

# Herndon's Graceful State Champion

SPORTS, PAGE 8

**Herndon High senior gymnast Maria Hayden captured the state championship in all-around competition at last Saturday's state AAA meet in Manassas. For Hayden, who missed most of last year's season with injuries, it was a wonderful ending to her high school career.**

## Herndon Has Heart For Haiti

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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 7 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 9

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NEWS

Herndon Drama Wins Audiences, Awards

Students at Herndon High School have been working hard, despite the school closings and snow, to entertain their fellow students and their community. On Friday night, Feb. 19, audiences enjoyed two performances of "This House Is Not Kosher," a play written for children by HHS student Zack Gross and directed by HHS student Dimitri Gann, both veterans of the HHS stage. On Saturday, Feb. 20, HHS headed for Lake Braddock Secondary School to compete in the Virginia High School League's Regional Theatre Competition. The HHS entry, "This Property is Condemned" by Tennessee Williams, won second place at the VHSL Concorde District Competition, with a Best Female Actor award for Chelsea Robinson.

Following up one busy weekend with another, HHS offers theater lovers an opportunity to see three plays in one evening, including two of this year's award-winning one acts. Included in the evening

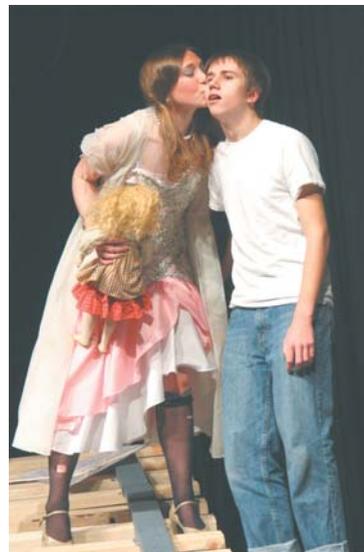


PHOTO BY MELANIE MILLER-CIVILAKIS

**Chelsea Robinson and Chris George in 'This Property is Condemned,' a Depression era story by Tennessee Williams, a Herndon High School's award-winning entry in the VHSL District Theatre Competition.**

is "Nora's Lost" by Alan Haehnel, a touching portrayal of an elderly woman's struggle with dementia

An Evening of One Acts

Friday, Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m.: Herndon High School Presents An Evening of One Acts (including "Nora's Lost" by Alan Haehnel, "Romeo & Juliet/Slashed" by Shakespeare, edited by Zoe Dillard and "This Property is Condemned" by Tennessee Williams. Tickets are \$5. Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. [www.herndonhhs.com](http://www.herndonhhs.com)

as she relives many pivotal events of her life. The HHS cast is outstanding in their handling of this emotional material and includes two Virginia Theatre Association Acting Award Winners, Erika Rodakowki and Chris George, for their performances in this play during the VTA competition last Fall. Also in the line up is "Romeo & Juliet/Slashed" by Shakespeare, edited by Zoe Dillard, the Director of Theatre at HHS. The play has been updated for today's audiences. Finally, audiences will be treated to "This Property is Condemned," a Depression era story, by Tennessee Williams, starring Chelsea Robinson and Chris George, HHS' award-winning entry in the VHSL District Theatre Competition.

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# NEWS

PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION



Town Manager Art Anselene, left, gives the Town Council his report on the budget.

## Council Continues To Scrutinize Budget

Public is asked to provide input through March.

BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

Last year, the Council for the Arts of Herndon requested a 22 percent reduction in the annual grant it receives from the town, recognizing the difficult budget situation. This year, the group's president, Grace Wolf, requested an additional 8 percent decrease. "We recognize that all of us have a part to do and we hope you look favorably on our grant request," Wolf said, to the Town Council at the public hearing on the budget that was part of the night's work session on Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Wolf said her group had managed to continue to offer all of its services through private fund-raising, despite the cuts. "For every dollar you give us, we raise almost \$6," she said.

She was one of only two people who showed up to discuss the budget that night, but members of the public were invited to offer input on the fiscal year 2011 budget at the Town Council's next three public sessions on Feb. 23 and March 9 and 23.

**A DRAFT OF THE BUDGET**, which will take effect at the beginning of July, will be released in April.

Per the council's request, Town Manager Art Anselene presented a list of the town's expenditures for "non-essential services" at the work session. Among the 36 town-sponsored services listed, by far the most costly was Herndon Festival, which Anselene said took in enough money to be budget-neutral only before staff time was taken into account, after which the festival costs more than \$148,500. Crime prevention programs and agency accreditations and certifications for the Police Department are also high-dollar items, costing about \$85,000 and \$82,000, respectively. Of the 21 non-town-sponsored events that the town supports, the most expensive by far is the Friday Night Live concert series, on which the town spends about \$15,000.

Council members made no remarks as to what services they would consider cutting.

Director of Finance Mary Tuohy said estimated revenues from general taxes for the current fiscal year were down by more than \$800,000, to \$10,491,550. "Real estate values dropped by 16 per-

cent in this current budget year," she said. Assuming no changes to tax rates, a drop to \$8,943,890 was projected for the coming fiscal year, which Tuohy said was a little more than taxes produced in 2006, when tax revenues were beginning to spike.

Residential real estate values are expected to decline by only 5 percent in the next fiscal year, but greater losses are expected for the commercial real estate market, Tuohy said. She said some declines could also be expected in most of the town's excise taxes and state allocations.

Anselene said the town might want to consider adjusting some of its fees. "There are a large number of fees that haven't been changed in almost 20 years," he said. His report showed that particularly the town's zoning and planning fees, such as those associated with filing a Comprehensive Plan amendment or making an appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals, were significantly lower than the fees in neighboring jurisdictions.

"Fees that affect the average homeowner should be looked at more carefully," Council member Connie Hutchinson said, adding that fees that apply to developers and haven't been raised in 20 years should be raised.

Under the Parks and Recreation Department's current model of recovering 65 percent of costs, staff is not recommending any fee changes except for pool rentals. However, council member Dennis Husch had asked earlier what changes could be made to make the Herndon Community Center self-sustaining.

**"ALL THINGS BEING** equal, staff wouldn't recommend making changes to our admission fees," said Cindy Roeder, director of Parks and Recreation. She said the community center already recovered about 91 percent of its costs. If that was to be brought up to 100 percent, she said, staff would probably recommend eliminating some non-revenue-generating activities and expanding those that brought in money, for example making the preschool full-day and year-round. Also, she said, the discount for town residents could be reduced or eliminated and special fees could be set on days when the community center wanted to attract users.

"To cut out the town resident discount, I don't think that's going to fly," said Council member Charlie Waddell.

"It's called the community center for a reason," Council member Richard Downer said. "It's not called the profit center."



Melissa Peroutseas and Elizabeth Miller take a break to show the coins collected in the Haiti Coin Drive.

PHOTOS BY BRANDON MENDONCA/THE CONNECTION

## Heart for Haiti

Grade levels compete in fund raising.

In response to the catastrophic earthquake that struck Haiti many area groups are trying to help out in any way that they can, and Herndon High School is no exception. Pai Rosenthal and Melissa Peroutseas started the effort. They are both French language teachers at Herndon and are still hard at work on fund-raising efforts.

The French Department is not alone in this effort. It is joined by the Student Government Association, French Honor Society, the HHS Business department, Amnesty International and the Art Honor Society.

The ongoing fundraiser is a

coin drive competition that pits students of each grade level against those of other grade levels in order to raise the most money for Haiti relief. The competition will end on Feb. 26. On the last day of the coin drive, the administrator for the winning grade level will have to wear the HHS Hornet costume for the entire day. A fund-raising benefit with the theme of "Hope" including music, dancing and a student art raffle will be taking place in the Herndon High School Auditorium on Friday, March 5.

The show will include both faculty and student performances throughout the night. Additional fund-raising efforts include rubber Haiti bracelets, "Herndon has a heart for Haiti" T-shirts, bake sales, local business deals and a raffle.

— BRANDON MENDONCA



Hisham Kamoun poses with the buckets of coins from the Haiti Coin Drive competition.

## Consider the Long-Term Costs

Virginia's budget proposals might balance on paper right now, but future costs will soar.

Virginia, like many states, is slashing the budget in response to record decreases in revenue. Tax collections are far below expected levels because of lost jobs, lost income and consumer restraint.

The cuts, as they translate locally and personally, will range from devastating to gut-wrenching to sad.

Across the country, such budget cutting at the state level will hurt the fledgling recovery, costing hundreds of thousands of jobs. One national economist said that state budget cuts "will be a serious drag on the economy at just the wrong time."

The Federal response to the economic meltdown might well have prevented a global economic catastrophe, but it also fell short by mostly abandoning the consumer and state and local governments.

Gov. Bob McDonnell, while creating a positive image by visiting homeless shelters, food pantries and soup kitchens, has shepherded budget reductions cut disproportionately from people who are most in need. The visits gave the appearance of a man who understood the dire needs of his fellow human beings in times of crisis, but his comments were a preview. He said essentially, he was glad there were faith-based and private organizations caring for the needy, because government can't.

Many of these cuts might appear to help balance the budget right now, but will lead to

higher costs.

Cutting health services to an estimated 28,000 poor children and pregnant women in Virginia will result in more expensive crisis care, more babies born with expensive and in some cases life-long special needs, as one example.

Cuts in funds that allow people with disabilities to get the supports they need to live in the community will force some into nursing homes and other institutions, where the costs will be enormously higher, and the

EDITORIALS

## Using Available School Choices

While we agree with President Obama and Gov. McDonnell in encouraging more charter schools, it's also important to recognize that our schools do offer some significant options for students and families.

In Fairfax County, the public schools' high school career academies will hold open houses for students who are interested in academy courses for the next school year.

Students and their parents are invited to attend to meet academy faculty, tour classrooms, and learn about industry certifications, college credit, internships, apprenticeships, and other opportunities available to students who take academy courses. For more information about each academy's course offerings, visit the

results the opposite of what is desired.

In Northern Virginia, more than 700 people who are on waiting lists to receive services so they can have the supports they need to live in the community now know that help will not be forthcoming this year. On the waiting list, many identified as "urgent," 55 in Arlington, 12 in Alexandria, 587 in Fairfax and Falls Church, 134 in Loudoun. But the cuts go far beyond, probably taking away funding for people who currently are living in the community, and forcing some of them into institutions.

These are just two examples of proposed cuts that will hurt vulnerable people in devastating ways, but also will likely end up costing more in the not-too-distant future.

academy's Web pages or call.

Here are a few examples:

❖ Edison Academy — Engineering and Scientific Technology; Tuesday, March 2, 6 to 7:30 p.m., [www.fcps.edu/EdisonAcademy](http://www.fcps.edu/EdisonAcademy), 703-924-1800

❖ Fairfax Academy — Communications and the Arts, Thursday, March 4, 7:30 to 9 p.m., [www.fcps.edu/FairfaxAcademy](http://www.fcps.edu/FairfaxAcademy), 703-219-2226

❖ Falls Church Academy — Health and Human Services, individual visits are welcome, [www.fcps.edu/FallsChurchHS/academy/index.html](http://www.fcps.edu/FallsChurchHS/academy/index.html), 703-207-4011

❖ West Potomac Academy — Communications and the Arts, Health and Human Services, individual visits are welcome, [www.fcps.edu/WestPotomacAcademy](http://www.fcps.edu/WestPotomacAcademy), 703-718-2500

of public comments in account.

Because of the bad economy, Virginia is having trouble balancing the state budget and so is cutting important services statewide. We shouldn't waste valuable funds filing an outlandish lawsuit.

**Deborah Chassman**  
McLean

## Prosperity as Priority

To the Editor:

I was moved when I read an op-ed by Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. But not for the reasons you might think. A County Office to End Homelessness? A Housing Blueprint? Our county is not a charity with a priority to "end homelessness." We do, and should, help the helpless, but the never-ending battle of ending homelessness as we know it is a job better taken by churches, non profits (both to which we contribute voluntarily), and big

company's charity work and not paid with taxes. We can't take this on now with an historic budget shortfall in our hands. Mrs. Bulova, you are in the wrong line of work if you think your pet project should be Fairfax County's priority. Make prosperity your priority and progress in other areas will follow. People are more generous when they have jobs and money in their pockets.

How about spending time creating blueprints and offices addressing issues that affect us all like jobs and crime and safety in lean times and frozen budgets? Please don't spend our money so freely, especially now that we are billions in the red. Enough with public housing.

We should call on every elected politician in Virginia to work on getting us out of this deficit by balancing the budget and making tough choices. Not finding more projects to spend money on.

**Marianella Garcia**  
Grat Falls

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## EPA Works for Greater Good

To the Editor:

It is for the Commonwealth of Virginia's greater good to let EPA do its job. Please count the cost in the quality of life and health before you decide to enter any lawsuit against the EPA preventing them from protecting our majestic hills, our air and our water. Do you really want us to have the environmental problems China currently has? You may think you are acting to promote economic growth by following the interests

of oil and coal, but in the end, would their fatter pockets help us when we go wheezing with increased health care costs to our graves?

**Edia Stanford-Bruce**  
Reston

## Supporting EPA

To the Editor:

I hate to see Virginia aligned with two of the most environmentally backward states, Alabama and Texas, in filing lawsuits that threaten to block the EPA's endangerment finding, and therefore attempting to block the EPA's authority to take action on climate change.

Most other states are already taking action in accordance with the EPA's ruling. The Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to reduce global warming pollution represents years of careful and considered analysis by career scientists and takes tens of thousands

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**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Justin Fanizzi**  
Editorial Assistant  
703-224-3032  
[jfanizzi@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jfanizzi@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Mike DiCicco**  
Community Reporter  
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Publisher/Chief Operating Officer  
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## COUNTY LINE

### McDonnell Gives Fairfax Schools Its 'Fair Share'

Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) offered Fairfax County a bit of positive news Feb. 8 during what has otherwise been an extremely difficult and gloomy season of government spending and budget discussions.

McDonnell announced he would reverse former Gov. Tim Kaine's decision to "freeze" the state education funding formula so that the commonwealth's financial assistance was allotted to school districts in the same proportions as last year.

By "freezing" the formula, Kaine preserved money for downstate school districts but cost Fairfax County \$61 million in funding at a time when Fairfax schools are considering raising class size for the third year in a row to save money.

The formula, called the local composite index, has been used for 40 years to distribute limited state education dollars. The local composite index tends to favor school districts with lower property values and lower median incomes, giving them more state funding for primary and secondary education.

The formula assumes localities like Fairfax — with high property values and more affluent residents — can support their own schools.

But with a steep fall in home values, Fairfax stood to benefit dramatically from the local composite index for the first time in several years.

The Fairfax County delegation to the General Assembly made it their top priority to "unfreeze" the formula while the legislature was in session this winter. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has also been watching the issue closely.

McDonnell said he supports unfreezing the formula because "it is the right and fair thing to do."

Given the tough economic circumstances, the General Assembly is likely to decrease overall spending on primary and secondary education, meaning that Fairfax County may not get the full \$61 million it thought it would receive.

But with the formula "unfrozen," Fairfax is sure to receive a larger share of the education dollars than it would have under Kaine's proposal, said several local elected officials.

"This is great news for Northern Virginia," said Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

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1242 RESTON AVE	5	4	2	HERNDON	.....	\$925,000	Detached	0.61	.....	RESTON
2775 MIDDLETON FARM CT	4	4	1	OAK HILL	.....	\$765,000	Detached	0.21	.....	MIDDLETON FARM
12786 OAK FARMS DR	4	4	1	HERNDON	.....	\$696,000	Detached	0.35	.....	OAK FARMS
409 MADISON MANOR CT	4	3	1	HERNDON	.....	\$690,129	Detached	0.28	.....	MADISON MANOR
1364 DOMINION RIDGE LN	5	4	0	HERNDON	.....	\$639,000	Detached	0.24	.....	DOMINION RIDGE
2444 BIRCH COVE RD	4	3	1	HERNDON	.....	\$615,000	Detached	0.08	.....	GREAT OAK
3110 PINE OAKS WAY	4	3	1	HERNDON	.....	\$612,500	Detached	1.86	.....	PINE OAKS
404 MADISON MANOR CT	4	4	1	HERNDON	.....	\$609,990	Detached	0.23	.....	MADISON MANOR
2954 FORT LEE ST	5	2	1	HERNDON	.....	\$550,000	Detached	0.54	.....	FOLKSTONE
13040 GREG ROY LN	4	3	1	HERNDON	.....	\$501,000	Townhouse	0.07	.....	GREAT OAK
12214 WESTWOOD HILLS DR	3	2	1	OAK HILL	.....	\$495,000	Detached	0.62	.....	FOLKSTONE
13009 NEW PARKLAND DR	4	2	1	HERNDON	.....	\$480,000	Detached	0.24	.....	MONTEREY
2624 TARLETON CORNER DR	3	2	2	HERNDON	.....	\$480,000	Townhouse	0.04	.....	MCNAIR FARMS LANDBAY
13433 MUIRKIRK LN	4	3	0	OAK HILL	.....	\$440,000	Detached	0.22	.....	CHANTILLY HIGHLANDS
2990 FOX MILL RD	4	2	0	HERNDON	.....	\$435,000	Detached	0.93	.....	FOX MILL ACRES
901 BROAD OAKS DR	5	4	1	HERNDON	.....	\$421,000	Detached	0.47	.....	BROAD OAKS
13713 MAPLE SUGAR LN	3	3	1	HERNDON	.....	\$410,000	Townhouse	0.04	.....	COPPERMINE CROSSING LAND
12021 TROSSACK RD	3	2	0	HERNDON	.....	\$385,000	Detached	0.26	.....	STUART RIDGE
12631 MAGNA CARTA RD	4	2	1	HERNDON	.....	\$385,000	Detached	0.24	.....	FOX MILL ESTATES
519 WORCHESTER ST	5	3	0	HERNDON	.....	\$383,000	Detached	0.15	.....	HUNTERS CREEK
2441 WHEAT MEADOW CIR	3	2	2	HERNDON	.....	\$380,000	Townhouse	0.04	.....	MCNAIR FARMS LAND BAY 2
2414 HAY RAKE CT	3	2	2	HERNDON	.....	\$375,000	Townhouse	0.05	.....	MCNAIR FARMS LANDBAY 11
2514 BRONZE STONE PLACE	3	2	2	HERNDON	.....	\$368,000	Townhouse	0.05	.....	COPPERMINE CROSSING
1005 PAGE CT	3	2	1	HERNDON	.....	\$360,000	Detached	0.20	.....	BENICIA ESTATES
13526 TRANQUILITY CT	3	2	1	OAK HILL	.....	\$350,000	Detached	0.13	.....	FRANKLIN FARM
13401 ELEVATION LN	3	3	1	HERNDON	.....	\$340,000	Townhouse	0.05	.....	FRANKLIN FARM
2450 CLOVER FIELD CIR	3	2	2	HERNDON	.....	\$330,000	Townhouse	0.05	.....	MC NAIR FARMS LANDBAY 11
3309 KINFOLK CT	3	2	1	HERNDON	.....	\$325,500	Townhouse	0.05	.....	FRANKLIN FARM
13500 TURQUOISE LN	3	2	1	HERNDON	.....	\$310,000	Townhouse	0.04	.....	ROCK HILL
2015 CAPSTONE CIR	4	3	1	HERNDON	.....	\$307,000	Townhouse	0.04	.....	ROCK HILL
907 STERLING CT	4	2	1	HERNDON	.....	\$301,000	Detached	0.37	.....	MOSBY HEIGHTS
3225 TAYLOE CT	3	2	2	HERNDON	.....	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.06	.....	FRANKLIN FARM
13654 VENTURI LN #211	3	2	1	HERNDON	.....	\$299,000	Townhouse	.....	.....	COPPERMINE CROSSING
2565 LOGAN WOOD DR	2	2	1	HERNDON	.....	\$290,000	Townhouse	0.03	.....	MCNAIR FARMS
13123 MARCEY CREEK RD	3	2	0	HERNDON	.....	\$255,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	FOX MILL STATION
1413 BLUEMONT CT	4	3	1	HERNDON	.....	\$250,000	Townhouse	0.05	.....	BLUEMONT
1242 BOND ST	3	3	1	HERNDON	.....	\$250,000	Townhouse	0.04	.....	BLUEMONT
13082 MARCEY CREEK RD	2	2	0	HERNDON	.....	\$249,500	Townhouse	0.00	.....	FOX MILL STATION
406 PICKETT LN	5	1	1	HERNDON	.....	\$240,000	Detached	0.26	.....	CHANDON
1046 TREVINO LN	4	3	1	HERNDON	.....	\$240,000	Townhouse	0.04	.....	POTOMAC FAIRWAYS
720 BIRCH CT	3	3	1	HERNDON	.....	\$240,000	Townhouse	0.06	.....	COURTS OF CHANDON
13170 MARCEY CREEK RD	3	2	0	HERNDON	.....	\$240,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	.....	FOX MILL STATION
1319 DULLES PL	4	3	0	HERNDON	.....	\$239,900	Detached	0.21	.....	DULLES PARK
656 STUART CT	4	2	1	HERNDON	.....	\$231,500	Detached	0.25	.....	CHANDON WOODS

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## FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to [herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday.

**Congregation Beth Emeth's Annual Purim Carnival** will be 12-2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 28 at 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon. Special start time for preschoolers only at 11:30 a.m. Carnival games, food and raffle prizes. Fun for the whole family; non-members are welcome. [www.bethemeth.org/carnival](http://www.bethemeth.org/carnival) or 703-860-4515, ext. 101.

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

Nondenominational **Christian businessmen** meet for prayer, Biblical discussion and fellowship **every Friday**, at 7 a.m., at Anita's, 1051 Elden St., Herndon and **every Thursday** at noon at 555 Grove St., Suite 200, Herndon. Call 703-795-1257.

**Adult Sunday school** will be held **every Sunday**, at 9:30 a.m., at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow every Sunday at 11 a.m.

# CALENDAR

Send announcements to [herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@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. 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).

**Chez Nous Reston Salon** presents From Classical to Romantic A Violin and Piano Trio. Music by Franck, Mozart and Wieniawski, with commentary. Mark Dorosheff and Monica Chamasyan, Violin, Marina Chamasyan, Piano. 7-10 p.m. Location: Sunset Hills Montessori School, 11180 Ridge Heights Road in Reston. Reserve your tickets: \$30 advance (full buffet), \$40 at the door. Email: [cheznousreston@gmail.com](mailto:cheznousreston@gmail.com) or call 571-235-3556.

**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).

**Herndon High School: An Evening of One Acts.** 7:30 p.m. in the Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. 'Nora's Lost,' 'Romeo & Juliet/Slashed' and 'This Property is Condemned.' Tickets \$5. [www.herndonrama.org](http://www.herndonrama.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).

**'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).

**Natalie MacMaster and Donnell**



**Beth Patterson will perform Celtic-Cajun traditional and original songs on Sunday, Feb. 28. at 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls.**

**Leahy: Masters of the Fiddle.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$22-\$44. Youth through grade 12, half price. Charge at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Civil War Author Book Mart.** 12-4 p.m. at The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Local and regional Civil War authors and film directors will discuss, sell, and sign their fiction and non-fiction books and film productions. Sales include a 20% donation to the preservation of Historic Blenheim. Cash or checks only. Light refreshments served. 703-591-0560.

**Scott Berg Book Signing.** 2 p.m. at Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Author of 'Pierre Charles L'Enfant, Grand Avenues: The Story of the French Visionary Who Designed Washington, D.C.' 703-709-7700 or [www.restonmuseum.org](http://www.restonmuseum.org).

**An Evening with Fred and Ginger.** 7:30 p.m. at Café Montmartre, 1625 Washington Plaza North, Lake Anne, Reston. Live vocals and dancing. Music from the 1930s to the 1980s. No cover charge. 703-904-8080.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 28

**The Virginia Opera presents Mozart's Don Giovanni.** 2 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).

**Master Singers of Virginia.** 7 p.m. at Church of the Epiphany, 3301 Hidden Meadow Drive, Herndon. Preceded by a lecture at 6:15 p.m. and followed by a reception. Directed by Dr. Erik Jones. Tickets available online at \$15 adults, \$12 students

and seniors or \$2 more at the door. [www.msva.org](http://www.msva.org) or 703-655-7809.

**Beth Patterson.** 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Celtic, Cajun, original and folk music. 703-759-3309.

## MONDAY/MARCH 1

**British alternative rock band Muse with Silversun Pickups.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$55, available online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or via Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities by calling 703-993-3035. [www.muse.mu](http://www.muse.mu) or [www.patriotcenter.com](http://www.patriotcenter.com).

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 3

**Extreme Science: Understanding our Earth.** 7 p.m. at the U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. USGS Director Marcia McNutt on how USGS scientists employ innovative techniques and perspectives to develop a more complete understanding of how the Earth works. Federal Facility, photo Id required. [www.usgs.gov/public\\_lecture\\_series/](http://www.usgs.gov/public_lecture_series/)

## THURSDAY/MARCH 4

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



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# All the Hard Work Pays Off for Gymnast Hayden

Herndon senior caps high school career with state championship.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**M**aria Hayden, Herndon High's star gymnast, could not have come back in much stronger fashion than she did for her senior season.

A year ago, Hayden missed most of the high school winter gymnastics' season as a result of injuries. But she worked hard in order to be able to compete this winter for the Hornets. And last Saturday, she put together the finishing touches on an outstanding season and high school career by capturing first place in all-around at the Virginia State AAA individual gymnastics meet. The postseason event took place at Osbourn Park High School in Manassas.

"It's extremely impressive because you're dealing with the top 40 gymnasts in the state," said Keith Naquin, the Herndon High coach. "To be No. 1 is exemplary."

At states, Hayden finished with a winning score of 39 points, a career-best mark. She finished first



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Maria Hayden has still had to deal with nagging injuries this season, but she has battled through them well enough to earn district, region and state championships this winter.**

in both uneven bars and floor exercise. She is the first state champion from the Northern Region in eight years. Earlier last week, Hayden had captured the all-around title at the Northern Region championships.

"It was so gratifying [to win the state title], especially after not being able to compete last year," said Hayden, an all-district and all-region gymnast in both her fresh-

men and sophomore years at Herndon. "It's nice to finish your season with a bang."

"With Maria, she's always pretty consistent [as a gymnast]," said Naquin. "She's so technical and has great timing in all of the events she has worked on over the years. She's confident competing with all the training she has had."

Hayden, a club team member of Gymini Gymnastics in Herndon,

entered her final high school season wanting to enjoy herself and to help the Hornets have a successful season. Winning a state title was not her main priority.

"In the back of my mind I wanted to win, but I didn't want to get my hopes up too much because I knew the competition was real stiff and all the [competitors] were really good," she said. "I just wanted to have a fun season."

**LAST WEEKEND'S** state competition was a great experience for Hayden, and not just because she won. She said she enjoyed seeing several of her friends — acquaintances from Chantilly High as well as Loudoun County schools such as Broad Run, Potomac Falls and Dominion — who were also competing at the meet.

"My friends from all those schools were also there and competing," she said.

It was quite a contrast from a year ago when she watched but was not able to compete at states.

"Last year, I just observed states and remember saying, 'Oh my gosh, there are so many good athletes here,'" said Hayden.

Naquin said sitting out last year was probably best for Hayden, who was able to work her way back to decent health and, perhaps, gain an even better appreciation of the sport.

"It made her hungrier," said the coach. "She totally loves to compete. She has never been completely healthy [this season] but she has learned to overcome nagging injuries. She's very appreciative of her [improved] health and [winning at states] is icing on the cake."

Hayden said she would like to compete on a club team in college next school year. She was recently accepted at Penn State and is waiting to hear from James Madison University, her likely school of choice.

## Oakton Boys Win State Swim Championships

Langley boys earn second place honors at states.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Oakton High boys' swim and dive team captured its first-ever state AAA title last weekend. The postseason meet took place at the Princess Anne Recreation Center in Virginia Beach. The Cougars scored 202 team points to finish ahead of fellow Northern Region schools Langley (173), Fairfax (163) and Robinson (152), who were sec-

ond through fourth, respectively, in the team standings. Robinson entered states as the seven-time defending champion. But the Rams were finally dethroned as the Oakton boys prevailed.

Oakton seniors K.J. Park and Bradley Phillips had huge meets for the Cougars. Phillips won the 200-freestyle race with a new state record time, and also captured the 400-free event with a new national record time. Park, meanwhile, earned a new state record in winning the 200-individual medley event. He also won the 100-breaststroke event.

It was the Oakton boys' first-ever state crown and coach Hunter Owen could not have been more thrilled. Earlier in the postseason, the Cougar boys captured Concorde District and Northern Region titles as well.

"I think these boys were very focused," said Owen, of his team. "They had goals in mind since the get-go of the season. They wanted to go from district, to region to state champions. It was a phenomenal season for these guys. Everybody was ecstatic [at winning the state title]. Everyone contributed. I'm still horse from the weekend."

Owen credited his senior tri-captains — Phillips, Park and Mike Shevat — with leading the boys all season long.

"They're my leaders and they are great role models with great presence," said the coach, of the trio. "They don't need to speak much. What they do in the pool speaks for itself."

The Oakton girls' team, meanwhile, finished a strong fourth place overall at states. Kaitlin Pawlowicz won both the 200-IM

and 100-butterfly events to lead the Cougars. Her 200-IM win came in a national record time.

**A WEEK EARLIER** at the boys' Northern Region championships, held at Oak Marr Recreation Center, Oakton captured the team title with 244 points, ahead of second place Fairfax (215), third place Langley (198) and fourth place Robinson (193). Other top team finishers at the 25-team meet were sixth place Madison, seventh place Westfield, ninth place Herndon, 11th place South Lakes and 14th place Chantilly.

Oakton's Bailey captured first place in both the 200 and 500-free races.

Also for the Cougars, freshman Phil Hu won the 100-backstroke. Other Oakton place finishers were: Park (second in both the 200-IM,

100-breaststroke events); Hu (fourth in 100-fly); and sophomore Chris Megaw (seventh in 100-free).

The Cougars' 400-free relay team of Hu, Park, Megaw and Phillips captured first. The Oakton foursome of Hu, Park, senior Zach Smith and junior Steven Robbins finished second in the 200-medley relay.

Madison High senior Adam Pennington finished second in the 500-free and was fifth in the 200-free. Also for the Warhawks, junior David Fallavollita took fourth in the 50-free, freshman Evan Owens was sixth in 100-free and, in diving, junior Ryan Fox took fifth.

Marshall sophomore Cyrus Hashemi finished sixth in the 500-free.



Father (Chris Hrozencik) comforts his daughter (Tabi Schaffner).

## Herndon High Presents 'This House is Not Kosher'

Not just once, but twice last weekend Herndon High School put on its fun, silly comedy "This House is Not Kosher." The storyline was about a man whose house is just too loud to take. Between the chicken, the crazy children and the dog named Bear, the man is driven crazy. When he takes advice from the crazy hardware store owner, the situation gets more interesting.

Preparing for this performance was particularly difficult considering the amount of snow poured on the area. But the students involved in this show stepped up and made sure they were ready. Director Dimitri Gann said, "The crew has been great, and their dedication to their craft is what got this show off the ground."

— STEPHANIE KNAPP



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/THE CONNECTION

The dog named Bear, Margarett Schaff, is not good at listening to the head of the house (Chris Hrozencik).

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# I've Been Wondering...



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Perhaps some of you regular readers have noticed of late, but recently – for the first time in six months or so of commentating – I have strayed occasionally from my cancer-related norm. And I suppose that's a good thing, a sign or an indication that no longer am I consumed, mentally, by the condition in which I find myself so heavily involved. Apparently, I have assimilated having cancer into my routine. Not so much coordinating my weekly labs, my every three-week chemotherapy infusion, every three-week appointment with my oncologist and miscellaneous other scans, procedures and evaluations into my daily/weekly/monthly/quarterly schedule, all of which becomes (or has become for me) second nature, despite their primary – and ongoing – importance; but more so into the activities of my daily living: reading, writing and 'rithmetic, etc.

Life goes on, believe it or not, even after receiving devastating news. And though I might not have imagined normalizing it (the diagnosis) as I have (especially after that first weekend at home after meeting with the oncologist the previous Thursday), but I have, and the evidence has been in my writing, specifically the non-cancer subject matter (that once again matters). Though the material is still as I see fit to write it, I seem to be a bit more fit than I have been and the proof is in the prose.

Don't get me wrong, the column is still about me, as it always has been. But it's less about the struggles of dealing with a cancer diagnosis, subsequent – and continuing – treatment, plus all the related effects not unique to me, as it has been since June. Obviously, I'm still very caught up and consumed by my health situation/status (and will continue to be), but subconsciously my brain has rewired itself a little bit and compartmentalized/segregated some (definitely not all) of the cancer thoughts thereby enabling me to mentally meander once again and literally lose my my mind in some more ordinary and mundane minutiae, the kind of which has characterized my column for the past 12 years.

And as I find myself writing about nonsense once again, I'm feeling empowered, sort of, by its appearance; I'm me again. I'm not Kenny-with-cancer; I'm just, Kenny, who happens to have cancer, who writes about it regularly but not exclusively. And deviating from this most recent 'ab-norm' of late has re-routed me. No longer am I on the cancer train. No longer am I on the road to God-help-me. I'm simply back on the same road as everybody else, back dealing with and managing the same myriad problems as everybody else (with one major exception, of course). But the cancer thing doesn't define me anymore (yeah, right?). Oh sure, it precedes me, it categorizes me, it may even be me, but no more does it control me.

My brain (and my body) has persevered through it all now: the initial testing, the shock of the diagnosis, the chemotherapy which followed, the regular medical activities/appointments/scans which continue and the lifestyle changes, have all been integrated into my/our routine. Onward we go. I feel like I'm myself again and since I've always liked myself, I'm happy to be back (heck, as a cancer patient, I'm happy to be anywhere). I'm not cured of anything, though; I'm just more comfortable (subject to change, of course).

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

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.  
 -Werner Heisenberg

**21 Announcements**

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
 3015 Dower House Drive, Herndon, Virginia 20171  
 Fairfax County

In execution of a Deed of Trust dated September 29, 2006, in the original principal amount of \$479,000.00, recorded as Deed Book 18817 at Page 0551, and re-recorded in Deed Book 19139 at Page 235, in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned Trustee will on Friday, March 5, 2010 at 9:00 a.m., by the front main entrance to the Fairfax County Courthouse, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder the following property with improvements thereon commonly known as 3015 Dower House Drive, Herndon, Virginia 20171 and more particularly described as follows:

**21 Announcements**

Lot Three Hundred Two (302), Section Three (3), Franklin Farm, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 5532 at Page 1099 among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Tax Map No. 035-2-08-0302

This sale is subject to the restrictions, rights of way, conditions, easements, and mechanic's liens, if any, whether of record or not of record, to the extent any of the foregoing apply and take priority over the lien of the Deed of Trust.

Deposit of \$15,000.00, or 10% of the sales price, whichever is lower, by cashier's or certified check, shall be required to qualify as a bidder prior to the sale, except for the Noteholder.

The deposit, without interest, is applied to the purchase price at settlement. Settlement will be held on or before fifteen (15) days after sale. Upon purchaser's default, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser.

The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by certified or cashier's check, or wire transfer. Settlement shall be at the offices of the undersigned Trustee, or other mutually agreed upon location. The property and any improvements thereon shall be sold in "as is" condition without any warranties. The successful bidder shall assume all loss or damage to the property from and after the time of the sale. Purchaser shall be responsible for all costs of the conveyance, which shall be by special warranty including, but not limited to, the preparation of the deed and the grantor's tax. Real estate taxes shall be adjusted as of the sale date. The sale is subject to such additional terms as the Trustee may announce at the time of sale. The purchaser will be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale incorporating all the terms of the sale.

George J. Shapiro, Trustee

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
 George J. Shapiro, Trustee  
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**Kyndall Ashe**, the daughter of Mason and Gena Ashe of Reston, and an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at The Nysmith School in Herndon, was recently selected to join student leaders from around the country at the Congressional Youth Leadership Conference in Chevy Chase, Md. Students are selected for this program based upon demonstrated leadership potential and history of academic achievement. Ashe's activities include: National Junior Honor Society, Student Advisor to the Nysmith Student Council, The Nysmith Band, Levine School



**Kyndall Ashe**

of Music, The Fairfax Choral Society, Musical Theater, Girl Scouts, The Reston Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Basketball (Chantilly Youth Association), Volleyball (NW Virginia Youth Association), Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth and Latin Club.

Planning has begun for the **Herndon High School Class of 2010 All Night Grad Party**, a drug and alcohol free celebration. It costs \$40 to sponsor a student to attend the party. The goal is 100% Senior Class attendance. To become a sponsor, contact [www.herndonang.org/](http://www.herndonang.org/) or [HerndonDAFA@gmail.com](mailto:HerndonDAFA@gmail.com). 703-450-4372.

**Miranda Smith** of Herndon has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Roger Williams University of Bristol, R.I.

One often reads about the art of conversation—how it's dying or what's needed to make it flourish, or how rare good ones are. But wouldn't you agree that the infinitely more valuable rara avis is a good listener? —Malcolm Forbes

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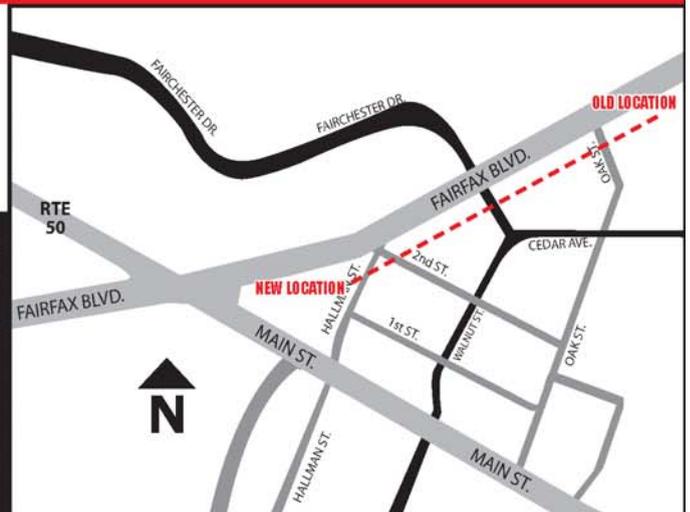
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