

A group of Green Bay Packers fans watch the team defeat the Chicago Bears Sunday at Jimmy's Old Town Herndon. Jimmy's will feature food and beverage specials from Pittsburgh and Green Bay in the lead up to the Super Bowl Feb. 6. Members of the Mike O'Meara Show will be there for the big game.

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## Herndon Resident Helps Australian Flood Victims

Herndon resident Ryan Michaely is currently serving a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Brisbane, Australia, but instead of going door-to-door proselytizing, he is canvassing neighborhoods helping flood victims recover from what has been described as the worst flood in 50 years in the third largest city of Australia.

Michaely, a 2008 graduate of Herndon High School who was dubbed "Mr. Herndon" by the HHS student body, has been in Brisbane for just over a year as an LDS Church missionary.

"We are moving heaps of heavy furniture, and taking doors off of homes so that furniture can be moved in and out," he said. "We've moved equipment and furniture up to dry land and anything else that needs to be done." Michaely described seeing the local Woolworths store buried under water.

One of the families Michaely was able to help was Peter and Sheila Sticklen and their two children, Ben (23) and Rachael (17). The Sticklens said the babbling brook at the back of their house turned into a raging torrent. Peter said he stood mesmerized at the window of his house looking at a



**Elder Ryan Michaely, 2008 Herndon High School graduate**

wall of water swirling around his house.

Michaely said he and Jonathon Lester from Temecula, Calif. helped the Sticklens and others who needed "muck and dirt swept out of their homes, and whatever else was required."

The two church missionaries live in Emerald Township, one of the hardest hit areas, where eighty percent of the town went under water, meaning Michaely and Lester have plenty of work to do helping citizens recover from the disaster.



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## WINTER FUN



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Property owners around the proposed Herndon-Monroe metro station meet with consultants and town staff Jan. 21 at the Fortnightly Library.

# Taking Advantage of Metro

## Property owners sound off on Herndon-Monroe Metro station area plans.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon-Monroe Metro station could bring big change for owners of the properties between the Dulles Toll Road and Spring Street in Herndon. It will be one of the last stops before Dulles Airport on the Silver Line, and the town sought input from property owners on redevelopment plans.

Consultants proposed two separate plans, both calling for higher density. The current “floor area ratio,” a measure of density which is the ratio of floor space in relation to the property size, is about 0.7. The first plan calls for an average of 2.5, while the second allows for a 4.5 FAR in the section closest to the stop, and less dense further away from the station.

Ralph Basile, a principal at BBP and Associates, a consulting firm, said the meeting was to “get reactions if the FARs proposed are sufficient to incentivize people to redevelop.”

Jim Policaro of Lerner Enterprises says the planned density is too low.

“We believe a minimum FAR of 4.5 will incentivize developers, and if you restrict building heights, we may not be able to make 4.5,” Policaro said.

Chris Gordon of KGD Architecture said a good plan would be essential to creating a destination stop at Herndon.

“The more concrete the incentives provided, the more of a jump Herndon will get on the competition,” he said. “I would caution against a form-based

code, because they can be extremely constrictive, and tend to put a lot of constraints on the landowner.”

**ONE OF THE BIGGEST** areas of concern was traffic. Some owners expressed a fear that the new configurations would shift traffic to other parts of the town, especially for people getting on and off the nearby Fairfax County Parkway.

Chris Gay, a consultant specializing in traffic for Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, a consultant hired by the town, says that ideas such as extending Worldgate Drive or adding a parallel road to Herndon Parkway could help ease congestion.

“We’re hoping not to expand the footprint of Herndon Parkway. As the area is configured now, there are only two ways to get into the study area,” Gay said. “Our thoughts would be to try and bracket the lower density and higher density areas, and then see what we would need for transportation redevelopment.”

Kay Robertson, senior planner with the town of Herndon, said that VDOT is currently conducting a traffic study of the area to make sure any proposed redevelopment won’t make the traffic situation worse.

“VDOT is currently doing a town-wide study to see how the work would affect other town intersections,” she said. “The transportation impact will be thoroughly studied.”

Basile cautioned against holding the plan hostage to traffic concerns, saying “we don’t want transportation to drive the plan, we want the town to get the plan they want, and then we’ll worry about the transportation.”

**THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** for development around the Herndon-Monroe metro station has been extended to Jan. 28. Comments can be made to [metro.plan@herndon-va.gov](mailto:metro.plan@herndon-va.gov), and information on the proposals can be found at [www.vhb.com/herndonmetrorail](http://www.vhb.com/herndonmetrorail).

**“The transportation impact will be thoroughly studied.”**

— Kay Robertson, senior planner with the town of Herndon



PHOTO BY JEFF BOATRIGHT

From left, Lorraine Magee and Susan D. Garvey as part of the Elden Street Players’ performance of “WIT” last summer. The players will present “Frozen,” the story of a child murderer, the mother of one of his victims and a psychologist, and “Thrill Me: The Leopold and Loeb Story,” a musical about murderers Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb this winter.

# Ways to Stay Warm This Winter

## Herndon offers live entertainment throughout the winter.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

From downtown and beyond, Herndon offers plenty of live entertainment to get anyone through the winter.

At Jimmy’s Old Town Tavern, it’s not too soon to get ready for the Super Bowl, they’re already serving regional favorites from Pittsburgh and Green Bay, in honor of the Packers and the Steelers making it to the big game. Iron City Beer and Leinenkugel are two of the more popular brews that will be available for fans of any team.

“I don’t like doing things just on the day, I’m into the whole ‘12 Days of Christmas’ attitude, except in this case, it’s 12 Days of Super Bowl,” said Jimmy’s owner Jimmy Cirrito.

On the big Sunday, Feb. 6 the Mike O’Meara show will be at Jimmy’s to watch the game. They will be there at 4 p.m. for a few rounds of JOTTparody (Jimmy’s Old Town Tavern Jeopardy) before kickoff.

In addition to the Super Bowl festivities, Jimmy’s will be celebrating Mardi Gras in the same fashion, with gumbo and other Creole favorites available leading up to the March 8 celebration. On March 8, Jimmy’s will host casino games and other events the proceeds of which will go to local charities.

“No matter what the event,

Jimmy’s always does it right,” said Ben Terrence of Herndon. “Mardi Gras, St. Patrick’s Day, July Fourth and any major sporting event, Jimmy’s is the place to be.”

**JUST DOWN THE STREET** from Jimmy’s, O’Sullivan’s Irish Pub features live music on most Friday and Saturday nights. Specializing in Celtic-flavored music, the bar has a growing number of people that stop in weekly to check out the latest music.

“For an Irish Pub, I think it’s actually a pretty intimate venue, the music is a lot of fun and really creates an atmosphere,” said Lynn Saint of Sterling.

Jimmy’s can be found on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/jimmystavern](http://www.facebook.com/jimmystavern), and on Twitter at [twitter.com/jimmys\\_tavern](http://twitter.com/jimmys_tavern). O’Sullivan’s can be found at [www.osullivansirishpub.com](http://www.osullivansirishpub.com).

**THE ELDEN STREET PLAYERS** will also start several shows in February for all audiences. The Herndon-based troupe received 32 nominations last week at the Washington Area Theatre Community Honors, including 18 for their production of “Rent.”

Starting Jan. 28, “Frozen” will be performed on the main

SEE HERNDON, PAGE 12

# OPINION

## It's Time for Responsible Transportation Investment

Governor's plan will dedicate \$4 billion to transportation in next three years.

BY GOV. BOB McDONNELL (R)



COMMENTARY

The average Northern Virginia commuter spends 70 hours per year sitting in traffic, according to the Texas Transportation Institute's 2010 Urban Mobility Report. This is almost three days wasted — time that could be spent with family, working to improve our economy, or volunteering to make our communities better. This much time wasted in congestion is unacceptable.

That is why I have proposed a multi-faceted transportation package that leverages our resources to invest in needed transportation projects today. My comprehensive transportation package will inject \$4 billion into transportation in the next three years alone, without raising taxes. It will get drivers out of gridlock and put Virginians back to work.

Some have said that this plan, the single largest monetary infusion for transportation in decades, doesn't do enough for transportation. They say it won't fully resolve the Commonwealth's transportation needs. I agree that this plan is not the answer to every challenge we face. There simply is no single easy answer or funding source that can immediately solve Virginia's transportation challenges. Does that mean we should do nothing while the debate continues on transportation? I think not. This plan is a major step in the right direction.

Passage of our transportation package will fund 900 projects across our Commonwealth. Here in Northern Virginia, where I was raised, these projects include the extension of HOV/HOT Lanes on Interstate-95/395, the widening of Interstate 66, the widening of a key section of Rolling Road in Fairfax County to address the expected traffic impacts of BRAC, widening Route 7 in Loudoun County and widening Route 28 in Fairfax and Prince William counties. Those are significant projects that will have reduce the time you spend in traffic so you can spend more time at home and at work.

Here is how our plan works. We will simply accelerate the issuing of \$1.8 billion in bonds already approved by bipartisan majorities in the General Assembly in 2007. The funding sources are already in place to pay the debt service. By doing this, we can take advantage of record low interest rates and historically low prices for highway projects to get the most bang for the buck.

We will also issue \$1.1 billion in federal GARVEE bonds, which are federally authorized bonds sold to finance a specific capital project. In the case of these bonds, the state will use federal transportation funds to pay the debt service.

Additionally, we will use \$400 million in one-time money available from our successful audit of VDOT and last year's budget surplus to

of the Commonwealth, who are concerned about the plummeting values of their most valuable asset — their homes, increasing tax rates and the rising unemployment that is creeping into places it has not since the days of the Carter administration.

Apparently the plan is that although Covanta would operate the facility through 2016, the \$400 million county purchase would result in significant savings by 2029. That would be 18 years of real dollar payments for 13 years of undefined savings. Sound familiar?

Actually, this is an unnecessary boondoggle that our children and their children will be saddled with long after this Board of Supervisors has been relieved of their duties. Call, write or e-mail your elected supervisor and remind him or her that this \$400 million can

better serve our community in the education of our children and the much needed transportation infrastructure.

Dennis Husch  
Herndon

### Business of Government

To the Editor:

I read your editorial entitled, Transportation Plan without Substance [Great Falls Connection, Jan/ 19-25]. I think that you are right on the mark. I am in favor of the Commonwealth owning liquor stores, and earning money from that endeavor. Experience clearly shows that government is so much better at running things than are commercial interests. We have an excellent local example of that in

create the Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Bank which will support private and locality investments in projects that make our highway system safer and less congested. Eventually this bank will grow to \$1 billion by the end of our administration.

Not only will our plan get new roads built quickly, it will put thousands of Virginians to work at the same time. For every \$100 million spent on highway construction, it is estimated 3,000 jobs are created or supported. This plan will mean thousands of new jobs for Virginians in one of the toughest job markets in generations.

For all of these reasons, 43 major business and transportation groups, including the Northern Virginia Technology Council, the Dulles Area Transportation Association, the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, and the chambers of commerce of Reston, Loudoun, the Dulles Area, Fairfax County, Prince William, Springfield and Arlington all strongly support this plan — the only comprehensive transportation program anyone has put forward to get roads built and reduce congestion. And, it is why state Sen. Chuck Colgan (D-29), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, has signed on as a co-patron of the bill.

Rather than spend more years debating and pointing fingers, let's get started investing in transportation improvements today. This fiscally responsible, comprehensive transportation program will get new roads built now and will move our Commonwealth forward on this critical issue. It is attracting broad, bipartisan support and I encourage you to visit my website, [www.governor.virginia.gov](http://www.governor.virginia.gov) to read the details of my plan for yourself. I know that, working together, we can get traffic moving in Virginia.

the construction of the Capitol Visitors Center that was overseen by Congress.

Liquor is an evil substance so keeping prices high through lack of competition (at least for those persons unable to cross the Potomac to DC or Maryland) helps inhibit its use. I favor ending sale of wine and beer through outlets not owned by the Commonwealth. What do grocery and beverage stores know about selling products anyway?

I am hoping that Governor McDonnell will consider importing some unemployed central planners from the old Soviet Union, and find even more sources of revenue by running more businesses. I suggest that community newspapers could be the next source of revenue.

Max Padon  
Great Falls

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# Bridges' Co-Owner Given 5 Years Prison

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**A** 29-year-old Herndon man was sentenced Friday in federal court to five years in prison for intentionally setting fire to Bridges Billiards and Grill in the City of Fairfax.

He is Ajmal A. Aman and, at the time of the incident, he was a part owner of the popular Fairfax City bar. Besides receiving prison time, he was also ordered to pay \$744,790 in restitution for the damage caused to the victims of the fire.

Some 50 firefighters and EMTs responded, in the early-morning hours of Nov. 1, 2009, to the bar at 10560 Main St., No. 100. A sprinkler system contained the flames to a small office, but the City of Fairfax Fire Marshal's Office quickly determined that the cause was arson.

"Investigation revealed the presence of numerous, liquid pour patterns on the floor, throughout the business," wrote Lt. David Whitacre, a fire investigator and assistant fire marshal, in a Nov. 1

affidavit for a warrant to search the premises. "There was also a strong odor consistent with the presence of an ignitable liquid."

**FURTHER INVESTIGATION** revealed several containers of charcoal lighter fluid, plus containers of gasoline and other ignitable liquids. "An accelerant K-9 brought to the scene had positive hits for accelerant in several locations within the business," stated Whitacre. He also noted that Aman was there when firefighters arrived to put out the blaze and that his clothing smelled like gasoline.

Aman was originally prosecuted in Fairfax County General District Court, but his case was later turned over to the federal government. He stood trial last fall in U.S. District Court in Alexandria; and after six days of testimony and exhibits, he was convicted on Oct. 27, 2010.

According to court records and the evidence presented, Aman was one of six owners of Bridges and served as the company's treasurer. He was also the manager on duty, Oct. 31, 2009, when the bar

hosted a Halloween party until 2 a.m. the following morning.

**FLAMES** broke out around 3:30 a.m., and investigators testifying at Aman's trial said that gasoline was found in high concentrations at the fire's primary area of origin — a small office in the back where Bridges's financial documents and accounting records were kept. Also found in that office were a full book of matches and the bottom half of a water bottle containing gasoline.

Furthermore, Aman was the last person on the scene that night and gasoline was found on the clothes he was wearing. According to evidence presented at his trial, Aman was suspected of abusing his position as treasurer by misappropriating the business' funds for personal travel and repayment of debts. The evidence also showed that this misdeed, along with competition from rival bars, may have been the motives behind the arson.

He returned to court last Friday, Jan. 21, and at that time, U.S. District Court Judge T. S. Ellis III sentenced him to 60 months in federal prison.

## How To Avoid 9 Common Buyer Traps Before Buying a Home!!

Washington, D.C. — Buying a home is a major investment no matter how you look at it. Unfortunately, for some homebuyers it is more expensive than it needs to be because they fall prey to at least a few of the common and costly mistakes which trap them into either overpaying for the home they want or, worse, buying the wrong home for their needs.

A systemized approach to the home buying process can help you to steer clear of these errors, allowing you to not only cut costs, but also to buy the home that best fits your needs. An industry report has just been released entitled, "9 Buyer Traps and How

to Avoid them". This important report discusses the 9 most common and costly of these homebuyer traps.

Having the right information beforehand can undoubtedly make a major difference in how you structure your offer and in your negotiation with the seller. **To hear a brief recorded message and to order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-363-0356 and when prompted enter ID # 2300.** You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to find out what you need to know before you buy a home.

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Adam Downs and Rebecca Lenehan

## Edgy 'Frozen' Comes to Herndon

Elden Street Players present 'Frozen.'

By DAVID SIEGEL  
 THE CONNECTION

"Humanity in all its complexity is why I was drawn to the role," said Adam Downs. He is describing his extraordinary character in the upcoming Elden Street Players production of "Frozen." Downs plays a thorny man full of horrendous evil that the audience will come to know closely. Nominated for a 2004 Tony for Best Play, "Frozen," written by Bryony Lavery, entwines three lives after an unspeakable act that would seem to lead to long lasting anger and pain. However, this is a show with redemption on its horizon as the characters journey forward. For director Carla Scopeleitius the show "spotlights the power of memory and love to heal." It also provides essential insight into the "need for forgiveness in this sometimes dark world in which we live."

The Elden Street Players, in the midst of their 23rd season, are consistently true to their mission to produce challenging playwrights and plays. "Frozen" brings together a young murderer, the mother of one of his victims and his psychologist exploring the capacity for forgiveness, remorse and change.

At a recent rehearsal, director Scopeleitius spoke of

### Where and When

Elden Street Players, Industrial Strength Theatre, Jan. 28-Feb. 11. Friday-Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 30 at 3 p.m. and Feb. 13 at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. Tickets \$17-\$19. Call 703-481-5930. Log on [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org)

her "love to find and direct edgy complicated plays." With "Frozen" she wants the audience to take in "a contemporary play addressing both an unspeakable crime and a grave societal taboo."

For Rebecca Lenehan, the psychologist, the play "brings forth a broad range of emotion from the very depths of human experience." While the play is "certainly intense, it provides for forgiveness and redemption so that lives can finally be lived." After all, how can people just live "a destroyed life enveloped by hatred." They would be frozen emotionally in place forever.

Through the rehearsal process, the three member cast worked to find a way to build cohesion through the two dozen scenes that include monologues with quick scene changes. The script begins with each person presenting his or her side of the story. They also worked under the director's guidance to "give themselves over to the script." The set design includes projections to add to the power of the script.

As Downs expressed, the show is "a moving experience with complex characters" to carry the audience along. No one shied away from its theme, the ultimate redemption.

## ENTERTAINMENT

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

### THURSDAY/JAN. 27

**The Big Guise.** Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring St., Herndon. A Herndon-based rock band. [www.thebigguiseband.com](http://www.thebigguiseband.com). 703-435-JIMS or [www.jimmystavern.com](http://www.jimmystavern.com).  
**Ari Hest with Bess Rogers.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Indie-folk. \$18. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### FRIDAY/JAN. 28

**"Frozen".** 8 p.m. The Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Bryony Lavery's play entwines the lives of a murderer, the mother of one of his victims and his psychologist. Mature audiences. \$19 adults, \$16 students and seniors. 703-481-5930 or [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).  
**Mason Jazz Concert.** 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**L.A. Theatre Works "The Real Dr. Strangelove".** 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$18-\$36, available at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Sugarloaf Crafts Festival.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. More than 250 craftsmen, gourmet and specialty foods, plus demonstrations of iron forging, woodcarving, wheel-thrown pottery and copper spinning. Adults \$7 online, \$9 at the door. Under age 12 free. [www.sugarloafcrafter.com](http://www.sugarloafcrafter.com) or 800-210-9900.  
**David Jolley and Eduard Laurel.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Russian pieces from Reinhold Gliere, Alexander Scriabin, and Alexander Glazunov. \$35. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

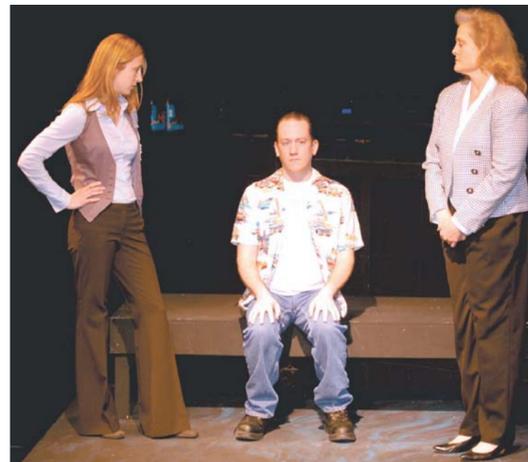
### SATURDAY/JAN. 29

**"Frozen".** 8 p.m. The Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Bryony Lavery's play entwines the lives of a murderer, the mother of one of his victims and his psychologist. Mature audiences. \$19 adults, \$16 students and seniors. 703-481-5930 or [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).

**Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The German State Philharmonic, conducted by Philippe Entremont on its first tour of the U.S., performing Strauss' "Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche" and Brahms' Symphony No. 4, Op. 98. Entremont also joins Sebastian Knauer on piano for Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos, No. 10 in E-Flat major, K. 365. Tickets are \$30-\$60, available at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

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**John Eaton.** 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Big band and jazz music. \$25. 703-



Cassandra Hodziewich, Adam Downs and Rebecca Lenehan in the Elden Street Players' production of 'Frozen' opening Friday, Jan. 28.

938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### SUNDAY/JAN. 30

**"Frozen".** 3 p.m. The Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Bryony Lavery's play entwines the lives of a murderer, the mother of one of his victims and his psychologist. Mature audiences. \$19 adults, \$16 students and seniors. 703-481-5930 or [www.eldenstreetplayers.org](http://www.eldenstreetplayers.org).  
**Faculty Artist Series: Mira Yang,**

**mezzo-soprano.** 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

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## Future Is Bright for Young Playwrights

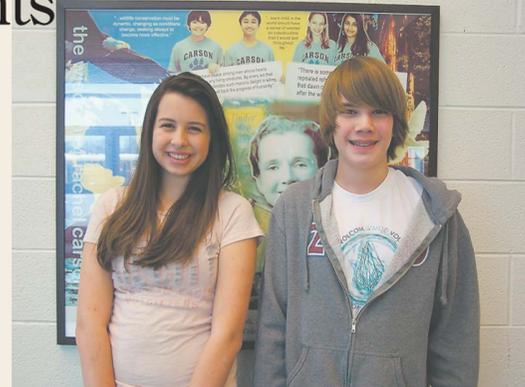
Two Rachel Carson students win playwriting competition.

By ALEX McVEIGH  
 THE CONNECTION

Rachel Carson Middle School teacher Josh Bickford has had his students submit plays to the Arena Stage 10-Minute Playwriting competition for the past few years. Other than a few honorable mentions, his students haven't come away with much from the contest, which gets around 800 submissions per year.

This year was different, as two of Bickford's students were among the ten grand prize-winners who will get a chance to see their plays put on by professional actors.

"You have no idea what the



Lindsay Bur, 13 and David Fish, 14, eighth graders at Rachel Carson Middle School, were two of 10 grand prize winners for the Arena Stage 10-Minute Playwriting competition, which had more than 800 entries from around the Washington, D.C. area.

judges will like and what they won't, so the results always come as a surprise," Bickford said. "This class is exceptionally gifted, and going through their plays, it would have been tough for me to pick out the winners."

But Arena Stage picked Lindsay

Bur's "Name Unknown" and David Fish's "The Day Before" as two of their winners, after they were submitted last December. Bur's "Name Unknown" is

SEE TWO STUDENTS.  
 PAGE 9

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# Short-Handed Hornets Persevering on Wrestling Mat

**Herndon's Pike, Nielsen and Reyes could make noise at upcoming districts.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**eam development" has been the calling cry for the Herndon High wrestling squad this season. The Hornets have been short-handed on the varsity squad all season, consistently wrestling at just six of the 14 weight classes in dual matches. Head coach Mike Gonzales anticipated such a scenario at the beginning of the winter season. Instead of pulling up some of his younger wrestlers to the varsity squad from the JV team to help fill out some of the weight class gaps on the varsity roster, he elected to allow those JV team members to remain where they were and to gain experience there.

The Herndon varsity (3-10 dual record), being short-handed, naturally has struggled to win dual meets. The Hornets have, however, earned dual team victories over Falls Church, Tucarrora High (Frederick, Md.), and McLean.

But, despite the tough team win-loss record, several individual wrestlers who are competing at the varsity level have put together some exceptional individual seasons and hopes are high that the Hornets will have some highlight moments during the upcoming postseason, which will begin Friday, Feb. 4 with the Concorde District Championships at Centreville High School.

"We do not have a full varsity line-up, so winning dual meets is almost mathematically impossible," said Gonzales. "I kind of expected that this year, so I tried to schedule more individual tournaments rather than dual meets. I could have bumped some JV wrestlers up to varsity, but instead we have focused on developing them, so they can be successful on varsity next year."

Gabe Pike, a junior, has been Herndon's most consistent wrestler. He has changed his wrestling style to an extent throughout the season so opponents don't begin to figure him out on the mat.

"He works hard every day," said Gonzales, of Pike. "Gabe had a certain style of wrestling that coaches were training their wrestlers to defend, but he switched up his offense to keep the competition guessing. That has been really successful for him this year, especially in the [Northern] Region where people know him."

Pike, an All-Region wrestler last year, had a rough start to the current season and did not place at several tournaments. He moved up a weight class from 103-division to 112.

"He was having a difficult time wrestling bigger and stronger wrestlers," said Gonzales.

But the determined, hard-work-

**"We do not have a full varsity line-up, so winning dual meets is almost mathematically impossible."**

— Head coach Mike Gonzales

ing Pike has gotten progressively better and better as the season has moved on.

"What he lacks in strength, he makes up for with conditioning and toughness," said his coach. "Gabe has won many come-from-behind victories simply by wearing down his opponents. Gabe is peaking at the right time."

**PIKE PLACED** second in his weight class at the 24-team Patriot Classic, held at Northern High (Md.) on Jan. 8. And last Saturday, he went 5-0 in a multi-team competition at Centreville High School which included participating teams McLean, Madison, Langley, Fairfax, and the host Wildcats.

Some of the Herndon varsity wrestlers who, at upcoming districts, could finish among the top four in their respective weight classes to qualify for the following week's region tournament include: Pike (112 class), sophomore Jared Nielsen (103), and senior Ramon Reyes (119).

"They each have solid chances to make it to regionals," said Gonzales, of the trio. "Pike and Reyes will have to upset some top-ranked wrestlers to make it to

states."

Reyes is Herndon's lone senior in the varsity starting line-up.

Gonzales is pleased with the way his wrestlers, at both the varsity and JV levels, have competed and worked this season.

"The JV team has been doing great, and we've had a lot of success on that level, which gives us some hope for the future," said Gonzales. "On varsity, I'd like to see some of the first year varsity guys step up if they want to make it out of the district."

"Overall, this is a major rebuilding year," said the coach. "When I first started coaching, I would have bumped up all the JV guys up to varsity to field a full line-up. I've learned the hard way when you do that, you're just hurting the wrestlers and the program. The kids will lose confidence, and get used to losing, so when they're actually physically ready for varsity,

mentally, they're already ready beat. Looking at the big picture, I think it's better to keep them on JV and let them develop, get some wins under their

belt, and build their confidence. It is tough for the varsity program, and humbling for me as a coach, but it will pay off in the long run."

In action this week, Herndon was scheduled to compete in a meet at Oakton High this Wednesday, Jan. 26, along with participating teams Robinson, Wakefield and the host Cougars. This Saturday, Jan. 29, the Hornets will close out the regular season by competing in a meet at South County Secondary, along with Jefferson and Lake Braddock. Saturday's action will begin at 1.

**THE HERNDON JV** team competed at the district championships last Saturday at Oakton. Five Hornet wrestlers reached the finals with three capturing district titles. The district champions for Herndon were Chris Gaffney (112 weight class), John Shull (135), and William Mejia (140). Finishing second for the Hornets were Dante Walker at 119, and Khaled Moustafa at 189. Herndon also had two wrestlers who earned third place finishes - Edgar Ortiz at 189 and Jadon Koenig at 215.

JV regionals are slated for this Saturday at Hayfield Secondary.



PHOTO COURTESY/TEAM AMERICA

**Northern Virginia's Team America 93 - National Champions. Front row: Robby Maffei; Middle row, left to right: Brandon Siles, Damaro DaCosta, Ohjay Porteria, Bernardo Majano, Armado Oakley, Mikael Belay, Bryan Castellon. Back row: Ezra Williams, Zac Galiani, Clinton Black, Alex Padilla, Jonny Dunn, Evan Ragland, Hatzael Diaz, Martin Lopez, and Edgar Zepeda.**

## SPORTS ROUNDUPS

**Team America 93**, a U17 boys' soccer team from Northern Virginia, was crowned the Div. 1 National Indoor Soccer Champion for the second year in a row. The tournament took place Jan. 15 and 16 in Baltimore.

Team America, whose roster includes players from McLean, Fairfax, Springfield, and Mount Vernon, handily won their first two games, 7-2 against the Rush from Pennsylvania and 7-3 over the Blue Magic Lightning of Maryland.

The third game versus the Manchester Elite proved more challenging but Team America came out on top, 4-3, with a last minute goal by Falls Church's Ohjay Porteria.

The win over the Elite advanced Team America to the championship game against FC York. Team America players worked in sync brilliantly the whole game to win by a score of 7-0. Despite numerous attempts by FC York, Team America's goalkeeper, Robby Maffei of Mclean, helped his team earn the shutout win. A total of seven Team America players scored goals during the tournament. Team America is coached by Larry Dunn and Patrick DaCosta.

**A South Lakes High School basketball team** made up of coaches, teachers and guests will play a game versus the exciting Harlem Wizards team on Saturday night, Feb. 5 at 7.

The game will take place in the spacious South Lakes High gymnasium. To order tickets online, go to [www.seahawkboosters.com](http://www.seahawkboosters.com). Tickets purchased after Jan. 15 will be available at the Will-Call table on the evening of the event. Advance tickets will cost \$10 for students and \$15 for

adults. On game night, tickets will cost \$15 for students and \$20 for adults.

**Herndon Reston Youth Softball (HRYS)** Spring Registration is now open. Herndon-Reston Youth Softball is a girls' fast-pitch softball league serving players ages 6 to 18 in the greater Herndon-Reston. Go to [www.hrysfastpitch.com/Registration](http://www.hrysfastpitch.com/Registration) to register today.

**The Langley Saxonette Dance Team Clinic** will take place on the evenings of Feb. 8 and 11, from 4:40 to 6:30 at Langley High School. The dance team will perform at the Langley girls' basketball game on the 11th. The Saxonette dance team welcomes all fourth through eighth graders, of all experience levels, to the clinic sessions.

Contact [wanda.brown@gmail.com](mailto:wanda.brown@gmail.com) or go to the Langley High School Dance Team website for registration information.

**The Thomas Jefferson High boys' and girls' swim/dive teams** scored decisive wins against Stone Bridge at a Liberty District meet held on Jan. 14. Jefferson swimmers and divers brought home first place in all but one event.

First place finishers for Jefferson included Stephen Seliskar (200 free) of McLean; MaryKate Dilworth (200 free and 500 free) of Clifton; Jack Borsi (200 IM) of Herndon; Jon Spitz (50 free) of Fairfax; Sarah Liu (50 free) of Annandale; Ron Enson (100 fly) of Clifton; Brianna Kim (100 fly and 100 back) of Fairfax; Madison Phillips (100 free) of Vienna; Miles Oakley (100 back) of Fairfax; and Aedan Collins (100 breaststroke) of McLean. Seliskar's 200 free swim qualified him for the state championship meet.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Two Students Win Arena Stage Prize

FROM PAGE 7

about a girl who has been passed around several foster homes, adopting a new name and personality at each one.

"She adopts the new name and personality to fit in, but now that she's home, she doesn't know who she is," said Bur, 13. "I got the idea from a girl I knew that I met at theater camp, who had been in a lot of foster homes and said it was tough."

**DIFFERENT ACTORS** play each of the protagonist's personality, and they speak in a series of monologues.

"I thought Lindsay's was very original," Bickford said. "The monologues were an interesting choice."

Bur had previous experience as a director; she directed the school's fall play, "The 11<sup>th</sup>," which was about the events of 9/11.

Bur said she isn't much a fan of writing, "except in English class," she prefers to act and direct.

"I always like acting, even when you're part of a big ensemble, you're still a big part of the play."

she said. "When I directed the play, I could really see that even if one person was missing, there was a huge difference on stage."

Fish's play, "The Day Before" is a wartime drama about a group of soldiers in Afghanistan.

"They're sitting around and talking in the beginning, none of them have seen combat yet," Fish, 14, said. "Then they all go out on patrol one day, and all are killed in a battle, except one guy, and he gives a speech at the end."

Fish says he is a big fan of modern war movies, such as "Jarhead," and that's where he got his inspiration. This was one of his first experiences writing, and he tried to draw from those movies, as well as identify what his grandfather and uncle, who served in Vietnam and Afghanistan respectively, went through.

"I think I'm going to try writing more, now that I know I have a talent for it, I hadn't written much before," Fish said. "It's something to take into consideration, whether it's something I'll do later on."

While most of his theater experiences have been in comedies,

Fish said it was refreshing to explore drama.

"I felt like it was almost easier to come up with a serious idea," he said. "When you're doing something silly, it takes time to come up with good jokes."

**THE STUDENTS** were informed by a phone call that their plays had won a grand prize, and Bur said she could hardly believe it.

"I remember being astonished, and that I thought it was a dream I didn't want to wake up from," Bur said. "I've never won anything like that, and it was really special because it was out of so many people."

Fish said the best part will be getting to see his vision actually put on by professional actors.

"I'm really looking forward to see how the actor does the monologue at the end," he said. "It's horrific to see how his friends died, and I'm interested to see how he talks about it, because it goes to a blackout during the battle and you just hear noises, and then the actor comes out and talks about what happened and who died when."



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## Not Just Any Friday...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

But Friday, Jan. 7, 2011, the date of my most recent post-scan appointment with my oncologist. The date when the results of those previous week's scans will be shared with Dina and me. The appointment when we will learn if my stage IV lung cancer has progressed – or not. And what we learned is, news we can live with: "No change." The tumors have not grown or moved. The status is quo. I am doing "Amazing," according to my oncologist. Two years into my treatment, and it's not, to invoke a Boston expression, "Katie bar the door;" which means trouble, sort of, figuratively speaking.

So what's next? No one knows for sure and that's the problem. Although not nearly the problem the original pain in my ribcage has turned out to be. But still a problem. A problem of the unknown. What to do, how to treat, a patient who has now outlived his prognosis and who has been on a chemotherapy drug – Avastin, longer than any other patient his oncologist has previously treated, and a patient who is as symptomatic and progressing as well as I am? "Uncharted territory" is how my oncology nurse has described my future.

But it's a future. A future that two years ago was not exactly promised to me. Not that promises are likely ever made to cancer patients during chemotherapy, but you get the idea I'm sure. And not that I ever took the characterizations personally but, after all the testing is completed to determine "the underlying problem" (as I call my lung cancer/diagnosis), you become a statistic, a compilation of data – which, according to medical science/history indicates/corresponds to a certain time line (I hesitate to use the term "deadline" anymore). And neither is that time line promised, but presumably, there is some methodology to their madness and statistical presumptions, so it's a bit hard to ignore. Although, you try.

Nevertheless, it's a weight – and a wait, too. It's all about what happens next: results from lab work, X-Rays, CT scans, MRIs, physical examinations, etc., to determine your fate. Some of it is in your control, most of it is not. And upon reflection, you may recall what your oncologist said to you back in February 2009: there are exceptions to every rule – and he hopes that you are one of them. However, he was not the least bit encouraging. Presumably he is duty-bound and medically and ethically motivated as well, not to provide too much false hope. In my case, he didn't. Moreover, he suggested that perhaps I take that vacation I always wanted to. WHAT!?

But here I am, two years post diagnosis; an exception to the rule. You can now officially throw the statistics out the window. And though I am thrilled to be here (Duh!), here is where few of us have ever been before, unfortunately. As a result, there are no real treatment protocols to follow and so my oncologist has much less medical data on which to rely and more anecdotal-type feelings from me, the patient, to consider as he/we decide how best to proceed/how to treat. Not that the diagnosis/treatment-to-date hasn't been collaborative, it has; it's more that, treatment going forward, there's less conventional wisdom on which to rely and more dependence on unconventional wisdom – mine, to decide dosages, frequency of chemotherapy and scans, etc.

This new decision-making, combined with where I am relative to my original prognosis/time line scares the living daylights out of me – if you want to know the truth. If you don't want to know the truth, welcome to the other half of my brain. Can you say dichotomy? (I can't, anymore than I can say "deadline".)

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

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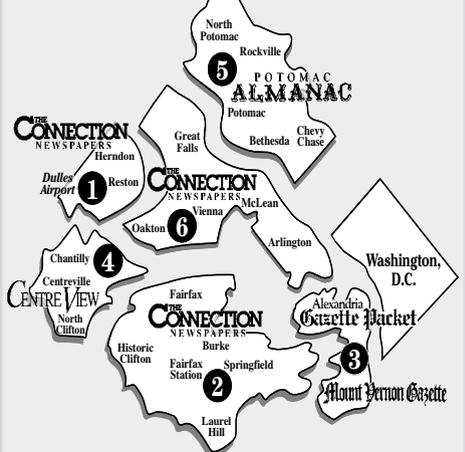
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 All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.**

## WINTER FUN

# Herndon Offers Choices

FROM PAGE 3

stage. The story of a child murderer, the mother of one of his victims and a psychologist, the story explores themes such as forgiveness and remorse.

"I've always enjoyed the variety of shows put on by the Elden Street Players, even when they do something that is considered 'dark,' it's always a great production," said Hal DiSouza, of Ashburn. "I'm really looking forward to their upcoming 'Frozen' show, I've heard really good things about the show, and I trust the [Elden Street] Players to pull it off."

Following "Frozen" on the main stage, starting March 25, is "Thrill Me: The Leopold and Loeb Story," a musical about Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, who killed a young boy in 1924 in Chicago. This is the regional premiere for the play, which has been nominated for several Best Musical awards, and won the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers award for Best Music.

Herndon resident and Elden Street Players fan Jon Madrid says he is greatly looking forward to seeing "Thrill Me" come to Herndon.

"I saw it in Los Angeles a few years back when I was out visiting family, and it's a very interesting piece," Madrid said. "The horrible crime committed, juxtaposed with a musical makes for an intriguing combination."

While "Frozen" and "Thrill Me" offer a glimpse into the darker side of the human psyche, "Goldilocks



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

**Herndon Resident Samantha Green practices a competitive figure skating move Friday night at the Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion.**

and the Three Bears" by Tom McCabe showcases an updated view of a classic fairytale. It tells the story of Goldilocks, a camper at the Enchanted Forest Kiddie Camp.

Ostracized by her fellow campers, she flees into the woods, fol-

lowed by Ranger Roger. When the two run into the bear family at Roger's cabin, they have to run for their lives.

More information on upcoming shows by the Elden Street Players can be found at [www.eldenstreet.com](http://www.eldenstreet.com).

## Winter Fun in Herndon

❖ Jan. 27: The Big Guise Band, Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 9 p.m. Covering popular classic rock, blues, swing and a little bit country with infectious energy. No cover charge.

❖ Jan. 28- Feb. 19: "Frozen," presented by the Elden Street Players.

A play that entwines the lives of a murderer, the mother of a victim and his psychologist as they explore the capacity for forgiveness, remorse and change. Friday shows (Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11 and 18) at 8 p.m., Saturday shows (Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12 and 19) at 8 p.m. There will be a show Sunday, Jan. 30 at 3 p.m., Sunday Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. and Thursday, Feb. 17 at 8 p.m.

Admission is \$19 for adults, \$16 for students and seniors.

❖ Jan 29: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at Frying Pan Farm Park, noon. Activities will include wagon rides, children's party games, hot cocoa, birthday cake and a preview of 2011 events. Admission is free. For more information or to RSVP, call 703-437-9101.

❖ Jan. 30: Groundhog's Day Out at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2 p.m. Visit a groundhog burrow and learn about groundhogs and other ways to predict the weather. Enjoy crafts, games and hot chocolate.

❖ Feb. 5-20: "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," presented by the Elden Street Players. The classic fairytale with a twist. Shows on Saturday Feb. 5, 12 and 19 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and

Sunday Feb. 6, 13 and 20 at 2 p.m.

❖ March 8: Mardi Gras at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern. Casino games, regional foods and other events, which will benefit local charities.

❖ March 11-13: Woodworking and Do-it-yourself show at Dulles Expo Center. Demonstrations, expert advice, and instructional features. Show is open March 11 from noon to 6 p.m., March 12 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and March 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10, free for children under 15.

❖ March 26: Kite Fun Day at Frying Pan Farm Park, 1 p.m. Make and decorate a kite, then watch it soar. For children 10 and under, pre-registration is required.