

Technology Helps at Home

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PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 4 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10



Herndon-based Simplikey president Jason Pizzillo, right, demonstrates the new lockset to Oracle's Joel Storm at the Consumer Electronics Show.

\$2 Million Townhouses?

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Great Debate In Herndon

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Home
Life
Style

PAGE 7

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NEWS

Great Debate in Herndon

Council votes to narrow street solicitation ordinance at Feb. 8 meeting.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon Town Council voted 4-3 to amend their street solicitation ordinance at their Feb. 8 meeting, which brought out tensions reminiscent of the disputes over the day laborer center several years ago. The public offered comments for and against in a meeting that went until almost 1 a.m.

"This has been brought up at every public meeting we've had since last July," said Vice Mayor Lisa Merkel. "We were asked to look into it, and we've gotten a lot of public comment both for and against, so now we can consider the matter closed."

Merkel, along with councilmembers Sheila Olem, Grace Han Wolf and Jasbinder Singh supported the changing of the ordinance. Mayor Steven DeBenedittis and councilmembers Bill Tirrell and Connie Hutchinson voted against changing it.

The previous ordinance prohibited soliciting within the highway, which is defined as the areas between property lines along public streets. This includes a grassy strip (located between property lines and the sidewalk), the sidewalk, the utility strip (the patch of land located between the sidewalk and curb), the curb and gutter, the road pavement itself and the median.

THE NARROWING OF THE ORDINANCE allows solicitation on the grassy strip, the sidewalk and the utility strip, but solicitation is still prohibited on the curb, gutter, road and median, unless permitted or authorized by the town.

The town council chamber was filled with dozens of community members who showed up to voice their opinion on the matters, with supporters of the change believing the ordinance is discriminatory towards Hispanics, designed to prevent day laborers from soliciting work. Those who wished the ordinance to remain the same said they were only concerned with



Residents stand to show their support for changing the Town of Herndon's street solicitation ordinance.

driver and pedestrian safety. The councilmembers unanimously declared that the ordinance was pure a safety matter.

Wolf said she had been in an accident on Route 606 that was caused by a solicitor. The car in front of her was stopped at a green light to donate change to someone, and the car behind her rear-ended her as she was stopped.

"I'm interested solely in safety," she said. "Your immigration status, skin color or age has nothing to do with your ability to get hit by a car if you're near the roadway."

There haven't been any recorded accidents in Herndon caused by solicitation, but Hutchinson said that did not assure there would be no future accidents.

"Just because we haven't had an accident doesn't mean there's not potential, especially when you have people and cars within six inches of one another," Hutchinson said.

Council and community members accused the Alexandria-based Virginia New Majority of recruiting people by trying to claim the town was motivated solely by discrimination.

"The intent is and always has been public safety. We would not be discussing this, it wouldn't be on tonight's agenda if it weren't for an outside group of agitators who came to this town to divide," he said. "This has been called an attack on immigrants, but that's just not true."

The more than 10 community members wearing shirts that said "I am Herndon" on the front and "Yo Soy Herndon" on the back, provided by the Virginia New Majority, said that the ordinance painted Herndon as a community filled with prejudice.

"Community members feel that

the ordinance creates the impression of Herndon as a hostile and divided community," said Lisa Herndandez, who lives on Florida Avenue.

Lucio Escobar, who lives on Florida Avenue and has lived in Herndon for 26 years, said through a translator that she supports a complete overturning of the solicitation ordinance.

"I want the council to overturn the ordinance, it makes life even harder for the people of Herndon," she said. "This law is about treating some of us worse than others, and that's discrimination."

Tirrell said that he is tired of discourse being chalked up to racism.

"I'm tired of every time there's a disagreement that the race card is thrown. We can disagree, and if we do, it doesn't mean we're racist," he said. "As you look at street corners and there are people waving signs, it's distracting to drivers. I'm struck by the need to support efforts to remove these additional distractions. Distraction is distraction, no matter what the cause, and distraction can kill."

Sheri Blanton, who lives on Florida Avenue, says she supports the complete removal of the ordinance.

"If not rescinded, I am somewhat satisfied with the new wording," she said. "When there was the campaign to close the day laborer center, I saw a mean side of Herndon I didn't know existed, and I feel that same mean spirit is present in the ordinance."

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY who were against changing the solicitation ordinance bristled at charges that they were acting out of any sort of hatred of racism.

"We're back in the same old boat we were before. During the day

SEE SAFETY, PAGE 5



Members of the Herndon Town Council and the Public Works Department join Dave Kochendarfer and his wife Cynthia in celebrating his retirement at the Herndon Town Council meeting Feb. 8.

More Than Three Decades of Service

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

On Sept. 13, 1977, the Town of Herndon was a very different place than it is now. There were only a handful of traffic lights, a concrete plant stood where the Town Council buildings and Fortnightly Library are and a young man named Dave Kochendarfer began work as a laborer.

More than 33 years later, the man known as "Dave K" retired as the Deputy Director for Public Works, leaving behind a legacy of service to Herndon and its citizens.

"I think it says a lot about someone to come in at an entry-level position and rise to deputy director," said Bob Boxer, director of Public works for the Town of Herndon. "It's quite an achievement."

KOCHENDARFER rose through the ranks as a meter mechanic, engineer and technician among other positions. During his employment he went back to school and earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

"He brought a range of experience and knowledge to the position," Boxer said, "But what I'll always remember is his willingness to share his knowledge with other employees."

Kochendarfer would teach math and science classes for other employees, often after hours, to help them earn certifications that would help them in their careers.

His knowledge of electrical engineering helped wire many of the town facilities that stand



Dave Kochendarfer with his wife Cynthia.

today.

"When we were building the Industrial Strength Theatre, we needed someone to interpret the electrical drawings, and Dave always made time to help us out," said Les Zidel, a local volunteer. "He's just an example of the kind of staff this town has."

Councilmember Bill Tirrell Sr. remembers Kochendarfer's work on the current council chambers, and how "civic associations and citizens benefited from his expertise."

Kochendarfer said one of his most pleasant memories was helping get Herndon Community Television off the ground.

"In 1990, Media General Cable, now Cox, came to town, and donated equipment and a channel, and citizens were interested in starting up a community cable station," he said. "It was exciting during those first days when we literally held the cables together with duct tape, and managed to patch to first shows together."

SEE PRIVILEGE, PAGE 5

OPINION

Important Step for Autism

Governor should sign bill that would require limited insurance coverage for needed therapy.

Thanks to Delegates Tim Hugo and Tom Rust, along with state Sen. Janet Howell and a majority of members of the Virginia General Assembly, for passing a bill that would require some insurance companies to provide limited but critically important coverage for therapy for children with autism.

Now, Gov. Bob McDonnell should sign the bill into law.

"With these treatments, you can prevent some of these children from being impacted for life. You can make sure they do not become wards of the state," said Hugo. ... "If we don't do something, we risk leaving these kids in the darkness."

Behavior therapy at an early age can make the difference between a child who speaks and interacts and a child who is non-verbal. But the therapy, often not covered at all by insurance, can cost \$20,000 a year or more per child.

Consider the heartbreak of one family who was able to afford therapy for one of their children with autism. Unfortunately, the family has two children with autism.

As they become adults, children with autism will cost Virginia more if they don't receive early intervention services.

And this is a growing problem.

EDITORIALS

For example, in Fairfax County Public Schools, one in 83 students has been diagnosed with some form of autism, an 846 percent increase since 1997. Last year, the county's human services department announced that local government's fiscal health would be greatly impacted by providing services to the rapidly growing percentage of young adults with autism diagnoses.

Missing the Point

As the U.S. Department of Justice presses Virginia to provide services for people with intellectual disabilities and more options to live in the community, it's important to remember that it's not just a question of moving some current residents out of training centers.

Families across Northern Virginia and the state are stretching budgets, going into debt and hanging on by their fingernails as they care for family members with intellectual disabilities who should have "waivers" providing for services in the community.

Right now, more than 6,400 Virginians with intellectual and related developmental disabilities are on waiting lists for community-based services, according to the Arc of Virginia. Nearly 3,000 of these individuals are in urgent

need because they live with an aging caregiver, are at risk of abuse or neglect, or are aging out of foster care.

See www.arcovfa.org.

Cheap and Effective Traffic Fix: Telework

While National Telework Week officially began Monday, Feb. 14, last month's commuting-home debacle probably did more to push individuals, governments and companies to contemplate real teleworking measures than any other advocacy.

Increasing the number of people who regularly work from home at least one day a week is the only possible cure for the current traffic nightmare in the region. On most days, rush hour in Northern Virginia is a pain. But it only takes one hiccup (a man threatening to jump of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge or an inch of badly timed snow) to bring the region to a standstill and worse.

Telecommuting can also be good for the environment, good for employee morale, good for families, good for productivity. And anything that decreases the chances of a 10-hour commute or being stranded overnight on the George Washington Parkway is a step in the right direction.

The technology exists to make this work.

- MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disciplinary Action as Learning Experience

To the Editor

On Feb. 8, 2011, at a regular meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, along with Supervisor Penny Gross, I moved that our Board direct County staff to engage Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and community organizations in a discussion about how to help students and parents turn a FCPS disciplinary action into a learning experience. I believe that County and Schools working together, along with other community resources, can better help a student understand that while there are serious consequences to infractions of school rules, we are there as a community to help the student cope with the emotional response that may follow and provide an appropriate level of support for both the child and the family. Disciplinary situations, if handled compassionately, can help a child develop a balanced understanding that should ultimately down the road translate into a mature, responsible adult. Lessons can be painful, but they

need not result in either the child or family feeling alone in their ability to examine and address the situation, or see a path to a hopeful future. I believe we can, working together as county government, schools and community, do a better job at that than we have done in the recent past.

I am not seeking for the Board of Supervisors to commandeer the FCPS disciplinary process; that is not our role. But as with so many other aspects of the Board of Supervisor and FCPS partnership, the Board of Supervisors provides, supplements, or augments services outside of the \$1.77 billion transfer to FCPS. In addition to the direct transfer, the County's FY 2011 budget provided nearly \$55.8 million in additional support for programs such as the Comprehensive Services Act (CSA), Head Start, School Age Child Care (SACC), public health nurses and school health aides, School Resource Officers and school crossing guards, field maintenance, afterschool

programming in middle schools, and services offered by the Fairfax Falls Church Community Services Board, including mental health and substance abuse prevention and intervention in the schools.

Clearly there is a role for Fairfax County Government in the development and safety of students in Fairfax County Public Schools. We demonstrated in the past how well

we can work together when we created our joint county-school-community based organization, Fairfax Partnership for Youth. We need to have a discussion of how we can work together on this issue before another precious life is lost.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins
Hunter Mill District

Write

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

Letters to the Editor
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By e-mail: herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

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NEWS

Safety or Discrimination?

FROM PAGE 3

laborer debates, I was called a racist, a bigot, a xenophobe, and that really bothers me," said Elmer Hata, currently living on Alabama Avenue, and has lived in Herndon for 19 years.

Ann Null, who lives on Center Street, also said she was tired of being called racist.

"It gets old, being told you're a bigot," she said. "It's not a social issue, it's about pedestrian and automobile safety. I'm the mother of teenagers, and I don't want them driving distracted by people around the roads."

Dale Adams, a resident of Iron Ridge Court in Herndon said "the ordinance does what it's supposed to do, and changing it will worsen public safety on our roads."

Town attorney Richard Kaufman said that groups such as the firefighters, who often bring out the "boot" to collect from motorists along the median would have to go through a process of application through the town.

The section about activities being permitted through due town process is to allow for events such as the Herndon Festival or the Farmer's Market, Kaufman said.

Privilege of Serving

FROM PAGE 3

Other councilmembers said they remembered the presentations Kochendarfer would give, and how complete they were.

Councilmember Connie Hutchinson said Kochendarfer always "made a very thorough presentation, he was very professional and always able to answer any and all questions we came up with."

Boxer summed it up more concisely, saying Kochendarfer "never met a pie chart he didn't like."

AS FAR AS FUTURE PLANS, Kochendarfer says his wife Cynthia has promised to come up with a list.

"We look forward to taking some nice trips, continuing our service to the community as volunteers and spending more time with our family and friends," he said. "It's been a privilege serving the citizens of Herndon and being part of this town's evolution for the past 30 years."

I won't miss the stressful commutes, but I will miss the people I was fortunate enough to serve with."

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Baby Music. 10:30 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Babies can learn, socialize and develop through music and play. Reserve at 703-437-8855.

ESL Business Writing Course. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Business Writing Course for ESL students. Adults. 703-689-2700.

THURSDAY/FEB. 17

"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.

Terrific Twos. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Storytime for two-year-olds. Age 2 with adult. 703-689-2700.

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Nature ABCs. 10 a.m. Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. \$5 child of RA member, \$8 child non-members. For ages 3-5. Reserve at 703-476-9689 or naturecenter@reston.org.

Paul Thorn. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 18

Wagner's "The Valkyrie." 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive,



"Motorcycles, Midgets and Mayhem" comes to the Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Center in Chantilly on Feb. 19-20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The self-proclaimed hardcore little person wrestlers, "Half Pint Brawlers," will wrestle, sign autographs, entertain and amuse all ages. Motorcycle enthusiasts will find all of their favorite dealers, vendors, custom motorcycles and merchandise. \$7 for children, \$15 for adults. www.kevmarv.com or www.halfpintbrawlers.com.

Fairfax. The second opera in "The Ring Cycle," performed by The Virginia Opera and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Tickets \$44-\$86, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.vaopera.org.

"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.

Jonathan Edwards. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 19

"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.

Hot Tuna Blues. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Blues, jazz, bluegrass and folk by Jorma Kaukonen and Jack Casady. 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, youth through grade 12 half price. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Whitey Morgan and the 78's. 7 p.m. The Carpool, 208 Elden St. #100, Herndon. Honky tonk and country music. www.bloodshotrecords.com.

Celebrate Black History Month. 5 p.m. Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Speakers will share Civil Rights experiences and Squire Muse will lead a sing along of Freedom Songs. View Reston Community Center's 2002 Color Line Project interviews. 703-709-7700 or

restonmuseum@gmail.com.

Photography Workshop: Introduction to Digital Photography. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Weekend immersion format. www.ArtSpaceHerndon.org.

Young Dubliners. 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 20

Wagner's "The Valkyrie." 2 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The second opera in "The Ring Cycle," performed by The Virginia Opera and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Tickets \$48-\$98, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.vaopera.org.

"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 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.

Introduction to Digital Photography Workshop. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Weekend immersion format. www.ArtSpaceHerndon.org.

Waterfowl and Raptors Bird Walk. 7:30 a.m. 2070 Twin Branches Road. Meet at the Lake Audubon Boat ramp. No reservations required. Free. Beginning and expert birders are all welcome. naturecenter@reston.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

or www.greatfallsassistedliving.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 17

Greater Reston Newcomers & Neighbors Club Treasures Auction. St John Neumann Church, Lawyers Road, Reston. Non-members welcome. Free. Contact 703-391-1363 for event time.

FRIDAY/FEB. 18

Syndicate Business Networking Group Monthly Luncheon. 11:45 a.m. Syrah Restaurant, Sheraton Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. With speaker Michael McCarthy, Editor in Chief & Content Director, Washington Flyer Magazine & Media. \$35. Register at www.thesyndicateva.com/next-event-details#lunch2.

MOMS Club of Herndon. 10 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. For mothers who have chosen to stay home with their children. With stories and crafts in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday. herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 20

Pancake Breakfast and Open House. 9-11 a.m. Great Falls Assisted Living, 1121 Reston Ave., Herndon. Pancakes, sausage and fruit. Learn more about this new dementia-specific community. Free. Reserve by Feb. 17 at 571-926-8867

MONDAY/FEB. 21

Assistance League of Northern Virginia. 9:30 a.m. at the Stully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. A nonprofit, volunteer organization promoting literacy and well-being for women and children through community based programs, such as Operation School Bell: New Clothes for Kids and Weekend Food for Kids. Meetings are the third Monday of every month. 703-878-1928.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 23

La Leche League of Herndon-Reston. 10 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Pregnant and nursing moms with their children welcome. 703-435-1429.

LifeLine Health Screening. Sugarland Hill Senior Apartments, 1100 Dranesville Road, Herndon. Cardiovascular conditions, abdominal aortic aneurysms, bone density to access osteoporosis risk and more available. Screening packages start at \$139. Schedule appointments at 1-877-237-1287 or www.lifelinescreening.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 24

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



PHOTO BY MELANIE MILLER-CVILIKAS

The Magician, played by Sam Skillman, and the Sultan, played by Seth Itkin, in Herndon High School Children Theatre's production of Aladdin and the Magic Lamp, which opens this Friday, Feb. 18 at 7:30pm, with a Saturday Matinée at 10am on Feb. 19.

Aladdin and the Magic Lamp at Herndon High

This Friday, Feb. 18, the Herndon High School Children's Theater will present their production of Aladdin and the Magic Lamp at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a Matinée performance on Saturday, Feb. 19, at 10 a.m. This humorous production, directed by Chelsea Robinson and Andy Raoufi, Advanced Theatre students, discovers the excitement, magnificence, and the mystery that occurs in this dramatization of the boy who found the magic lamp and befriended by a powerful Genie.

This Children's Theater production will be presented 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.herndonrama.org to purchase tickets, learn more about the event, or for more information regarding the Herndon High School Drama Department.

- AMIR NOORBAKSH

Home Life Style

Security, Convenience and Green Innovation

Northern Virginia companies debut home technology trends in Las Vegas.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Getting a lot of attention at this year's Consumer Electronics Show were several Northern Virginia companies who were among the more than 2,700 exhibitors displaying some of the world's most cutting edge home technology trends.

This year was all about the "apps" as more than 150,000 people from around the world descended on the Las Vegas Convention Center last month for the 2011 Consumer Electronics Show.

Homeowners can have more control over their homes using many newly developed smartphone applications, getting real time information from home security systems even when not at home, controlling room temperatures, raising and lowering window shades or even starting dinner or the laundry from anywhere with an internet connection.

Surveillance Systems, Archerfish: Reston

For homeowners looking for a home surveillance system, Reston's Cernium Corporation has developed the Archerfish Solo, an IP-based wireless camera that sends video clip emails to your smart phone or computer whenever it senses unusual activity.

"There's been a lot of interest in the Solo," said Debbie Shuey of Archerfish, a CES exhibitor for the last three years. "We've had far more people stopping by this year than the last two."

Homeowners can use Archerfish to view live video via computer, smart phone or tablet devices, as Shuey demonstrated by monitoring the cameras at Reston Skate Quest cameras from the show floor in Las Vegas.

"The number of people interested in this for personal use has multiplied tremendously," Shuey said. "Even our competitors have been stopping by."

Debuting at CES this year was the Archerfish Solo Flood Light Adapter, which allows the camera to be installed simply by screwing it into an existing flood light socket.

"We're continuously developing products to help consumers keep an eye on the places that matter to them," said Cernium president Craig Chambers. "The Archerfish Flood Light Adapter makes installing the Solo as easy as screwing in a light bulb."

WWW.MYARCHERFISH.COM



Herndon-based Simplikey president Jason Pizzilo, right, demonstrates the new lockset to Oracle's Joel Storm at the Consumer Electronics Show.

Tablet Times Two, Entourage: McLean

McLean-based Entourage Systems used this year's CES to launch the Pocket Edge, a portable version of its bestselling Entourage Edge.

"We just launched last year and are doing very well, especially internationally," said Entourage vice president Doug Atkinson. "As a consumer device, we are just getting started and are excited to be here." The mission is to provide an all-inclusive personal technology device that combines the functions of several products into one solution.

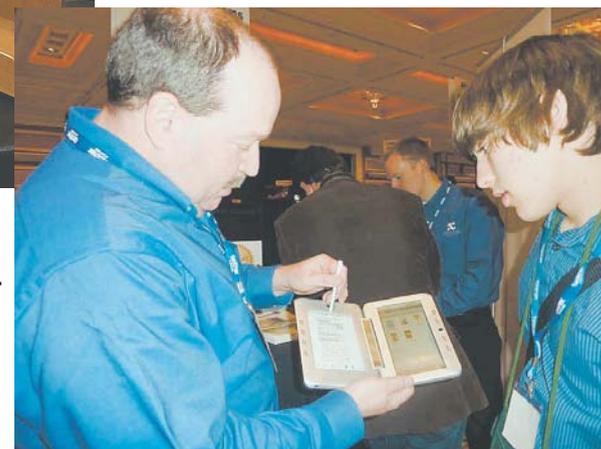
Both the Entourage and Pocket Edge are dual screen e-reader, Android-based tablet computer, notepad and audio/video recorder and player. Connected to the internet, it can manage any connected home security system or smart appliances. Prices start at \$349.

"We can build a tablet by cutting off half, but then we'd be just like everybody else," Atkinson said. "But people still write and along with many other features, we offer that with our product."

WWW.ENTOURAGEEDGE.COM



Jon Kelman demonstrates a light-up security vest by Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations.



Entourage vice president Doug Atkinson, left, demonstrates the new Pocket Edge to David Goldhagen of San Antonio.



Skip West, founder of Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations, displays his latest home technology solutions at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas last month. West teaches the course "From Geek to Gazillionaire" at George Mason University.

SEE HOME, PAGE 9

Northern Virginia REAL ESTATE

Top Townhouse Sales in 2010



8 1227 Stuart Robeson Drive, McLean — \$1,360,000



5 6 7 Evans Farm, McLean — up to \$1,685,000



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

2 207 Fairfax Street South, Alexandria — \$2,840,000

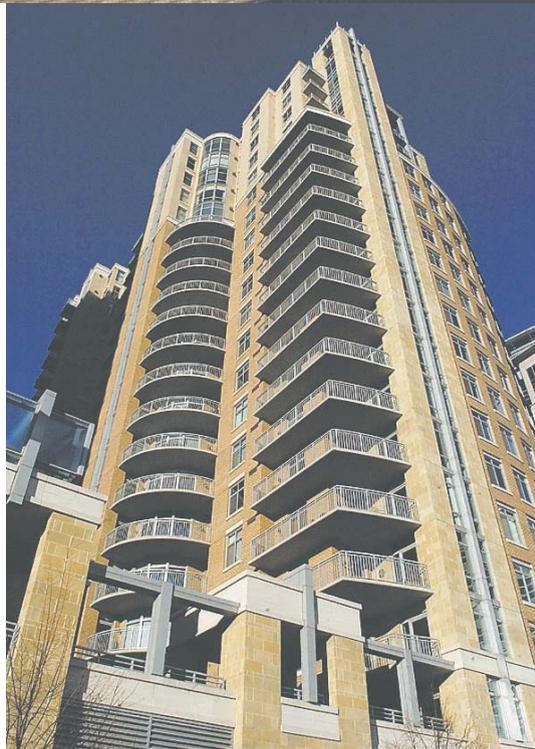


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERNUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

10 11990 Market Street, Reston — \$1,000,000

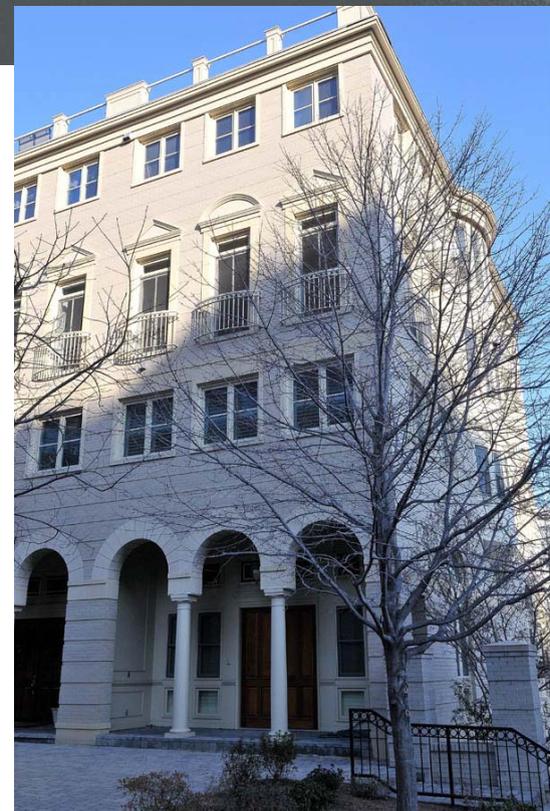
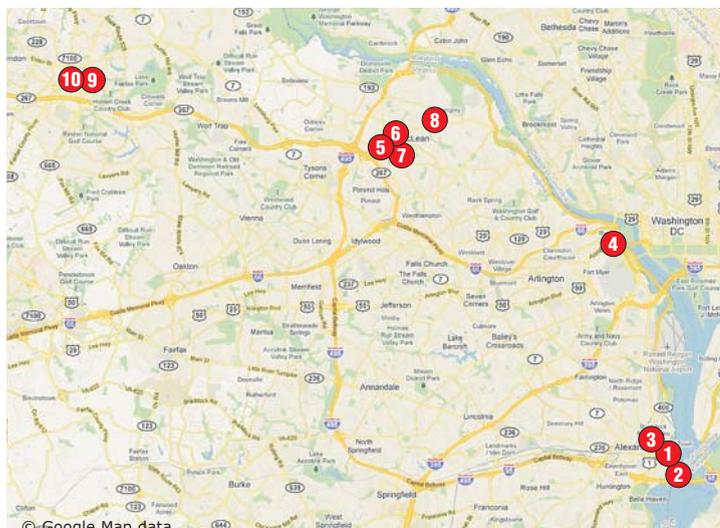


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERNUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

3 1401 Nash Street, Arlington — \$2,150,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 415 PRINCE ST	3	3	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,850,000	Townhouse	0.17	OLD TOWN	08/23/10
2 207 FAIRFAX ST S	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,840,000	Townhouse	0.13	OLD TOWN	07/09/10
3 1401 NASH ST	4	4	2	ARLINGTON	\$2,150,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.03	BROMPTONS@MONUMENT PL	09/30/10
4 606 CAMERON ST	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,100,000	Townhouse	0.11	OLD TOWN	06/07/10
5 7218A FARM MEADOW CT	4	4	1	MC LEAN	\$1,685,000	Townhouse	0.06	EVANS FARM	06/30/10
6 1423 HARVEST CROSSING DR	3	4	1	MCLEAN	\$1,630,000	Townhouse	0.07	EVANS FARM	06/21/10
7 1496 TEAGUE DR	4	4	1	MCLEAN	\$1,487,000	Townhouse	0.07	EVANS FARM	07/16/10
8 1227 STUART ROBESON DR	3	4	2	MCLEAN	\$1,360,000	Townhouse	0.10	MERRYHILL	04/30/10
9 11776 STRAIFORD HSE PL#11043	3	0	0	RESTON	\$1,060,000	Penthouse		STRAIFORD	01/29/10
10 11990 MARKET ST #1813	2	3	0	RESTON	\$1,000,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		MIDTOWN AT RESTON TOWN	10/05/10

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM.

Security, Convenience

FROM PAGE 7

Going Green, MAXSA: Fairfax/Fairfax Station

Skip West is no stranger to the crowds of the Consumer Electronics Show.

"This is my eighth year here and it just keeps getting better," said West, founder and president of the Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations. "I love inventing new products and this is the place to introduce them to consumers."

West debuted a dozen new items at this year's show, most focusing on "green" technology.

"We now have solar powered motion activated flood lights, along with our solar walkway lights for decks, stairs and driveways," West said. "We've been taking lots of orders and getting a great response."

MAXSA also offers laser garage parking systems and personal devices such as a reflective safety vest with 16 LED lights, devices to avoid automobile/deer collisions and special flashlights.

"I sold my last company but didn't like being retired," said West, who teaches the course "From Geek to Gazillionaire" at George Mason University. "I love helping students develop their ideas into successful companies."

West, one of the first to produce the now popular battery powered votive candles, donates his salary from GMU to a student business competition.

"I love what I do and have been fortunate in my success," West said. "It's very rewarding to help my students see their dreams become reality."

MAXSAINNOVATIONS.COM

First Impressions, Simplikey: Herndon

If the employees of Herndon-based start-up Simplikey all look young, it's because they are.

"We hired 11 people, all between the ages of 21 and 35," said Carl Guerreri, president of parent company Electronic Warfare Associates, a government defense contractor. "I told them to wander the world for a year to come up with an idea that best utilized our technology."

The result is the Simplikey lock, a remote control electronic deadbolt.

"We wanted to make something worthy of a front door," said D'Veil Garrison, vice president of sales and marketing. "The lock is all metal with a carbon

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE CONNECTION



Debbie Shuey monitors security at the Reston Skate Park as part of the Archerfish demonstration at the Consumer Electronics show in Las Vegas last month.

core center deadbolt, concealed light-up keypad and remote key fob that works from up to 50 feet away."

The slim design lock is programmable with up to 16 different codes and runs on 4 AA batteries.

"This is our first time at CES," Garrison said. "It's great seeing all the first adapters' eyes light up when they see the lock."

The Simplikey uses standard deadbolt installation and is available in three finishes.

"I started early this morning and haven't stopped talking since," said Simplikey president Jason Pizzillo. "But people love the product and it's been a great show."

WWW.SIMPLICIKEY.COM

There's an App for That

Arguing over the remote may soon be a thing of the past as smartphones and tablet computers take control of your home theater system. In a world where all you need is an Ethernet cable and ISP, every major TV manufacturer is now producing internet-connected HDTV and 3D displays, all easily controlled and monitored by mobile apps.

On screens that can reach up to 90 inches (on a soon-to-be-released Mitsubishi plasma display), smart TVs and the newest apps allow web surfing from your sofa. You can also connect with friends via Facebook, Google Talk and Twitter as you watch your favorite programming. Also expected to gain ground in the home theatre arena is gesture controlled TV, which uses technology similar to the Xbox Kinect.

Capital Home & Garden Show, Feb. 25-27

The Capital Home & Garden Show will feature hundreds of displays and exhibits this year, with a special emphasis on "Going Green." Exhibitors include all aspects of home design and improvement, gardening, kitchen and bath remodeling, flooring, roofing, doors, windows, fencing, pools, interior and exterior lighting, home entertainment, interior designs and much more. Get ideas, investigate new products, gather information and meet the professionals who can help. **Dulles Expo Center, Feb. 25 - 27, www.capitalhomeshow.com.**

10 WAYS TO GOGREENER

SOURCE: Capital Home & Garden Show

- 1. Energy Efficient Appliances:** The refrigerator is one of the home's highest consumers of energy. Use the water and energy-saving settings on your refrigerator and dishwasher.
- 2. Lighting:** Use **compact fluorescents (CFLs)**. Designing a home with good **natural lighting** cuts down on the need to use electricity.

3. Biodegradable Cleaning Products,

and use common supplies like baking soda and vinegar.

- 4. Indoor air quality:** Look for products that don't have **synthetic formaldehyde resins**. **Proper ventilation** will help maintain superior indoor air quality.
- 5. Green Cabinetry:** Many are made from renewable and salvaged materials
- 6. Skip the bottled water.**
- 7. Green Flooring:** Consider **cork, bamboo** or concrete flooring.
- 8. Countertops** and backsplashes made

of recycled glass that make stunning backsplashes.

- 9. Buy Local and Organic:** Buying local keeps fuel usage at a minimum, supports local economy and encourages local farming. Check out a local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.
- 10. Solar Water Heating** can save your household up to 35 percent of its energy use and prevent tons of carbon dioxide entering our environment over the life of the system. Many states also offer tax credits.

OPEN HOUSES

Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 19th & 20th



11095 Saffold Way, Reston • \$425,000 • Open Sunday 1-4
Pat Orend, Long & Foster, 703-407-3300

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.



Reston

- 1416 Church Hill Pl.....\$282,000...Sat 12-3...Kim House.....Long & Foster.....703-201-8660
- 11095 Saffold Way.....\$425,000...Sun 1-4....Pat Orend.....Long & Foster.....703-407-3300

Herndon

- 2963 Mockernut Ct.....\$479,900...Sun 1-4....Sridhar Vemuru.....Agragami, LLC.....703-707-9737
- 12506 Northern Valley Ct...\$499,000...Sun 1-4....Diana LeFrancois.....Century 21703-930-6682
- 12526 Ridgeway Dr.....\$749,900...Sun 1-4....Liam Doherty.....Fairfax Realty.....703-975-7366

McLean

- 1613 Brookside Rd.....Sun 2-4....JD Callander.....Weichert.....703-606-7901

Vienna

- 1511 Gingerwood Ct.....\$599,950...Sun 1-4....Eugene Curtin.....Weichert.....703-856-3416

Oakton

- 11415 Vale Rd.....\$569,000...Sun 1-4....Audrey Hunt.....Weichert.....703-371-9376

Sterling

- 21181 Millwood Sq.....\$322,500...Sun 1-4....Barbara Hendrickson...Keller Williams.....703-901-9200

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.

FAITH

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

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

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

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

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or www.meditation-dc.org.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources.

Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

The Baha'i community of McLean holds a weekly fireside, a meeting of discussion, devotion and fellowship, at 7500 Box Elder Court in McLean, at 8 p.m. every Friday. An opportunity to learn about the Baha'i faith. 703-556-3400.

Epiphany United Methodist Preschool, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is now enrolling 3-4-year-old students for the 2010/2011 school year. Contact 703-938-2391 or www.epiphanypreschool.com.

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Northern Virginia HVAC Company is in search of a Master Plumber to manage a start up Plumbing division. Must have at least 10 years experience, submit to a drug test, have a good driving record and excellent customer skills. Benefits include top pay with 100% family medical coverage, matching 401k, holiday, vac and PTO. This is a great opportunity to get in at ground level of a growing division. Serious applicants email resume to Rmurphy@ssihvac.com.

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"Cunancer-drum"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Living with cancer and dying of cancer. For many cancer patients, it's a conundrum we attempt to balance every day. "Living" sounds so positive, so optimistic; while "dying" sounds so negative, so pessimistic. When one says the word "living," the inflection in your voice seems to go up. When one says the word "dying," the inflection goes down. The word "living" conjures a smile, almost; the word "dying" not so much. Living is something you want to do, presumably; dying doesn't exactly present the same opportunities – so far as we know, anyway. Moreover, there's not nearly as much future in dying as there is in living. And since I'd just as soon take a definite over a maybe, I definitely would prefer living over dying. (From my pen to God's ears.)

As simple as my preference is however, receiving the terminal diagnosis that I did (stage IV lung cancer) really changes your priorities, and "simple" is the last thing your life will ever be. Consider the effect that shuffling a deck of playing cards has on the previous order of those cards; that's minor compared to a cancer patient's reality. The reality is 52 pick-up – cards scattered everywhere with no rhyme or reason as to how any of the cards got anywhere. Now, try to organize that indiscriminate and random chaos into some kind of meaningful arrangement, all the while enduring physical and mental/emotional obstacles to accomplishing the most important task in your life: trying to make order out of that chaos. Welcome to my/our whirled.

I've been told by many health care professionals that control, anecdotally speaking, is a very effective tool in fighting cancer/any terminal disease. In fact, my original oncology nurse shared the story of how cancer patients who drove more than 20 minutes to their chemotherapy appointments seemed to do better than those who lived closer; so much so, that patients who lived closer would drive an indirect route to the Infusion Center just so the trip took more than 20 minutes. Of course, there was nothing magical in the minutes, the magic was in the presumptive control and commitment that the patient was exhibiting.

Fact or fiction. True or false. Believable or not. Add in the amount of medical information a key stroke away on the Internet, some of it for-profit, not to mention all the solicited – and unsolicited (well meaning though it may be) – advice from family and friends; and the potential for contradictory, misleading and inappropriate courses of action/treatment (for your specific medical history/condition/diagnosis) is off the charts. Combine this with the patient's inability to filter and discern as keenly and objectively as before they were diagnosed and you have a series of disasters waiting to happen. The trick is, there is no trick; it's just life in the cancer lane.

And though it's a road I never thought I'd be on – certainly at age 55 (ever really, considering my immediate family's medical history; no cancer), I'm on it – full time! Trying to make the best of a bad situation is how I approach every day. Pretending – and maybe even denying – (there's no "maybe"), is how I approach every night. I'm not living to die; I'm dying to live (figuratively speaking). Every day, every result, brings new challenges. What matters, what matters not? It's a recurring theme. I wish I had the answer. I don't and that's the problem. Even though I've been on this cancer lane now for two years, there's no road map to direct me. Maybe a GPS would help.

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

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South Lakes' Forrest Captures Region Wrestling Crown

Seahawk standout remains unbeaten at 37-0 going into states.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

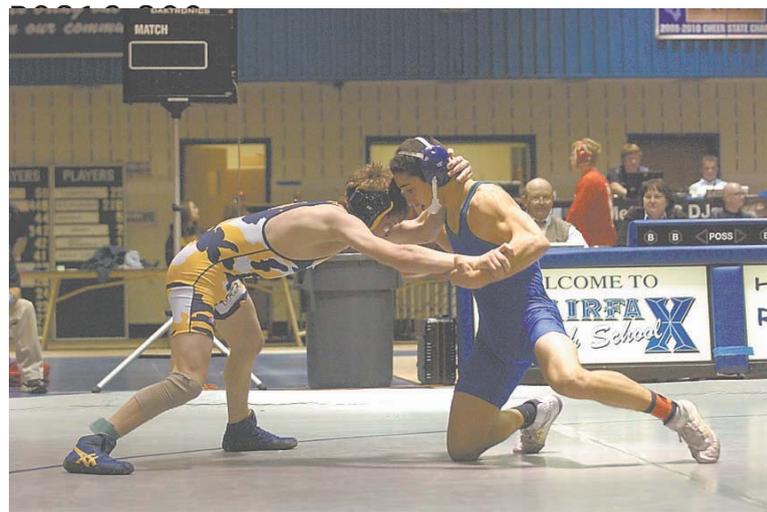
South Lakes High wrestling sensation Ryan Forrest remained unbeaten for the season and captured the 145-weight class title at last weekend's Northern Region championships. The two-day postseason event took place Friday and Saturday (Feb. 11-12) at Fairfax High School.

Forrest, a junior who two weeks ago captured his third consecutive Liberty District title, won all four of his matches at regionals to gain the 145 crown. In the finals, he dominated his match versus Robinson's Zak Depasquale with a 10-1 major decision triumph.

"It was great," said Forrest, of the excitement of winning the title match. "I knew most of the [Fairfax High] gymnasium would be on his side because of how good Robinson is."

Depasquale, indeed, had a loud and supportive following of fans cheering him on. The Robinson faithful enjoyed a night in which seven Rams' wrestlers won championships at their respective weight classes. On top of that, Robinson easily won the team title - its first since 1991.

But in the 145 finals, Forrest, who had some good fan support of his own, quieted the Robinson followers with his fantastic title match win in which, midway through the first period, he used a



South Lakes' Ryan Forrest (right) competes against Robinson's Zak Depasquale during Saturday night's 145-division region wrestling finals at Fairfax High School.

takedown and turned his opponent onto his back to build a 5-0 lead. The score was 8-0 after that first period and Forrest controlled the remainder of the match.

FORREST, OVER THE YEARS, has wrestled with and against Depasquale and had a good idea of what it would take to win the match.

"I've known that kid most of my life," said Forrest, with a smile.

As thrilled as Forrest was with the individual title, he has been most pleased this season with the progress the South Lakes program, as a whole, has continued to make under head coach Bruce Hall. The Seahawks have continually gotten

better and better under Hall in recent years. South Lakes put together an exceptional season this winter in which the Seahawks went 19-6 over the dual meet season.

"This is definitely the best [South Lakes wrestling] has been in a long time," said Forrest, who was a third place finisher at last year's regionals. "I've really enjoyed my team and I love our coaches. I try to take on more leadership and try to help out some of the other kids."

Forrest, along with growing in the sport under the guidance of the South Lakes coaching staff, has also worked under the tutelage of longtime wrestling aficionado Wade Schalles at Landon School

in Bethesda. Schalles, a nationally renowned wrestling coach and a former two-time NCAA champion, is director of EagleHawk Academy.

It has all come together this season for Forrest, who goes into next weekend's Virginia State AAA championships at Robinson Secondary with a perfect 37-0 record. Forrest said he has not felt the pressure of being unbeaten for the most part this season, although he is more conscious of his perfect record now that the postseason is here.

But he appeared as focused as ever at regionals. In his first round match, Forrest defeated Hayfield's Mark Allan on a first period pin, then pinned Chantilly's Sam Cronin early in the second period of his second round match. In the semifinals, Forrest handled Westfield's Nick Hehman, 6-0, to earn his spot in the finals against Depasquale (33-10), the 145-Concorde District champion.

SOUTH LAKES finished 19th place overall in the region team standings with 32 points. The team champion was Robinson, which captured its first region crown since 1991. The Rams finished with 260.50 points, finishing ahead of second place and defending region champion Westfield (208). South County (118) finished third place, while Annandale (92) and Hayfield (78) finished fourth and fifth places, respectively, at the 30-team event.

Finishing sixth through 10th place were Lee High (69), Mount Vernon (65), Edison (62), the Saxons and Lake Braddock (54.50).

Robinson's Jack Bass, the 125-weight class champion, was named the region tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler. Centreville High, which finished 18th place in the team standings, accepted the Sportsmanship Award trophy during brief post meet ceremonies on Saturday night.

Neither South Lakes nor Herndon had any top six place finishers at regionals, other than Forrest.

OAKTON HIGH, meanwhile, saw Austin Murga earn a third place finish at 189-division, while Cougars' wrestlers Eddie Gerow (112) and Matt Nortorangelo (152) finished fourth and fifth place, respectively.

Murga earned a third place finish at 189. He defeated Stuart's Melvin Mazariegos with a second period pin, then lost an 8-6 decision to Annandale's John McCollom. But Murga then went on a tear, winning four straight matches in the loser's bracket to earn third place. The wins came over Yorktown's Hakeem Sansui, 8-3; Langley's Elie Kawmy (11-3 major decision); Centreville's David Chenevey, 9-8; and, in the consolation finals, a default win over Jefferson's Patrick O'Connor.

The Virginia State AAA championships will take place this Friday and Saturday (Feb. 18-19) at Robinson Secondary.

Local Swimmers Shine at Region Championships

Langley captures team title on girls' side. Madison, Oakton, McLean, South Lakes and Herndon swimmers excel at postseason showcase.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Langley High girls' swim and dive team captured first place at the recent Northern Region swim and dive championships, held at Oak Marr Recreation Center Feb. 1-5.

The Saxons, coached by Ryan Jackson, finished the postseason event with 241 team points, ahead of second place Yorktown (218), third place Lake Braddock (167), fourth place West Potomac (152) and fifth place Westfield (149).

Finishing sixth through 10th place at

the 23-team girls' meet were: South County (145), Robinson (143), Chantilly (138), Oakton (130) and Madison (119).

Other local teams of note included 11th place McLean (116 points), 14th place Herndon (68), and 19th place South Lakes (30).

THE CHAMPION SAXONS had first place finishes from senior Jayme Katis (200-yard freestyle) and sophomore Abi Speers (100-freestyle). Both were also a part of Langley's first place 200-yard free relay team, consisting of senior Meghan Overend, Katis, senior Megan Howard, and Speers.

Other top six place finishers by Langley

girls' swimmers came from: Spears (second place in 50-free); Meghan Overend (fifth in 100-butterfly); Megan Howard (sixth in 100-fly); and Katis (second in 100-free).

The Saxons' 400-free relay team of junior Allie Zeidan, Katis, Speers and Overend finished second overall.

Oakton High's Janet Hu won two events - the 50-free and 100-back. She was also a part of the Cougars' winning 400-free relay team. Oakton's team members on that relay were: Hu, Stephanie Hallock, Kendall Lawhorn and Kaitlin Pawlowicz.

Individual girls' champions from area schools included Oakton's Pawlowicz (200-IM) and Madison's Kelly Corish (dive).

Pawlowicz was also a second place finisher in the 100-fly.

Top six place finishers from the area included: Madison's Laura Kellan (fourth in 200-free); Marshall's Kather VanWinkle (third in dive); South Lakes' Emily Sennett (third in 100-fly); McLean High's Eva Greene (third in 100-back, fourth in 100-free); Herndon High's Ryan Murphy (sixth in 100-back); and Herndon's Jenna Van Camp (second in 100-breaststroke).

THE BOYS' TEAM CHAMPION was Westfield High, which finished with 271 points, ahead of second place Woodson (188), third place Robinson (186), fourth place Madison (179), fifth place Lake Braddock (163), and sixth place Fairfax (145).