

Making Their Pitch

SPORTS, PAGE 12

The Herndon High baseball squad has emerged into one of the Northern Region's better teams this spring. While the Hornets struggled last week in their bid to take over sole possession of first place in the Concorde District - as a result of losses to Centreville and Westfield - they were still 10-5 going into this week and determined to make their mark during the upcoming postseason. Look for Alex Clark (pictured) and teammates to give it their best shot.

ICE Aside, New Council Shares Most Priorities

NEWS, PAGE 3

Herndon Couple Honored for Foster Parenting

NEWS, PAGE 3

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WEEK IN HERNDON

NVTC To Honor Ted Leonsis

The Northern Virginia Technology Council (NUTC) announced Ted Leonsis is the recipient of the 2010 Michael G. Devine Hall of Fame Award. Now in its 14th year, the Hall of Fame award is presented to a leader who has made a significant contribution to the Greater Washington region's technology business community. The award will be officially presented

to Leonsis at the Greater Washington Technology CFO Awards June 9 at The Ritz-Carlton in McLean.

During Leonsis' 14-year career with AOL, including as vice chairman and also as president of several AOL business units, the company enjoyed its greatest periods of growth and financial success. He now serves as AOL's vice chairman emeritus. Leonsis is also chairman of Revolution Money, a Web 2.0 payment platform and credit-card service, and Clearspring Technologies, a fast-

growing widget syndication and social media company based in Tysons Corner.

Leonsis is chairman and majority owner of the Washington Capitals and Washington Mystics, through Lincoln Holdings LLC, which he founded. In a deal announced in April, Leonsis and Lincoln Holdings will soon take over full ownership of the Washington Wizards and Verizon Center.

To learn more or to register for the Greater Washington Technology CFO Awards Banquet, visit

<http://www.nvta.org/events/geteventinfo.php?event=CFOAWD7>.

Libertarians Nominate Mosley for Congress

Matthew Mosley of Oak Hill has received the nomination of the Libertarian Party of Virginia to be its candidate in the election for the U.S. House of Representatives in

Virginia's Eighth Congressional District on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

“As an entrepreneur and small business owner, I believe that anyone who is willing to work hard can shape their own future,” said Mosley. “Unfortunately, millions of hard-working Americans are struggling or unemployed today due to government policies that favor special interests and wealthy corporate executives over the average working family. I am run

SEE WEEK IN HERNDON, PAGE 5

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Music Schedule

May

- 7 2U + 8 ohms Band
- 14 Laura Lea + Tripp Fabulous
- 21 Fools & Horses + Rise & Fall
- 28 Crowded Streets + Mojo Nation

June

- 4 No Friday Night Live! (Herndon Festival)
- 11 Drop Dead Sexy
- 18 Dr. FU + Backseat Bottles
- 25 Kristen & the Noise

July

- 2 Hyjinx + The Shields Brothers
- 9 JunkFood + The Cheaters
- 16 Love Seed Mama Jump
- 23 The Reagan Years
- 30 Burnt Sienna

August

- 6 Gonzo's Nose
- 13 B2B (Jimmy Buffett Beach Band)
- 20 The Benjamins
- 27 Lost in Paris

HERNDON CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Town of Herndon
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The Observer Newspapers

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The Breeze of Herndon Restaurant & Sports Bar

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ICE Aside, New Council Shares Most Priorities

Herndon's first female-dominated council wants economic development, planning for Metro and downtown.

By Mike DiCicco

THE CONNECTION

Newly elected Herndon Town Council member Jasbinder Singh offered this assessment of last week's election results: "People want to move forward, I think, other than be stuck in the immigration issues only."

"It's almost like [immigration] has been the only focus our town has had for the past four years," agreed Sheila Olem, another of the newly elected council members. "I think voters did send a message that they want to get back to town business."

However, the incumbents, who had worked to put in place an agreement between the town's police force and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), disagreed. "I don't think we focused on immigration," Mayor Steve DeBenedittis said, noting that the council spent a relatively small amount of time on the subject while dealing with numerous other issues. "I think some of the folks in town that complained about it seemed to focus on it more than we did."

"I'm not going to presume any kind of mandate. I'm not going to presume any kind of voter shift," said incumbent Bill Tirrell. He said the program, commonly known as 287(g) for the section of the Immigration and Nationality Act that authorizes it, was a way to keep the town's neighborhoods safe. "That, to me, is what you look to your leadership for."

WITH TWO council members stepping down and two more getting voted out last Tuesday, the six-person Town Council that will be sworn in at the end of June is dominated by newcomers, and the sharpest difference between the newly elected members and the incumbents is that all of the newcomers have expressed some openness to reexamining the 287(g) program, which was a driving force in the town's last two elections.

At the same time, though, Mayor Steve DeBenedittis easily survived a last-minute write-in campaign against him, and longtime council member Connie Hutchinson earned the second-most votes of any candidate for the council. And



Mayor Steve DeBenedittis



Connie Hutchinson



Lisa Merkel



Sheila Olem



Jasbinder Singh



Bill Tirrell



Grace Wolf

Final Vote Counts

MAYOR

Steve DeBenedittis: 1,520
Gary Gepford (write-in): 560

TOWN COUNCIL

Lisa Merkel: 1,323
Connie Hutchinson: 1,245
Sheila Olem: 1,228
Jasbinder Singh: 1,167
Grace Wolf: 1,146
Bill Tirrell: 1,140
David Kirby: 1,134
Charlie Waddell: 1,126
Cesar del Aguila: 1,092
Daniel Alvarado: 1,052
Carl Sivertsen: 784
Phillip Jones: 698

VOTER TURNOUT: 23 PERCENT

newcomer Lisa Merkel, the only council candidate to garner more votes than Hutchinson, said she had supported the agreement with ICE when the town entered into it and did not necessarily think it should be done away with. She said she wanted to learn how much the program was costing the town in terms of staff time and what benefits it

SEE IMMIGRATION, PAGE 10



Norma Gordon and Daniel Fleig of Herndon have been honored as Foster Parents of the Year.

Herndon Couple Honored

Norma Gordon and Daniel Fleig named Foster Parents of the Year.

The Freddie Mac Foundation and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) have launched an advertising campaign to attract new foster families. The ads feature the region's Foster Parents of the Year as spokespersons, such as Fairfax County Foster Parents of the Year, Norma Gordon and Daniel Fleig.

The new effort is designed to find foster families for many of the area's teens and children who need care. Social workers report that because of the economic downturn, some families are too overwhelmed by stress, illness and a lack of income to adequately care for their children. As a result, the Freddie Mac Foundation is sponsoring a series of 30-second radio and television ads that will be broadcast over the next two weeks.

"Throughout our region, more than 4,500 children are in need of foster care, but we have fewer than half that number of foster parents who have opened their hearts and homes to care for them," said Margaret Meiers, vice president of the Freddie Mac Foundation at an April 29 ceremony honoring the

Foster Parents of the Year.

At the ceremony, the Freddie Mac Foundation and COG honored foster parents of the year from nine jurisdictions in metropolitan Washington, D.C.

Gordon has been a foster parent for 10 years. When she and Fleig, residents of Herndon, married in 2005, he too, became a foster parent. Gordon demonstrated her extraordinary gifts when she fostered and then adopted her son. Because she had been so supportive of the birth mother, the birth mother voluntarily terminated her parental rights. Gordon keeps the birth mother's picture in her home and continues to check on her well-being.

Gordon and Fleig serve as ambassadors and new foster parent trainers. They often tell recruits to remember that most people have busy lives. They stress that "if we can do it, anyone can. Sometimes you just have to step out and share your gifts." They also explain that it helps a family's children to see their parents lead by example. They have been able to explain to their children that "all people struggle, there is not much that separates us one from the other."

THE COUNTY LINE

Changes Coming for Schools with Poor Students

Many call process for changing programs for needy students flawed.

By JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Laurie Blackburn calls the public school where her son attends first grade extraordinary. She isn't the only one.

Hollin Meadows Elementary has drawn national attention for its outdoor gardening and science program, where students grow food and learn about native plants and insects on the school site. First Lady Michelle Obama visited the Mount Vernon school to learn more about its outdoor program last fall, and Hollin Meadows students have been invited to her vegetable garden at the White House two years in a row.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture interviewed staff at and shot footage of Hollin Meadows for an instructional film they intend to distribute to other school districts around the country.

But the gardens might not survive the Fairfax County School Board vote on the annual budget May 20.

TWO PROGRAMS, Project Excel and Focus, were established more than a decade ago, in part to help elementary schools with a larger percentage of needy students. Superintendent Jack Dale now says the money used for those programs can be spent more effectively in another way.

But what Dale's new initiative entails is unclear and how much money individual schools which benefited from Project Excel and Focus will receive has not been released. The Hollin Meadows community, for example, is not sure whether they will get as much funding under Dale's new plan as they have in the past or whether the school system will let them use any of the money to maintain the gardening program.

"When you are changing from an old program to a new program, you should bring people along and not leave them in the position of not having any clear idea what kind of school their children are going to be going to in three months," said Blackburn.

During county budget deliberations last month, several members of the Board of Supervisors called the school board irresponsible and insensitive to the community when it came to the elimination of Project Excel and Focus, as well as a year-round school calendar program in place in a handful of county schools.

Several supervisors said the school board should have had a long and extensive community engagement process about eliminating such long-standing programs, especially since they affect some of the county's most vulnerable children.

"I hold three public hearings when a gas station wants to change the color of its awning. This is a policy shift of much more importance," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

Many of the details about the school

system's new initiative for at-risk students were fuzzy because the schools were not sure how much funding they would receive from the county or the Virginia government, said school board member Janie Strauss (Dranesville).

"It would have been great to let people know what was happening in February, but we didn't know how much money we were going to get and it looked pretty bad," said Strauss.

Last year, school board members voted to use federal stimulus money to fund Project Excel, which provides an extended school day on Mondays at 16 elementary schools. The supervisors should have known that the stimulus money was limited and would run out at the end of next year, said several school board members.

Dale and many school board members also pointed out that the most significant funding that elementary schools with students in poverty receive comes in the form of a lower staff-to-student ratio, which will not be changed.

Still, several members of the community said they felt "ambushed" by the change and supervisors found the timeline too condensed for such a major change.

During a public hearing in January, the Fairfax Area League of Women Voters complained about the school system's budget documents being "opaque" and said the organization had a hard time parsing out how the school system was spending money. The Fairfax Education Association and Fairfax County Council of PTAs aired concerns about responsiveness.

"There is no open dialogue. That is not how the school system works," said Arthur Lopez, incoming chair of the schools' minority student achievement oversight citizen advisory committee.

But many school board members contend that Dale's new initiative for students in poverty will reach more needy students. The superintendent plans to boost funding for students who are poor and need to learn English from \$20 million to \$30 million next year.

"Overall, we will be spending more money than we are now," said Dale.

Of the new money, about \$5.4 million will

Schools Affected

Many needy schools currently receive extra funding and support through the Project Excel, Focus and year-round calendar programs. The school board is likely to eliminate all three programs and replace them, in part, with a "priority schools" initiative.

Those campuses that would receive extra funding as a "priority school" are not the same as those who received funding under Excel, Focus and year-round calendar.

School	Excel	Focus	Year-Round	Priority School
Annandale Terrace Elementary	Yes	No	Yes	No
Beach Tree Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Brookfield Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Bucknell Elementary	Yes	No	No	Yes
Bull Run Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Cameron Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Centre Ridge Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Clearview Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Cunningham Park Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Crestwood Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Daniels Run Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
Dogwood Elementary	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Dranesville Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Fort Belvoir Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Fort Hunt	No	Yes	No	No
Forest Edge Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
Franconia Elementary	No	No	Yes	No
Glen Forest Elementary	Yes	No	Yes	No
Graham Road Elementary	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Groveton Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Halley Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Herndon Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Hollin Meadows Elementary	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Hutchinson Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Hunter Woods Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Hybla Valley Elementary	Yes	No	No	Yes
Kent Gardens Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
King's Glen Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Lake Anne Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
London Towne Elementary	Yes	No	No	Yes
Mount Eagle Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Mt. Vernon Woods Elementary	Yes	No	No	Yes
Parklawn Elementary	Yes	No	Yes	No
Pine Spring Elementary	Yes	Yes	No	No
Providence Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
Riverside Elementary	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Rose Hill Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Timber Lane Elementary	No	No	Yes	No
Sleepy Hollow Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
Stenwood Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
Washington Mill Elementary	No	No	No	Yes
Westlawn Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Woodlawn Elementary	Yes	No	No	Yes
Weyanoke Elementary	Yes	No	No	No
Woodley Hills Elementary	Yes	Yes	No	No
Woodburn Elementary	No	Yes	No	No
Hughes Middle*	No	No	No	Yes
Sanburg Middle*	No	No	No	Yes
Whitman Middle*	No	No	No	Yes
Glasgow Middle*	No	No	No	Yes
Twain Middle*	No	No	No	Yes
Herndon Middle*	No	No	No	Yes

*Project Excel, Focus and the year-round calendar program does not exist at the middle school level but middle schools are included under the "priority school" plan.

be distributed across schools strictly based on the number of needy students they have.

Dale said schools with many poor students would receive more funding than a school with few or no poor students. But every school with poor students would receive extra financial assistance.

For the first time, the school system will also be providing extra staff to high schools based on the number of poor students enrolled.

"Everyone will receive funding related to poverty," he said.

The school system will also use \$4.3 million to help a list of 29 "priority schools" close the achievement gap. These schools are not necessarily those with the most challenging demographics and include those who suffer from low test scores and a wide achievement gap between white or Asian

students and other minorities.

According to a written proposal, extra funding could be provided for literacy coaches and instructional coaches and to enroll all eligible 4-year olds in the Head Start program. Instead of providing an extended day or year-round school year to all students attending a particular school, individual pupils could also be asked to start school early in August if their academic achievement is lacking.

DALE and several school board members said the three current programs are static and limited. Those schools that were initially enrolled in the Excel, Focus and year-round calendar programs a decade ago are still the only ones receiving the services.

Demographic changes over the last few years have also meant that those schools with largest number of poor students and the lowest achievement rates now are not necessarily the ones where Excel and year-round calendar are in place.

"Once a school was in the program, the school was always in the program. And no one else could get into the program," said School Board member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill).

The Excel, Focus and year-round calendar programs were also only in place in elementary schools. Dale's new plan would give extra funding to middle schools – Hughes, Sandburg, Whitman, Glasgow, Herndon and Poe – because they have high levels of poverty.

Finally, Dale said there was no compelling evidence that Excel, Focus or a year-round calendar was boosting achievement. When comparing schools that had those three programs with similar schools that didn't, the school system saw no difference in academic achievement, said Dale.

BUT some individual schools have seen tremendous results, said school board members and parents.

In addition to Hollin Meadows, Graham Road – which has the Excel, Focus and year-round calendar programs – has been nationally recognized.

And even though Hollin Meadows is listed a "priority school," it isn't clear that it will receive the same level of extra funding it does now, said Blackburn.

"My concern is that it is May and all we have seen is an outline of an outline," said Blackburn.

WEEK IN HERNDON

FROM PAGE 2

ning for Congress because I believe that the innovation and drive of the American people represents the engine of our economy, and in order to grow we must reduce the size of government and lower the tax burden on individuals and small businesses."

Mosley is currently in his second term on the Board of Directors of the Libertarian Party of Northern Virginia. He has served on the board of several private companies, including Cyber Security, Inc., which he co-founded in 2000. Mosley has been employed in the information security and risk management industry since 1992, and regularly speaks at industry events as an expert on Internet security and regulatory compliance. He and his wife, Carrie-Anne, live in Oak Hill. For more information, see the campaign website at <http://mosley2010.com>.

Hutchinson to Chair General Laws Policy Committee

Town of Herndon Vice Mayor Connie Haines Hutchinson has been tapped to chair the 2010 General Laws Policy Committee of the Virginia Municipal League (VML), a statewide organization established in 1905 to improve and assist local governments through legislative advocacy, research, education and other services.

As chair of the General Laws Policy Committee, Hutchinson will oversee the committee's review of powers, duties, responsibilities, organization and administration of local governments. Hutchinson will also chair the General Laws steering committee meetings (steering committees help determine which issues are to be brought before the full policy committees) and will sit on the Legislative Committee.

Meetings of VML's committees will be held in June and July in Richmond. For more information, visit the town's website at www.herndon-va.gov.

Repairs To Impact Water, Sewer Service

Isolated, faulty segments of the Town of Herndon's sanitary sewer system infrastructure, found during normal maintenance inspection by the Department of Public Works (DPW), will undergo repairs beginning the week of May

17. All work is expected to be completed by mid-June.

During the project, a slight odor may be detected near the streets where repairs are taking place. Additionally, commercial and residential buildings connected to the line under repair may have temporary, four- to five-hour disruptions of water and sewer service. Notice will be given to occupants before work takes place.

Areas impacted by the repair project include Sterling Road, Misty Vale Street, Artic Quill Road, Icy Brook Drive, Herndon Parkway at Reneau Way, Herndon Parkway between Exchange Place and Van Buren Street, Early Fall Court and Dranesville Road at Madison Street.

Periodic traffic reroutes may be necessary, as some of the manholes that need to be accessed are located in the street. Work safety zones that adhere to Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) standards will be established as needed.

Information on the sewer system infrastructure repair project is available at www.herndon-va.gov, "Town Services." Inquires may also be directed to DPW at public.works@herndon-va.gov or 703-435-6860.

Voce Singers Commemorate 'American Giants'

Voce Chamber Singers and Dr. Kenneth Nafziger, artistic director, will present Two American Giants: Barber and Schuman. The year 2010 is the 100th anniversary year of the births of Samuel Barber and William Schuman. Founded in 1989, Voce Chamber Singers is dedicating these May concerts to helping provide musical instruments needed by GMU music education students for their degree requirements. Voce will gladly accept any new or used musical instruments, regardless of condition, for tax-deductible donation to this program. Check the attic and bring any instruments for donation to the concert.

❖ Saturday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m. St. John Neumann Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston

❖ Sunday, May 16, at 3 p.m. St. Timothy's Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for students (with \$2 off if purchased more than 24 hours in advance).

For tickets and information, call 703-277-7772 or e-mail info@voce.org.

Randolph Jackson, 85, of Herndon, Dies

Randolph Jackson, 85, of Herndon, died on May 8, at Reston Hospital.

He was a loving husband of Judith Ann Jackson; beloved father of Camillia Johnson of Arlington, Peggy Allen and Joyce Allen of Manassas, Franklin (Brenda) Allen and Robert Allen of Herndon, Michael (Glenda) Payne of Dale City, Chris Payne

of Herndon, Bruce (Vanessa) Allen of Gainesville and James Allen of Herndon. He is also survived by one sister, Efiteen Johnson of Leesburg, 23 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; a devoted friend, Calvin "Mikie" Johnson and a host of other relatives and friends.

Friends may call on Thursday, May 13, from 4 p.m. until time of

service 5 p.m. at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 2516 Squirrel Hill Road, Herndon.

Wake (viewing) is Thursday, May 13, at 4 p.m. until time of service. Funeral services will be Thursday, May 13, 5 p.m. at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 2516 Squirrel Hill Road, in Herndon, at the Church Cemetery.

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OPINION

'Let us Hear that Concern'

Citizens have a right to know the details of crimes in their neighborhoods and activities of police.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in the 1968, states that all public records "shall be presumed open."

But the legislation includes an exception that allows police to withhold some information.

Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a "blanket" approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any information and document they can.

The actual reports filed by police officers about any incident, available to the public and the press in almost every jurisdiction in America, are never released in Northern Virginia.

Leaders in Northern Virginia's police departments continue to assert that most people aren't don't care about the level of secrecy employed by police.

"Let us hear that concern," said a Fairfax County police spokesperson. "We are not hearing it from anybody except the media, except individual reporters."

"I don't think we have to justify it," said Alexandria Police Chief Earl Cook.

It's time to let them hear the concern, and

tell them that they do have to justify decisions to withhold public information. Contact your chief of police, along with your state and local elected officials. We'd appreciate receiving a copy of any letter you send.

Police should move to make as much information open to the public as possible. Should they have the right to redact some information, for example, the name of an undercover officer? Certainly. But withholding information should be a rare exception, not a blanket policy.

But the process of repressing critical information undermines the contract of trust between police and community, like the name of the shooter and exact details when police shoot and kill an unarmed civilian, as in the case of David Masters.

"Citizens truly do have a right to know the details of crimes in their neighborhoods, not summary information the police choose to release," wrote Ryan Donmoyer in a letter to the Alexandria Gazette Packet. "And the press plays a pivotal role in the unfettered dissemination of such essential information."

We continue to be grateful for the service, presence, expertise and judgment of the police officers patrolling our neighborhoods. The misguided decision to abuse the ability to with-

See for Yourself

Police departments include a wealth of information online, from statistics to the locations of some incidents. But the information is exactly what police choose to release. Each site includes some disclaimer like this one from the Alexandria Police website: "Detailed information from crime reports, such as victim names, specific addresses, and motive, may be confidential and may not be available to members of the public."

FAIRFAX COUNTY

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crime/>, and click on mapping or incident reports.

Get Involved: More Online

For contact information for elected officials, sample Freedom of Information Request letters with contact addresses, and related coverage, see www.ConnectionNewspapers.com.

Fairfax County Chief of Police, Colonel David M. Rohrer, 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, 703-246-2195

hold every piece of information possible comes from the leadership level. The police officers you come into contact with in your daily activities are not at fault here.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Priceless Gift: Your Life Story

To the Editor:

May is Personal History Awareness Month.

As a personal historian, I get excited when I hear that someone has done family research or has been motivated to write down his or her own story for the benefit of their family or those who will come after them.

You just might be wondering about the actual value of this effort or questioning who would want to know about your life in one hundred years' time. Consider the reaction that your children, grandchildren or even great grandchildren may have as they read about your life, perhaps hearing about parts of your life that they had never known before. In addition, give some thought to how fast things are changing around each and every one of us.

Reminisce about the earlier days in your life and then reflect on what you have learned through those experiences. Sharing our memories can provide wisdom to the younger members in our family and possibly even help them to gain from our own "hard-learned lessons." This would be a priceless gift to those reading your words.

I hope you will give this idea a little thought. It isn't a difficult thing to take on. All you will need is a little quiet time, a tablet of paper (or a word processor) or a pen with lots of ink. Let your memories of earlier days begin to surface and begin to tell your very own story. Start today.

For more information on the subject of personal history writing, check out the Association of Personal Historians' website: www.personalhistorians.org

Lin M. Joyce
Personal Historian
Herndon

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. Send to:
Letters to the Editor • The Connection
1606 King St. • Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9410.
By e-mail: herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

SCHOOL NOTES

Herndon Elementary student Aubrey Werner and Lake Anne Elementary student Keerthi Machiraju were recently named winners in the Meadows Farms Nurseries 50th Anniversary 50 Trees for 50 Schools poster and essay contest. Their winning essays on why trees are important earned a new tree for each school; the trees were delivered by the nursery. Other FCPS schools receiving trees included Armstrong Elementary, Great Falls Elementary, Hunters Woods Elementary, Spring Hill Elementary, Terraset Elementary, Virginia Run Elementary, and Washington Mill Elementary. Contact principal Carolyn Gannaway at 703-326-3100 or cgannaway@fcps.edu or news liaison Kelly Horne at kmhorne@fcps.edu.

South Lakes High School and Herndon High School are competing for ticket sales to their respective All Night Graduation Celebrations. The winner will be crowned May 17. The goal of each school is to have 100% participation of their graduating class. The schools will compare ticket sales weekly beginning Monday, April 12 and ending Monday, May 17. The principal of the losing school will wear the winner school's t-shirt for the day. South Lakes graduation date is Thursday, June 17 and Herndon's is Tuesday, June 22. www.southlakesptsa.org/angp.htm or www.herndonang.org.

Five Herndon residents received degrees from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg at the Dec. 2009 graduation: **Varun Gupta**, bachelor of

science in business in finance; **John Slye**, bachelor of science in business in marketing management; **Kenneth Fadul**, bachelor of science in computer science; **Cha Li**, bachelor of science cum laude in computer science; and **Enoch Polk**, bachelor of science in electrical engineering.

Five Oak Hill residents received degrees from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg at the Dec. 2009 graduation: **Philip Goldberg**, bachelor of arts in economics; **Timothy Lee**, bachelor of science in business in economics; **Rafaelle Rivera**, bachelor of science in psychology; **Zohair Tahir**, bachelor of arts degree in political science; and **Jason Weiskopf**, bachelor of science in engineering science and mechanics magna cum laude.

Megha Subramanian of Herndon has received a University of Virginia Harrison Undergraduate Research Awards, which will assist in conducting independent research. Subramanian, a double major in neuroscience and biology, is studying "Interactions Between Gonadal Steroids and Neurodegeneration-related Genes May Affect Cognitive Behavior."

Nysmith School has been selected as one of the 'Top 10 Schools in Virginia' by the 2009 Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Talent Search. The award is based on the school's academic quality, student abilities, teacher talent and school leadership.

THE CONNECTION

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/MAY 13

Swing Dance with DeJa Blue Blues Band. 7:30 at The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-424-1745 or www.headoverheelsdance.com.
Friends' Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. "In the Woods" by Tana French. Adults. 703-689-2700.

FRIDAY/MAY 14

'As You Like It.' 8 p.m. CenterStage at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Shakespeare's romantic comedy. For tickets contact www.rcp-tix.com or 703-476-4500. www.restonplayers.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 15

A Night of Comedy with Adam Ace. 8 p.m. at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. The national touring comedian and 1993 South Lakes High School graduate will perform to raise money for the Theater Arts Department. Stand up comedy, physical comedy, wacky audience participation, goofy props, crazy singing and more. Suitable for the entire family. 703-715-4500 or adam@adamace.com.
Voce Chamber Singers. 7:30 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston. Dr. Kenneth Nafziger, Artistic Director, presents "Two American Giants: Barber and Schuman." \$20 adults, \$15 seniors and \$10 students. 703-277-7772 or info@voce.org for tickets and info.
Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St.,

Schuman.' \$20 adults, \$15 seniors and \$10 students. 703-277-7772 or info@voce.org for tickets and info.

Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival.

10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Juried outdoor street festival. Restonarts.org.

Authors Nancy Seifer and Martin Vieweg.

2 p.m. Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. "When the Soul Awakens: The Path to Spiritual Evolution and a New World Era." 703-709-7700 or www.restonmuseum.org.

'As You Like It.' 8 p.m. CenterStage at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Shakespeare's romantic comedy. For tickets contact www.rcp-tix.com or 703-476-4500. www.restonplayers.org.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic.

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. 703-242-4020.

SUNDAY/MAY 16

Reston Chorale Spring Concert. 8 p.m. at the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. \$20 adults, \$15 seniors and youth. Buy tickets online or at the Reston Community Center box office. 703-476-1111, 703-834-0079 or info@restonchorale.org.

Voce Chamber Singers. 3 p.m. at St. Timothy's Church, 432 Van Buren Street, Herndon. Dr. Kenneth Nafziger, Artistic Director, presents "Two American Giants: Barber and Schuman." \$20 adults, \$15 seniors and \$10 students. 703-277-7772 or info@voce.org for tickets and info.

Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St.,

Reston. Juried outdoor street festival. Restonarts.org.

MONDAY/MAY 17

PJs and Teddy Bears Storytime. 6:30 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Bedtime stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-437-8855.

Paws to Read. 4 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Read to our trained therapy dog. Call or sign up online for a 15-minute session. Age 6-8 with adult. 703-242-4020.

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

TUESDAY/MAY 18

Folk Club of Reston-Herndon: Bowen Staines. 7:15 p.m. at The Tortilla Factory, 648 Elden St., Herndon. Tickets \$11 non-members, \$10 members. www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com.

Testing Tips and Tutoring. 7 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Tips on taking college entrance and SOL exams. Age 12 and up. 703-437-8855.

Silly Stories. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Silly stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-242-4020.

Baby Steps Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Interactive storytime. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-689-2700.

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

Dodgeball Theatre to Perform in Herndon on May 15

Thirteen area teenagers will perform in an innovative ensemble combining acting, writing and dance in a public performance Saturday, May 15 at the ArtSpace gallery in Herndon. The group will also perform in June for Forest Edge Elementary School in Reston, and hopes to schedule additional venues. Produced by Dodgeball Theatre, the performance culminates months of an innovative teen acting class based on issues and events relevant to the members of the class. As an ensemble, the group of 12- to 16-year-olds has worked since November 2009 to bring their personal writings, monologues, dialogues and creative movements to life dramatically.

"This emotional journey is very powerful," said Haley Murphy, ensemble director. "The actors share their stories in their own words, through a combination of original writing, acting and movement."

Working with choreographer Heide Zufall, Murphy and the performers used an innovative



Local teens featured in the performance, from left: Allyson Demerlis, Kevin Salassi, Alina Zufall, Andrew Rifken, Rachel Thompson, Zach Klein, Talley Murphy, Hailey Corkery, Marcelo Guzman, Savanna Salassi, Ashley Birman, Katie Rees and Michelle Wolf.

creative process of combining the disciplines of theater and dance, using the techniques of improvisation, theater games and movement exploration. Material developed by the teen actors was created and used as the basis for the production. Murphy and Zufall provided the framework and direction to produce a performance voicing current teens' thoughts.

"Themes such as stereotypes, self-image, conflicts, fears, esteem and self-worth, bullying, stress and world events were some of the issues addressed," said Zufall. "Working as an ensemble, the teens felt comfortable in expressing their very personal thoughts through

this unique creative process."

The newly formed Dodgeball Theatre is in residence at Reston Artistree. Dodgeball is dedicated to creating educational and performance opportunities for actors of all ages and abilities.

"Teen ensemble is at the heart of what we do," said Murphy. "Working together in such an intensive way gives these teens a creative outlet they wouldn't otherwise have. It helps them on their journey of self-discovery."

For more information, contact dodgeballdirector@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 19

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

OK Book Discussion. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Worst Hard Time: the untold story of those who survived the great American dust bowl by Timothy Egan. Adults. 703-242-4020.
Author James Bradley. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The author of Flags of Our Fathers, Flyboys and The Imperial Cruise discusses his books. 703-689-2700.

THURSDAY/MAY 20

Herndon High School Guitar Boosters Raffle Drawing. The Boosters are raffling off a Martin DXME Acoustic Electric Guitar and Gig Bag. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. You do not need to be present to win. Proceeds benefit the Herndon Guitar Program. Purchase tickets at www.herndonguitar.org.
Special Twos. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Storytime. Age 2 with adult. 703-689-2700.

FRIDAY/MAY 21

"Much Ado About Nothing." 7:30 p.m. by Herndon High School Theatre Department at the HHS Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. Shakespeare's comedy around obstacles to the union of two lovers, with a sub-plot about the "merry war" of the sexes. \$10. keh561@msn.com or 703-401-0428.
The Mikado. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap

Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. \$40-\$280. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 22

"Much Ado About Nothing." 7:30 p.m. by Herndon High School Theatre Department at the HHS Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. Shakespeare's comedy around obstacles to the union of two lovers, with a sub-plot about the "merry war" of the sexes. \$10. keh561@msn.com or 703-401-0428.

We've Got Your Back 5k Race & 1 mile Fun Run/Walk. 8 a.m. at 1831 Wiehle Ave., Reston. \$20-\$30, age 12 and under free in the one mile fun run/walk. Free Spinal Health Fair and Kids Corner. Proceeds support research and education to improve spinal health care. www.spinerf.org/race/reston

The Mikado. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. \$40-\$280. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.
Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. 703-242-4020.

Sisters in Crime Chesapeake Chapter Workshop. 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Author, editor and writing coach Chris Roerden presents a free writing workshop. 703-689-2700.

Afternoon Program & Walk. 1:30 p.m. Reston Museum & Shop, 1639 Washington Plaza, Lake Anne Village Center, Reston. Rail to Reston presentation by Patty Nicoson, chair of Dulles Corridor Rail Association, followed by a "Wiehle Station" walk. Free. www.RestonMuseum.org.



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NEWS

Immigration Policy Revisited

FROM PAGE 3

brought, but added, “We certainly don’t want to do anything to jeopardize the safety of our community.”

Hutchinson noted that voter turnout had been lower than in the last two elections, as it often is when residents are relatively satisfied, even though the challengers had brought new people to the polls.

“To me, this election very much focused on economic issues,” said Grace Wolf, another of the newly elected council members, adding that the new members had focused on town finances, planning for Metrorail and fulfilling the forthcoming downtown master plan.

Before and after the election, the mayor and all the members of the new Town Council cited these issues as being among their highest priorities.

“I think we’re all going to be working on the same issues to make the town a better place to live,” Hutchinson said. She said she didn’t foresee a dramatic shift in the council’s direction or priorities.

Members of the new governing body had varying, if not differing, ideas on how to manage the town’s financial situation.

Wolf said she wanted to expand the commercial tax base by making it easier for businesses to move into the town. She said she hoped to create a single point of contact to walk potential new businesses through the process of setting up in Herndon. “I don’t feel like we have a very cohesive economic development plan,” she said. She added that she thought the town could do a better job of marketing itself. “I think we have a lot of town benefits, community benefits, that people come to the town to get, and we’re not promoting those enough,” Wolf said.

Similarly, DeBenedittis said he had been meeting with businesses to find out what brought them to the town and to come up with a cost-effective economic development plan that would “make sure Herndon is a reasonable place to start a business or move your business.”

Singh said he opposed the tax increases currently being proposed, although he wasn’t sure if

the new council would be able to make changes to a budget that would already be in place when it took office. “I am of the opinion that we do have a rainy day fund and you should use it,” he said. “If you don’t use it now, when do you use it?” He said he also wanted to look for ways to streamline the town’s government.

Olem, though, said she wanted to make sure town services, such as the biannual major trash pickups, were retained. The Fall Cleanup is set to be cut from the coming fiscal year’s budget.

SOME MEMBERS of the new council mentioned a desire to involve more residents in the workings of the town. Merkel said it was often difficult for young parents to attend public hearings and other town business, but she noted that she and DeBenedittis were both parents of young children. She said she hoped to work with the mayor and town staff to involve families to a greater degree. “I think we have a unique opportunity, with parents on the council, to reach out to those people,” she said.

Singh said he wanted to involve citizens with development proposals before they were drawn up and brought to public hearings. And he said he was interested in encouraging qualified immigrants to serve on town boards and commissions. “I think we need to begin the process of integrating immigrants into our town government,” Singh said. “We would begin to make our town whole, is how I see it.”

On the issue of immigration, the council was divided, in that new members thought the Secure Communities program, which was not available when the town entered into its agreement with ICE but has since been implemented by Fairfax County, could possibly be a viable and less costly alternative, while incumbents saw it as inadequate.

“My understanding when 287(g) was started was that the idea was to eliminate all the day laborers from the street, and 287(g) could never do that,” Olem said.

“Secure Communities only deals with people who are arrested for certain offenses and actually end up in jail,” said Hutchinson.

All the council members and the mayor expressed an expectation that they would largely have the same goals in mind and could work toward them together.

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NEWS

Dark Horse Charges onto Scene

Theater company being birthed in Reston-Herndon area prepares for first provocative production.

By Mike DiCicco
THE CONNECTION

Natasha Parnian said it was her life's dream to start a theater company. Now, the 24-year-old Reston native is in a Herndon studio space, working through rehearsals for the first production of her newly formed Dark Horse Theatre Company. "This is such an artistically vibrant community," she said. "I put an SOS out there and people responded."

Although she went to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte for her theater degree, Parnian has worked in Washington, D.C.-area theater for about six years, primarily acting, and she said she had met many artistic people during that time. Last October, she began pulling some of them together. "I think there is a lack of collaboration with mixed medias and with different kinds of artists," she said. Part of her mission is to synthesize those different types of art. A friend wrote an original music score. A graphic designer created the company's logo, and a videographer will shoot a YouTube video for the next production.

She has also found a producer, people willing to do the less glamorous work like sweeping and hanging lights, and backing from the Reston artisTree arts collaborative, which has made the company an artist in residence and provided its space in Herndon for rehearsals.

"It's been a blessing having so many talented people coming onboard to help out. It's truly a group effort," she said.

IN JUNE, the company will launch a run of David Mamet's "Oleanna," a provocative story that depicts the gray area between misunderstanding and sexual harassment, at the D.C. Arts Center. With a cast of just two and little reliance on scenery, the show can be staged on a low budget, and Parnian is currently paying most



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Natasha Parnian, Doug Mattingly and Arianné Warner take a short break from rehearsing 'Oleanna.'

expenses out of her own pocket.

However, what is easier on the wallet may be harder on the actors. "This show is very much about the actors and about the characters and their development," Parnian said. The play runs for about an hour and 20 minutes with no intermission, and the script is riddled with ellipses and lines where the characters repeatedly interrupt each other.

"It's 40 pages of two people onstage talking," said Baltimore resident Doug Mattingly, who plays university professor John. However, he said, "It's just an incredibly masterfully written piece." Mattingly actually works as a college professor, teaching music, and he said he could relate to some of the play's material about student-teacher relationships and problems with the higher education system. "As usual with his plays, [Mamet] is saying a lot," he said.

Arianné Warner of Arlington, who plays undergraduate student Carol, said the social tensions and anxieties explored in the play were as relevant as ever, with Americans on edge about their jobs and the economy. "There this tension you can feel in everything we do right now," she said.

"When I pick shows, that's one of the things I look for is, will this move the audience?" Parnian said.

In the play, Carol is failing John's course and comes to him desperate for help. As they talk, they transgress traditional student-teacher boundaries, and in the second act, the audience finds that Carol has filed a sexual harassment suit against her professor, which he tries to talk her out of. His tenure is on the line. Tension builds throughout the play, and as a result of developments in Act II,

by the final act, a rape charge has been filed. The two make a climactic attempt to settle their disagreement in a final, ill-advised meeting.

Parnian said she immediately thought of Warner, who she had worked with in a Reston Community Players production, for the role of Carol. Mattingly auditioned for his role and was selected in part because of acting chemistry with his costar.

PARNIAN is directing the play. Though much of her theater work in the D.C. area has been acting, she said she developed a love of directing during an apprenticeship in college and had continued to direct afterward. "It took a little bit of trial and error to figure out what I was more passionate about." She said she was drawn to the challenge and responsibility of the role. "It's not easy but it's so rewarding, seeing the show evolve, seeing the actors evolve."

Another part of her mission for her new group, she said, was to bring more young people out to the theater.

"We were talking about theater in this area and how it's become very cookie-cutter lately," Warner said. "I mean, it's great, everyone likes a production of 'Guys and Dolls' now and then."

As part of the effort to draw younger audiences, Dark Horse Theatre plans to offer provocative shows at affordable prices. Tickets to "Oleanna" cost just \$15.

In October, the company will put on Noah Haidle's black comedy, "Mr. Marmalade."

"Right now is an exciting time because I'm building the core team I want to take into the next production and the next one," Parnian said.

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Herndon Baseball Gearing for Concorde District Playoffs

Hornets, in break-through season, trying to bounce back from tough district losses last week.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Early last week, the Herndon High baseball team was tied for first place with two other teams atop the Concorde District standings. But consecutive losses to Centreville and Westfield — the two teams who shared first place with the Hornets — all but put an end to Herndon's regular season title hopes.

Nevertheless, Herndon still found itself 10-5 overall and 4-4 in district play going into this week. The Hornets, scheduled to close out the regular season with games this week against visiting Robinson on Tuesday, May 11 and at Chantilly on Friday night, May 14, still were in a good position to earn a No. 3 or 4 seed going into next week's district tournament. By going into districts as a No. 3 or 4, Herndon would host a first round playoff game next Tuesday, May 18.

Herndon coach Greg Miller said last week's losses — a 10-0 setback at Centreville on May 4 and a 12-3 home defeat to Westfield on May 7 — were simply a matter of his team not playing its best baseball against top caliber teams.

"We're trying to stay as positive as possible," said Miller. "We knew it would be a tough two-game stretch. We just gave up too many runs. We played real bad those two games and against real good teams you can't play real bad."

Going into this week, Herndon and Chantilly were tied for third place with 4-4 district records. That means Friday's regular season finale, scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at Chantilly, could be for third place.

Ultimately, Miller wants his team to regain some momentum this week going into next week's districts where Herndon will have to win a first round game in order to qualify for the following week's 16-team Northern Region playoffs.

"One of our biggest goals all year has been to go to the region playoffs," said Miller, who is in his first season as the Hornets' head coach. "We're trying to use this last week of the [regular] season to get ready [for the postseason] and to get on the right track."

IN LAST WEEK'S loss to host Centreville, Herndon had no answers against Wildcat starting pitcher Ryan Ashooh. The senior southpaw has been coming up big for Centreville all season long, so it was almost expected that he would put together another solid outing in the important late season game.



Herndon catcher Matt Smith watches the action out on the field as a Centreville runner crosses the plate during the Hornets' road loss to the Wildcats last week.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Sure enough, Ashooh, in his fourth complete game outing over his last five starts, gave Centreville another stellar outing in leading his team to the shutout win. The district game, in which first place was on the line, took place on a beautiful spring evening at Centreville and ended during the home team's bottom of the fifth inning at bats when Cam Walter's RBI single made the score 10-0 and evoked the 10-run mercy rule.

"We're feeling good right now," said Walter, Centreville's senior first baseman who homered and knocked in four runs in the win. "This was a big game. Herndon has come out of nowhere."

Indeed, the Hornets have not been among the district's better teams in recent years. But this season, under Miller, the squad has experienced a breakthrough season. The Hornets, despite a recent injury loss to key starting pitcher Paul Hvozdovic, have remained a contender.

But Centreville overwhelmed its guests, scoring four runs in the bottom of the first inning and three more in the second to all but assure itself of earning its fifth district win to two defeats. With the early 7-0 lead and its ace pitcher on the mound, the Wildcats were in control from start to finish.

"We were ready and knew the importance of this game and every game," said Centreville coach Morgan Spencer, whose team won its fourth game in a row. "We know Herndon is well coached and that they were capable of coming back. They're having a good season."

The Hornets had an ominous start to the game when starting pitcher Alex Clark, in just his second starting assignment and third overall pitching appearance of the season, left the game in the first inning after facing just five batters and recording one out. Clark, who had been so effective in a six inning outing in his team's 3-2 win over

Chantilly on April 27, left the game with a strained arm. Miller said Clark will not pitch the remainder of the season but will continue his role as the team's starting first baseman.

Mark McCormick, Centreville's junior leadoff batter, opened the bottom of the first with a scorching line drive double off the right field fence. He eventually scored the game's first run on a wild pitch. But the first inning's biggest highlight came when clean-up hitter Walter, with two Centreville teammates aboard, sent a soaring fly ball well over the left field fence for his fifth home run of the season to give the Wildcats a 4-0 lead.

"We're trying to use this last week of the [regular] season to get ready [for the postseason] and to get on the right track."

— Herndon coach Greg Miller

"He'd been working away from me the whole at-bat," said Walter, who will be playing football on scholarship next school year at Virginia Military Institute (VMI). "He then brought a fastball in and I got a hold of it."

Walter finished the game 2-for-3 with the homer, a single and two runs scored. His groundball single into left field with no outs in the fifth inning scored teammate David DeLorimier from second base to make it 10-0, automatically ending the game because of the 10-run rule.

Ashooh, Centreville's terrific starting pitcher, saw his record improve to 7-2 on the season. His earned run average is around one and he has six complete games. He said the key to his strong season has been throwing first pitch strikes.

"I'm trying to get ahead and not throw too many pitches," said Ashooh, who allowed one hit — a second inning single to Daniel Shill — while striking out 10 and walking two against Herndon. "My curve ball definitely had [Herndon batters] thinking a little tonight."

Herndon hit just three balls into the outfield — Dan Shill's single and two fly ball outs. On one second-inning fly ball off the bat of Herndon's Zach Reif, Centreville left fielder McCormick ran in and made a spectacular diving catch.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTH LAKES

Jordan Hostetler, a South Lakes High senior, signed a national letter of intent last week to play volleyball at Glenville State College, a Division 2 school in West Virginia. The signing ceremonies took place at South Lakes. Jordan, seated, earned team co-MVP honors and served as captain of the Seahawks this past fall. She is the first volleyball player from South Lakes to sign a national letter of intent in the sport. Here, Jordan shares her big moment with family members and school administrators. Standing, from left, are Aaron Hostetler; Coach Cheri Hostetler; Bruce Butler, the South Lakes principal; Patricia Hostetler; David Hostetler; and Linda Jones, the South Lakes director of student activities.

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A Date with Destiny, Sort Of



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Am I glad March 27, 2010 has passed without me having passed. That was the lower end of the infamous "13 month to two years" time frame that my oncologist prognosticated, statistically speaking, that stage IV lung cancer patients have until, well, you know. The next date is two years from the original date of diagnosis/prognosis, meaning next February 27, 2011 – 11 months from now, you know when. It's not like I'm looking at the calendar every day and crossing out days however, marking what time I have left, or not. Still, it's impossible not to be mindful of dates, given the less-than-ideal health situation in which I find myself ensnared.

But somehow, I must. Somehow, I must go on living as if there's no end in sight, go on living as if my prognosis, my disease, is merely a blip on my life's radar rather than the multitude of blips (tumors) that actually appear on the medical scans that I regularly undergo. Having juggled this mental conundrum for more than a year now, I have to admit, I've had better days (and weeks, and months, etc.), but March 28 (the day after) was certainly one of them.

Unfortunately, one date does not a life-time (normal life expectancy) make. Nevertheless, as a cancer patient currently undergoing treatment, any kind of news, result, answer, date, that can be interpreted as positive is to be embraced and exaggerated (within reason of course). Because finding a path of least resistance, mentally, through the uncharted – and very unpredictable – waters seems to be key to the intangibles working for you instead of against you.

But who knows, really? There are so many opinions, so many studies, so many papers; some educated, some not; some proven (in a manner of speaking), some not; pertaining to fighting and defeating cancer, that knowing what course of action has merit and what course is merely discourse, is yet another mental hurdle. The information available online, from medical professionals, from well-meaning friends and family (with their own anecdotal evidence/information from their respective circles/lives) and from other miscellaneous "educators" is overwhelming. Who to believe? How best to proceed? How much to hope? How much to care? It's much easier said than done. (And it's not that easy to say it, either; it's much easier for me to write it; ergo the cancer columns.)

But finding a way, you must. Because the alternative is grim, and that's no fairy tale. That's reality, the harshest reality there is: between a rock and a hard place (see column of the same name published 4/21/2010), with no place to go except a cliff (metaphorically speaking) on which your oncologist originally said your next 13 months to two years will sort of teeter (I'm paraphrasing a bit, but you get the idea, I'm sure).

And teeter, physically (from the neuropathy and muscle weakness, among other cancer-and-the-side-effects-of-the-treatment-of-cancer-related effects) you will and mentally, too, from the obvious strain on your brain, dealing with this new reality. The trick is; heck, there is no trick. There are good days and bad days, and some actual dates that carry you forward (and some that carry you backward, too); some of them meaningful, some of them meaningless. It's mind over matter. Somehow, you have to not mind what matters and not let matter what's on your mind.

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

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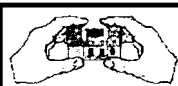
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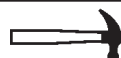
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BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/MAY 13

Lupus Support Group. 12 p.m. at Reston Hospital Center, The West Wing, 1850 Town Center Parkway, Reston. lh@ascendcomm.com or www.lupusgw.org.

Pole Dance Fitness Workshop. 11 a.m. at Ballroom Dance Studio, 251 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. \$20. Reserve at 703-444-3061.

MONDAY/MAY 17

Reston Runners Women's Training

Program. 6:30 p.m. at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive Reston. For women walkers and runners, to begin or get back into an exercise routine. \$30. Speakers on running form, gear, common injuries, and nutrition. Register at www.restonrunners.org.

Chen tai chi. Beginners class every Monday, 6:30 p.m. at the Jow Ga Shaolin Institute, 600-D Carlisle Drive, Herndon. First class free. All levels and ages welcome. truetaichi.com or 703-801-0064.

Right LANEs (Ladies Advancing a New Economy) Tee Party and Golf Clinic. 5 p.m. at Herndon Centennial Golf Course, 909 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. A golf clinic by a female golf pro, the opportunity to play a few rounds with a professional instructor, lessons on golf etiquette and golf networking best practices and the opportunity to network with professional women from various industries. Register at teeparty.eventbrite.com.

TUESDAY/MAY 18

Hazak Active Retirees. 1 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emeth, 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon. Speaker, Jim Buisis, founder of the United Hebrew Congregation in Singapore and director of the Asia and Pacific Rim Institute of the American Jewish Committee. Hazak meets on the third Tuesday, Sept.-June. Free for CBE Hazak members, \$3 non-members. 703-860-4515 ext. 127.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 19

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/MAY 20

Reston-Herndon AAUW Mmay Branch

Meeting. 7 p.m. at the Reston Regional Library Meeting Room, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Branch Member and State Senator Janet Howell with an update on the 2010 Virginia Legislative Session. mpsampson@aol.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 21

Reston Bike to Work Day 2010. 6:30-9:30 a.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion. Gather for a free breakfast, raffles of bike-related prizes and bicycling information handouts. Hunter Mill Supervisor Catherine Hudgins will be there at 8 a.m. to greet riders. Participants can also try out new bike routing software, and pre-registered riders will receive a free T-shirt. www.waba.org/events.

SATURDAY/MAY 22

Presentation on Rail to Reston. 1:30 p.m. Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. With Patty Nicoson, chair of DCRA, followed by a walk. 703-709-7700 or www.restonmuseum.org.

Education Conference on ADHD. At the Hyatt Regency in Reston. Regional education conference on attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder for parents, educators, adults with ADHD, and healthcare professionals. Register at www.chadd.org.

Reston Master Plan Special Study. 9 a.m. at the Langston Hughes Middle School cafeteria, 11401 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. The public is encouraged to offer input about future land use in the northern part of the Reston Town Center. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/

MONDAY/MAY 24

Reston Runners Women's Training

Program. 6:30 p.m. at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive Reston. For women walkers and runners, to begin or get back into an exercise routine. \$30. Speakers on running form, gear, common injuries, and nutrition. Register at www.restonrunners.org.

Chen tai chi. Beginners class every Monday, 6:30 p.m. at the Jow Ga Shaolin Institute, 600-D Carlisle Drive, Herndon. First class free. All levels and ages welcome. truetaichi.com or 703-801-0064.

NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241 Luncheon

Meeting. 11:30 a.m. at Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. \$17. "Elder Physical and Financial Abuse" with Holly Lacasse from the Fairfax County Adult Protective Services of the Adult and Ageing Division, Department of Family Services. 703-435-3523.

THURSDAY/MAY 27

Greater Washington DC/Virginia Chapter of The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation. 6 p.m. at Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. A patient education program on treatments and advances in Inflammatory Bowel Disease. Register at scampbell@ccfa.org or 703-865-6130.

Lupus Support Group. 12 p.m. at Reston Hospital Center, The West Wing, 1850 Town Center Parkway, Reston. lh@ascendcomm.com or www.lupusgw.org.

Council Dominated by Women

FROM PAGE 10

"Hopefully, we can debate issues and not debate each other. That's going to be paramount up there," Tirrell said.

DeBENEDITTIS said he hoped to meet with all the new council members, as well as the challengers who did not win election, before the new council took office. "It'll be interesting to get new points of view. I think that's a good thing," he said.

"I think we have a great mix on the council now," Merkel said, citing a "diversity of opinions and experiences and professional backgrounds." She said she had already met with all the incumbents and concluded, "I think we're going to be able to work very well together," she said.

If the turnover on the council does not

turn out to be an upheaval in the town government, it will still mark a turning point in the town's history. The coming term will mark the first time in the town's history that the council has been dominated by women. Hutchinson, who is involved with the town's Historical Society, said the most women who had ever previously sat on a council was two, and that happened when she was elected in 1992 and joined Carol Bruce on the council. "That's definitely going to bring a new dimension to the council," she said.

And Wolf said she had been informed by reporters from local Korean newspapers that she was the first Korean woman to be elected to office in Virginia. "This is the new face of Herndon. We're a little bit more representative of the community, and that's a good thing," she said, adding that she hoped the diversity in leadership might cause more residents to get involved.

A+ Dropouts Come to Herndon

Local young rockers to perform at Herndon Festival.

A+ Dropouts are quickly becoming the busiest young rockers in Northern Virginia. They were the youngest band to ever perform at Launch Music Conference in Lancaster, Pa., where they impressed the talent buyer for Summerfest, world's largest musical festival, and are hoping to perform there next year.

"The A+ Dropouts display more confidence, more ability to engage the audience, and more technical skill than many bands twice their age. It is adorable, and compelling," said Jeremy Weiss, Launch Music Conference co-director and founder.

In their first few months, the A+ Dropouts toured throughout Virginia, Washington, D.C., Maryland and Pennsylvania in venues and



Alex Jongbloed (14-bass), Zach Benson (13-drummer), Cheska Zaide (12-lead vocals), and Rob Wimberly (14-lead guitar).

events such as Jammin' Java, National Cherry Blossom Festival, Bourbon Street/The Quarter, New Year's Annapolis, while working on their first self titled album featuring their single "Someone New".

Formed in November 2009, the A+ Dropouts consist of vocalist Cheska Zaide, 12, guitarist Rob Wimberly, 14, bassist Alex Jongbloed, 14, and drummer Zach

Benson, 13.

A+ Dropouts will be playing at Herndon Festival on Saturday, June 5, at 11 a.m. at the HMC stage.

For more information visit www.aplusdropouts.com. The group can also be found on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and MySpace by searching A+ Dropouts. For booking information, call 703-652-0888.



Celebrating Arbor Day at Herndon Elementary.

Dogwood Planted on Arbor Day

On Friday, April 30, Herndon Elementary students and the school's business partner, Minerals Management Services (MMS), planted a tree, donated by MMS, to celebrate Arbor Day. Student Council Association representatives, board members and co-advisor Ashley Courter helped plant the dogwood with MMS liaison John Kuhn. Assistant Principal

Connie Britt introduced the various guests that spoke at the presentation: Chief of the Environmental Division Jim Kendall, Leann Bullin from the Public Affairs Department and the Bureau Property Officer John Godfrey. The students were interested in the environmental talk. Kendall is currently trying to help with the situation with the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

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