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PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

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Fashionable at Herndon High

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Back row: Shaunnesy Neel, Courtney Guengerich, Kendall Brancart; front row: Vanessa Ramsey, Trina Ziegler, Kelly Sartorius. They are part of a new class at Herndon High School called Entrepreneurship.

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Spring Street Closures

The section of Spring Street between Locust and Van Buren Streets will be closed from Oct. 4 through early December, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, due to a waterline improvement project.

Residents of the impacted area will be permitted to use Spring Street for the duration of the project. All other vehicular traffic will be detoured at Locust and Van Buren streets. For more information, contact the Department of Public Works at 703-435-6853 or public.works@herndon-va.gov.

Herndon's Foreclosure Check Program Wins Award

The Town of Herndon's Home Foreclosure Check Program, an inter-departmental effort to combat the negative impact of foreclosed homes on neighborhoods, has been named the winner in its population category for the Virginia Municipal League's 2010 Achievement Award.

Herndon's entry into the competition detailed efforts by the Herndon Police Department, the Town Attorney's Office and the departments of Community Development and Public Works to identify and secure foreclosed and abandoned homes.

As a result of the coordinated, multi-pronged efforts involved in the Home Foreclosure Check Program, calls for police service related to abandoned homes declined from 383 in 2008 to 38 in 2009 and to zero in 2010.

The VML Award will be presented to Mayor Steve DeBenedittis and members of the Herndon Town Council at the annual VML Conference in Hampton, Virginia, Oct. 3-5, 2010.

Fall Cleanup Scheduled for Oct. 18-22

Annual curbside collection of large items throughout the Town of Herndon's residential areas will take place Monday, Oct. 18 through Friday, Oct. 22. Pickup is on normal trash day only. Items are to be placed at the curb by 7 a.m., for pickup, but no earlier than 24 hours prior to collection.

For more information, contact the Department of Public Works at 703-435-6853, or public.works@herndon-va.gov.

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The red dot indicates the Herndon-Monroe station, and the yellow lines indicate the areas being examined for possible transit-oriented and transit-related development. The Herndon Planning Commission voted Wednesday to allow consultants hired by the town to explore higher-density options for the areas north of the station.

Moving Forward With Metro

Planning Commission agrees to hear Metro station development plans with higher density.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Planning Commission agreed Sept. 20 to hear proposals for development around the Herndon-Monroe Metro station that would have higher density than is currently zoned. Their decision does not mean that the development will be dense, but they agreed to let the consultants they hired conduct further study on high-density options.

Though some members of the commission weren't in favor of denser options, failing to move the studies along would have precluded any options for increased density.

"The only thing we're doing is setting constraints for what the consultants study," said Elizabeth Gilleran, director of Community Development for the Town of Herndon. "We want to see if the town council would be willing to look a higher-density options, but they can be scaled back. It would be more expensive and time-consuming to shoot down the high-density options, only to try and go back later."

The consultants argue that increased density would provide incentives developers, as well as help fund public improvement projects, roadway improvements

and other necessary projects.

"The consultants are saying that the current density isn't enough to change the makeup of the area," said Kay Robertson, a senior project planner with the Town of Herndon. "Higher floor area ratios mean more money which will let us have first-class transit-oriented development."

Previous plans had called for the highest density located north of the Herndon-Monroe station, between the Dulles Toll Road and Herndon Parkway. They also called

"Higher floor-area ratios mean more money which will let us have first-class transit-oriented development."

— Kay Robertson

for the areas south of Spring Street and between Van Buren Street and Fairfax County Parkway to stay at the current density level, which is around a 3.0 Floor Area Ratio.

THE CONSULTANTS recommend the higher densities immediately north of the station. They depart from previous plans by recommending two area studies that raise the gross density for the area to as much as 4.5 FAR in the area south of Spring Street.

Ralph Basile, a principal at BBP and Associates, a consulting firm hired by the town, says that the higher FARs would offer developers more of an incentive to develop

around the station.

"We are thinking three types of land uses: residential, office and business. And the kind of retail that doesn't compete with downtown [Herndon], but supports and is fed by the Metro traffic," Basile said.

Basile also said there are examples of areas that didn't change the areas surrounding Metro stations, and the areas regressed in terms of development.

The consultants will be conducting studies into the effects of various densities on abutting lands, which include the Sunrise Valley Wetlands, as well as issues such as easements for overhead power lines. The study will attempt to back up the various scenarios with

data on effects of the nearby area, particularly in regards to traffic.

Geoffrey Morrison-Logan of VHB said, "the main driver for any plan will be examining the amount of traffic it generates."

THE NEXT STEP in the planning process for the Herndon-Monroe Station will be Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. at the Herndon Senior Center. The workshop will feature the proposed plans, as well as the results of the studies being conducted by the consulting firms. Future steps through the end of the year include town staff meetings with residents of neighborhoods near the station, owners of commercial properties near the station and public hearings on the plan.

Information and reports on the development can be found at www.vhb.com/herndonmetrorail.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The 2010 class of the GRACE Ministries commercial drivers license training program, at their March 26 graduation. The program provides English as a second language and commercial drivers license certification and a subsequent job driving school buses for Fairfax County.

Driven to Success

Program helps recruit bus drivers for Fairfax County.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Hermes Quinones Pascual came to America from Peru in November 2004. He and his wife Carmen were pharmacists in Peru, but they struggled to find steady work here.

Pascual found a part-time job at Macy's, and was soon able to get his wife a job there as well, but they found it difficult to support their three daughters and the family had no health insurance.

Now Pascual works as a school bus driver in the Westfield High School pyramid area, which is right near his house, after training to get his commercial drivers license with GRACE Ministries, based at Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon.

"It changed our life, it really did," Carmen Pascual said. "We were able to purchase a house last year, and the benefits and insurance have really saved us. Our oldest daughter was in an accident last year, and it would have cost us around \$4,000 for her bills, but with the insurance it was only about \$150."

Fairfax County Public Schools, Adult and Community Education, SkillSource and Grace Ministries have teamed up to train people to drive school buses. The program, entering its fifth year, has helped 56 people get jobs driving school buses in Fairfax County since 2006.

GRACE Ministries advertises the program in local ethnic newspapers, and also works through SkillSource and the FCPS human resources office.

The program combines En-

glish as a second language instruction and commercial drivers license certification. The potential drivers are paid as bus attendants throughout the course, including benefits, which is a big help for their families.

"A lot of the applicants were looking for jobs, or better jobs and driving was something they were interested in doing," said Reverend Martha Real, executive director of GRACE Ministries. "It's a good program for people who have an intermediate grasp of English. We help them learn the language and get jobs."

New graduates start as "floaters," filling in for other drivers and routes as needed. Bahia Rouif graduated in March, and is enjoying her new job.

"It was a little scary my first day, driving without a supervisor, but the students were very helpful," Rouif said. "I didn't think I'd ever be able to drive a school bus, but I did it, and I can even take my kids with me on the bus."

Pascual agreed, and said that with the cost of getting a CDL these days, it was an opportunity that wouldn't have otherwise been an option for him. He has been employed as a school bus driver since 2008. "It costs around \$6,000 to get a CDL, if I didn't come here, I could not have gotten it," he said. "My supervisors are just great."

PASCUAL is still close with several of his classmates, including one who gives him rides to pick up his bus, and vice-versa. When he has to take a new route, he takes a Sunday drive with his wife and daughters to scout it out, which also makes for a nice family drive.

One Strike, They're Out

Some call the school system's polices on marijuana punitive and ineffective.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Under different circumstances, Josh Anderson would have been headed to college this fall, likely joining a college football team.

His parents, Tim and Sue Anderson, had been looking forward to this time in their lives. Josh was the youngest of their four children, leaving Tim and Sue Anderson as empty nesters.

Instead of planning trips to watch Josh play his first season of college football, the Andersons are left with sadness and despair.

One morning in March 2009, Sue Anderson went to rouse her son from bed and found him dead in their Vienna home. Josh, then a junior at South Lakes High School, died of suicide the day before he was to face expulsion from the Fairfax County school system at a disciplinary hearing.

Earlier that month, Josh and his friend smoked marijuana on a car ride back to school from lunch at Taco Bell. A South Lakes assistant principal smelled marijuana on the students when they arrived back on campus and Josh was immediately placed on home suspension.

This was Josh's second violation. In 2008, he had been kicked out of Langley High School when a school official found a small amount of marijuana in his bag.

A lawyer told Josh and his mother that it was unlikely Fairfax County Public Schools would allow him to return to South Lakes or another general education program.

His best hope was to be offered a program at one of the county's alternative high schools. Otherwise, his parents would have to consider moving, sending him to a military academy or enrolling him in another type of private school, said Sue Anderson.

In a statement written immediately after the incident, Josh wrote: "I'm honestly going to try my hardest to fix this, help my parents, they haven't raised me to be like this in any way. I'm so scared for the future, this wasn't worth any of it at all. I've only recently been thinking I could make college football and I've gotten so excited about it and now everything is ruined."

Tim and Sue Anderson took Josh's first marijuana offense seriously as a mental health matter. After the incident at Langley, he also enrolled in drug counseling and attended regular appointments with a therapist and psychiatrist.

The Andersons agreed with the school system on some levels. What Josh did was wrong. His actions should have had consequences.



PHOTO BY GILLIAN ANDERSON/CONTRIBUTED

South Lakes Junior Josh Anderson died of suicide the night before he faced expulsion from the school system in 2009.

Josh may have used marijuana, but he was not accused of trying to sell or distribute it to other students. Yet the Andersons' son was treated as if he was a dangerous criminal, they said.

"The school system doesn't distinguish between a bad kid and dumb kid when it comes to these types of cases. Josh was a dumb kid making a dumb mistake," said Tim Anderson, who thought obligatory community service, perhaps cleaning the cafeteria at school for awhile, would have been a more appropriate punishment.

Several school administrators considered Josh an asset, not a threat, to the school community, said the Andersons.

"The guidance counselor and the football coach, even the guy who caught him, were totally devastated," said Tim Anderson.

School officials cannot comment on individual students' records, which makes it difficult for the school system to defend its approach to cases like Josh's, or respond publicly to complaints like the Andersons', said Paul Renier, spokesperson for Fairfax County Public Schools.

JOSH ANDERSON was among 154 students who faced expulsion from Fairfax County Public Schools for marijuana during the 2008-09 school year alone.

Possession of marijuana was, by far, the most common reason students faced expulsion. The second most frequent offense — an umbrella category called "prohibited conduct" that includes fighting, causing a disruption and defying staff — resulted in 84 recommendations for expulsion during 2008-09.

The vast majority of students recom-

mended for expulsion are not kicked out of the school system entirely, though those charged with violations related to drugs almost always face stiff consequences.

Violators frequently are removed from their base school, subjected to random drug tests and required to attend counseling, said School Board members familiar with the process. Some parents believe that punishment, particularly for those students who are caught with marijuana for personal use and not intending to sell it, is too harsh and more consideration should be given to the student's overall conduct and community support.

CHARACTER REFERENCES, personal accomplishments and endorsements from the community appear to have little bearing on the outcome of disciplinary hearings, particularly in matters related to drugs, according to the Andersons and some other families who have encountered the process.

The cases of students facing serious consequences, like a long-term suspension or expulsion, are typically reviewed during a disciplinary hearing, when members of the school system's central administration staff recommend a punishment for the student. The School Board also reviews and votes on all expulsions individually.

But some parents complain the hearing officers largely ignore the testimony of the student and his or her supporters.

When Josh first faced removal from Langley High School, the Andersons worried their son had given a bad impression at his hearing because he was intimidated by the situation, they said.

Tim Anderson called a school official the

Consequences: Marijuana verses Alcohol

The consequences for Fairfax County Public Schools' students caught with alcohol are not as severe as those related to marijuana in many cases. According to the Fairfax County Public Schools website, students who are caught:

- ❖ **in possession of alcohol and nonalcoholic beer**, must serve a minimum suspension of five days and a maximum suspension of 10 days; prohibited from participating in student activities, including sports, clubs and the performing arts, for 30 days; must participate in a substance abuse prevention program.
- ❖ **in possession of alcohol and nonalcoholic beer for the second time in 12 months**, serve a suspension of 10 days and prohibited from participating in student activities, including sports, clubs and the performing arts, for one year.
- ❖ **distributing or manufacturing alcohol**, serve a suspension of at least 10 days and automatically recommended for expulsion from the school system.
- ❖ **under the influence of marijuana but not in possession of the drug**, serve a minimum suspension of five days and a maximum suspension of 10 days; prohibited from participating in student activities, including sports, clubs and the performing arts, for 30 days; must participate in a substance abuse prevention program.
- ❖ **under the influence of marijuana (without possession) for the second time in 12 months**, serve a 10-day suspension and removal from student activities for one year. They are also automatically recommended for expulsion from the school system.
- ❖ **in possession of marijuana or imitation marijuana**, serve a 10-day suspension and an automatic recommendation for expulsion.
- ❖ **distributing marijuana or imitation marijuana**, serve a 10-day suspension and recommended for expulsion from the school system.

What Happens?

SOURCE: Fairfax County Public Schools website.

❖ If school administrators catch a child engaging in behavior that warrants a disciplinary hearing, they contact Superintendent Jack Dale's office. The school principal then forwards a packet of information, including details about the incident concerning your child and the student's overall disciplinary record, to the hearing office.

❖ If a child has been recommended for expulsion from the school system, he or she will have to serve an automatic 10-day suspension in the days leading up to the disciplinary hearing.

❖ A child recommended for expulsion cannot set foot on any Fairfax County public school campus and cannot attend school functions while they are serving their suspension.

❖ The school principal and assistant principal usually attend disciplinary hearings. The parents and child are permitted to bring one other witness, such as a clergy member, psychiatrist or family friend, to the event. Families are discouraged from bringing a lawyer.

❖ The school system notifies the family about a child's punishment through a letter following the disciplinary hearing.

❖ If the hearing officers have endorsed the expulsion recommendation, then the student's case is automatically forwarded to the school board for consideration.

❖ Panels of three school board members typically hear and vote on individual disciplinary cases. In cases where all three school board members vote in favor of expulsion, the family is not allowed to appeal the decision. However, if the school board panel voted in favor of expulsion though not unanimously, the family can request that the full school board hear the case.

next day to express concern. "We had the hearing and we felt like Josh hadn't been heard," he said. The official told him not to worry about the impression Josh made on the officers because it was essentially a "done deal" once a student was caught on school grounds with drugs.

"His fate was determined before the hearing," said Tim Anderson.

SEE PUNISHMENT, PAGE 7

First Baptist Church of Herndon Installs New Senior Pastor

First Baptist Church of Herndon has called the Reverend Sean Roberds to serve as senior pastor beginning Sept. 13.

An installation service will be held at 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, at the church, 681 Elden Street, Herndon. The community is welcome.

Rev. Roberds, 37, comes to Herndon from Chadbourn, N.C., where he served as senior pastor of Chadbourn Baptist Church from 2004 until his call to FBC Herndon, a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship-affiliated church in the Northern Virginia suburbs of the nation's capital.

"The family and I are excited about the journey of faith that is before us, and we know that with God, there are amazing possibilities for First Baptist Church," said Rev. Roberds.

Before becoming Chadbourn's senior pastor, he served five years as Associate Pastor of Youth, Children and Education at First Bap-



Rev. Sean Roberds, wife Cara and boys Cole and Eli.

tist Church in Taylorsville, N.C. His previous ministry positions were as youth minister at Weatherford Memorial Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., and at Mars Hill Baptist Church in Mars Hill, N.C.

A native of Raleigh, N.C., Rev. Roberds received his Bachelor of Arts in Religion in 1996 from Mars Hill College in Mars Hill, N.C. He received his Master of Divinity from Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond in May 2000.

He and his wife Cara, a teacher, have two sons, Cole, 10, and Eli, 7.

First Baptist Church has been without a fulltime senior pastor since June 2008, when Dr. Raymond Spears retired after 18

years of service.

For a year after Dr. Spears' retirement, FBC partnered with McLean Baptist Church, sharing pastors and cooperatively working on various ministry projects.

Dr. Neal Jones has been serving as FBC's interim pastor since July 2009.

"The two-year period without a fulltime pastor has grown our faith and strengthened our bonds to each other," said Laura Greenspan, FBC Deacon chairman and a member of the Pastor Search Committee. "In Sean Roberds, we believe we have found a man after God's own heart who has the skills and faith to lead us into the future. We are excited about the possibilities."

Helping Neighbors Settle Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Herndon celebrates eight years of ESOL Program.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Herndon English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program continues to draw new students and meet needs in the Herndon community. On Sept. 19, they recognized this important ministry in their worship services. There are approximately 30-40 students per class Monday and Wednesday nights during the school year.

The current classes are Basic Beginning, Basic Beginning II, Advanced Beginning, and Intermediate. One of the teachers does one-on-one tutoring of basic literacy, i.e. letters and numbers.

The program serves students from Vietnam, Togo, Nepal, El Salvador, Honduras, China, Egypt, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Ethiopia, Senegal, Pakistan, Iran, Hungary, Hong Kong, Peru, Sudan, and Spain. The impact of ESOL on the students covers a lot of ground. Several families have become American citizens and/or members of Holy Cross. An ESOL family finished the demolition of the old church sign and disposed

of all the bricks in gratitude for all the church has done for them.

A teacher was asked to sponsor a student's baptism. Students have developed support groups among themselves to help with day-to-day issues. Eighteen students have gotten their driver's licenses through the driving assistance of one of the teachers. Their understanding of American culture and history has been enhanced by field trips to a variety of places: Harpers Ferry, D.C., Smithsonian Museum, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Richmond, and the Bell Grove Plantation.

Congregation members have shared practical skills including health concerns, how to buy a used car and personal safety issues.

Holy Cross looks forward to future years helping their neighbors assimilate into the community. If you would like more information about this program, contact outreach@holycrosslutheranchurch.net. For more information about Holy Cross, service times, and its many ministries, visit their website: www.holycrosslutheranchurch.net

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Vote Nov. 2

In an unpredictable year, all the more important to turn out to vote, no matter what your beliefs.

With political extremes on all sides getting most of the attention in this run up to midterm elections, most voters in Northern Virginia are far more moderate. It would be easy to decide that this election really isn't for you if you're not way out on one side or another. (We suspect that there are more than two extremes at play this year.)

There isn't too much on the ballot, how much can it matter if you just decide you're tired of the hyperbole and you'll just sit this one out?

It matters more now than ever that elections actually demonstrate the priorities of the electorate. If voters who feel very strongly about a few issues turn out strongly to vote, and voters whose views are more general stay home, the results could be quite surprising, even here in Northern Virginia.

Mark your calendar. Absentee ballots are already available, so if you think Nov. 2 that you might not be available to vote, you can vote absentee, or you can vote early. See your local elections board website or call for details. There is no excuse for not voting.

Every year is an election year in Virginia. This combined with a bevy of special elections in some areas can result in voter fatigue.

This year, every voter in Virginia will vote for a candidate for U.S. House of Representatives plus vote yes or no on three statewide constitutional questions.

EDITORIAL

Voters in Fairfax will also vote yes or no on a transportation bond referendum.

Voters in Arlington will also choose one member of Arlington County Board, one member of the Arlington School Board and vote yes or no on four bond questions, one for Metro funding, one for "county infrastructure," one for schools and one for parks.

Sportsmanship

OK, it's not a standard local issue. But it had local implications on Sunday.

If Roger Goodell is serious about improving the reputation of the NFL, one place to start might be to stop icing the kicker at the last millisecond, and promote good sportsmanship instead.

OK, maybe this is more about the having an excruciating time-out taken by the Houston Texans negate Graham Gano's beautiful 51-yard field goal in overtime that would have won the game.

Gano missed on his next attempt, which should not have been necessary. The Texans went on to win, in case you've been in isolation since Sunday.

Time to change the rules on this one. Time-outs should come with time enough to stop play before the snap.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to Act Is Now

To the Editor:

For Virginia, the Census Bureau recently released preliminary state-level data, statistics indicating an increase in the poverty rate from 10.3 percent to 10.7. Nationwide, the poverty rates jumped to 14.3 percent in 2009 from 13.2 percent in 2008.

As reported by the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis: "Over 157,000 Virginians have joined the ranks of the poor since the recession began in 2007. In addition, more Virginians lack health insurance. Census estimates indicate that over one million Virginians are currently uninsured."

These statistics tell us the numbers, providing us what is measurable regarding those in our state and nation who live in poverty, but it does not measure the suffering of those who are poor and vulnerable, and also uninsured. Matters could have been much worse had it not been for the 2009 Recovery Act. The poverty level is most certainly to increase unless the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

(TANF), one of the programs encompassed in the Recovery Act, is renewed and the tax benefits for low-income families is extended.

The highly successful TANF emergency fund is about to run out. Congress must extend these benefits before Sept. 30 to help those who have been most affected by the recession.

Congress also can make a difference in the lives of the working poor by extending the tax benefits for low-income families. These benefits help keep even more families—already very vulnerable economically stretched families in our communities—from experiencing economic disaster.

Joblessness has had a destructive effect on families, as we all surely know, and will continue to cause harm to the most vulnerable Americans if no action is taken to continue certain programs such as those referenced above. While our economy is in recovery, our elected officials have an opportunity to make a difference, but time is running out.

John Horejsi, Coordinator
Social Action Linking
Together (SALT)
Vienna

History Lessons

To the Editor:

I would like to respectfully respond to the Commentary written by Jim Poppleton ["No, Not Yet," Oak Hill - Herndon Connection, Sept 15-21].

Since Mr Poppleton is so astute at identifying the villains of our elected and public servants, I would invite him to travel back a little further in history to the Vietnam Conflict era when President Johnson was in office. He was preparing for his election (not reelection, as he ascended to the presidency via the death of President Kennedy) where he faced Barry Goldwater, a strong anti-communist. President Johnson primarily concentrated on a domestic agenda, and cared less about The Republic of South Vietnam and its problems. Poorly

treated by the Kennedy family, he dearly desired to have the love of the American people, and wanted to be elected by a large majority.

When two small gunboats fired harmless rounds at a U.S. destroyer in the Gulf of Tonkin, (resulting in nothing near the damage suffered by the U.S.S. Cole in later years, and about which the U.S. did nothing), we found our country at war, and President Johnson instantly established his credentials as an anticommunist. As a result President Johnson was elected in a landslide. He did not listen to Robert McNamara and McGeorge Bundy, his secretary of defense and national security advisor respectively, who knew the war could not be won, and over 58,000 of my fellow soldiers died.

Tom Aman
Oak Hill

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Alex McVeigh
Community Reporter
703-778-9441
amcveigh@connectionnewspapers.com

Julia O'Donoghue
Education & Politics
703-778-9436
jodonoghue@connectionnewspapers.com

Rich Sanders
Sports Editor
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Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editors
Michael O'Connell, Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong,
John Heinly, Wayne Shipp,
John Smith
Production Manager:
Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Linda Pecquex
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS, L.L.C.
Peter Labovitz
President/CEO

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Executive Vice President
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller

Debbie Funk
National Sales, 703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

EDUCATION

Weighing Punishment

FROM PAGE 4

School Board members denied that the outcome of student disciplinary cases are predetermined. "In my experience as a School Board member, every case has been decided on the individual facts of that case," said Stuart Gibson (Hunter Mill), who has presided over 1,000 different disciplinary proceedings.

But Gibson and other School Board members said they also try to be consistent when it comes to consequences for student violations. They make an effort to dole out the same punishment for similar offenses.

"I cannot remember a situation where a kid was caught with drugs at school when they were not sent to another school," said School Board member Dan Storck (Mount Vernon). ... "I can count on one or two hands the number of times we voted for a student not to receive services. The vast majority of students stay in the system."

FAIRFAX COUNTY Public Schools used to take a more flexible approach to some drug violations. Until 10 or 12 years ago, students caught with a small amount of marijuana at school were only subjected to a five-day suspension and then allowed to return to their base school, said Gibson.

Then, Virginia enacted a new law that required schools to automatically expel students for a variety of offenses, including the possession of marijuana. There are special circumstances School Board members can use to justify a "modified expulsion," where the student is allowed to stay in the school system with a less severe punishment.

In fact, the Fairfax County School Board rarely expels students outright for drug offenses according to data provided by the Virginia Department of Education. From 2004 to 2009, 905 Fairfax County students caught with drugs at school for personal use received "modified expulsions." Only nine students were expelled from the school system entirely.

Gibson said allowing a student to return to their classes after he or she has been caught with drugs on campus could send the wrong message to other teenagers and children.

"I don't think there is any question about whether learning can go on in an environment that is infused with drugs," he said.

Last year, a student from a public school in McLean who admit-

Recommended for Expulsion

Fairfax County school administrators recommended 683 students for expulsion during the 2008-2009 school year. Only 161 were expelled in the end, but students who are initially recommended for expulsion often face other types of sanctions. About 84 of these were transferred to another high school, about 94 moved to an alternative high school and 99 were placed on long-term suspension. Several students are also enrolled in an alternative learning center or program, including those at juvenile facilities.

Reasons students were brought up for expulsion during the 2008-2009 school year:

Violation	Number of Cases
Possession of Marijuana	154
Prohibited Conduct (disruptions, fighting, and defiance of staff)	84
Possession of a Knife, Blade More Than 3 Inches	59
Possession of Other Drugs (Heroin, Cocaine, Prescription, Ecstasy)	38
Assault Against Student As Part Of A Mob	37
Assault Against Staff	30
Threatening Staff	28
Distribution Of Marijuana	27
Assault Against Another Student As An Individual	26
Possession Of A Razor Blade	25
Possession Of Other Weapon	25
Distribution Of Other Drugs	19
Sexual Assault	17
Possession of Drug Look-A-Like	17
Inappropriate Sexual Behavior	13
Possession Of A Pneumatic Gun	13
Gang Activity	9
Outside-Of-School Court Charges Or Convictions	8
Theft	8
Vandalism	6
Threatening Another Student	5
Found Under The Influence For The Second Time	4
Distribution of Alcohol	3
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	3
Arson	3
Possession Of A Chemical Substance That Could Be Used As A Weapon	3
Distribution of Over-The-Counter Drugs	2
Bomb Threat	2
Possession Of A Firearm	2
Possession Of Nonprescription Drugs	1
Robbery	1
Possession Of A Taser	1

ted to smoking marijuana on a school trip garnered support from teachers, coaches and other students' parents.

According to the student's family, many members of their school community did not think the teenager should be forced to transfer schools for a first-time offense.

Several people wrote letters of support on behalf of the student to the hearing officers presiding over his case but the school system still removed the student from his base school. According to the student's family, the hearing officers appeared to ignore or disregard information about their son.

"Over 90 percent of the time, we accept what the hearing officer has sent us," said Storck.

This is just another indication that the process disenfranchises students and parents, said Caroline Hemenway, founder of Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform, a community group.

"The hearings themselves are a kangaroo court. Principals call the hearing officer and make a recommendation for expulsion or suspension way before the hearing. Right from the beginning, the students don't get the same opportunity to present their case," said Hemenway.

And there are few positive outcomes that appear to derive from having harsh consequences for

marijuana use in particular, Hemenway said.

In 2008, approximately 38 percent of 12th graders responding to the Fairfax County Youth Survey reported that they had used marijuana at least once. Seventeen percent said they used it at least once in the last 30 days.

"You cannot claim that a child caught smoking a joint is a danger to the community when something like 40 percent of seniors have used it," she said.

Removing a child from their friends and support network and sending them to a different school is not going to help those who might have depression, low self-esteem or other mental health issues, she said.

But during the 2005-06 school year, the Fairfax County hearing office considered 154 students for expulsion related to the possession of marijuana and just one student for the possession of alcohol, despite the fact that approximately 72 percent of 12th graders who answered the 2008 Fairfax County youth survey reported using alcohol at least once in their lifetime.

Twice as many 12th graders (43 percent) said they had used alcohol over the past month when compared to 12th graders who said they used marijuana during the same time period.

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Fashionable at Herndon High

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

“Oh. My. Gosh,” says Melissa Chow, whipping through the racks of clothing with friend Mona Abdul, both dressed in bright red and black cheerleading uniforms. “How cute is this?” Chow asks, holding up a plaid trench coat.

“I love it,” Abdul says, rushing over to a display of colorful handbags.

While Abdul and Chow, both 17, search for this season’s “must haves,” Ashley Reynolds, 17, brings over a pair of designer jeans. “Look at this price,” she says of one of the hottest designer labels that usually sell for \$150 to \$300 a pair. “I want to keep these.”

The scene may look like a classic shopping spree at the mall, but today is a Thursday afternoon and these girls are part of a new class at Herndon High School called Entrepreneurship.

Their classroom is Plato’s Closet, a fashion resale store in Dulles Eastern Plaza that will open in mid-October. Aimed at the profitable teen and twenty-something market, Plato’s Closet buys and sells trendy, gently used clothing and accessories.

As the girls show off their finds, teacher Julie Pickering walks over holding a mannequin, and examines their choices. “These look great,” she tells them. “What do you think about doing a plaid theme for the display window?”

THE GIRLS like the idea, and get to work dressing the store’s six mannequins in various plaid ensembles.

“I am so excited about this class, and this opportunity for my students,” said Pickering, who launched Herndon’s first Entrepreneurship class this fall for her fashion marketing students. “We’re going to have quite the adventure this year. Instead of just reading about business and marketing concepts in textbooks, my students have the opportunity to get hands-on experience by working one day a week at Plato’s Closet.”

Elaine Singer, owner and manager of Plato’s Closet, called the partnership with Pickering and her students “the perfect match.”

“The students get supervised on-the-job training, and get to experience all the facets of owning a business, like buying, marketing and inventory control. It’s also a great way for us to connect to our market. We’ve had great support from the Herndon and Reston community,” Singer said.

“Elaine has an amazing amount of experience in high-tech business and fashion, so my students will get to learn entrepreneurship in the classroom and at the store,” Pickering said.

Singer and Pickering met a few years ago, when Singer guest lectured about business and marketing in Pickering’s fashion marketing classes.

“It’s funny how things happen. Elaine



Getting ready for the grand opening, back: Elaine Singer, Alyssa Hughes, Courtney Guengerich, Trina Ziegler, Kendall Brancart, Meagan Ruvulo, Dominique Ellison, Ashley Reynolds, Mariah Williams, Beth Berens, Shaunesy Neel; front: Julie Pickering, Sarah Lukatch, Sandra Bailey (holding Red Rex).



Kendall Brancart helps Courtney Guengerich (standing), dress a mannequin for the display window.



Mariah Williams, Beth Berens, Melissa Chow and teacher, Julie Pickering, holding Plato’s Closet mascot Red Rex.

called me last spring to tell me she was getting a lease for the store. She wanted me to let the kids know they could bring in their clothes, and get on-the-spot cash. But the more we talked, the more we realized that we could partner so my students could learn solid business concepts in a hands-on way. It was perfect timing,” said Pickering.

“I really like how interactive this class is,” said Reynolds, who works at a shoe store and would like to own her own retail store someday. “We really get to be creative and think of ways to market the clothes. We’re not just sitting in class.”

Alyssa Hughes, 17, who is attending Auburn University in Alabama next fall, wants to be a fashion designer. “I’d love to create contemporary wear. Mrs. Pickering is great about giving us real hands-on experiences. What I love most about this class is how it teaches us how to sell and market our fashions.”

“I feel so lucky to have the students I do,” Pickering said. “They are really taking this opportunity at Plato’s Closet to experience business first-hand and running with it. Yes,

they are making it work!” Pickering said, borrowing Tim Gunn’s signature phrase from Project Runway.

To be qualified to teach the new class, Pickering had to take entrepreneurship classes at George Washington University this summer, and get approval from the school’s administration to allow the students to work at the store one day a week. She is a certified entrepreneurship teacher (CET), as well as the school’s fashion marketing coordinator.

When her students complete the one-year Entrepreneurship class, they will receive three college credit hours from Northern Virginia Community College. Singer recently hired two NOVA students who are former Herndon High students, Amie Marabich and Dominique Ellison.

PICKERING started her teaching career in Fairfax County nearly 20 years ago as a sports marketing teacher. In 1994, she took over the fashion marketing program at Herndon High School. When she can,

SEE HERNDON HIGH. PAGE 10

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/SEPT. 23

Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-829-5467.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 24

Artists’ Reception. 6-8 p.m. at the Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, at Lake Anne in Reston. Nature’s Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Awards collection, including wildlife and landscape imagery from professional, amateur, and emerging photographers. The exhibit will be open 12-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays through Nov. 18. 703-709-7700 or www.restonmuseum.org.

Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-829-5467.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 25

Dulles Day Family Festival and 18th Annual Plane Pull. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Washington Dulles International Airport. The Plane Pull pits teams of 25 people in a game of “tug of war” against a FedEx jet. Proceeds benefit Special Olympics Virginia. Kids’ Bus Pull, a similar event where teams of children pull a yellow school bus; \$10 donation per kids’ pull. Children’s games and activities. Live music. Car show, including top 30 and “Best in Class” people’s choice awards for classic, street rod, truck, motorcycle and import. Military, civilian and World War II-era aircraft on display. Free admission and parking. 703-359-4301 or www.planepull.com.

Bobbe Shore Jazz Combo. 8:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Reston Town Center, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. Every Saturday through Oct. 703-925-8250.

Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-829-5467.

Reston Multicultural Festival. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Reston Community Center, Lake Anne Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Live entertainment by Andean Pulse, Furia Flamenca, Bharatha Malika, the St. Petersburg Trio and Hindustani Classical Violin. Food, children’s activities, arts and crafts and more. 703-476-4500.

“The Miser.” 11:15 a.m. at Reston Community Center, Lake Anne Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Traveling Players in Molière’s caricature of a man who hoards his money and values it above everything, updated and moved to the 19th century American West. Part of the Reston Multicultural Festival. Free. www.restoncommunitycenter.com/arts.

Weed Warriors Projects: Oriental Bittersweet. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 11284 Stones Throw Drive, Reston. Must be age 13 or older to volunteer. Oriental Bittersweet is an aggressive non-native vine that strangles and topples native trees. Cut and remove the vines from around the trees, which will help reduce the amount of seeds produced. There is poison ivy at this site. habrock@reston.org or 703-435-7986.

A Night at the Blues-eum. 7 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Angela Haywood and the Soul Expression perform a musical history of the Blues, featuring songs by Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, and BB King. Preceded by a BBQ dinner. Cash bar available. \$42 in advance and include dinner, concert and a chance for a door prize of art. Reserve at www.angelahaywood.webs.com.

Fall Fest & Health Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Dranesville United Methodist Church, 1089 Liberty Meeting Court, Herndon. Crafters, games for children, free health screening for adults, petting pony, clowns, moon bounce, snow cones, music from UTR and Snack Shack. debharris7@gmail.com.

Herndon Skate Park Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening. 1:30 p.m. at Trailside Park, at the intersection of Crestview Drive and Herndon Parkway. Refreshments, entertainment and door prizes from 2-3 p.m., skating 2:30 p.m. until dark. 703-435-6804 or town.clerk@herndonva.gov.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 26
Northern Virginia Alzheimer’s Memory Walk

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



The Bobbe Shore Jazz Combo performs at the Market Street Bar & Grill in the Hyatt at Reston Town Center every Saturday from 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

and Candlelight Rally. Reston Town Center, 11921 Freedom Drive, Reston. Registration opens 4 p.m., Program and Walk at 6 p.m., Candlelight Rally 7 p.m. 703-359-4440 or memorywalknova@alz.org.

Friends of the Library Book Sale. 1-3:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-829-5467.

Civil War Era Hymns at Meeting House. 1 p.m. The Meeting House is at the northern end of Frying Pan Farm Park, at 2516 Centreville Road, Herndon. Hear a choir sing hymns from a hymnal used during the Civil War era. Learn of the Civil War activities held in the 1791 building and the stories of those who prayed there, including those in the site’s historic cemetery. Proceeds to benefit cemetery restoration. \$15. Not appropriate for young children. Registration required at 703-437-9101.

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MONDAY/SEPT. 27

Geocaching for Kids. 7 p.m. at Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Geocaching is high tech treasure hunting, using a handheld GPS unit to find hidden containers. Join Northern Virginia Geocaching for a quick lesson, then look for caches hidden on the nature center. \$4 per child RA members, \$6 per child non-members. For ages 5-12 with adult. 703-476-9689 or naturalist@reston.org.

Mr. Knick Knack Children’s Performance. 10:30 a.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Music for kids. Free. www.restontowncenter.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 29

Apple Season Preschool Storytime. 11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Boost your child’s early literacy skills with this storytime featuring stories and activities about apples. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-437-8855.

Howl If You Love Libraries. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Family Stories Celebrating Libraries. All Ages. 703-689-2700.

Trickster Tales from Latin America. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Age 4-5 with adult. 703-242-4020.

English Conversation Group. 12 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for adult non-native speakers. 703-242-4020.

FRIDAY/OCT. 1

ValeArts 15th Annual Fall Art Show and Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Historic Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. With local artists, including Reston resident Betsy Mulloy. Exhibition also open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Oct. 2-3. 703-860-1888 or www.valearts.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 2

Lake Anne Plaza 4th Annual Jazz & Blues Festival. 1-9 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Local and national jazz and blues performers, signature food from Lake Anne restaurants and tastes from selected Virginia wineries and breweries. Arts and crafts artists from 1-4 p.m. Free, excluding alcohol. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

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 **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.** 

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12828 Kettering Drive.....	\$469,850 ... Sun. 1-4...	Kathleen Tuthill.....	Long&Foster.....	703- 945-4966
13210 Windy Oak Way.....	\$522,500 ... Sun. 1-4...	Priti Malhotra.....	Weichert.....	703-536-5800
12407 Myterra Way.....	\$549,000 ... Sun. 1-4...	Bernice Maddox.....	Long&Foster.....	703-328-1205
12007 Meadowville Ct.....	\$765,000 ... Sun. 1-4...	Irene Schiffman.....	Weichert.....	703-593-7848
11917 Richland Lane.....	\$997,000 ... Sun. 1-4...	Eddie Seymour.....	Samson Properties...	703-989-1598
12833 Rose Grove Dr.....	\$1,399,900 ... Sun. 1-4...	Sue Chong.....	Countrywide.....	703-941-8575

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11608 Ivystone Court.....	\$315,000 ... Sun. 1-4...	Carol Ellickson.....	Weichert.....	703- 862-2135
11500 Fairway Drive, Unit 208...	\$429,900 ... Sun. 1-4...	Abbey Siciliano.....	Long&Foster.....	703-861-4024
11559 Brass Lantern Ct.....	\$534,950 ... Sun. 1-4...	Judy Gruner.....	Long&Foster.....	703- 517-2464

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1577 Leeds Castle Dr. #102...	\$428,500 ... Sun 12-3...	Bill Garrett.....	MLS Connect.....	703-466-0576
1511 Gingerwood Ct.....	\$639,950 ... Sun 1-4...	Eugene Curtin.....	Weichert.....	703-856-3416
9602 Counsellor Drive.....	\$649,300 ... Sun 1-4...	Melissa Dabney.....	Long & Foster.....	703-795-5923
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3039 Franklin Park Rd.....	\$1,589,000 ... Sun 2-4...	JD Callender.....	Weichert.....	703-606-7901
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Oakton

10528 Elmsway Court.....	\$639,900 ... Sun 1-4...	Ray Leahey.....	Weichert.....	703-403-2579
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Sterling

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10865 Monticello Ct.....	\$539,900 ... Sun 1-4...	Betty Plashal.....	Long & Foster.....	703-926-8177
46991 Bainbridge Pl.....	\$599,900 ... Sun 1-4...	John McCambridge.....	Samson Properties...	703-906-7067

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Pechacek-Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail the info to kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.

Down to Business at Herndon High

FROM PAGE 8

she said she tries to give her students real-life experiences. In addition to working at Plato's Closet, her fashion students produce an annual fashion show at the school. They do everything from PR to designing the fashions and styling the models.

"I am always inspired by my students' creativity. One year we had a student create all her fashions in duct tape and paper. I know, it sounds strange, but she made these amazing clothes," Pickering

said.

Her students also get to do makeover portfolios for faculty and staff, and attend special programs at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

In November, they will go on a buying trip to New York City, where they will each receive about \$50 to select a product that they will market and sell to other students. Pickering's students also take occasional field trips to Northern Virginia's fashion mecca – Tysons Corner – to analyze the

display windows, complete target-marketing surveys and observe the latest trends at the popular teen clothing stores.

Fashion may not sound like the most scholarly class, but Pickering is quick to point out the business savvy that goes along with any career.

"You have to know a lot about marketing, finance, demographics, the art of selling and how to communicate effectively in many situations. You also have to be creative."

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/SEPT. 23

Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce Monthly Mixer: Tango into Success. 5:30 p.m. at Cox Communications, 3080 Centreville Road, Herndon. Hosted by the Hispanic Business Council. Member \$20, non-member \$30. info@dullesregionalchamber.org.
Retirement Planning 101. 7 p.m. at Floris United Methodist Church 13600 Frying Pan Road Herndon. Two part course. Learn the basics of

getting a retirement plan in order. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657

The Nichol Run and Pond Branch Draft Watershed Plan Forum. 6:30 p.m. at the Herndon High School Lecture Hall, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. The Nichol Run and Pond Branch watersheds are located in the northernmost part of Fairfax County and drain to the Potomac River, the source of drinking water for many residents. The county is seeking public input in the development of the watershed management plan for these watersheds. The public participation meeting is open to all residents. Registration is 6:30-7 p.m. The meeting is 7-9 p.m.

watersheds@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-5500, TTY 711.

Herndon Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Herndon Center, 460 Elden St., Herndon. Producer-only locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry, and more. smartmarkets.org.

MONDAY/SEPT. 27

NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241 Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. at Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. With 10th Congressional district re-election candidate Frank Wolf, and 8th Congressional District candidate Patrick Murry. \$17. 703-435-3523.

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SPORTS

'Hype Squad' Shows up in Full Force

South Lakes football team feeling the support and good vibes of student fan base.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Perhaps the most fun place to be these days for a South Lakes High football game is in the Hawks' Nest — that area of the stands where the student body faithful, many clad in Kelly green and royal blue school colors, make their home and vigorously cheer on the Seahawks.

Indeed, the South Lakes High student body, known as the "Hype Squad," has gotten caught up in the football fever surrounding the Seahawks and new head coach Andy Hill. The team, over its first three games, has received great student support and turnout, in both home and away contests.

The Hype Squad was in full force last Thursday night, Sept. 16 during South Lakes' 43-0 win at cross-town rival Herndon. The victory was the Seahawks' third in a row to start the season.

Certainly, high school teams can receive a psychological, emotional lift from their student fans. That has been the case with the football Seahawks, who are quite aware of their fellow students' backing and loud cheers.

"The fans have been so positive and have helped us keep our intensity level up," said Rashaan Jones, South Lakes' sophomore quarterback.

"The fans have been here every game," said senior safety/back-up quarterback Mikey Bissonnette. "You can feel their enthusiasm."

RAIN during last week's game did not deter the South Lakes student fans from getting caught up in their team's outstanding showing. Seated in the front row bleachers almost directly behind the South Lakes team bench, the teenage fans made their voices heard. A large, green and blue banner, with large block letters, read, Hawks' Nest, lest there be any confusion as to the large group's allegiance.

Early in the game, following a punt block by Seahawk senior Sean Price, the students directed a chant of, "You're Not Ready," to the Herndon team. It was not mean-spirited or malicious, just



PHOTO BY RICH SANDERS/THE CONNECTION

Hype Squad members, left to right, Sheree Chen, Austin Leggett and Anastassia Perfilieva helped cheer South Lakes on to victory over the cross-town rival Hornets.

good old rivalry stuff.

Late in the first half, with their team leading 21-0, the students began the more traditional, "South Lakes Seahawks" chant.

South Lakes Principal Bruce Butler even got the treatment — in a positive vein — when the Hype Squad chanted his name, "Mr. Butler," over and over late in the third quarter. Watching the game near the South Lakes sidelines, Butler could not help but smile and acknowledge the student body.

"We have a lot of real quality juniors and seniors who are real leaders," said Butler, of the student fans. "The kids have just banded together to cheer."

LATER IN THE NIGHT, there were chants of "Let's Go Hype Club" to give themselves a late game boost and then, "This is Our House," based on their team's overwhelming showing that had all but taken the home team Herndon fans out of the game.

"We really get into it with the chants," said senior Austin Leggett, a Hype Squad member. "The team has really come a long way. We have a new coach and everything, and we have a lot of friends on the team."

Another Hype Squad member named Austin — South Lakes junior Austin Chustz — was in awe at his fellow students' emotional level throughout the night.

"This is my first time in the Hype Squad," he said. "It's really crazy. The bleachers were rocking. We were going nuts."

During the moments following the game's conclusion, the South Lakes players waved to their crowd, acknowledging what their support had meant to the team. Following a brief team celebratory huddle, the Seahawks, all of a sudden, dashed towards the bleacher area behind their team bench. Separated from their adoring fans

only by a metal fence, the players yelled their thanks and greetings towards South Lakes Nation.

"I was real happy that they acknowledged the fans," said Hill, of his players.

South Lakes senior Anastassia Perfilieva, a Hype Squad member, said students at South Lakes had been looking forward to the game versus Herndon all throughout the week.

"I don't remember the whole school being so pumped up for a game," she said. "Everyone wanted to go."

Sheree Chen, a senior who came to South Lakes as a transfer student last year from Florida, said school spirit has picked up with the success of the football team. She said the sky is the limit for the 2010 Seahawks. "I think they can go to states," said Chen, with a broad smile.

HILL, the former Park View High (Sterling) football coach who came to South Lakes this past off season, has an understanding of school spirit and student emotions directed at a football team. At Park View, his Patriots had ample success and a huge fan following. He is glad to see football fever is currently flourishing at his new school. Hill said the Hype Squad has displayed heart-felt enthusiasm and displayed class as well.

"I'm really happy with the student body and that they are respectful [of the opponent]," said Hill. "South Lakes has a lot of pride." It was a festive night for the visiting South Lakes team and its fans. Why not? The Seahawks had improved to 3-0 and had beaten the Hornets for the first time since 2002.

"It's a big deal for us," said Butler. "Herndon is always strong. This is like our version of the Army-Navy game. And everybody likes everybody."



PHOTO COURTESY/RESTON UNITED

The Reston United '98 girls' soccer team captured first place at the recent Capital Cup Labor Day Tournament.

The U12 girls' Reston United '98 started their new season just as they ended their last one, building on their victory at the 2010 Virginian Memorial Day Tournament last May to win the prestigious 2010 OBGC Capital Cup Labor Day Tournament.

Reston United '98, competing in the U12 Elite division age group of the Labor Day tournament, once again, went undefeated with a record of 5-0-0. The girls were well prepared for the season, having benefited from a terrific training regimen implemented over the summer by Reston's experienced coaching staff.

By the time of the OBGC tournament, United '98 was a finely honed unit of capable soccer players who worked well together as a team and played with a great sense of camaraderie. The team hopes its OBGC victory will portend to an exciting season of competition, personal growth and team success. For more info about the team, go to: www.eteamz.com/RestonUnitedGirls98/.

The Reston Masters Swim Team (RMST), represented by 23 members whose ages span seven decades, participated in the U.S. Masters Swimming Long Course National Championships in San Juan Puerto Rico Aug. 9-12.

Reston, in the team standings, placed fifth out of 90 teams. A gold medal in the competition equates to a national championship. RMST members took home nine gold medals. They also scored over 90 other medals in the four-day competition. Coach Frank

Koval, who has led RMST for over 10 years, expressed great satisfaction with the results.

Kim Brightwell scored two individual firsts and a relay gold as did Frank Manheim. At age 80, Frank is the senior member of the team. The other three individual golds were earned by Steve Pohnert, Adam Orton and Jillian Orton. One of the meet highlights was the win by the RMST "Geriatric Relay." The team of Frank Manheim, Nick Nobbe, Gordon Gerson, and Muraji Nakazawa, whose combined age exceeds 280 years, won the 280-plus men's freestyle relay by 11 seconds.

AC Cugini will host the six-week Free Fall Soccer Program, designed for girls' and boys' players ages' six to eight years old, on Saturdays beginning Sept. 25 and running through Nov. 13 at Baron Cameron Park in Reston.

All players must register and sign a medical release online to participate. No walk-ons will be permitted. The camp opportunity is designed to introduce more children to the Italian soccer school. Professional instruction will be provided by AC Cugini President Fabio Diletti, a native Italian who played as a goalkeeper for the professional Italian club Ascoli Calcio. The weekly practice sessions will take place from 2-3 p.m. on field No. 5 at Baron Cameron. Special discounts for players who later enroll in AC Cugini's new winter house league or spring house league seasons. For more information, contact AC Cugini's registration department at registration@cuginisoccer.com; or by calling 866-792-9433.



Telescopes were spread out on the field as amateur astronomers, students and parents came out for International Observe the Moon Night.

Observing the Moon at Herndon Middle

Last Saturday, the fields behind Herndon Middle School were filled with telescopes and reflectors as about 60 people participated in International Observe the Moon Night, an event started by lunar researchers at NASA in 2009. Organized by Jeff Grayson, an 8th grade science teacher at Herndon Middle School, the event at Herndon was the only organized one in the state of Virginia. Grayson studied at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. this summer and learned about NASA's efforts to organize International Observe the Moon Night.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Mikey Mulhearn of Sterling and Paul Bailey of Herndon adjust their telescopes to look at the moon.

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