

Oak Hill ❖ Herndon CONNECTION



'She is my best friend,' says Jennifer Hiltwine of her chocolate Labrador Retriever Kensey. 'She always provides company and love.' The Herndon resident just recently discovered the Herndon Dog Park.

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PET CONNECTION

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PET CONNECTION



Hospital Keeps Pets Well

Great Falls Animal Hospital cares for pets big and small.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

For more than 30 years, pets around the area have been coming to the Great Falls Animal Hospital to get well. Dogs, cats, reptiles, birds, rabbits and rodents are all treated at the facility. Dr. William Goldsmith, one of the owners, even remembers a lion coming through the doors almost 30 years ago.

"We've got a seasoned staff with over 100 years of combined veterinary experience, and our patients see the same faces year after year," Goldsmith said. "This is a great place to be a vet, people really care about their pets. Owners want the best, and that's what we're here to provide."

Started in 1963 as a one-veterinarian clinic, Goldsmith and Dr. Richard Henshaw purchased it in 1982, and now there are an additional seven veterinarians practicing there.

Much of the staff at the hospital has been around for more than five years, and some more than 20 years.

Mohamed Beshir, a veterinarian's assistant, has been there for 13 years.

"There's good people, good management and a family-like environment," Beshir said. "If you stay here for a week, you'll love everything about it."

As health care technology has improved over the years, it has translated into advanced in pet health care as well.

"Veterinary care has kind of evolved into the human health care model. You go to your [general practitioner], and if there's a blood pressure issue, you can get medication, or you can be referred to specialists who will look at different things," Goldsmith said.

"We're the GP's, the first step. Some people are with us throughout their pets' lifetime, but if specific treatments are needed, we

can refer them out."

Goldsmith says the lack of turn-over helps put their patients and owners at ease.

Implanting tracking microchips are also a popular service at the hospital. Placed just under the skin, shelters, vets and animal hospitals have readers to pick up the number on the chip.

"Chips are a great secondary way to identify pets, after collars and tags," Cook said. "But a chip is just a number, it's important to remember to register your information with the chip company."

Despite their various specialties, the staff has one thing in common: their love for animals.

"My favorite part is working with pets and their owners, it's neat to watch how much people like their pets and how they interact," said Dr. Christine Kellogg, a veterinarian at the hospital. "There's nothing better than working with a puppy or a kitten, they're so sweet and honest."

The Great Falls Animal Hospital is located at the intersection of Colvin Run Mill Road and Walker Road, and can be found online at www.greatfallsanimalhospital.com.



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Veterinary Assistant Joanne Fujito cleans the teeth of a golden retriever at the Great Falls Animal Hospital.

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PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Kristin Lee and her daughter Katie, 4, of Herndon tube down a hill in Herndon Saturday.

Taking Advantage of Snow

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

As snow fell around Reston and Herndon last week, it didn't deter a lot of people from getting out and having some fun.

"This is the best snow to be outside in," said Elliott Crawford, 14, of Reston, as he and his friend walked away from an afternoon of sledding Thursday. "It's heavy and wet, so it makes great snowballs, snowmen and packs really well for sledding. After a few hours of people using it, that hill is nice and slick."

The hill where Crawford and Shane Mossley, 14, of Reston spent their afternoon was in a power-line clearing behind Forest Edge Elementary. The slope provided the boys with a good hill, as well as enough open space so they didn't have to get near roads.

"I think my parents like this hill better than some of the other ones in the area that end suddenly on the road," Mossley said. "At least when there's snow there's something to do outside. The worst part of

SEE WEEKEND, PAGE 7



Cameron Wiley and his daughter Cheyanne, 4, sled down a hill in Herndon Saturday.



Sean Timm, of Herndon, prepares to send his daughter Meredith, 6, on one final run down a hill in Herndon Saturday.



Pictured, from left: John Solomito of Subway; Schatem Boyd of Snap Fitness; Linda Tharpe, holiday shopping spree winner; Carolyn Haydon, principal of Crossfield Elementary; and Wassim Ghali of Baskin Robbins.

Shopping Spree for Crossfield Elementary

The merchants of Franklin Farm Village Center in Herndon donated \$1,000 to Crossfield Elementary School as part of the shopping center's shopping spree promotion. The school received the donation thanks to Linda Tharpe of Herndon who listed Crossfield Elementary as her favorite school on the entry form she filled out for a shopping spree drawing. In addition to a \$1,000 donation to the school, Tharpe won \$500 in Franklin Farm Village Center gift certificates for herself.

"We will use the money to

help purchase Smart Boards for interactive learning," said Carolyn Haydon, principal at Crossfield Elementary School.

This is the seventh year the merchants of Franklin Farm have hosted this promotion and the first time Crossfield has won. Other winning schools include Oakton High School, McNair Elementary School and Floris Elementary School.

Franklin Farm Village Center is at the intersection of Fairfax County Parkway and Franklin Farm Road in Herndon. The center includes Giant Food and Sears Appliance & Hardware.

SCHOOL NOTES

John W. Sample of Herndon has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Sample is majoring in information technology and pursuing a master of information technology.

Ashima Gulati of Herndon has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Gulati is majoring in computer science and applications and pursuing a master of science in the College of Engineering.

Zhongmin Ma of Herndon has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Ma is majoring in computer science and applications and pursuing a doctor of philosophy in the College of Engineering.

Carmine A. Cafiero of Herndon has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Cafiero is pursuing a master of architecture in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Lauren E. Steel of Herndon has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Steel is pursuing a master of accounting and information systems in The R.B. Pamplin College of Business.

Genevieve Navin of Herndon has joined Kappa Delta Pi at Millsaps College of Jackson, Miss. Kappa Delta Phi is an international honor society promoting fellowship and service among professional educators. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence P. Navin of Herndon.

Shelby Hill of Herndon has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at York College of Pennsylvania. Hill is a senior elementary education/ special education major.

Katie Ann Notarangelo of Herndon has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Bridgewater College. Notarangelo is a junior majoring in health and exercise science.

Christine Swanson of Herndon has been named to the fall 2010 president's list at Elon University. Swanson is the daughter of Dave and Patti Swanson of Herndon.

Jillian Lopina of Oak Hill has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame, In. She is the daughter of Maureen and Brian Lopina of Oak Hill.

Alison Spurlock of Herndon has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame, In. She is the daughter of Mary Jane and Kevin Spurlock of Herndon.

Colby Miller of Oak Hill has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Elizabethtown College of Pa. Miller is a senior biology education major.

Katherine A. Ackerman of Herndon has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Colby College in Waterville, Me. She is the daughter of Robert Ackerman and Aileen Natrella of Herndon, and attended Thomas Jefferson High School Science/Technology.

Town Council Adopts 2030 Vision

The Herndon Town Council has crafted a 2030 Vision for the Town of Herndon that foresees a future in which “history and heritage are respected” and in which “Herndon is the anchor of an expanded community where positive benefits extend beyond the town’s boundaries.”

The 2030 Vision builds on prior visioning work conducted by previous Town Councils and incorporates eight tenets: Citizens Who Are Engaged in Our Community; Exceptional Service; Our Rare Sense of Heritage and Place; Maintaining a Residential Haven; A Planned Approach to Community Development; Managing Regional Growth Through Cooperation; Modern Multi-Modal Transportation; and Our Renowned Amenities.

The 2030 Vision was developed by the council during a three-day retreat in November 2010, facilitated by A. Tyler St. Clair, faculty, leadership development at the University of Virginia’s Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service.

Full color posters and fliers outlining the Herndon Town Council’s 2030 Vision are available through the town’s Public Information Office at information@herndon-va.gov or 703-435-6800 X2084. A PDF or the flier may also be downloaded from the town’s Web site; follow the Vision link off of the homepage. All citizens will receive a 2030 Vision flier in their spring water bills.

For more information, visit the town’s Web site at www.herndon-va.gov.

Delegate Rust Patrons Autism Bill

Del Tom Rust (R-86) announced today that bill 2512, which would greatly improve the lives of autistic children and their families, has been passed out of the House Commerce and Labor committee and is headed to the floor for a vote. Rust is one of two chief co-patrons of the bill, which will require insurance companies to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of children 2-6 years of age with autism.

Approximately one in 100 children are diagnosed with autism in Virginia each year. Numerous studies and reports have found that early intervention is the key to helping autistic children overcome their disability and lead full, functional lives. But therapy is expensive and is seldom covered by insurance. Rust’s bill would help thousands of Virginia families cope with this financial burden and improve the lives of thousands of autistic children.

“The bill addresses the most critical needs of those affected by autism and will include both public and private employees. I am pleased to be a chief co-patron; I have supported this in the past and am happy to see its passage in committee and I look forward to its passage in the House,” Rust said.

In previous years, Rust has patroned bills such as this but the bills were not passed in subcommittee. This year, the bill was heard by the full committee and was passed. It will now be heard on the floor of the House of Delegates, and if passed, will move to the Senate for their action.

For more information, please contact Del. Rust’s legislative office in Richmond at 804-698-1086.

Naval Officers’ Spouses Offer Scholarships

The Naval Officers’ Spouses Club of Washington D.C. is accepting application from graduating high school seniors who are dependents of Navy service members within the Naval District Washington command for its 2011-2012 Scholarship Program. The scholarships are 100% merit based and must be applied to tuition.

Applications must be postmarked on or before April 1, 2011. For more information about these scholarship opportunities or to obtain an application visit the NOSC website at www.noscd.org or email: jennywerner2003@aol.com.

Last year NOSC gave out over \$20,000 in scholarships to Navy dependents.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Families get warm and make s’mores around the fire at Frying Pan Farm Park Saturday, as part of their 50th anniversary celebration.

Celebrating Farm History

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Frying Pan Farm Park celebrated its 50th anniversary Saturday with tractor rides, live music, s’mores and other activities. For some guests, the thought of something 50 years old was almost unbelievable.

“So the farm is older than my daddy?” asked Sarah Greer, 4, of Fairfax. “How is that possible?”

The farm is older than Greer’s father, by hundreds of years. The meetinghouse on the property was built around 1791, and served as a meeting house for Baptists who lived near the Frying Pan Springs.

In 1876, Floris school was built on the property, which was rebuilt in 1911, and is still there today. During the 19th and early 20th Century, the Floris community was one of the top milk-producers in the state.

The property was donated from Fairfax County Public Schools, due to the Floris School on the property, to the Park Authority in 1960.

“We’re trying to appeal to parents who think a natural part of growing up is spending quality time in parks like these,” said Jack Fitzer, president of the board of directors of the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park. “We’ve seen a lot of familiar faces here today, but also some new ones.”

Saturday also served as the kickoff for the Friends’ 50th Anniversary campaign to help raise money for the farm’s youth programs and scholarships.

Tawny Hammond, park manager, says despite several inches of snow on the ground, she was pleased with the response.

“We figured today was a great day for a party,” Hammond said. “We were getting calls all morning to make sure the event was still on.”

Michelle Lankower of Herndon



Members of the Frying Pan Jam, a group of local musicians who get together for impromptu shows throughout the year, play at Frying Pan Farm Park’s 50th anniversary celebration Saturday.



Kamilo Porralta-Lawson, 2, pets a rabbit at the Frying Pan Farm Park visitor’s center Saturday during the park’s 50th anniversary celebration.



Charles Peterson, 4, roasts a marshmallow over the fire at Frying Pan Farm Park Saturday.

said her children are regulars at the farm, and Saturdays at Frying Pan are nothing new for her family. “It’s really a unique experience in this area. You’ve got neighborhoods, stores and schools around, and smack dab in the middle of it all is this wonderful farm, with animals and everything,” Lankower said. “We spend at least one weekend a month here, throughout the summer, fall and spring, so it’s only appropriate to be here with all the snow on the ground.”

Children were able to cook s’mores outside, and when they got cold, the visitor’s center had plenty to do.

They could put paper candles on a poster of a cake, pet some of the smaller animals and hear some music from the Frying Pan Jam, a group of local musicians who play impromptu gigs at the farm whenever they can.

More information about the Friends on Frying Pan Farm Park can be found at www.fryingpanpark.org.

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 **PET CONNECTION**



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

It's all fun and games at the Herndon Dog Park. Beagle/Basset Hound mix Charlie, plays tug-o-war with Doberman Sparta, while Golden Retriever Nero follows the action closely.

A Day at Herndon Dog Park



French Bulldog Nelson gives his companion Sharon Connacher, of Reston, a kiss. Named after George Washington's horse, the bulldog has been a companion to Connacher for 5 years. Dealing with Nelson's health problems, in particular allergies, has led Connacher to become an advocate of alternative health treatments for dogs.



Beagle/Basset Hound mix Charlie has taught companion Jackie Weisman of Fair Lakes to 'Live from the waist up.' His penchant for chewing made them realize that he was a bit younger than originally thought. Despite clearing bookshelves and surfaces 'below waist height' Charlie still finds things to gnaw. But, no matter, 'It is really nice to come home after a bad day to someone who is so elated to see you,' says Weisman.



Nero, 1-year-old golden retriever and companion to Jose Gonzalez of Herndon, was the solution to a broken heart. After a breakup with his girlfriend, Gonzales wanted to 'keep busy,' so he got Nero. 'He's entertainment,' says Gonzalez.



Lhasa Apso Oliver is named after Oliver North, 'Because he's a great American.' Oliver is companion to Sharon Connacher of Reston.

SEE PET CONNECTION, PAGE 13

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 # 2312.** 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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More people have turned in pets to animal shelters in the past couple of years, in part because of the recession and increased foreclosures.

Approximately 6-to-8 million pets end up in animal shelters each year, according to The Humane Society of the United States. Of that number, 3-to-4 million are adopted, but the remaining 3-to-4 million pets end up being euthanized.

Here are a few places to adopt a pet who needs a home. There are many rescue organizations, including some that specialize in particular breeds. There are also networks of people, like PetConnect, mostly communicating on the internet, who help save adoptable animals from overcrowded shelters from near and far.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who Is 'Out of Order'

To the Editor:

I witnessed something troubling during a hearing in the Virginia Senate last Tuesday. In an effort to prevent debate on important issues facing our state, our state senator, Democrat Janet Howell, chair of the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee, arbitrarily shut down discussion and ruled that issues brought in front of her committee were "out of order." Were they out of order? Absolutely not. Taken from the playbooks used by Rep. Nancy Pelosi and Senator Harry Reid, Janet Howell prevented even a discussion on legislation critical to our state and our economic progress.

What were the issues she ruled "out of order?" Bills dealing with the Commonwealth's Right-to-Work laws (a key reason Virginia is #3 in jobs growth in the US,) and a Repeal Amendment against the unpopular, job-killing healthcare bill that many felt was forced upon Virginia by President Obama, Reid and Pelosi last year. It's telling that Senator Howell and her Democrat colleagues deliberately broke the rules and sought to avoid having to vote on these measures. Virginia voters sent a message in November that they

want government to encourage businesses that create jobs and grow our economy — not to discourage them. And they want greater transparency in the legislative process. Senator Howell apparently doesn't share these priorities or democratic principles.

Politics is about debating differences. But when one party — and one individual — attempts to prevent debate in order to push an agenda dictated by special interests (in this case, labor unions), it's time for the voters to stand up and ask "Why?" and just who is "out of order?"

Caren Merrick
McLean

The writer is the candidate for the Virginia Senate, District 32, currently represented by Janet Howell.

Challenging Academic Freedom

To the Editor:

Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli is seeking to subpoena University of Virginia documents related to the work of a former U-Va. climate scientist whose research showed that the Earth is warming. This is not only a challenge to academic freedom but a

Some Places to Adopt

Fairfax County Animal Shelter: Dogs, cats and other pets are available for adoption at the Animal Shelter Tuesday – Friday, noon – 7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, 703-830-1100 Some animals available for adoption can be viewed online. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/adoption.htm

Fairfax County Humane Society, www.hsf.org, 4057 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax; 703-385-7387. FCHS also operates two thrift stores. Second Chance 1 Thrift Store, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 4055 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax; 703-385-3064. Second Chance 2, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 929 West Broad Street, Falls Church, 703-533-9268

Pet Connect, www.petconnectrescue.org

EDITORIALS

Super Bowl Parties, Fun and Safe

This year's Super Bowl might even turn out to be a game worth watching.

Super Bowl parties are fun even for those who are not big football fans. It's a great reason to get together at home or out in a restaurant or bar with friends.

Just be sure that you or your guests get home safely.

The McLean-based organization Washington Regional Alcohol Program suggests tips for safe celebrating on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 6. During Super Bowl Sunday 2009, 50 percent of all U.S. crash fatalities included drivers who were intoxicated according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Plan ahead: designate a driver if you're celebrating with alcohol, or use alternative transportation like taxi or public transportation.

If you're hosting the Super Bowl party: serve high protein food like meats and cheeses with alcohol; serve non-alcoholic beverages as an option; designate a bartender so guests don't mix their own drinks; close the bar at least an hour before you expect your guests to be leaving; don't serve alcohol to anyone who appears to be impaired; never serve minors; never allow anyone who has had too much to drink to get behind the wheel.

If you're driving on Super Bowl evening (or anytime), wear your seatbelt. "Wearing a seatbelt may be your best defense against a drunk driver," said Kurt Erickson, WRAP director. "The routine wearing of seatbelts is the single most effective measure to reduce crash-related deaths and injuries."

come conservative principles.

This case with U-Va. is minimally a waste of state and university resources to support the whims of Cuccinelli. Furthermore, it can only raise questions among businesses and students considering to come to Virginia. Is this the land of Thomas Jefferson who considered his founding of the university to be his grandest accomplishment? Or is this a state where students and faculty must be concerned with a subpoena from the Attorney General if they produce research that doesn't conform with his ideology? Indeed there is a cost to all Virginians for this challenge to academic freedom.

Democratic legislators are trying to find a fix for the problem, but it will undoubtedly be blocked by the Republican controlled House of Delegates. Republican legislators seem to consider this request into research documents akin to asking a low level bureaucrat for his work log. It is no such thing. It is government intrusion into academic affairs carrying a threat to all who seek to conduct independent scientific research. All who value the tradition of academic freedom in our universities should demand the Attorney General end this intrusion into scientific research at a state university.

J. Jay Volkert
Vienna

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PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

John Hever, 13, of Herndon snowboards down a hill near his house, just off Kinross Circle.

Weekend on the Slopes

FROM PAGE 3

winter is when it's just plain cold."

While Wednesday and Thursday provided for a tricky commute, by the time the weekend approached people were able to get out and about. Ken Knueven, Lake Anne/Tall Oaks director for the Reston Association Board of Directors, said he got good feedback from residents about the response to the snow.

"I got a lot of wonderful remarks about the staff who were out there clearing snow away," Knueven said. "I think they did a great job."

Over in Herndon, winter enthusiasts were also taking to hills and paths trying to catch some fresh powder.

"We like to think of ourselves as sledding connoisseurs, we know all the best hills," said Jake Cordero of Herndon, who brought his children to a hill off Kinross Circle Saturday afternoon. "This is a good one that has been around for years, and the kids build

ramps, and there's a steeper section and an easier section for the younger kids."

At the same hill later in the afternoon, several local teens came out to sled, but most of their runs ended with the group vying for one sled.

John Hever, 13, who lives in the neighborhood came out to snowboard down the hill, but his friends found time to pelt him with snowballs during most of his runs.

"Snowboarding here is my favorite thing to do when it snows," said Hever, who has been snowboarding for the past three years. "Even with my friends trying to mess me up."

The hill serves as the hangout for a lot of teens in the neighborhood, even if not all of them are particular about how they spend their time.

"When it snows, my favorite thing to do is tackle people down this hill," said Matt Ventrelli, 14, who lives in the neighborhood. "I like tackling, and eating pizza too."



Jack Tibbitts is all smiles while being towed by his father John Tibbitts on a wakeboard at Baron Cameron Park.

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A groundhog burrow. There are many groundhogs that reside at Frying Pan Park. This burrow is just across the field from the Visitor's Center.



At the groundhog burrow, Carmen Bishop (right), a Park Interpreter, gets Mandy the Rabbit's help to discuss how the groundhog 'predicts' the weather.

Groundhog's Day Out at Frying Pan

On Sunday, Jan. 30, Frying Pan Farm Park celebrated an early Groundhog Day – with an educational program about the groundhog. Participants learned about the furry meteorologist and how it "predicts" the weather, viewed an actual groundhog burrow, got to pet a "cousin" to the groundhog, made crafts and were treated to hot chocolate and s'mores.

- DEB COBB

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION



The Schlegel family, Dad Eddie, Mom Elaine, son Gus and daughter Addison, came from Springfield to participate in the Groundhog's Day Out program.



Eden Doering, held by her dad, Bill, colors a groundhog. They are from Reston.



The Riso family, of Herndon, enjoy s'mores outside the Visitor's Center. From left: Larry, Alana, Hannah, Lisa and Alec Riso.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 2

Environmental Health: Understanding the Role of the Environment in Human and Wildlife Health. 7 p.m. U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. With Dr. Patricia Bright and Herbert Buxton. Emerging and resurging vector-borne and zoonotic diseases, water contamination, airborne contaminants, bioaccumulative contaminants in food chain and environmental changes that affect the spread of disease are growing public health concerns worldwide. Federal facility, photo ID required. www.usgs.gov/public_lecture_series.
Buckwheat Zydeco. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Louisiana zydeco music. \$24. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 4

"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.
Mark Morris Dance Group. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The D.C. area premiere of "Petrichor," set to the music of Heitor Villa-Lobos, plus "Going Away Party," "Silhouettes" and "Excursions." A performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$22-\$44, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.
"My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy" with Steve Solomon. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. The hilarious story of a man



'Rumours of Another World' by Celeste Friesen-Nikkel. The Opening Reception for the exhibit "Mixing it Up...Art My Way" will be Sunday, Feb. 6 from 2-4 p.m. at the Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road in Reston. The exhibit will be open through Feb. 28. 703-476-4500 or www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

whose family has driven him from the dinner table straight into the therapist's chair. \$30. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 5

"Frozen". 8 p.m. The Elden Street Players in 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.
"Goldilocks and the Three Bears". 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The Elden Street Players, Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Tom McCabe's retelling of the classic fairy tale. Goldilocks, with her "not so gold" hair is persecuted by all the other kids at The Enchanted Forest Kiddie Camp. She runs away and it's up to Ranger Roger to find her. \$7 general admission. 703-481-5930 or www.eldenstreetplayers.org.
Mark Morris Dance Group. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The D.C. area premiere of "Petrichor," set to the music of Heitor Villa-Lobos, plus "Going Away Party," "Silhouettes" and "Excursions." A pre-

performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$22-\$44, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Artists' Reception. 6 p.m. Post Gallery at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Four artists, Sherill Anne Gross, Sean Hennessy, Sean Lundgren and Alexandra Zealand, whose works use fire, air, water and earth as part of their medium. Free. Exhibit remains open through Feb. 27. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

"My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy" with Steve Solomon. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. The hilarious story of a man whose family has driven him from the dinner table straight into the therapist's chair. \$30. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 6

"Goldilocks and the Three Bears". 2 p.m. The Elden Street Players, Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Tom McCabe's retelling of the classic fairy tale. Goldilocks, with her "not so gold" hair is persecuted by all the other kids at The Enchanted Forest

FAITH NOTES

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

Chabad of Reston-Herndon is opening registration for their newest adult-education course, *Toward a Meaningful Life: A Soul-Searching Journey for Every Jew*. Rabbi Leibel Fajnlund of Chabad of Reston-Herndon will conduct this six-session course at the Chabad Aleph Center, 718 Lynn St. in Herndon, during six Mondays at 7:30 p.m., starting Feb. 7. 703-476-1829 or www.myJLL.com.

Dranesville Church of the Brethren, 11500 Leesburg Pike in Herndon, is collecting soap, toothbrushes and tooth paste, washcloths or hand towels, deodorant, combs and brushes, shampoo, tissues, lotion, hand sanitizers, safety razors and large socks to assemble 150 personal hygiene kits for the homeless. Size XL or larger t-shirts and coats, scarves, hats, gloves, and sweaters also needed. 703-430-7872 or www.dranesvillebrethren.org.

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St. in Herndon, presents "Journey to Adulthood", a comprehensive Christian Education for youth in

Kiddie Camp. She runs away and it's up to Ranger Roger to find her. \$7 general admission. 703-481-5930 or www.eldenstreetplayers.org.
Opening Reception: "Mixing it Up...Art My Way." 2-4 p.m. Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. 703-476-4500 or www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

TUESDAY/FEB. 8

Reston Lions Club Bland Contest Concert. 7:30 p.m. Reston Community Center Theater at Hunter Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Solo musicians from local schools with a variety of voice, piano, and instrumental musical talents. The Bland Contest is a progressive contest, where vocal and instrumental music students compete against each other at a local club level, with winners moving up to the Region, District and State Finals. Both contest participation and concert admission are free. www.blandfoundation.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 11

"Six Characters in Search of an Author". 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Luigi Pirandello's surrealist tragicomedy, presented by Aquila Theatre of New York City. Tickets \$17-\$34 at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.
"Frozen". 8 p.m. The Elden Street Players in 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.

SATURDAY/FEB. 12

"Frozen". 8 p.m. The Elden Street Players in 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

grades 6-12. It uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to underscore its core message that adulthood must be earned.

Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road in Herndon, holds worship services at 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays with a Latino service on Saturdays at 7 p.m. 703-793-0026 or www.florisumc.org.

Hope Fellowship Church will temporarily be meeting at Woody's Golf Range, 11801 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. Sunday Worship Services for this new Southern Baptist church are at 10:45 a.m. The public is invited to join a growing Bible believing, multi-ethnic/multi-cultural congregation, with Bible-based sermons and uplifting music. 703-599-3527 or www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org.

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



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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

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9598 Thistle Ridge Ln.....\$1,699,900...Sun 1-4...Terry Belt.....Keller Williams.....703-242-3975

Reston

11330 Links Drive.....\$349,900...Sat 1-4...Suzanne Burch.....Century 21.....703-328-5606
12702 Roark Court.....\$549,900...Sun 12-3...Christine Richardson...Weichert.....703-231-1812

Falls Church

3342 Arnold Dr.....\$499,900...Sun 1-4...Bill Hoffman.....Keller Williams.....703-309-2205

Potomac Falls

46478 Cedarhurst Dr.....\$509,900...Sun 1-4...Cathy and John McCambridge...Samson Properties...703-430-4234

Sterling

20409 River Bank St.....\$769,900...Sun 1-4...Gina Tufano.....Keller Williams.....703-579-3478

Woodbridge

12715 Lockleven Lane.....\$225,000...Sat 1-4...Denene Crabbs.....Century 21.....703-803-3898

Arlington (22201)

2130 21st Rd N.....\$1,325,000...Sun 1-4...John Eric.....Wash Fine Prop.....202-274-4668
925 N Danville St.....\$1,550,000...Sun 1-4...Ron Cathell.....Keller Williams.....703-975-2500

Arlington (22204)

742 S Granada St.....\$499,990...Sun 1-4...Dave Lloyd & Associates...Weichert.....703-593-3204
4200 Arlington Blvd.....\$939,000...Sun 1-4...Sharon Sheldon.....Long & Foster.....703-231-8000

Arlington (22206)

4522 34th St S.....\$399,900...Sat 2-4...Saundra Giannini.....Wash Fine Prop.....703-242-4240

Arlington (22207)

2701 Lorcom Ln.....\$675,000...Sun 1-3...Bob Kenney.....RE/MAX Allegiance...703-217-7023
2022 Dinwiddie St.....\$725,000...Sun 1-4...Priti Malhotra.....Weichert.....703-821-8300
4001-4009 N Richmond St...From \$1,999,000...Sun 1-4...Sharon Chamberlin...McEneaney.....703-533-0537

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.

HOME SALES

In December 2010, 68 homes sold between \$1,351,447-\$138,700 in the Herndon and Oak Hill area.

This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$235,000-\$138,700 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision
13551 HIGHLAND MEWS PL	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$235,000	Townhouse	0.03	HIGHLAND MEWS
1254 STERLING RD	3	2	0		HERNDON	\$233,000	Detached	0.25	MOSBY HEIGHTS
1000 BRANCH DR	3	3	1		HERNDON	\$225,000	Townhouse	0.06	PARK AVENUE SQUARE
13311 ROWLES PL	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$215,000	Townhouse	0.06	REFLECTION LAKE
13318 AIKEN PL	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$208,000	Townhouse	0.05	REFLECTION LAKE
708 ARCHER CT	4	2	0		HERNDON	\$200,000	Detached	0.25	CHANDON
917 BARTON OAKS PL	4	3	1		HERNDON	\$195,000	Townhouse	0.04	DUMBARTON SQUARE
13318 SCHWENGER PL	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$191,000	Townhouse	0.05	REFLECTION LAKE
1232 WILSHIRE DR	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$185,000	Townhouse	0.03	DULLES PARK TOWNHOUSES
13300 AIKEN PL	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$180,000	Townhouse	0.05	REFLECTION LAKE
1196 DUBLIN PL	3	1	1		HERNDON	\$179,735	Townhouse	0.04	TRALEE
1126 SHANNON PL	3	1	1		HERNDON	\$175,000	Townhouse	0.03	TRALEE
1211 SPRINGTIDE PL	3	1	1		HERNDON	\$168,000	Townhouse	0.04	FOUR SEASONS REGIME
1129 SHANNON PL	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$161,000	Townhouse	0.03	TRALEE
1000 QUEENS CT	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$160,000	Townhouse	0.07	CAVALIER PARK
12913 CENTRE PARK CIR #408	1	1	0		HERNDON	\$152,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		BRYSON AT WOODLAND PARK
1153 AUTUMNHAZE CT	3	1	1		HERNDON	\$146,200	Townhouse	0.04	FOUR SEASONS REGIME
12925 CENTRE PARK CIR #409	1	1	0		HERNDON	\$145,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		BRYSON AT WOODLAND PARK
13349 APGAR PL	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$138,700	Townhouse	0.05	REFLECTION LAKE

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REAL ESTATE NOTES

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

Jim Weichert, founder and president of Weichert, Realtors®, has been selected for the Inman News list of the 100 Most Influential Real Estate Leaders for 2010. This year's selection is the fourth consecutive year that Weichert was honored with this distinction. Jim Weichert was recognized in the Brokerage category, which is reserved for company leaders who command the attention of real estate professionals through their words and actions. During his more than 40 years of sales experience, Weichert has led the development of Weichert, Realtors from a single office in 1969 to one of the largest privately held real estate companies in the nation.

Bruce Green, regional vice president of announced Tahir Nisar of the Reston/Herndon office was recognized for industry success in December. A neighborhood specialist, Nisar led the region for resales. Weichert, Realtors experienced sales associates can be reached at Weichert's Reston/Herndon office, 703-264-0000, located at 1760 Reston Parkway #111.

RE/MAX Distinctive Real Estate is pleased to congratulate the following agents celebrating their anniversaries with the company this month: Evelyn Flynn - 21 years and Kurt Kuykendall - 23 years.

Both Evelyn and Kurt are members of the RE/MAX Hall of Fame and have been recipients of numerous local sales and marketing awards.

Suzanne Parisi of the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Reston office was among NRT's top sales associates nationally for the third quarter of 2010. NRT is the parent company of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. To put this achievement in perspective, the Top 1,000

NRT sales associates represent the top 2 percent of performers among NRT's 45,000 sales associates across the country. For more information about buying or selling a home in the Greater Washington, D.C. area, contact visitColdwellBankerResidentialBrokerage@cbmove.com.

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

Nikki Ryan of Keller Williams Realty in Reston has earned the "Certified Distressed Property Expert" designation, having completed extensive training in foreclosure avoidance and short sales. Realtors with the designation can offer the homeowner better alternatives to foreclosure, which virtually destroys the credit rating.

Jerry Sardone, Realtor Emeritus of Jerry Sardone, Realty, Inc. along with the Lakeview Condominium Board, have been able to petition the Federal Housing Administration to approve the Lakeview Condominiums for approval for FHA financing. The approval has now been granted. This financing will allow potential purchasers to purchase these units with as little as 31/2 % down,

For further information you may contact your local Realtor or Jerry at 703-906-5555

Joe Amatangelo has been named as the The Long & Foster Companies Inc. vice president of residential property management and the rental service center. Prior to joining Long & Foster, Amatangelo worked at Mission

Residential, Kettler Inc. and Kettler Management Corp., Carl M. Freeman Associates, and Interealty Corp. Amatangelo holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is a certified public accountant in the state of Maryland. He is an active member and volunteer with The American Diabetes Association and is also a member of the parish finance council at St. Philip's Catholic Church. Amatangelo lives in Annandale with his wife and two children.

Bruce Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors announced J.D. Callander of the McLean/Dolley Madison office was recognized for outstanding results in March. A neighborhood specialist, Callander led the company for dollar volume and resale dollar volume. Additionally, she led the region for resale dollar volume. The region comprises offices located throughout Virginia.

The sales associates from the McLean/Dolley Madison branch, located at 1313 Dolley Madison Boulevard, can be reached at (703) 760-8880.

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

J.D. Powers & Associates recently named Keller Williams Realty #1 in customer service; Entrepreneur Magazine ranked Keller Williams Realty as the #1 real estate franchise, and the industry ranked Keller Williams Realty as the Most Recognized Real Estate Franchise Brand.

 **PET CONNECTION**



Nutmeg and Eddie.

Nutmeg and Eddie Find Home in Herndon

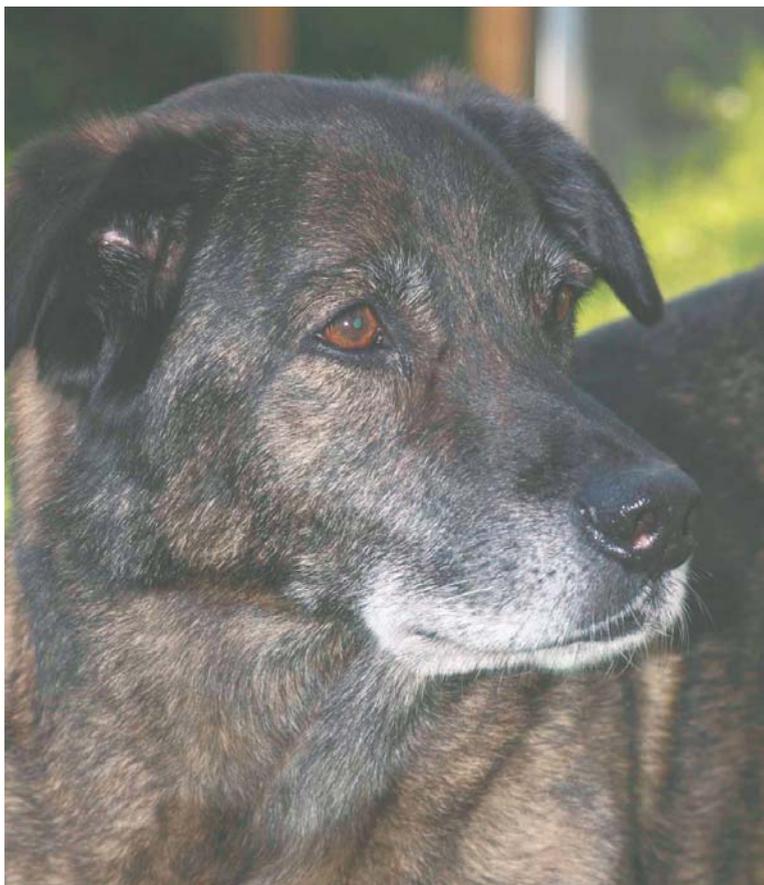
Hi there! We're Nutmeg (left) and Eddie (right), the cats of the Davis Family of Herndon. Both of us are rescue cats, and have found a wonderful second chance of being a part of a loving family.

Nutmeg is a shorthaired tabby cat that came to our family in August 2005; we think she is around nine years old. She receives a lot of comments from family and friends about her array of autumn-colored fur (black, brown, and orange, with a bit of white thrown in as well). Still thinking she's a princess, she loves attention from

visitors.

Eddie, our black and white Maine Coon, was adopted in early September 2009 from Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Although he's a sucker for attention in our household, he's a bit more reserved toward first-time visitors. Our two cats enjoy playing with their toy mice, their new cat house and whatever other playthings are stuffed with catnip. It seems the only thing more endless than their bottomless appetites is the affection they bring to the house.

-THE DAVIS FAMILY



Rescuing Ben

Anna Mary Green of Herndon sent this photo with the following note: 'We rescued Ben from a shelter when he was a puppy more than 14 years ago. He still enjoys a quick walk at Frying Pan Park to visit the animals!'

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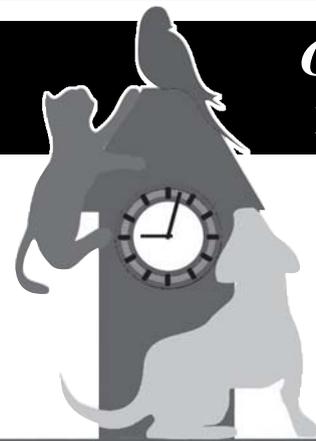
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Liberty Boys' Basketball Teams Ready for Playoffs

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Two-time defending Liberty District boys' basketball champion Langley, under head coach Travis Hess, looks to be in the driver's seat of the district standings as the regular season nears an end with just over a week remaining.

The Saxons, 11-6 overall going into this week, remained unbeaten in district play at 9-0 following their 82-68 district win at Fairfax last Tuesday, Jan. 25. Sitting in second place was the steady McLean Highlanders' team (11-7, 7-3), which is vying for at least the No. 2 seed as the district tournament time draws nearer. McLean won its sixth game over its last seven played last Saturday when it defeated district foe and guest Marshall, 70-56. The Highlanders' lone loss of late came at Langley, 57-47, on Jan. 21. Since then coach Kevin Roller's squad has wins over Jefferson and the Statesmen.

Right in the mix of things is South Lakes, a program which has struggled somewhat in recent years but is experiencing a respectable season under new head coach Andrew Duggan. The Seahawks, although just 8-9 overall, are 6-4 and fourth place in the district. The team did take a hit this past Saturday when it lost a close 55-54 affair at fifth place Jefferson (9-8, 5-5).

Fairfax (9-8), going into this week, was a half game ahead of South Lakes for third place with a 6-3 district mark. The three-team cluster of Fairfax, South Lakes and Jefferson are all vying for the No. 3 seed for tournament time.

Rounding out the eight-team district standings are Stone Bridge (4-13, 3-6), Madison (4-12, 2-7) and Marshall (3-14, 0-10).

At the district tournament, set to begin on Monday, Feb. 14, quarterfinals round winners will automatically earn a spot at the following week's 16-team Northern Region tournament. Last year, Langley, after winning the district tourney, went on to reach the region finals for the first time in school history. The Saxons lost in the region championship game to Chantilly, but still went on to be one of the region's two representatives at the state AAA tournament.

In Langley's win over Fairfax last week, a big second quarter of play proved to be the difference in the contest. The Rebels led the game 17-16 after one quarter before the Saxons got untracked and outscored the hosts 18-7 in period two to take a commanding 34-24 lead at the half. The Saxons remained in control throughout the second half to gain the win.

A huge game for Langley came from guard Austin Vasiliadis, who poured in a game-high 27 points. But the talented backcourt playmaker was not the only one producing points for the guests as Daniel Dixon (19 points), Braden Anderson (15) and Brenden Dwyer (10) were all in double digits. Fairfax also received a balanced attack behind solid play from Spencer Macleod (17 points), who quarterbacked the Rebels' football team to the Div. 6 region playoffs last fall; Jazz Holley (14 points), John Robic (13) and Zack Burnett (12).

McLean, in its victory over Marshall on Saturday, had its hands full as the Statesmen carried a 35-34 lead into the half. Marshall still held a two-point lead after three quarters before the Highlanders dominated play in the fourth quarter by outscoring the guests 24-8 to gain the win. McLean guard Gordon



Marshall High sophomore Connor Barrand (11) takes a fall away shot during the Statesmen's Liberty District boys' basketball game at Stone Bridge on Jan. 22. Marshall will be home versus Madison this Friday night.

Rogo scored a game-high 26 points to lead the Highlanders. Kevin Lastova contributed 11 points for the winners, while both Sango Amolo and Thomas Van Wazer scored nine points.

Marshall's top scorers in the setback were Latrell Watkins (11 points), Aaron Aggen (10), Connor Barrand (10) and Mo Samantar (9).

South Lakes, in its tough, one-point loss at Jefferson, received 20 points from J.D. Wallace and 17 from Mitchell Dempster. Joe Daye and Darius Smith scored eight and seven, respectively, for the Seahawks. The Colonials were led by Burke Deutsch's 18 points.

South Lakes led 10-7 after one quarter and 24-20 at halftime. The Seahawks still had a four-point advantage, 39-35, after three quarters. But home team Jefferson came alive in the final 12 minutes, outscoring South Lakes, 20-15, to edge the guests.

MADISON was scheduled to play at Fairfax last Friday night, but the game was postponed due to snowy and icy conditions. The Warhawks, earlier last week, gave visiting Stone Bridge a good game in a 53-51 loss on Tuesday, Jan. 25. It was the fourth straight loss for Madison, which last won on Jan. 12 when it defeated visiting Marshall, 52-49.

In the Warhawks' loss to the Bulldogs of Stone Bridge, the contest was close the entire way. Jason Mann and Nate Favero both scored 15 points for Madison, while Ian Doyle and Christian Prince added 12 and nine points each. Stone Bridge's leading scorer was Jack Wohfert with 14 points.

Most Liberty District teams had five more regular season games remaining going into this week. Madison was scheduled to host McLean on Tuesday (Feb. 1) and travel to Marshall this Friday night, Feb. 4.

Langley, still unbeaten in the district, was scheduled to play three games this week - at Marshall on Tuesday and home games on Wednesday and Friday versus Stone Bridge and Jefferson.

South Lakes was set to play at Stone Bridge on Tuesday and will be home versus McLean this Friday night.



Local girls' basketball teams Herndon and South Lakes are looking to finish the regular season strong over the next couple of weeks going into their respective district tournaments. Here, South Lakes freshman center Abigail Rendle (24) goes for the block against Herndon senior forward Ariana Tolbert in a cross-town rival game earlier this season. Herndon (3-12) will host Concorde District foe Westfield this Friday night. South Lakes (8-9) will be at Liberty District opponent McLean on Friday.

Dylan Garten, a Herndon High senior, has announced his commitment to play baseball at Shepherd University (Shepherdstown, W Va.). Garten, this spring, will be playing his final varsity season at Herndon under Hornets' head coach Greg Miller. He was named as a 2010 Top Middle Infield Prospect in Northern Virginia and was also selected to the 2010 Under Armour National Team. Most recently, Garten was selected to the 2011 Under Armour Pre-Season All-America Team.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

At Shepherd next school year, Garten will be joining an NCAA Div. II baseball program that went 21-18 last year under coach Wayne Riser, who has compiled 14 winning seasons during his tenure at Shepherd. Garten will join former Hornet teammates Nick Impellizzeri and Paul Hzydovic on the team.

Herndon High currently has several alumnae competing as collegiate baseball players, including Impellizzeri (Herndon Class of 2010) and Hzydovic (2010) at Shepherd. Others are: Matthew Rhyne (2010) at Eastern University (Pa.); Zach Leach (2009) at the University of North Carolina -Greensboro; Davis Hall (2008) at the University of Memphis; and Ian McNichol (2008) at Ashland University (Ohio).

James Leith, a graduate of Oakton High School and a current senior at Radford University, was recently named to the Virginia All-State men's soccer team. Leith, who is from Herndon, was named First Team, as announced by the Virginia Sports Information Directors on Jan. 27. The senior is a business management major at Radford.

Leith, a center back, keyed a Radford defense that recorded three



Oakton High graduate James Leith, who is from Herndon, was one of the Radford University men's soccer teams' best players this past fall.

shutouts and posted the first undefeated mark at home in the program's history this past fall. He was also named to the Big South All-Conference squad at the conclusion of the regular season.

"We moved James to center back and he was extremely consistent and competitive," said Highlander head coach Marc Reeves. "As a senior leader he will be tough to replace."

Raised in Herndon, Leith was part of five Virginia State Cup Finals teams, three of which garnered titles. He was a member of the Olympic Development Program Virginia District and State teams, and travelled internationally to participate in the Mediterranean International Cup, in Barcelona, Spain. On his Oakton High varsity team he was twice named to All-Concorde District Team.

PET CONNECTION 

A Day at Herndon Dog Park

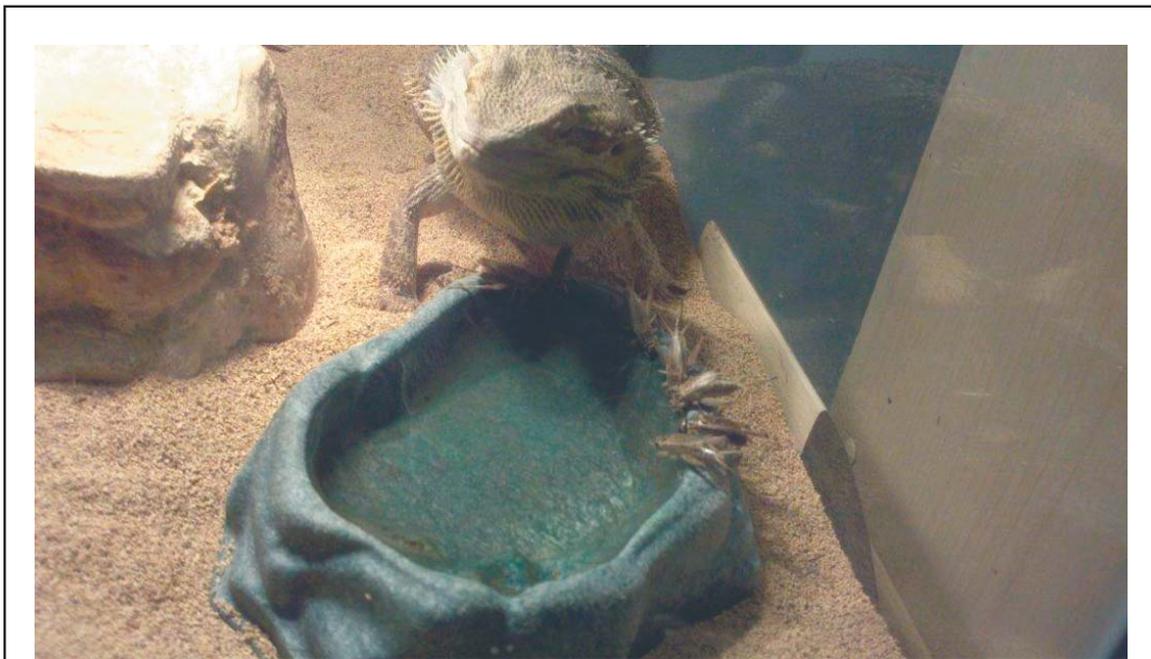


Lauren and Dan Rider bring their Malamute, Nashville, to the Herndon Dog Park. "This is his weather," says Dan.



Zeus, a Siberian Husky, was Herndon resident Jason Butterfield and his wife's 'first baby.'

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION



Yellow Lab mix Roy, pictured with Sam Spiewak and family bird, Rob.

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from his water bowl with some crickets. Although the peace and harmony is sometimes temporary, it is always present with animal family members!

- KATHY SPIEWAK AND FAMILY

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Herndon High Drama Presents One Act Plays

On Thursday Feb. 3, the Herndon High School Drama Department will be presenting its annual evening of one act plays. This year, the production will include three performances including Day Six, The Cuban Swimmer, and Alice.

The evening begins with Ed Monk's Day Six, a light-hearted look at the creation of men and women and the hypothetical result when they are combined. It takes place during the last day of creation, where the time for mankind is running out, while God is busy creating all the animals of the world. The performances then continue with Milcha Sanchez-Scott's The Cuban Swimmer. This one act is a story of a Cuban family gathering to support their young daughter as she engages in a swimming competition off the coast of California.

The evening will conclude with Jim Wren's Alice, based on Alice in Wonderland, with a "tech savvy" Alice, as well as the characters from Wonderland including the White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat, and the Queen of Hearts, serving as an admired finale for the show.

The Herndon High School Drama Department's production will show this Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Herndon High School Auditorium at 800 Bennett Street in Herndon. Tickets will be sold online and at the door for \$5.

Visit www.herndon drama.org to purchase tickets or learn more.

— AMIR NOORBAKHSH

New York Man Sentenced to 46 Months for Gold Burglaries

Dagoberto Ramirez-Soto, 28 of Bronx, N.Y., was sentenced to 46 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, for conspiring to steal nearly \$600,000 worth of gold and other valuables from 37 residences in Northern Virginia. He was also ordered to pay \$590,860 in restitution.

Neil H. MacBride, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; James W. McJunkin, Assistant Director in charge of the FBI's Washington field office; Colonel David Rohrer, Fairfax County Chief of Police; and Steve Simpson, Loudoun County Sheriff, made the announcement after sentencing by United States District Judge Leonie M. Brinkema.

"The defendants engaged in racial profiling of their victims simply because they were South-Asian Americans," said U.S. Attorney MacBride.

Ramirez-Soto pled guilty on Sept. 17, 2010, to conspiring to transport stolen property in interstate commerce. According to court documents, from January 2009 to November 2009, Dagoberto Ramirez-Soto, his wife, Melinda Soto, and Francisco Gray agreed to travel to Northern Virginia for the purpose of burglarizing residences belonging to South Asians, whom they believed kept large amounts of gold in the form of jewelry, coins and religious icons in their homes.

They agreed to transport the stolen property back to New York, where they would sell it.

On at least six occasions during 2009, the three drove to Northern Virginia, where they rented a room at the Land-

mark Comfort Inn, in Alexandria. From that location, they would drive to the vicinity of a targeted residence and then telephone the residence to determine whether anyone was home. If no one answered the telephone calls, they would drive to the target residence and Ramirez-Soto, dressed in a blue workman style uniform, would knock on the front door. If someone answered, Ramirez-Soto would claim to be responding to a service call, apologize and leave. They would then go to a second targeted residence.

If no one answered, Ramirez-Soto and Gray would break into the residence through a back or basement door or window, using a large screwdriver or pry bar for that purpose. Once inside, they would search the residence for gold items or other easily transportable property, such as laptop computers, cameras, watches and other jewelry.

Melinda Soto would remain in the vehicle and monitor the police radio communications for the police district they were in.

Because she and Ramirez-Soto maintained telephone contact, she could warn him and Gray if she heard any "threatening" police communications.

During 2009, Dagoberto Ramirez-Soto, Melinda Soto, and Gray burglarized 37 residences in Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, all in the Eastern District of Virginia, stealing property worth more than \$500,000.

Melinda Soto pled guilty to conspiracy and was sentenced to 36 months incarceration on Dec. 3, 2010. Francisco Gray was deported to Peru before the federal investigation began.

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Membership Has Its Privileges



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Membership in the cancer club, that is. And the specific privilege to which I refer is sponsorship, to invoke a familiar component of Alcoholic's/Narcotic's/Gambler's Anonymous' multi-step recovery program: someone to talk to, 24/7, who's been there and still doing that; a voice of experience and reason, a compassionate and caring individual who can appreciate – and relate, to the new life your cancer diagnosis has forced you to live. My sponsor is Mary Kimm, Publisher/Chief Operating Officer for Connection Newspapers. Diagnosed with breast cancer a month or so before I was diagnosed with lung cancer; neither of us a smoker or a child born into a family with a history of cancer, Mary has repeatedly offered her time and insight to me – whenever I needed it. In effect, she has become my go-to cancer survivor.

As yet, I have not cell-phoned Mary on her off-time, but I nearly did so a few Sundays ago which led me to realize – in my mind, anyway, that our regular weekly cancer conversations about life in the cancer lane these past two years have created in me a kind of reliance on her judgment, not uncommon I would imagine, among people experiencing similar kinds of traumatic-type diagnoses and life-changing circumstances.

What comfort for me to know there is someone so close and so available to whom I can reach out – and not touch, whose words have been so touching and reassuring to me on so many occasions. Mary has told me that she has enjoyed a similar relationship with some women in a cancer support group she regularly attended; learning about her cancer and treatment as she listened, and subsequently sharing some of what she learned with me. I never would have guessed that someone else's participation in a cancer support group in which I was not a direct participant would have mattered and affected me so much. But I'm grateful every day that Mary is "paying it forward" and so lucky to be the recipient of her kindness.

Who's to say what contributes to my better-than-expected health result? Is it my body's tolerance to the chemotherapy? Is it a reduction in stress brought about by a different work schedule/routine and a corresponding nearly 100 percent elimination of my daily/weekly commute? Are the financial changes in my life/income contributing as well to an improved quality of that life, even though I still have stage IV lung cancer? Are the thoughts and prayers of readers – regularly mailed, e-mailed and phoned, likewise contributing to my atypical good quality of life? Is the love and support from family, friends and co-workers helping me Carpe diem ("seize the day") without worrying too much about the night? Is having a sponsor (Mary Kimm) providing the kind of unspoken – and spoken comfort a phone call away – anytime, more valuable than perhaps even I realize?

The answer is; yes, yes and yes! However, you probably need everything working for you to defeat (deter) cancer but missing anything might have tragic consequences. If I had written a what-I-need-to-do list to survive cancer back in February 2009 when I was first diagnosed, I don't think, given my nature, I would have listed having/needng a go-to-type sponsor/support person as a necessity. Two years later, I've certainly learned my lesson.

Cancer is bigger – and badder – than any one person, and thinking that suffering in silence earns you some kind of medal for valor is foolish – and stupid! Thanks to Mary Kimm, I was never allowed to be either; not too often, anyway. It's been my privilege – and great, good fortune, to be so sponsored.

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

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