

Sounds of Summer at Town Center

NEWS, PAGE 4

Radio King Orchestra's 'Pincurl Girls' Lori and Jamie Boyd pose for the camera with their 1950s style at the last Saturday's opening of the Reston Concerts on the Town season.

Sculptures To Grace Town Square Park

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PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Mike Rolband, president of Wetland Studies and Solutions, shows how restoration has affected The Glade stream for the better, by helping to cut down on erosion of the stream bank.

Reviewing Reston Stream Restoration

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Reston residents were given an opportunity to review the stream restoration process going on in their community Saturday, June 5, with a new exhibit at the Reston Museum and a walking tour of several streams.

The Northern Virginia Stream Restoration Bank Project is a partnership between Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. and The Peterson Companies, who are working together with the Reston Association. The goal of Phase I of the project is to restore 14 miles of degraded streams in Snakeden Branch, The Glade and Colvin Run watersheds.

The streams are being restored using Natural Channel Design Techniques, which involve raising the stream bed, placing a reinforced bed and placement of rock and log structures designed to direct flow away from channel banks.

The project is the largest urban stream restoration in the mid-Atlantic.

RESIDENTS GATHERED at the Reston Museum Saturday, where the night before a new exhibit was opened explaining the project.

"We are trying to help people learn the history and the benefits of the project, and to show them the pros and cons of what we're trying to do," said Mike Rolband, president of WSSI. "The majority of people who have come have been pretty informed, and we've gotten a very positive response in the last few months."

After visitors viewed the exhibit, they were invited to walk to a stream in the nearby Hickory Cluster.



This stream near Lake Anne's Hickory Cluster is one of the streams in the area that needs restoration. Residents were given a tour of two streams, one pre-restoration and one post-restoration June 5.

ter section of Lake Anne, where restoration has been proposed for mid to late 2011.

"This kind of work has been needed at Hickory Cluster for a long time," said Bonnie Whyte, a volunteer at the Reston Museum and a former resident of Hickory Cluster.

Bob Anderson, a longtime resident of Hickory Cluster, believes the project is something that is needed for the long-term well-being of the area.

"It might be a major change, but it's something that has long been needed here," he said. "It might be difficult to get through, but it will be worth it."

IN CASE any of the residents needed convincing, Rolband and his associates took them to The Glade, which had a previous section restored at the end of March, and parts of which are still ongoing.

The Glade project was delayed more than six months while the community voiced its concerns, but the end results, Whyte said, should speak for themselves.

"I'd be very surprised if [the Hickory Cluster] part was held up,

after all, now people can just go to The Glade and see the results for themselves," she said.

The restoration aims to reduce the energy level of fast-moving water, which happens during and after storms. The fast-moving water creates steep, eroding banks and threatens adjacent trails, trees and sewers.

As part of the restoration, headers and cross-veins are placed at approximately 100-foot intervals to help dissipate the water's energy. Headers, which are long, flat rocks placed horizontally across the stream, help to keep the water ripples flatter, which creates less erosion.

Cross-veins, which are long sections placed out from the headers, help to replace steep, vertical banks, which were as much as eight feet high along The Glade, Rolband said.

The area around the stream is planted with rye and millet grass and as many as 20-30 other species of plant, all of which will form a cover crop whose root system will help keep the shore intact.

For more information on stream restoration in the area, visit www.wetlandstudies.com



Mike Shaffer, 'Monument to the Sun and Stars,' 2009, 12' x 2.5' x 2.5,' acrylic, reclaimed wood.

Sculptures To Grace Town Square Park

Earthquake, The Way to Be, and Monument to the Sun and Stars, three vibrantly colored wood sculptures, will be situated in planting beds along the Market Street side of Reston Town Square Park during the week of June 7. The three works by Maryland sculptor Mike Shaffer appear as part of gaps, a juried exhibition, featuring 22 other artists whose work will be installed inside Greater Reston Arts Center adjacent to the park at 12001 Market St. All sculpture was selected by Vesela Sretenovic, curator of modern and contemporary art at The Phillips Collection.

The installation of Mike Shaffer's sculpture in Reston Town Square Park is the first temporary outdoor sculpture exhibition in the park and the first collaborative project between Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), Initiative for Public Art - Reston (IPAR), and Washington Sculptors Group (WSG). In 2008-09, IPAR supported Sleeping Tree, a multi-part project at GRACE and Dogwood Elementary School. Dur-

ing the spring of 2010, WSG collaborated with GRACE to present POP-UP@SOMA, a temporary sculpture exhibition in the empty South Market building on Explorer Street in Reston.

To learn more about Shaffer, visit his website at <http://mikeshafter.net/> and join him as he discusses his work with juror, Vesela Sretenovic and other exhibition artists on Wednesday, July 7, from 6-7:30 p.m. at GRACE.

For an in-depth conversation about temporary versus permanent public art, join Dale Lanzone, president of public art International Marlborough, and a panel of public arts professionals on Tuesday, July 20, at 7:30 p.m. at GRACE.

An exhibition catalog featuring all works in gaps will be available at GRACE.

To learn more about the co-sponsoring organizations, visit their websites: Greater Reston Arts Center www.restonarts.org; Initiative for Public Art - Reston www.publicartreston.org; and Washington Sculptors Group www.washingtonsculptors.org.

Reception, Salon, Discussion

Three sculptures arrive June 8-10 in Reston Town Square Park. Works are part of the juried exhibition, gaps, on view at Greater Reston Arts Center, June 24-July 31, with gaps opening reception on Saturday, June 26, 5-7 p.m. Juror's Salon is Wednesday, July 7, 6-7:30 p.m. and Panel Discussion "The Gallery Outside: Acquisition or Exhibition," is Tuesday, July 20, 7:30 p.m.

Robbery in Reston Area

A 26-year-old female hotel clerk and a 27-year-old female were robbed June 5 at 12:09 p.m. A man entered the Homestead Studio Suites, located at 12190 Sunset Hills Road, displayed a gun and demanded money. Both victims turned over cash and personal property. The suspect fled on foot in an unknown direction. The suspect was described as white, around 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet 2 inches tall, medium build and wearing blue jeans and black T-shirt. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Protecting Your Path

Reston officers are stepping up patrols along the W & OD trail with a public awareness campaign ensuring "Safe Avenues for Everyone" from June 12 – 25. After years of steady decline, preliminary data showed a slight uptick in crashes in 2009.

Target areas for the campaign include the Sunset Hills Road and Wiehle Avenue where the W & OD trail crosses Wiehle Ave. The other location will be pedestrian crossing spots in and around the Reston Town Center, especially the Bluemont Way crosswalk.

The campaign involves officers traveling on bicycles, cars, motorcycles as well as a marked all terrain vehicle to traverse the W & OD trail. For more information on the Fairfax County Police Department, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police.

Help Shape Reston's Future

Seven Restons Citizens Association Board positions are up for election now; so is the position of RCA Board President. The seven district seats are: Hunters Woods (1); Lake Anne/Tall Oaks (1); North Point (1); South Lakes (1); and, At-Large (3). Those elected serve two-year terms, except that one At-Large vacancy is a one-year replacement term.

To be eligible to serve, you must be at least 18 years of age and must have a Reston mailing address (Small Tax District No. 5).

The final balloting for these offices will be held at the Reston Festival on July 10 and 11 at Reston Town Center. To file for election, go to www.restoncitiensassociation.org/elections, download and fill out the simple, straightforward 2010 Candidate Filing Form, and submit it online or mail it to RCA, P.O. Box 2851, Reston, VA 20195. The deadline for receiving candidate filing forms is Friday, June 25, whether submitted online or via regular mail. For more information or filing forms, call 703-318-9628.

Krocker Awarded Nonprofit Friend of the Year

Michelle Krocker, Executive Director of Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance in Reston has received the Virginia Peters Nonprofit Friend of the Year Award.

According to the award citation, "Krocker is a key coalition maker and advocate for affordable housing in Northern Virginia. She excels at developing partnerships with community-based organizations, faith communities, civic associations, local governments and chambers of commerce to develop and preserve affordable housing."

Community Yard Sale

A yard sale will be held June 12 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Reston, 1625 Wiehle Ave. Furniture, collectibles, clothing, baby items and more will be for sale.

How Loud is Highway Noise?

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority will hold a Highway Noise Policy Public Workshop June 10 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Langston Hughes Middle School, 11401 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. Draft policy is available, and online comments will be accepted through June 30 on the "Highway Noise Policy" link at www.mwaa.com/tollroad.



PHOTOS BY AMIR NOORBAKSH/THE CONNECTION

Reston residents and visitors enjoy the live music at the Reston Town Center.

Sounds of Summer at Town Center

The Reston Concerts on the Town began its celebration of Reston Town Center's 20th Anniversary with its summer concerts season opening on Saturday, June 5. The opening show for this Summer Season was "Stompin' at the Savoy" with the swing musical band Radio King Orchestra and their "Pincurl Girls." Reston residents and others from the area filled the Reston Pavilion and the fountain seating areas. The orchestra sang songs ranging from Frank Sinatra to Ella Fitzgerald and Dean Martin, while residents danced to the live music and enjoyed their Saturday night.

The Radio King Orchestra consists of instrumentalists and lead singer Robin Gordon. Rick Gordon the trumpet players while Tom Barrick plays the drums. The "Pincurl Girls" include Robin Gordon, Lori Boyd and Jamie Boyd,

all of whom are family.

The Reston Concerts on the Town are presented every Saturday night, from June 5-Aug. 28, 7:30-10 p.m., rain or shine, at the Reston Town Center Pavilion. This year the concerts will feature Jazz, Swing, Island, Latin fusion, New Orleans, Motown, Afro-Cuban and Celtic style music. Music lovers are encouraged to bring their children and dogs, as well as blankets and lawn chairs.

On Saturday June 12, the Reston Concerts on the Town will host WorldBeat Jam, with Entrain, an island rhythm and blues band, from 7:30-10:30 p.m. For more information on the coming events at the Reston Town Center's Pavilion and The Reston Concerts on the Town, visit: www.restontowncenter.com.

— AMIR NOORBAKSH

Audience Reviews

Aviva LeKuch, Fairfax County Public Schools Teacher, Vienna

"I think it's wonderful and the music is from my time, which I heard because of my parents, and I love it."

Cordelia Bloom, Poet and Song Writer, Reston

"This band's music makes me move and dance."

Ellen & Steve Wise, Reston

"It's fabulous and very enjoyable."

Kristen Bates, Reston

"I think it's a great band and a great evening out. I also love swing dancing."

— AMIR NOORBAKSH



Radio King Orchestra performing at the Reston Pavilion on Saturday, June 5.

VOLUNTEERS

To show gratitude for all volunteer work, **Reston Association** invites volunteers to the 2009 Volunteer Appreciation Luau! Food, music, games, give-a-ways are provided. Friday, July 31 (Rain date: Friday, Aug. 7), 6 - 8 p.m. at Hunters Woods Pool - 2501 Reston Parkway, Reston. The pool has a children's splash area, diving board and large spa. So bring your family and enjoy a relaxing evening at the pool. RSVP by July 24 to Ha Brock, Volunteer Coordinator at 703-435-7986 or via e-mail habrock@reston.org.

Stream Monitoring: Become a volunteer stream monitor and help RA assess the health of our streams. RA is in need of volunteers to assist with stream monitoring at several locations throughout Reston during all seasons. If you are willing to learn, can work with a partner, enjoy data collection, wildlife identification, and are interested in the health of Reston's streams, this is the job for you. Volunteering consists of four monitoring sessions of 3-4 hours each for a total of 12-16 hours per year. Training and practice are required and a two-year commitment is encouraged. Date: Wednesday, July 29 (sign up by July 22). Time: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Location: RA Main Conference Room - 1930 Isaac Newton Square, Reston.

Date: Aug. 1. Location: Twin Branches Nature Trail near W&O Trail on Buckthorn Lane. Contact: Ha Brock, RA Volunteer Specialist II at 703-435-7986 or email habrock@reston.org.

Volunteer Solutions Fair in Reston: Find your niche in creating a caring community for all ages at the Volunteer Solutions Fair on Thursday, Aug. 6, 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Participants will learn about volunteer opportunities that help older adults and adults with disabilities. The first five people to register and start volunteering will receive a free gift. Contact retha.lockhart@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-5406 for more information.

Volunteer Solutions is a program of the Department of Family Services' Division of Adult and Aging Services/Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa. Call 703-324-5406 (TTY 703-449-1186) for reasonable ADA accommodations.

Help Nursing Home Residents: Help residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities advocate for their rights, resolve conflicts and improve their quality of life. The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteers who can commit a minimum of four hours a week for one year. Volunteers set their own schedules between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays and receive training and support. Call 703-324-5861 or 703-324-5422; TTY 703-449-1186 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ltombudsman. Register now to attend our three-day training in September.

Weed Warriors Project - English Ivy at Old Trail:

Our native trees, ferns and wildflowers are under attack by invasive exotic plants like English Ivy, Japanese Honey-suckle and Bamboo. That is why we need warriors like you to join us in rescuing Reston's beautiful parkland from these aggressive plants. These fast growing, invasive plants escape from people's yards and seriously threaten local ecosystems, taking away vital food and habitat from already stressed wildlife populations. Please join the battle against English Ivy at the Old Trail natural area. We must return to protect the native plants we installed.

Date: Saturday, July 25, 2009 Time: 10 a.m. - Noon. Location: Near the tot lot inside the Old Trail horseshoe. You can access the natural area from a pathway on the inside of Old Trail Dr. or at the end of Shadbush Ct. cul-de-sac. It is never enough to attack English Ivy just once. Please wear long sleeves and pants. Contact Person: Ha Brock, Volunteer Specialist at 703-435-7986 or email habrock@reston.org.

AROUND TOWN

American Flag Disposal Program

If your U.S. Flag has seen better days, you can bring it to Reston Association for proper disposal. RA has teamed with American Legion Post 180 of Vienna to pick up any flag that is dropped off.

The locations are Reston Association Member Services, 1930 Isaac Newton Square, or at Reston Association Central Services, 12250 Sunset Hills Drive. The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Only U.S. flags will be accepted.

Reston Hospital Center Donates \$50,000 to GMU Lab

On May 12, at the George Mason University School of Nursing's Class of 2010 pinning ceremony, the University not only placed its badge on 113 graduating nurses, but also accepted a gift of \$50,000 from Reston Hospital Center. The gift will support the Reston Hospital Center Healthcare Technologies Innovation Lab.

Cindy Glover, RN, MBA, Chief Nursing Officer of Reston Hospital Center, was present to speak on behalf of the George Mason University College of Health and Human Services Alumni Chapter.

"Giving back is something important to all of us at Reston Hospital Center, but this gift is all the more special to me," said Glover. "As an alumna of George Mason, I'm proud to give back to a university that has helped me achieve so much in my own career, and that has had such a positive impact on the nursing workforce at Reston."



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OPINION

For Scientists, Start Earlier, Learn Geography

After years of changes designed to increase diversity, Thomas Jefferson this year admitted nine poor students.

Each year, 480 students are admitted to the top high school in the United States, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Back in 2004, a Blue Ribbon commission recommended a variety of changes to the admission's process to enter Fairfax County's top public school, an effort to boost the diversity at the school. The school's students have been about 90 percent Asian and white.

Many changes later, changes designed to consider students "holistically," the incoming freshman class has dramatically smaller percentages of black, Hispanic and poor students than the student body of the county as a whole. Four African American students were admitted, along with 13 Hispanic students, in a class of 480 incoming freshman.

More telling, there were nine students poor

enough to qualify for free-or-reduced price meals admitted to begin ninth grade next year at TJ. That's less than two percent. Children in a family of four with income of less than \$44,000 annually qualify for subsidized meals, and such children make up about 20 percent of all students in Fairfax County.

More than 70 percent of those admitted to TJ had completed geometry in eighth grade. But in some of the poorest and most diverse middle schools in the county, advanced math programs are not even offered.

In the overall state of the county, does it matter how many poor students, or black students, or Hispanic students, get to go to the best high school in the country?

It does matter that students from schools with more diversity and more poverty are not getting the opportunity to develop a passion for science and technology.

Last Call for Father's Day photos

Father's Day is Sunday, June 20, and once again the McLean Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Send in photos as soon as possible, including names of everyone in the picture, the date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about what is happening

The school system's failure to prepare more poor students well enough to gain admission to TJ means a huge missed opportunity. It means that tens of thousands of students who could be developing a passion for science at an early age that might transform their lives are not getting the foundation they need to go forward in rigorous programs, whether that's at TJ or AP or IB.

FCPS is cutting programs that benefit poor students and schools with a higher percentage of poor students, for example Project Excel and year-round school calendar, even as it is clear poor students have almost no access to the county's top programs.

It's time to add a geographic component to admissions at TJ, reserving some spots for students from every middle school.

This will also require starting earlier with advanced classes so that when those students arrive at TJ, they can succeed there.

EDITORIALS

Reston Grapevine — Selected Shorts

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

There are so many blips on my radar that it is difficult to decide which to address. So, I'm going with the abbreviated version of the grapevine.

First, the Reston Master Plan Task Force (www.reston2020.blogspot.com) is at a delicate stage, having nearly decided how to decide what to decide. Six months into their work, planning principles are still drafts. No vision guides the piecemeal work. Shaping recommendations for a new comprehensive plan is to be done by three subcommittees. The Town Center Station subcom is farthest along and typifies the problem. Their meetings are orderly but guided by developers with proposals for maximizing returns on properties. That's their job, maximizing profit, but broader community interests are not getting equal attention. Natural areas, such as Sunrise Valley Wetlands Park, and a 5-acre park near Cameron Glen are developer targets.

With the decennial census comes redrawing of political boundaries. I hear that Democrats are contemplating switching "high maintenance" Reston back to the

11th Congressional District to make Gerry Connolly's re-election easier next time — should he survive 2010's election. Democrats and Republicans are pretty even in the 11th. Not so in the 8th District, where Democrats abound throughout. Problem is redistricting is done by the Virginia legislature where Republicans dominate the House; the Dems have only one vote margin in the Senate. Reston stays in the 8th.

Also on the grapevine is the notion that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will pair Herndon with Reston in a revised Hunter Mill District and move Vienna into Sully or Providence District. This was a rumor that didn't happen 10 years ago. Not sure this is very likely this year either. Both Vienna and Herndon are incorporated towns. So, the county supervisor does not have the power she has in much larger, but unincorporated, Reston.

Relations between the county supervisor and town government are prickly in both cases. I'd give this one a 50-50 chance of hap-



pening this time around.

Fairfax County Planning Commission Chairman Walter Alcorn is said to want to run for Cathy Hudgins' seat as our Hunter Mill District Supervisor.

Alcorn is a bright fellow who used to live in Reston. Kate Hanley first appointed him to an at-large Planning Commission seat 10 years ago. I'm not sure what 10 years playing with developers, supervisors and proffer deals does to a person. Worrysome, but still he'd likely be an improvement.

Lastly, political correctness in the extreme. "From Here to There and Back with A Quack," a highly regarded children's book ("lovely book should be on every parent's gift list.") written and beautifully illustrated by Reston residents was banned by the Reston Museum because it depicts an injured duckling being fed by a lady. And we all know Reston Association discourages feeding the ducks. This beautiful little book can be purchased at the Reston Used Book Store or online.

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Litigation vs. Education

To the Editor:

I offer the following response to Jack Kenny's opinion ["The Threat to Federalism. Reston Connection," Jun 2-8, 2010].

Mr. Kenny like so many opponents of strong federal government plays the founding father's card saying in effect that what was declared more than 200 years ago must be carved in stone. As a former history major and life long observer of our governance, I have a great respect for those who established our form of government, the most enviable in the world. Our founding fathers, however, realized that time and circumstances change and built flexibility into our system. They would have been the first to say that if change is needed then change. We have 27 Constitutional Amendments to support that fact. States rights is not a panacea as Jim Crow laws and literacy tests for voting rights have proven. Social Security has financial challenges to be sure, but millions have been aided in their senior years to live out their lives with some dignity where otherwise public funds would have been tapped for less successful

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THE CONNECTION

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OPINION

To Tell the Truth

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

We did not have a television in our home until I was 16. When Dad finally made some extra money raising broiler chickens in addition to his full-time job doing maintenance work on the Norfolk and Western Railroad, he took the extra hundred dollars and bought us a black and white television as color was not yet available. Reception where we lived was limited to one channel, WSA-TV, Harrisonburg. On Saturday night it was Lawrence Welk whether you liked him or not. Funny how his re-runs seem a lot better than the originals did.

Game shows were popular in those days, including "To Tell the Truth" where an individual and two impostors tried to fool a panel of Kitty Carlisle and other celebrities as to who was the authentic person.

Much of political debate reminds me of an effort to find out who is telling the truth. There are television talking-head commentators, instant "experts," blogs, etc., all spinning their versions of the

truth. Any wonder that the public gets confused or becomes cynical. One issue subject to a lot of spin is government spending and taxing.

USA Today did an analysis of tax payment and reported last month that "Americans paid their lowest level of taxes last year since Harry Truman's presidency." Citing Bureau of Economic Analysis figures, USA Today reported that "federal, state and local taxes, including income, property, sales and other taxes – consumed 9.2 percent of all personal income, the lowest rate since 1950." The historic average for the last half-century was 12 percent. One of the contributors to the reduction was the tax cuts in the \$862 billion federal stimulus package. Tea Party folks seldom mention this fact.

At the state level, taxation has remained essentially even according to Fiscal Analytics of Richmond. Gov. Mark Warner (D) pushed through with bipartisan support various tax reforms that raised \$1.6 billion in new revenue. His efforts to more fully fund core services were undone with a se-



ries of six major tax cuts that left a net of \$38 million for the decade. In other words, tax cuts almost equaled the tax increase.

There is also a lot of concern expressed about the federal American Recovery

and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Many contend that we should not be taking federal money. For Virginia, ARRA has basically kept our budget balanced. Virginia accepted about a billion dollars in federal money that prevented large cuts in the school budget last year. This year the state budget was passed in anticipation of the Congress providing about a half-billion in Federal Medical Assistance Program (FMAP) dollars. If the Congress fails to act as now seems possible, Virginia will need to come up with a half-billion in cuts or revenue.

To tell the truth on emotional issues like government spending and taxation, it is important to work from good data. Hopefully this column has provided good information on which to formulate an opinion. I am always pleased to hear from you at kenplum@aol.com.

Plum (D-36) has said.

Lloyd W. Kinzer, Reston

Band Thanks Community

To the Editor:

The fund-raising goal for the 2009-10 school year of the South Lakes High School Band was to raise money to outfit the band in new uniforms for the marching band season. As a result of the supportive citizens in the area, we are proud to say that we reached our goal. The band would like to thank the community for their generous support during this school year. To accomplish this, members of the band went door-to-door throughout the community in September, sold White House Ornaments and citrus in December, sponsored a pre-concert dinner in May and were involved in many more events. However, without the dedication and support from the South Lakes High School community our goal would not be accomplished. Thank you very much!

Approximately 100 students are enrolled in the band program at South Lakes High School, which

includes the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band, Flag Corps and the Spirit of Reston Marching Band. Our numbers will increase next school year as additional students join the band.

Our award winning South Lakes High School Band competed at the Fiesta-Val, an Invitational Music Festival in Atlanta Georgia this spring. The band captured first place in Division IV Concert Band, Division VI Concert Band and Jazz Band. The Jazz Band won the overall Jazz Band Championship. Patrick Garziglia, senior, and Joshua Grant, junior, received awards for outstanding solo work and the Jazz Band Trumpet section won the award for Best Brass Section in Jazz Band. This is quite an honor for the high school and our community. While in Atlanta, The South Lakes Band toured the Georgia Aquarium, the World of Coca-Cola and CNN. They also attended the Atlanta Symphony and spent their last day having fun at Six Flags over Georgia. For further information, visit the South Lakes High School Band website at www.southlakesband.org.

Grayson Fore,
Director SLHS Bands

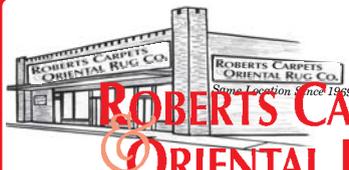
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6
support.

The health care issue is complex and challenging to say the least. Health insurance companies are being dragged kicking and screaming into the realization that wellness and prevention costs less than treatment. The new health care law will push states in that direction. Those without health insurance are visiting emergency rooms and putting a burden on hospital costs which put many health care facilities in financial jeopardy. Again, public funds — our money — has to come to the rescue. Present experience, situation and wisdom dictates a balanced public and government system so that all citizens receive sensible care at reasonable prices. Such a plan, like national defense, is too large a challenge to be left to the individual states some of whose existing laws such as the refusal to issue cross-state licensing to many health insurance companies, keep insurance rates artificially high.

The upcoming litigation by Virginia State Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli and his counterparts in other states will be an excessive financial expenditure as Del. Ken

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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/JUNE 10

Luke Brindley. 7:30 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

Swing Dance with King Teddy. 7:30 at The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-424-1745 or www.headoverheelsdance.com.

Friends of the Library Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. "The Book Thief" by Marcus Zusak. Adults. 703-689-2700.

FRIDAY/JUNE 11

Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. 6 p.m.-12 a.m. on the grounds of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Rusted Root performs at 8 p.m. Six stages will be located throughout the festival site. All shows are free with daily tickets to the event. 703-324-3247 or www.celebratefairfax.com.

Cirque Dreams: Illumination. 8:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. \$45-\$245. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

Worldbeat Jam with Entrain. 7:30 p.m. at the Reston Town Center, 1760 Reston Parkway, Reston. Island rhythms, funk, blues and ska. www.restontowncenter.com.

Community Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Furniture, clothing, baby items and more. vmw1910@hotmail.com.

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

Celebrating Summer. 7:30 p.m. at Café Montmartre, 1625 Washington Plaza North, Lake Anne, Reston. Music and dancing from the 1930s-1980s. 703-904-8080.

SATURDAY/JUNE 12

Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. on the grounds of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Carolina Liar performs at 3 p.m. and KC & The Sunshine Band at 8 p.m. Six stages will be located throughout the festival site. All shows are free with daily tickets to the event. 703-324-3247 or www.celebratefairfax.com.

Taste of Lake Anne. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza, 11402 Washington Plaza, Reston. Noteworthy creations using fresh and local ingredients from the Saturday Farmers Market on the Plaza, open air arts & craft market with over 30 vendors and child friendly activities. \$2-\$15. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/JUNE 10

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Public Workshop on Dulles Toll Road. 5:30 p.m. at Langston Hughes Middle School, 11401 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. A public workshop on the draft highway noise policy for Dulles Toll Road. All materials regarding the draft highway noise policy will be available for review, and staff will be onsite to answer questions. Online comments will be accepted through June 30 from the "Highway Noise Policy" link at www.mwaa.com/tollroad.

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.

SATURDAY/JUNE 12

The Reston Accessibility Committee (RAC) meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of every other month, at United Bank, 1801 Reston Parkway, Reston. The RAC works to



Azriel Awret, 'Mother and Child.' Opening of exhibit 'L' Chayim' with watercolor and oil paintings by Irene Awret and bronze and wooden sculptures by Azriel Awret on Sunday, June 13, 5 p.m. at ArtSpace, 750 Center St., Herndon.

Cirque Dreams: Illumination. 8:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. \$45-\$245. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

Worldbeat Jam with Entrain. 7:30 p.m. at the Reston Town Center, 1760 Reston Parkway, Reston. Island rhythms, funk, blues and ska. www.restontowncenter.com.

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Celebrating Summer. 7:30 p.m. at Café Montmartre, 1625 Washington Plaza North, Lake Anne, Reston. Music and dancing from the 1930s-1980s. 703-904-8080.

SUNDAY/JUNE 13

Artist's Reception with Irene and Azriel Awret. 5 p.m. at ArtSpace, 750 Center St., Herndon. Opening of exhibit 'L' Chayim' with watercolor and oil paintings by Irene Awret and bronze and wooden sculptures by Azriel Awret.

improve accessibility for mobility-impaired persons in Reston. Contact Ken Fredgren, 703-391-9019 or fredgren.k@gmail.com.

Information Session for Fairfax CASA. 11 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates will host an information session for interested volunteers who would like to learn more about advocating for abused or neglected children. Volunteers must be at least 21 and willing to commit 20 hours per month. All necessary training is provided; no prior experience is required. 703-273-3526 ext. 22 or ekosarin@casafairfax.org.

MONDAY/JUNE 14

Legislative Update Workshop. 7:30 p.m. at Reston Association Headquarters Main Conference Room, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Annual legislative review presented by Lucia Anna Trigiiani, an attorney with the firm Mercer Trigiiani and active lobbyist for homeowners' associations.

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.

TUESDAY/JUNE 15

Hazak Active Retirees. 1 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emeth, 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon. Hazak meets on the third Tuesday, Sept.-June. Free for CBE Hazak members, \$3 non-members. 703-860-4515 ext. 127.

Hands-on Oracle Database 11g Application Development. 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. Learn key tools, frameworks, techniques, and building database-backed applications. Raffle prizes and advanced lab content downloads. Bring a laptop with Windows, Linux, or Mac with minimum 2Gb RAM. reply@oracle.com.

Weight Loss Surgery Options: the Gastric Band and Sleeve Gastrectomy. 7:30 p.m. at Reston

every Wednesday. 703-242-4020.

Summertime Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Celebrate the summertime with stories. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-242-4020.

OK Book Discussion. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. My Own Country by A. Verghese. Adults. 703-242-4020.

THURSDAY/JUNE 17

Mahala. 7:30 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. South African township music. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

Miles Stiebel Band. 7 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Contemporary Jazz. www.milesstiebel.com

Sing a Song. 10 a.m. Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. \$5/child RA members; \$8/child non-members. Learn all about our feathered friends and how to identify some just by their songs. For ages 3-5 years. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Reserve at 703-476-9689 ext. 6540 or naturalist@reston.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 18

Cats. Friday-Sunday at 8 p.m., Saturday-Sunday at 2p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. \$44-\$245. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 19

Become a Pilot Family Day and Aviation Display. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Center, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Explore an outdoor aviation display with approximately 50 visiting vintage, recreational, military, and homebuilt aircraft. Talk to pilots and find out what skills are needed to fly. Test your piloting skills in flight simulators. Story time and activities for children. Free event. Parking \$15. www.nasm.si.edu/becomeapilot.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's OTO String Quartet. 10 a.m. Lake Fairfax Park Amphitheater, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Showing the performing techniques and qualities of string instruments. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 16

The GoodLife Theater: 'Little Red Rockethood and other Space Age Tales.' 10 a.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Little Red rides a rocket to the Grandma Planet with a basket of goodies. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

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

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 16

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.

Reston's Wednesday Farmer's Market. 3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. at the NE corner of Reston Parkway and Sunrise Valley. Producer-only locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry, and local breads, cheeses, salsa and sausage. <http://smartmarkets.org>.

Beginning and Intermediate English Classes. 2 p.m. at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church, 1615 Washington Plaza North, Reston. For speakers of other languages. Free. www.WashingtonPlazaChurch.com or 703-471-5225.

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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 Betties
- 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

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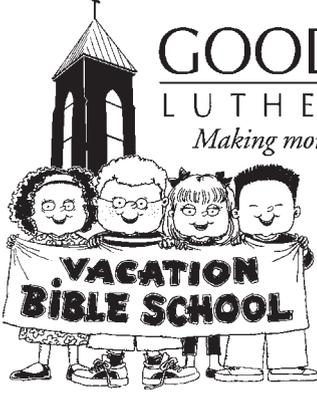
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Marching in National Parade

The South Lakes High School Army JROTC unit was one of only four JROTC units invited to participate in the National Memorial Day parade. This spring this South Lakes High unit was awarded the Gold Star award, which is the highest recognition possible for JROTC programs. They also earned the top award of JROTC units marching in the St. Patrick's Day parade in March.



Troops 678 and 1448 Celebrate Bridging Together

Celebrating the end of one stage of Girl Scouting and beginning a new stage, two Sunrise Valley Elementary School troops celebrated their bridging ceremonies together on June 2. Ten girls from Daisy Troop 1448 bridged over to become Brownies, while nine girls from Brownie Troop 678 bridged over to become Junior Scouts. Following the Girl Scout tradition of helping other scouts, Cadette Kathleen McLean and Junior Annika Gude led the joint bridging, where each older scout helped a younger partner. As the girls bridged, McLean and Gude told the girls to help others as they have helped them to ensure the helping spirit of Girl Scouts continues to others. Troop 678 is led by troop leaders Cindi McLean and Garen Duchak, while Troop 1448 is led by Lyn Cordts and Garen Duchak.



PHOTO BY LYN FISCUS CORDTS

Pictured after the ceremony, first row, from left, Emily Colvin, Alex Carlon, Vanessa Hathaway, Alaina Cordts, Caley Duchak, Zoe Hunt, Brianna Scott, Jin Din, Paige Wilson and Katia Vivanco; second row, Kristine Vivanco, Delaney Duchak, Sierra Shuman, Sejal Gude, Caroline McLean, Kellie McCrea, Nicole Atkins, Emily Fritz and Olivia Hathaway; and, back row, Annika Gude and Kathleen McLean.

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Reston Condos Are Hot, Again

An insider's view of local real estate market.

The real estate market in Reston, and in many cases nationwide, seems to be on an improving track. Sales nationwide in March were up over 6 percent. In Reston, we have seen great activity in the under \$400,000 range. It is interesting that we are seeing multiple offers and in some cases escalation agreements on well priced properties in good locations. An escalation agreement is used when there are competing offers on a property. You submit your offer with an addendum stating you will beat any competing offer by "X" dollars (is negotiable/up to the buyer) up to a maximum sales price of "Y." As this is written, it does not appear there will be an extension of either tax credit. It remains to be seen what effect the buyer tax credits or the lack thereof will have on the market.

OPINION: The extended credits did not have the anticipated boost in sales that many had expected. Most people took the credit the first time around not knowing, and

REAL ESTATE NOTES

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the next week's paper.

David Houghtaling and Jalil Achir of Reston were among the Coldwell Banker agents receiving The Award of Excellence from the nationally renowned real estate marketing and technology speaker and REALTOR.com® Vice President, Max Pigman. The Award of Excellence program was created to recognize top real estate agents across the country who consistently provide great marketing services on behalf of their buyers and sellers.

Long & Foster® Real Estate, Inc., has announced the launch of The Long & Foster Market Minute™, an innovative report aimed to deliver local knowledge based on county-level data. A leader in providing real estate market data, Long & Foster will produce the reports every month, currently covering 100 counties it serves in the Mid-Atlantic region. The Long & Foster Market Minute™ is an overview of market statistics presented at the county level. The easy-to-read and

perhaps fearful, if they did not buy last year there would not be a credit later. April sales did not show a tremendous uptick even with the deadline to purchase (be under contract) well publicized at April 30.

WHAT'S HOT: All condos, everything around Reston Town Center (with some re-sales in the \$1,000,000+ range). Properties walking distance to the future Wiehle Metro station (would be primarily townhouses and condos) and anything in North Reston under \$600,000.

And what's not — older properties in all categories that have not been improved/upgraded. This is not a market where we can put a home up for sale in any condition and assume it will sell. Reston properties from the 70s and 80s are "outdated" by today's standards — 8-foot ceilings, small bedrooms and bathrooms. To get top dollar, you want to invest in upgrades that buyers are looking for. They will pay top dollar while the unimproved properties linger on the market.

FOR SALE: Currently, 67 detached homes ranging from \$205,000 to \$1,495,000 with an average list price of \$726,767. The

easy-to-share reports include information about each county's units sold, active inventory, median sale prices, months of supply, new listings, new contracts, list to sold price ratio, and days on market. In addition to the 100 counties in seven states it currently covers, The Long & Foster Market Minute will include more counties in future releases. The Long & Foster Market Minute™ reports are available at no charge on the Long & Foster Web site, <http://www.longandfoster.com/>.

Keller Williams Realty International announced at its annual "Family Reunion" Conference in New Orleans that the McLean office won top honors nationally among more than 30 new Keller Williams offices for 2009, with \$6.5M in gross commission income. McLean was named the #1 Launch in the nation for 2009. The McLean office launched 18 months ago with 30 agents and today has nearly 100. Keller Williams International also surpassed Re/Max to become the #3 largest real estate company in the U.S. by agent count. This is the first time in 20 years that the order has shifted.

average days on market (DOM) is 64. There are 110 townhouses for sale priced from \$188,000 to \$915,000 with the average being \$414,350 and DOM of 35. There are 111 condominiums for sale ranging from \$84,900 to \$1,100,000 with an average asking price of \$324,411 and DOM of 57.

INTEREST RATES: Still outstanding — 30-year fixed mortgages are found below 5 percent. Jumbo mortgage money (above \$729,000) which has been hard to come by and expensive is more readily available for about 0.5 percent additional. The upper brackets — above \$1,000,000 — have been sluggish due to the premium on the rates and buyers resistance to pay but seem to be picking up.

WE'VE MOVED: Effective May 1, we have relocated the office to 11438 Washington Plaza, on the lake at the boat dock. We are excited about being back on the plaza where our real estate business started 43 years ago. We look forward to helping you with all your real estate needs and welcome your calls. Jon Querolo, Broker/Owner, Beneficial Real Estate, 703-585-4900. www.restonproperties.com

FAITH NOTES

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

The Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation Annual Rummage Sale will be 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, June 13 at 1441 Whiele Ave., Reston. This event is organized and run by the Sisterhood and is open to the public. Come look for treasures at great prices. 703-437-7733.

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

Nondenominational **Christian businessmen** meet for prayer, Biblical discussion and fellowship 7 p.m. Fridays at Anita's, 1051 Elden St., Herndon and 12 p.m. Thursdays at 555 Grove St., Suite 200, Herndon. Call 703-795-1257.

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

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11903 Crayton Creek.....\$995,000...Sun 1-4....Christine Richardson...Weichert.....703-231-1812
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SPORTS

Another Dominating Season for South Lakes Boys' Track

Behind Vaughn and Price, Seahawks capture third straight Northern Region title.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION



PHOTOS BY CHERYLYNNE WILLIAMS

Adrian Vaughn, a South Lakes High senior, will be running for the George Mason University Patriots next school year.

Two weeks ago, the South Lakes High boys' track and field team accomplished a tremendous feat when it captured the Northern Region outdoor title for a third consecutive year. Having won the championship in both 2008 and 2009, this year's Seahawks naturally wanted the wave of region success to continue.

"It was very important for the guys to win again," said South Lakes second year head coach Scott Raczk. "And they really came together and stepped up. They wanted to keep the tradition going."

South Lakes lost All-State athletes Vincent Brown, Quintin Fortes and Michael Harrell to graduation from last year's title winning team.

"Almost all of our point-getters from last year's region championship team graduated," said Raczk.

Nevertheless, this year's Seahawks found a way to make up those lost points.

South Lakes, in winning its third straight region crown May 27-28 at Lake Braddock Secondary School, needed some late heroics to edge second place Annandale for the title. South Lakes finished with 66 points to the Atoms' 65.

South Lakes clinched the championship in the final event with a first place finish in the 4x400 relay. The winning foursome was made up of Muhammad Yasin, Armando Drain, Alvin Moore and Adrian Vaughn. Finishing second in the relay was Oakton, which barely edged third place Annandale.

Prior to the 4x400, South Lakes' Nick Guarnaccia finished seventh in the 3,200 race, despite not even being seeded. Had he not earned two points in that event, Annandale's third place finish in the ensuing relay would have been enough to boost the Atoms to the

team title.

So, in every sense of the word for South Lakes, gaining the team crown was a true team effort.

"It was important for us that everyone got what they could out of their events," said Raczk.

The coach recalled team members encouraging Guarnaccia prior to his big 2-mile race. He responded with his best mark of the year in the event.

"Everyone was going up to Nick before the 3,200 and saying to him, 'Can you get us a few points,'" said Raczk. "Without Nick's two points, everything changes. Nick's two points in the two mile was huge. ... We had to win the 4x400 and we did. If Annandale would have gotten second [in the relay] they would have won [the team title]."

As they have done so many times, South Lakes' Vaughn, a senior, and Sean Price, a junior, had typically outstanding meets in helping pave the way for the Seahawks to the team title. Price won both the long jump and triple jump events, while finishing third in both the 100 and 200 dash running events. Vaughn was champion in both the 200 and 400 races.

"Both stepped up and met expectations at the meet," said Raczk.

Vaughn is set to compete next school year at local George Mason University.

"Adrian has worked real hard and had a great attitude," said the coach, of the 12th graders' spring season.

Price, meanwhile, will return to South Lakes for his senior year next fall.

"Sean has been very focused and has also worked very hard," said Raczk. "Sean is a gamer. When he needs to do something [in an

event] he goes out and does it."

Price, in fact, was down on the leader board in both the long and triple jumps throughout much of the region competition before storming back to capture both events. And his third place points in both the 100 and 200 races were invaluable.

Another key two points came from the Seahawks' 4x800-relay team, made up of Will Sickenberger, Sean Williams, Morten Grundahl and Jacob Grundahl, which finished seventh. It was the foursome's best race of the year.

Also for the boys, Armando Drain got 10th in the 300 hurdles and Ian Angara got 13th in the same event.

For the girls, Valerie Moyer jumped well and got third in the girls high jump and earned a personal best in the 1,600 for ninth place. Promising freshman Kyannah Calhoun was ninth in the 400 and 12th in the 200. Sophomore Emily Lopynsky was 17th in the 400.

THE VIRGINIA STATE AAA Championships took place this past weekend at the Sports Backers Stadium in Richmond. For the South Lakes boys, Vaughn was a fifth place finisher in the 400 race and a sixth place finisher in the 200. Price, meanwhile, took seventh in the triple jump and eighth place in the long jump.

Top eight finishers at states earned medals.

For the Herndon boys at states, Jack Jasper finished fifth in the 1600 race. In field events, Kirk Nguyen earned sixth place in discus and ninth in shot put for the Hornets.

For the Herndon girls, Carolyn Hennessey finished fifth in the 2-mile race and Carina Peter was



South Lakes' 2010 boys track team are three-peat Northern Region champions.

seventh in both the 100 and 200 races.

Oakton's Andrew McCullen finished fifth in the boys' 3,200. For

the Oakton girls, Alex Straton was sixth in the long jump and Meghan Jean-Baptiste was eighth in the triple jump.

Duggan Named New SLHS Boys' Basketball Coach

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Andrew Duggan was named the new South Lakes High boys' basketball coach on Monday, June 7. He has spent the past 10 years as an assistant boys' basketball coach at Chantilly High School. "He brings a wealth of experience and good ideas to our basketball program and school," said South Lakes Principal Bruce Butler. "He's a strong educator in the classroom. [As a coach] he has a real solid and strong understanding of the fundamentals of the game."

Duggan replaces Irv Greene and Jon Kemmerer, who served as interim co-head coaches last year. South Lakes went 8-13 overall but qualified for the Northern Region playoffs as a result of defeating Fairfax High in a Liberty District tournament quarterfinals game. The Seahawks' season ultimately ended with a first-round region playoff loss to Herndon.

Duggan, who teaches physical education, was the head varsity assistant coach for a Chantilly team that captured the Northern Region title this past winter. Longtime Chantilly High head coach Jim Smith said Duggan has been an invaluable

member of the Chargers' program over the past 10 years. He said that South Lakes made a fine hire.

"I think Andrew will do a great job," said Smith. "First and foremost, he's really good at working with kids. He'll build relationships with them and communicate with them. He takes a big interest in them outside of basketball. Also, Andrew will do a good job because he's a hard worker. He'll put the time in, work hard on the practice floor and watch film." Smith said the South Lakes boys' coaching position is one of the most elite in the region. Former longtime South Lakes coach Wendell Byrd, who led the Seahawks to several region titles before stepping down following the 2006-07 season, is regarded as one of the top high school basketball coaches in the history of the region. Darryl Branch, a longtime Byrd assistant, ran the program for two years after Byrd's departure before Greene and Kemmerer shared the coaching duties last winter.

Now, Duggan will lead the program.

"I'm happy for both Andrew and South Lakes," said Smith. "I think that's really one of the plumb jobs in Fairfax County."

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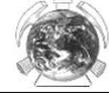
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A Question of Answers



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

As much – and as hard – as I try, it's difficult to forget that I have cancer. There are reminders everywhere. But the reminders that arrive/appear unexpectedly – thwack, are the worst. Let me give you two examples: my application for Social Security Disability benefits (which is merely a reduced percentage of your retirement benefit paid early, before you're eligible for that retirement, if you are determined to be "disabled," that is, a determination which is not easily or quickly made).

These days, even applying for Social Security disability is an online exercise (hopefully not in futility, but there's certainly no guarantee) and one that is somewhat daunting at that. My joke has been that if an applicant is able to successfully complete their online application for disability benefits, it immediately disqualifies them from receiving those benefits since the applicant has proven he is not so disabled that he can't sit and type at a computer; (the definition of disability according to Social Security is extremely general, so much so that if you can do anything for which you have background, training, education or experience, Social Security can deny your claim). The process is supposed to take 45 minutes, the site advises; it took me two hours, but I did finish and was able to submit my application online.

The questions begin simply enough; the non-medical ones, all the relevant facts; name, address, phone numbers, date of birth, social security number, employer, income, etc. Soon enough, the medical questions follow. About halfway through these questions, (treating physician, facility, medications, symptoms, date disability began), all of which were very reasonable and expected, humdrum even (sort of, given the seriousness of the matter at hand), came the following question which, had I not already been sitting, would have likely knocked me off my feet: "Is this disability likely to result in death in less than two years?" I hesitated then, as I'm hesitating now, writing the next sentence. Try asking yourself that question and then realizing you have to answer "Yes." Heavy doesn't begin to describe the weight I felt. Within a few minutes, I got my bearings and eventually re-engaged and ultimately completed the application. (By the way, when you answer "yes" to that "do you expect ..." question, you are fast-tracked to a special page within the application for extra-special attention.)

The second example of an unforeseen reminder that I didn't need, and one that came totally out of the blue, unlike the application for Social Security which certainly had the potential for such reminders but one that nevertheless I did not anticipate, came in the mail from my HMO. It was an innocent-sounding, customer service-type survey, asking me questions about my most recent visit with my oncologist: courtesy, efficiency, punctuality; did the doctor explain my treatment, discuss options, clarify procedures and so forth. There were maybe a dozen questions with each answer requiring a check mark beside "no experience" to "excellent," with multiple other characterizations in between. It took five minutes to complete.

At the bottom were a few additional questions, more general, summary-type questions about the responder/patient: "Would you recommend this doctor/HMO to another person?" "Overall, are you pleased with your level of care?" Then, the unexpected two by four: "How would you describe your health? "Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent?" Again, I hesitated; gulped and said out loud: "I'm a cancer patient, I guess I'd have to say 'poor.' As much as I'd like to think otherwise, and as "above average" as my oncologist has described my diagnosis-to-date reaction/condition, I'd have to say/think that checking a box other than poor would be naive on my part so I checked 'poor', stuffed and sealed the envelope and then wrote this column.

In general, I feel fine. My oncologist is "pleased." However, I have stage IV lung cancer. Sometimes, the less said – and the less asked about it, the better.

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

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Advisory Committees Push for Accelerated Math

Two of the local school board's advisory committees have urged Fairfax County Public Schools to offer accelerated math classes at all elementary schools in the county.

According to the Advanced Academics Advisory Committee, students who do not take accelerated math as sixth graders are prohibited from taking Algebra I as seventh graders.

And students who take Algebra I in seventh grade often have an advantage when it comes to getting accepted to advanced academic programs in high school.

According to a Fairfax County Public School press release, approximately 80 percent of next year's freshman class at Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology had completed Algebra I by the end of seventh grade.

According to the school system's minority student achievement oversight committee, elementary schools without accelerated math are more likely to enroll black and Hispanic students. If accelerated math was expanded to all schools, it could improve the acceptance rate of black and Hispanic students at Jefferson.

Fairfax schools reported last month that only 17 of the 480 students in Jefferson's freshman class next year are black or Hispanic.

Fairfax Schools See Huge Increase In Students with Autism

From 1997 to 2007, the number of students with autism in Fairfax County Public Schools rose 775 percent, according to the local school board's advisory committee on students with disabilities.

During the 1996-1997 school year, Fairfax County enrolled just 235 students who had been labeled autistic. By the 2006-2008 school year, the local school system included 1,712 students with autism.

Children in Fairfax schools are far more likely to be autistic than those in other parts of the country.

Approximately one in every 91 children enrolled in the Fairfax school system was autistic in 2007, compared to just one in every 150 students nationwide, according to the report.

Local Congressional Offices Participate In Race For The Cure

Staff of all three Northern Virginia congressmen participated in the Susan G. Komen Global Race For The Cure on the National Mall June 5.

Staff members for U.S. Reps. Gerry Connolly (D-11), Jim Moran (D-8) and Frank Wolf (R-Va.) made up three of the 43 congressional teams that took part in the annual event, which raised more than \$4

million for breast cancer outreach and research.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Leave (Animal) Babies Alone

It is not uncommon for wildlife mothers to be away from their young to avoid attracting predators. This is normal behavior. If a baby animal is hiding quietly, it is usually not an orphan, and young animals raised by their parents have better chances for survival.

Fairfax County's wildlife biologist Vicky Monroe is urging people to leave young animals alone. According to Monroe, with the advent of warm weather, encounters between people and wildlife increase. The number of baby animals that are "found" and taken to the Animal Shelter, away from their natural habitats also increases.

Most common species of animals taken by residents include;

- ❖ Birds (fledglings have feathers, open eyes and leave the nest before fully able to fly.

- ❖ Deer (fawn are left unattended by their mothers 90% of the time)

- ❖ Rabbits (young rabbits are left unattended by mothers during daylight)

- ❖ Turtles (young turtles fully independent upon hatching from egg)

A young animal might be in need of rescue by a certified wildlife rehabilitator or veterinarian if it is found near deceased mother, has an obvious injury, is in distress (crying and wandering) or in poor condition (dirty, attracting flies, skinny).

For more about wildlife in Fairfax County, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals/wildlife or for more about injured wildlife, see www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/injured/.

Annual Cleanup Rallies Supporters Against Litter

Thousands of residents volunteered at more than 575 sites as part of the Alice Ferguson Foundation's fight against litter on Saturday, April 10, 2010, the 22nd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Final results indicate that 14,537 volunteers gathered 251.9 tons of trash throughout the watershed. Fairfax County contributed with 101 Clean-up Sites and 2,115 volunteers removing 29.3 tons.

Trash collected from Fairfax County included 26,200 bottles and cans, 6,016 plastic bags, 2,197 bags of trash and recyclables.

The cleanup is part of the Alice Ferguson Foundation's aggressive litter prevention campaign.

The Trash Free Potomac Watershed Initiative seeks to make the Potomac Watershed trash free by 2013. The program sets out to change behavior and mind set to curb the tendency to litter.

For more on volunteer opportunities with the Alice Ferguson Foundation, see www.PotomacCleanup.org or contact Becky Horner at 202.518.7415.



Space Exploration, First-hand Account

Former astronaut Thomas D. Jones Ph.D. spoke to the Reston Lions Club at the group's meeting on Wednesday, May 19, at the China Star Restaurant. He talked about how he became an astronaut, his training and his four space shuttle missions to Earth orbit and discussed the nation's space exploration policy. From left are Program Chairman Gerry Washburn, Lion Lydia Brown, Jones and Lion Tom Cochrane.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Samantha M. Fulton, 22, a 2005 graduate of Langley High School and December 2009 graduate of Longwood University, will attend St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine, located on the island of Grenada, West Indies, beginning in August 2010. St. George's University has graduated more than 450 veterinarians and over 8,000 physicians who are pursuing careers in various locations throughout the globe. The veterinary school was established 10 years ago and is affiliated with 29 schools of veterinary medicine, most of which are in the United States. Fulton is the daughter of Steven Fulton of Great Falls and Suzanne Fulton of Reston.



Samantha M. Fulton

Fulton holds a degree with a major in Biology pre-professional. She is a member of Tri-Beta National Biological Honors Society, Kappa Lambda Chapter, and Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority. She is presently employed at Banfield Pet Hospital in Reston. In previous years, while on school breaks, she worked as well as interned at Seneca Hill Animal Hospital, Resort and Spa in Great Falls. In addition, she has volunteered at The Equine Rescue League in Loudoun County.

Vanessa Oakes of Reston, a junior majoring in biology in the Virginia Tech College of Science, has been named to the national list of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Oakes is one of 91 Virginia Tech students that have been named to the Who's Who national list this year.

Herndon Elementary student **Aubrey Werner** and Lake Anne Elementary student **Keerthi Machiraju** were named winners in the Meadows Farms Nurseries 50th Anniversary 50 Trees for 50 Schools poster and essay contest. Their essays on why trees are important earned a new tree for each school; the trees were delivered by the nursery. Other schools receiving trees were Armstrong Elementary, Great Falls Elementary, Hunters Woods Elementary, Spring Hill Elementary, Terraset Elementary, Virginia Run Elementary, and Washington Mill Elementary.

Elisa Becker of Reston has received the M. B. Rich Endowed Prize at Lycoming College of Williamsport, Pa. The South Lakes High School graduate is a freshman Spanish and international studies major.

Elyse Karin of Reston has graduated from the University of New Haven with a master of science in national security and public safety.

Allison Whitlock of Reston has been named to the spring 2010 dean's list at the University of Notre Dame. Whitlock is a 2009 graduate of South Lakes High School, where she earned an international baccalaureate diploma and a National Merit Scholarship. She is the daughter of Steve and Rosemarie Whitlock of Reston.

Reston Community Center

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July 22

Bluegrass



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July 29

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