been better to be south.

WEEK IN HERNDON

## Herndon High Presents Student-Written Show

Herndon High School presents a show for children, "This House is Not Kosher," written by HHS student Zack Gross, based on a classic Jewish fable about a man whose house is just too loud. Performances are Friday, Feb. 19 at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5. [www.herndonrama.org](http://www.herndonrama.org).

"This House is not Kosher" is a modern adaptation of a classic Jewish fable about a man whose house is just too loud.

"As my first experience directing a show, it's been quite a ride," said director Dmitiri Gann. "Aside from the normal craziness that comes with any production, we got hit with not one, but two freak snowstorms, both only a few weeks from opening night."

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PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/THE CONNECTION

Mary Kate Bristow and Jeffrey Ritte combine song with poetry in their performance at Café Montmartre last Saturday.

# Music, Poetry Celebrate Love

## Valentine's Day performance at Café Montmartre.

Singer Mary Kate Bristow and poet Jeffrey Ritte entertained a room filled with red hearts, pink flowers and candlelit dinners on Saturday, Feb. 13 at Café Montmartre at Lake Anne. This was their debut performance together and the first time Ritte has read his poetry aloud publicly.

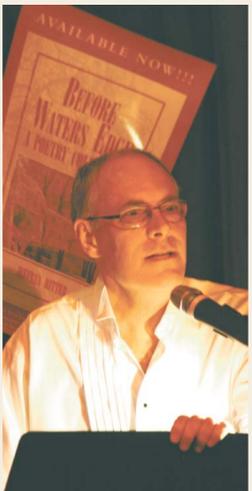
This event was a celebration of not only Valentine's Day, but also the launching of Ritte's second book of poetry, "The Tapes in Question," which can be bought online.

The show was a combination

of songs and poetry about love. The venue chosen for the event also had significance, as it was the place Ritte took his wife on their first date as well as the location for their wedding reception. She sat in the audience as Ritte and Bristow dedicated some songs and poems to her.

When asked how she liked the performance, Fran Janniro said it was "a wonderful integration of the music and the poetry. It was a beautiful rendition."

— STEPHANIE KNAPP



Poet Jeffrey Ritte reading his poetry from his second book, "The Tapes in Question."



Mary Kate Bristow sings songs of love for Valentine's Day.

## CALENDAR

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

### THURSDAY/FEB. 18

**Vienna Woman's Club.** 1 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. With Roberta Huy of Guiding Eyes for the Blind and her guide dog Fancy. 703-938-6632.

**Mary Gilliatt: Fabulous Food and Friends.** 10 a.m. at St. John Neumann's Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston. Free, register at 703-433-2754 or [hatlady@gmail.com](mailto:hatlady@gmail.com).

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

**Book Buddy Reading Reinforcement Program.** 4:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Read to a Big Buddy for 30 minutes once a week. Age 6-8. 703-242-4020.

**Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.'** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and seniors \$3. Tickets to performances canceled due to snow will be honored. 703-993-8888 or 703-993-1120.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 19

**'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf' by Edward Albee.** 8 p.m. at Taking Flight Theatre Company, Waddell Theater, 1000 Harry Byrd Highway, Sterling. Students and seniors \$10, general admission \$15. [www.cct2ft.com](http://www.cct2ft.com).

**Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.'** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and seniors \$3. Tickets to performances canceled due to snow will be honored. 703-993-8888 or 703-993-1120.

**'This House is Not Kosher.'** 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Herndon High School, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. A comedy written and performed by HHS students. \$5. 703-401-0428 or [www.herndonrama.org](http://www.herndonrama.org).

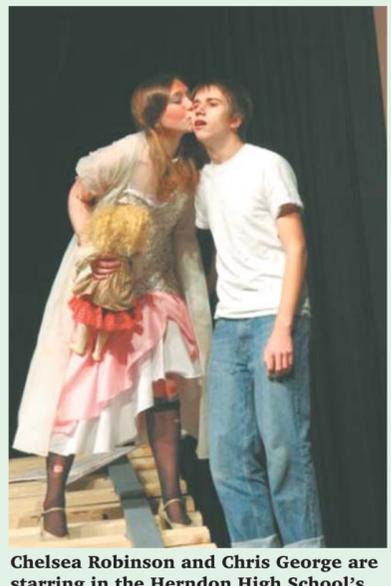
### SATURDAY/FEB. 20

**Third Annual Lake Anne Polar Bear Dip.** 2 p.m. at the Lake Anne, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. This fundraiser for Camp Sunshine is rescheduled from Feb. 6. 703-709-7700 or [www.freezeinforareason.com](http://www.freezeinforareason.com).

**Simply Sinatra, with the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra and Vocalist Steve Lippia.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4500 University Drive, Fairfax. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's



Chelsea Robinson won Best Female Actor at Districts.



PHOTOS BY MELANIE MILLER-CIVIANUS

Chelsea Robinson and Chris George are starring in the Herndon High School's Drama production of 'This Property Is Condemned.'

## Herndon High Theatre Second in District

The HHS Theatre production of "This Property Is Condemned" by Tennessee Williams, starring Chelsea Robinson and Chris George, won Runner-Up (Second Place) in the Concorde District VHSL Theatre Competition.

Chelsea Robinson won Best Female Actor at Districts. The Regional VHSL Theatre Competition begins on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 10 a.m., at Lake Braddock Secondary School and is free to the public. HHS performs at 2 p.m.

Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$21-\$42. Charge at 888-945-2468 or [www.gmu.edu/cfa](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa).

**'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf' by Edward Albee.** 8 p.m. at Taking Flight Theatre Company, Waddell Theater, 1000 Harry Byrd Highway, Sterling. Students and seniors \$10, general admission \$15. [www.cct2ft.com](http://www.cct2ft.com).

**Dazzling Donuts Craft Time.** 11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Stories and crafts. All Ages. 703-437-8855.

**Two Rooms: One Up, One Down, at Sully Plantation.** 1-3 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Visit the slave cabin to discover cooking methods used by the African American slave community at Sully and peek into the loft which is normally closed to the public. \$6 adults, \$5 students, \$4 seniors and children. Include a tour of the main house for an additional \$2. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully).

**Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.'** 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and seniors \$3. Tickets to performances canceled due to snow will be honored. 703-993-8888 or 703-993-1120.

**A Guided Walk in the Restored Glade Stream Valley.** 1:30 p.m. at Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. 703-709-7700 or [www.restonmuseum.org](http://www.restonmuseum.org).

### SUNDAY/FEB. 21

**'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf' by Edward Albee.** 7 p.m. at Taking Flight Theatre Company, Waddell Theater, 1000 Harry Byrd Highway, Sterling. Students and seniors \$10, general admission \$15. [www.cct2ft.com](http://www.cct2ft.com).

**American Games at Sully.** 11-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Play 18th and 19th century games: checkers, nine

pins and bean bag toss will be set up to try. House tours \$6 adults, \$4 child or senior. Make a historic toy \$2, while supplies last. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully).

**Holy Cross Performing Artist Series: The Glen Echos.** 3 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Barbershop quartet. Free.

**Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.'** 2 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and seniors \$3. Tickets to performances canceled due to snow will be honored. 703-993-8888 or 703-993-1120.

### MONDAY/FEB. 22

**Brain Games.** 3:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. After-school drop-in program with chess, Blokus, Battleship, Rush Hour and more. Age 6 and up, with

adult. 703-242-4020.

**ESL Beginners.** 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Practice English in a conversation group. 703-689-2700.

**Kids' Science.** 3 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Explore scientific topics through activities. Age 5-7. 703-689-2700.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 23

**Book Buddy Reading Reinforcement Program.** 4:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Read to a Big Buddy for 30 minutes once a week. Age 6-8. 703-242-4020.

**Spycraft Guest Author.** 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Bob Wallace and 'Spycraft: The Secret History of the CIA's Spyspechs from Communism to Al-Qaeda.' 703-242-4020.

**ESL Advanced.** 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Practice English in a conversation group. 703-689-2700.

**INOVA Blood Drive.** 12-7:30 p.m. beside the Pavilion, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Schedule appointments at 1-866-256-6372 or [inova.org/donateblood](http://inova.org/donateblood).

**Folk Club of Reston-Herndon: Spook Handy.** 7:15 p.m. at The Tortilla Factory, 648 Elden St., Herndon. Tickets \$11 non-members, \$10 members. [www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com](http://www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com).

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 24

**Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My! Preschool Storytime.** 11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. 2-5 with adult. 703-437-8855.

**Toothy Grins.** 11 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Celebrate Children's Dental Health Month with a storytime program presented by a pediatric dentist. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-242-4020.

**English Conversation Group.** 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for adult non-native speakers. 703-242-4020.

**Reston Writers.** 12 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Networking and professional discussion (not critiquing) for writers in the Reston area. Adults. 703-689-2700.

**Pajama Storytime.** 6:45 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Wear pajamas for bedtime favorites. All ages. 703-689-2700.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 25

**Herndon High School, Herndon Middle School and Reston Herndon Area Orchestras.** 7 p.m. at Herndon High School, 700 Bennett

St., Herndon. Contemporary and classical selections. Free. 703-668-9543 or [nittany83@cox.net](mailto:nittany83@cox.net).

**Violinists Mark Dorosheff and Monica Chamasyan.** 7 p.m. at Sunset Hills Montessori School, 11180 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. Music by Cezar Franck, Mozart and Henryk Wieniawski. \$30, includes buffet. Pre-payment required. [ChezNouReston@gmail.com](mailto:ChezNouReston@gmail.com) or 571-235-3556.

**Book Buddy Reading Reinforcement Program.** 4:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Read to a Big Buddy for 30 minutes once a week. Age 6-8. 703-242-4020.

**Preschool Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Storytime and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-689-2700.

**Lupus Support Group.** 12 p.m. at Reston Hospital Center, The West Wing, 1850 Town Center Parkway, Reston. [tinyurl.com/lupusgrps](http://tinyurl.com/lupusgrps) or 1-888-349-1167.

**Organic Gardening Workshop.** 7 p.m. at Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Join a master gardener for some great tips on organic gardening. Reservations required by February 22. \$5 RA members, \$8 non-members. Adults. Register at 703-476-9689 ext. 6540 or [naturalist@reston.org](mailto:naturalist@reston.org).

**Lavay Smith.** 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. \$60-\$177. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### FRIDAY/FEB. 26

**The Virginia Opera presents Mozart's Don Giovanni.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com).

**'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf' by Edward Albee.** 8 p.m. at Taking Flight Theatre Company, Waddell Theater, 1000 Harry Byrd Highway, Sterling. Students and seniors \$10, general admission \$15. [www.cct2ft.com](http://www.cct2ft.com).

**Herndon High School Band Bingo Night.** 6-9 p.m. in the Herndon High School Cafeteria, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. The community is invited to an evening of competition, camaraderie, laughs, and a chance to win prizes. Sponsored by the HHS Band Parents Association. [www.herndonband.org](http://www.herndonband.org) or [President@herndonband.org](mailto:President@herndonband.org).

### SATURDAY/FEB. 27

**Black History Month: An Evening of Jazz.** 7 p.m. at the Reston Museum & Shop, Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Remembering African American jazz musicians with guests Beverly Cosham & Dingwall Fleary. 703-709-7700 or [www.restonmuseum.org](http://www.restonmuseum.org).



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/THE CONNECTION

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# Ready Or Not, High School Sports Teams Enter Playoffs

Following a week-plus of inactivity due to snowfall, Northern Region squads must immediately turn it on again for the postseason.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

For Fairfax County high school sports teams, last week's snow storm brought seasons to an abrupt halt just as they were preparing to wind down regular season schedules and head into district postseason competition.

The momentum and continuity of the winter athletic seasons evaporated as snow continued to rise in accumulation and intensity. Most student-athletes remained at home over the week-and-a-half period as schools closed and extracurricular activities, including sports practices and contests, were postponed or canceled.

"We played last Thursday [Feb. 4]. Then there was no contact with the kids until Saturday [Feb. 13] when we practiced," said Jim Smith, the Chantilly High boys' basketball coach. "I would send out e-mails [to the team] and things like that."

Since late November, local high school teams throughout Northern Virginia have practiced almost daily and competed in games or meets once or twice a week. Then, all of a sudden, it all came to the weather-related halt. Coaches or players could do little except to stay at home and wait for things to clear up outdoors. Fairfax County schools were closed throughout last week. Monday, Feb. 15 was President's Day so students were not expected to get back into school until the following day.

At Centreville High, members of the indoor track and field team had actually considered the possibility of weather problems later in the season.

"We have discussed all season how unpredictable the weather can be and how flexible we must be with our training [and] how we must be diligent about keeping our fitness levels up," wrote Kelley Devlin, a Centreville track and field assistant coach, in an e-mail. "We can't afford to take multiple day breaks. Our team is very good with using cross training machines — ellipticals, treadmills, bikes — if not in their own home, at a neighbor or friend's close by. Or when the roads are safe, they get to a gym or find some safe streets that are close to clear to run on."

Devlin was pleased with how the Wildcat athletes responded to the school and activities' shutdown.

"They have done a wonderful job sticking together and using indoor track facilities in the area to get track workouts in when possible and the parents have been extremely supportive with transporting them," she said.

Centreville, along with the other track programs in the area, concluded their respective postseason district championship

meets on Thursday, Feb. 11, just before the latest snow fall hit the area in what has been a record-breaking winter of accumulation in this part of the state. The Northern Region track and field championships are scheduled to take place this Saturday, Feb. 20 at the George Mason University field house.

"We are incredibly thankful to have gotten our district meet in," said Devlin, who saw the Wildcat boys' team garner a first place tie with Robinson at districts. "The runners are highly motivated after much success at the district level. They know they have unfinished business at the regional meet, and are prepared to race hard to get to the Virginia State meet."

**BASKETBALL DISTRICT** tournaments are slated to begin this week. In the Concorde District, teams' district records over the first round of the regular season schedule are being used to determine tournament seeding. Any games played over the second half of the regular season district schedule do not count toward postseason seeding. In the case of the Chantilly boys' team (13-6 overall record), that meant recent district wins over Oakton on Feb. 4 and Robinson on Jan. 28 got wiped off the board in regards to tournament seeding.

The top-seed Herndon boys and the No. 2-seed Centreville team both were scheduled to receive first round byes in this week's six-team Concorde tournament. Chantilly, the No. 3 seed, was scheduled to host No. 6 Robinson in a district quarterfinals round game on Wednesday, Feb. 17, while No. 4 Oakton was set to host No. 5 Westfield in the other quarterfinals. Wednesday's winners will advance to Friday's semifinals round and a seeding at next week's 16-team Northern Region tournament. Meanwhile, Wednesday's district quarterfinals round losing teams will see their seasons end.

It might not seem fair that teams that have not played in 11 days all of a sudden have to compete in a do-or-die district playoff game. But that's the way it is for teams in the Concorde and elsewhere. Teams are in the same quandary as a result of the final week-and-a-half of the regular seasons being wiped out.

Smith, the Chantilly coach and the former head coach at McLean High, said it was good to get back onto the practice floor on Saturday. Like other coaches across the region, he hopes his team will be ready to jump into playoff action following the long layoff.

"It's kind of hard to gage the emotional tempo of the team," said Smith. "But I thought we had a great practice [although] the kids got tired quickly and the conditioning was a little bit of a factor."



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Randoll Anane (4) and his Herndon High boys' basketball teammates captured the Concorde District regular season title and earned a first round bye at this week's district tournament. The Hornets will play in a Friday night semifinals game.**

Smith told his players, weather problems or not, just one district champion will be crowned in each of the region's four districts — the Concorde, Liberty, Patriot and National.

"The thing I said to my kids on Saturday [at practice] is that there will be four district champions, and the following week there will be one region champion," said Smith. "The teams that win [championships] will be the teams that navigated best and did not allow [the schedule disruptions due to the snow] to be a distraction. There is nothing we can do about [the past two weeks] or change. Our next step is to get ready for Robinson."

Tim Anderson, the Langley High girls' basketball coach, said the biggest factor going into district tournament play following the less than ideal conclusion to the regular season is to excel in basics.

"The bottom line is to execute on the floor," said Anderson, whose Saxons were set to host cross-town rival McLean in a Liberty District tournament contest Thursday, Feb. 18, at 5:30 p.m. "And, if you don't win, your season's over."

Anderson said his squad, which had its first practice in over a week this past Saturday, was not overly distracted by the unusual end to the regular season.

"Our girls on the varsity team practiced on Saturday and we had a normal practice," he said. "They seem to really roll with things pretty well when they know [the weather is] something they can't control. The thing that is frustrating for them is that they have missed school and classes, and they've missed the practices and games."

The following Liberty District girls' basketball tournament first round games were scheduled for this Thursday night, Feb. 18: No. 8-seed Jefferson at top seed Madison (7 p.m.); No. 5 McLean at No. 4 Langley (5:45 p.m.); No. 6 Fairfax at No. 3 Stone Bridge (5:45 p.m.); and No. 7 Marshall at No. 2 South Lakes (7 p.m.).

The girls' semifinals will take place the following night (Friday) at Madison High School. The first game will start at 5:45 p.m.

The Liberty District boys' first round playoff games will also take place on Thursday and are as follows: No. 8 Madison at top

SEE HONETS, PAGE 11

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## A Mutiny on this Bounty



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Now I don't want to pick on a paper towel any more than I have to, especially when it comes to First Amendment rights, but if they can print it, I can certainly talk about/object to it; Fletcher Christian (Clark Gable) wouldn't have it any other way. I don't know if anybody's noticed, I only have of late, but on some of the paper towel rolls in my last "8-like-getting-12" jumbo pack, there were sayings, expressions, philosophical points of view (albeit with a garden theme for some reason), about how to live that I found somewhat objectionable. Not quite intrusive or offensive, but inappropriate somehow.

Who exactly is a paper towel manufacturer to advise me on how to live my daily life, in or out of the garden? What follows are their exact words: "No two days are the same in one garden." "No two gardens are the same." "You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the dirt." "The flowers of all tomorrows are the seeds of today." "Friends are flowers in a life's garden." As my recently deceased mother might have said, and I quote, "Puke city." Is there a reason why, as a paper towel-buyer, I am being subjected to, proselytized to even, concerning my life (with the garden serving as some kind of metaphor)? I'm not looking for absolute here, I'm looking for absorption, not some observance to some subtle code of conduct. Hubris could not be more clearly evident than when a paper product, a disposable "quicker picker upper," presumes to pontificate in print for its buyers, who are presumably not yet aware. Caveat Emptor has just taken on a whole new meaning, for me. I used to be careful what I wished for; now apparently, I have to be careful about the reasons the manufacturers are selling their products for.

I naively thought that their reasons were product performance, market share, profitability, jobs, retirement, maybe even improving/enhancing their buyers' quality of life vis-à-vis the use of an affordable and effective product. I never thought it was for mind control. Who do they think they are? They're making paper towels (napkins, toilet paper, tissue, etc.); they're not feeding the homeless/changing the world. They're providing goods and services for it, not providing answers to philosophical questions. Have they all of a sudden begun to think of themselves as role models of altruism? Has the pursuit of the almighty buck empowered them to believe they have powers beyond their receipt of dollars and the sense that it accrues? Is there some sort of entitlement which their success has created/spawned? I realize money is paper (linen, actually), but what do they hope to gain (other than more paper/currency) by preaching more than cleanliness?

Oh, I just got it. Since cleanliness is next to Godliness, I suppose the manufacturer figured that they would straddle that blurry line between business and religion (the commercial equivalent of church and state) to win friends and influence lots of people, and hopefully generate profits in the process. "Not a sermon, just a thought."

Whether I'm tilting at windmills here or making much to do about nothing is for readers/buyers to assess. My objection to this paper-towel ploy is really about abuse of power. Just because your product makes it into my home on a regular basis, don't think for a minute that you can influence what we think before or after we actually use it. However, if I have any philosophical questions or concerns in the interim, I'll make sure to call the 800 number listed on your package.

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

## Volunteers Face Challenges in Clearing Snow

Getting students to Fairfax County Public Schools this week was no easy task, just ask the parents at Clearview Elementary School in Herndon.

According to School Board member Jane Strauss (Dranesville), the Clearview community spent much of Feb. 13 and 14 shoveling walking paths so students could get to and from the Herndon school building for classes this week.

Unfortunately, the Virginia Department of Transportation [VDOT] came along and undid much of Clearview's hard work. In an effort to widen the driving paths for cars in the neighborhood, the transportation department's snowplows ended up piling mountains of new snow onto the freshly-cleared sidewalks around Clearview less than 24 hours later.

"At Clearview Elementary, they all got together and made sure their kids could walk to school. And then the snowplows got out and dumped snow on their sidewalks again. Now it is icy and the parents said they can't move the snow," said Strauss.

TALES LIKE THE one at Clearview were cropping up all over Fairfax County as the locality's schools prepared to open on Feb. 16 for the first time after two back-to-back, record-breaking snow storms.

But many of the neighborhood roads — including school bus stops — were still questionable nearly seven days after the second major snow storm started.

Virginia, not Fairfax County's local government, is responsible for clearing snow on most of the local streets.

"You have some parents who blame us for not clearing the snow. We are not responsible when VDOT piles snow up on the local sidewalks," said School board member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill).

LIKE CLEARVIEW, Reston residents had organized over the weekend to help dig their local schools out from under the snow. Gibson said about 50 to 60 people showed up with everything from shovels to industrial snow blowers to assist with clearing sidewalks and bus stop areas.

"This was all done through social networking. They called it the Reston 'big dig,'" said Gibson.

Reston volunteers were dispatched to several local elementary schools where snow had piled up. South Lakes High School principal Bruce Butler also provided residents with maps of local bus stops, so they could ensure safety in those areas.

"We had motorists stopping as they were driving so they could get out their cars and help us," said Gibson.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

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 -William Van Horne

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# Ready for Incheon Patriots?

## George Mason University may open campus in South Korea.

BY VERONICA GARABELLI  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

**C**George Mason University hopes to tap into global educational opportunities by opening a campus in South Korea.

Senate Bill 712, sponsored by Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), would allow Mason to establish a campus in Incheon, South Korea.

Incheon Free Economic Zones approached the university about the possibility of the campus in hopes of turning three parts of the city — Songdo, Cheongna and the island of Yeongjong — into business hubs.

The bill, which is supported by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, would allow students to transfer from the Incheon campus to Mason's Fairfax campus and vice versa.

On Thursday, Feb. 4, the legislation won a unanimous endorsement from the Senate Education and Health Committee. It now goes to the full Senate for consideration.

Mason's Incheon branch intends to focus on global affairs, public administration, conflict resolution and economics. Ideally, Mason would attract 2,000 new students with the location in Korea.

Petersen, whose wife is from South Korea, said students from the Incheon campus would add a lot to the community. It

### Incheon

**Population:** 2.6 million. Incheon is South Korea's third-largest metropolitan area, after Seoul and Busan.

**Location:** On the west coast of the Korean peninsula.

**What it's known for:** Incheon is South Korea's most important transportation hub. It is the South Korea's largest seaport on the west coast and home to the country's largest airport. South Korea's tallest building, the Northeast Asia Trade Tower, is in Incheon.

Sources: <http://english.incheon.go.kr/>; Wikipedia

could help improve the job market and economy, he said.

"A lot of them (international students) move to the United States or even become U.S. citizens," Petersen said. "That has a major impact in getting talented people into Fairfax."

Mason's international efforts have not always been successful. Last year, George Mason closed its Ras Al Khaimah Campus in the United Arab Emirates because of the global economic crisis and other reasons.

But GMU Provost Peter Stearns believes things would be different with the proposed campus in South Korea. If the plan moves forward, he said, the university would have more experience and a better feel for the potential cost.

# Hornets Ready For Postseason

FROM PAGE 11

seed Langley (7:30 p.m.); No. 5 South Lakes at No. 4 Fairfax (7 p.m.); No. 6 McLean at No. 3 Stone Bridge (7:30 p.m.); and No. 7 Jefferson at No. 2 Marshall (7 p.m.).

The Liberty boys' semifinals games will be held on Friday night at South Lakes. The first game will start at 5:45 p.m.

The boys' and girls' district finals will take place next Monday evening, Feb. 22 at South Lakes. The girls' title game will be at 5:45 p.m., followed by the boys' championship.

**WRESTLING**, as a result of the long lay-off, was scheduled to forego its district tournaments and, instead, have an expanded Super Regional's tournament on Tuesday, Feb. 16 and Wednesday, Feb. 17 of this week at Fairfax High School. Then, in a quick turnaround, the state AAA tournament is set to take place this Friday and Saturday at Robinson Secondary School.

This week's region meet was to consist of 32 wrestlers competing at each weight class with the top four advancing to states. The field of 32 wrestlers at each weight class is double the usual number of 16 wrestlers who would compete at regionals in a normal year.

Wrestlers were set to miss school on Tuesday for the first round of region matches. Many of the athletes were planning to re-

port with their teams to Fairfax as early as 6 a.m. And some will be there as late as midnight. Those wrestlers who qualify for states later in the week will miss school on Friday as well.

Mike Gonzales, the Herndon High wrestling coach, said his team members were getting emotionally geared for the postseason districts and regionals before the snow storm buried the end of the regular season and forced cancellation of districts. The coach said his Hornets have done a good job of re-grouping for the revamped postseason.

"There was a lot of momentum going into the postseason," said Gonzales. "Then you get a week off and feel you have to get back in shape again. But they're ready. The kids who are [usually] motivated will still be motivated. The kids I have are motivated and see the opportunity of making it to states."

Other region wrestling tournaments across Virginia took place this past weekend. Those wrestlers will have close to a week to get ready for the state meet. Northern Region wrestlers, on the other hand, still have to compete at regionals and then, for those who qualify, get right back into action again two days later at states.

"This wacky schedule will work as a disadvantage, especially at a high level of wrestling," said Gonzales, of Northern Region wrestlers who qualify for states. "They'll only have one day off."



**Pictured with Paddy Moynahan are Fred Rubin, his Eagle advisor; Frank Smith, representative from the Powhatan District of the NCAC; Ron Crowe, Scoutmaster of Troop 160; and Mike Wolf, Tom Fay and Charlie Mitchell, members of Moynahan's Review Board.**

# Bishop O'Connell Senior Earns Rank of Eagle Scout

**P**addy Moynahan of Herndon, a senior at Bishop Denis J. O'Connell, completed his Board of Review and earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of American on Jan. 11. Moynahan joins more than 100 other scouts in Troop 160 who have earned the rank of Eagle. His Eagle project was a blood drive, which took place on Dec. 5, 2009. Despite cold temperatures and a small accumulation of

snow, more than 76 pints of blood were collected. Many members of the Troop, DJO community and neighborhood offered their time and expertise to assist in running the drive.

Moynahan will be attending college next year hoping to begin his study of film directing and cinematic arts. He also intends to continue his work with scouting as an Assistant Scoutmaster.

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# THIS IS "CORDELL"



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he'd rather have a jogging partner than a hunting partner. Put on your jogging shoes and come meet Cordell today. Attributes: He's more fun than Weight Watchers!



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## NEWS

**All of the Think Pink! performers: Mistaya Smith, Lily Roth, Jacqueline Gillman, Alexandra Ambrose, Ella Fertitta, Joyce Lee, Caitlin Giovanis and Nancy Lee.**



PHOTOS BY  
STEPHANIE KNAPP/  
THE CONNECTION

## Think Pink Skating Show Raises Funds for the Cure

The Children's Charity Ice Theatre presented eight local figure skaters that performed in the Reston Town Center Ice Pavilion on Sunday, Feb. 14. Sponsored by Yogen Frusz, the donations-only event raised money for Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

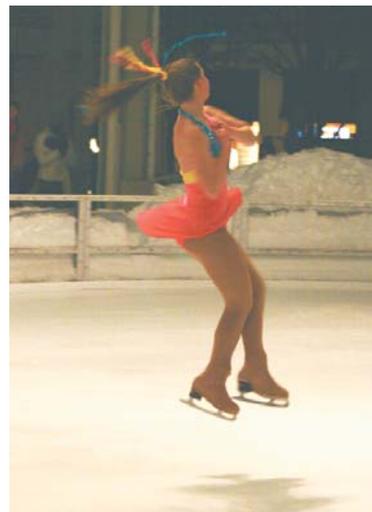
The Children's Charity Ice Theatre was started in 2002 when a young skater needed an expensive treatment. So a group of fellow skaters put on a charity performance, which raised more than \$1,000 in one night. The group

continued to put on performances for donations, raising more than \$4,000, which it has given to different charities.

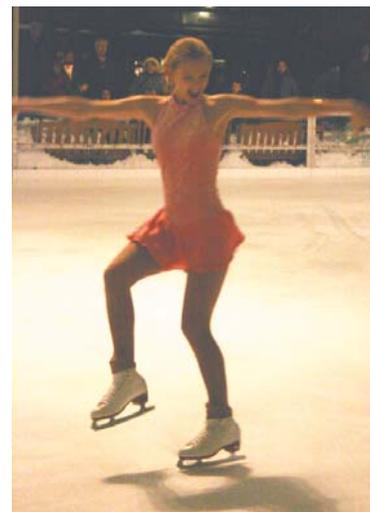
This year's charity is the Susan G. Komen foundation, which is fighting to find a cure for breast cancer.

For more information about the Think Pink! Ice skaters, visit [www.info-komen.org/goto/thinkpinkiceshow](http://www.info-komen.org/goto/thinkpinkiceshow).

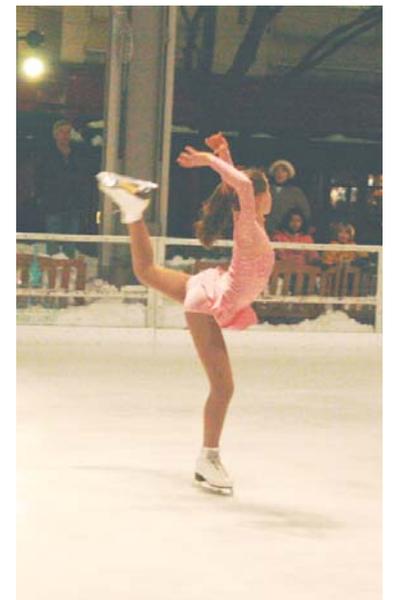
— STEPHANIE KNAPP



**Caitlin Giovanis is a USFS Gold medal winner.**



**Alexandra Ambrose is pictured skating to music from 'The Pink Panther.'**



**Mistaya Smith, skating to music from Disney's 'The Princess and the Frog,' has been skating for five years.**



**Jacqueline Gillman is a Virginia State Champion and a National State Games of America Intermediate Silver medallist.**



**Ella Fertitta has been skating for 10 years.**