

Herndon High Wins Step Competition

A+, PAGE 10

Re-Opening The Closet

NEWS, PAGE 8

Herndon Police Chief Toussaint Summers Jr. browses the silent auction items at the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce Gala at the Hyatt Dulles Saturday.



Chamber Honors 'Room of Heroes'

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Firefighter Robert Shoenberger embraces his children upon his return March 20 from VATF-1 rescue efforts in the wake of the recent Japanese earthquake and tsunami.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Billy Moreland, a member of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue team, is welcomed home from Japan by his wife Danielle and 8-year-old daughter Sarah. Moreland assisted in rescue efforts in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami that struck the country March 11.

Elite Search and Rescue Team Returns from Japan

VATF-1 returns home as rescue operation turns to recovery.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

It was a bittersweet homecoming for 74 members of the elite Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue team as they returned in the early morning hours of March 20 from a mission to the devastated Sendai region of Japan, where a 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami left an estimated 8,649 people dead and 13,261 still missing.

"We never experienced anything like this before," said task force leader Bob Zoldos of the March 11 catastrophe. "The damage and destruction was incredibly widespread. The tsunami moved many of the victims from their original location, which made finding survivors more difficult."

Also known as Virginia Task Force 1, the team spent a week alongside teams from around the world searching for survivors, without any success.

"This was really monstrous — an earthquake and tsunami coming together like this," said Japanese Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki, who was on hand to express his gratitude to the team. "The news of your arrival in my country and your activities were encouraging to all Japanese. We were watching every day as you worked in the dark and cold on such a difficult task."

Fujisaki arrived at the team's training center on West Ox Road in Fairfax at 2 a.m. March 20 to speak

individually with family members waiting for VATF-1 to arrive.

"He thanked us for our team member," said Zoldos' mother Kay. "It was emotional for everyone since we are the ones who feel so bad for him and the people of his country."

Joining Fujisaki in welcoming the team home were Fairfax County Fire Chief Ronald Mastin, Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

"Every mission is different and this one was especially difficult," said Bulova at the team's 4:20 a.m. debriefing. "Thank you so much for what you do. You have made us so proud."

Bulova expressed her condolences to Fujisaki and presented him with an official Fairfax County government lapel pin as a token of friendship.

"I'm sure all Americans are very proud of you," Fujisaki said, his voice breaking as he struggled to maintain composure. "You conducted such a heroic and brave activity and the people of Japan are so grateful to you. We will never forget this."

After a standing ovation, Fujisaki left the team members to return to their families, many with pajama-clad children waving signs and holding balloons as they embraced their team members.

VATF-1 deployed within hours of the initial earthquake, carrying approximately 30 tons of equipment, including four swift water boats and swift water rescue gear.

"All of that has been left behind, including the boats," Gross said. "We left equipment, food and supplies behind for the Japanese people as they continue their relief efforts."

A contingent of international press interviewed team members on the conditions in Japan.



PHOTO BY JAMES CULLUM/THE CONNECTION

Hugh Conway dances with Ashley Ried at the Tuesday Night Ceili Club at the Green Acres Center.

Irish Dancing Year-round

Hugh Conway teaches Irish ceili and set dancing at Frying Pan Park.

BY JAMES CULLUM
THE CONNECTION

Missing St. Patrick's Day already? Don't fret, lads and lasses.

Every Tuesday, Hugh Conway teaches Irish ceili and set dancing at the Green Acres Center in Fairfax City. There, the lilt of Irish jokes and laughter abound. Apart from Tuesdays, he can be found at Frying Pan Park, which hosts a ceili the second Saturday of every month.

"Irish dancing is not that difficult to get the basics down, unlike ballroom dancing," said Conway, whose father was Irish. "It takes time to learn the dances from memory. At a major ceili [an Irish social dance, pronounced kay-lee], there's no calling. Everybody knows the names of the dances and they do them."

Maureen Dale has danced with the "Tuesday Night Ceili Club" for four years. Born and raised in England, Dale often danced at home. "If we ended up having something at my mother's house, we would end up doing steps," she said. "When I was young it wasn't very fashionable to do Irish dancing and I never told my friends about it. But now, the trendier pubs in Ireland are playing the Irish music. They play it much faster and it's lots of fun."

Jessica Martin and friend Ashley Ried of Alexandria

started the year-round course in January. "I lived in Ireland for over a year and Ashley came and visited me for a month," Martin said. "And while we were there we took a road trip, which is what got us interested in the City of Fairfax's Irish Festival. We found out about ceilis, which is how we met Hugh."

A brand-new \$400 snap-lock dance floor greeted last week's class. "There's an industrial grade carpet on that floor and this is so much better. We can break that floor up and take it away in a half-hour if necessary," said Conway. "There's a Scottish dancing group on Mondays and a group of cloggers and they love it because it took a lot of stress off their feet."

Conway, whose other hobbies include reading and pistol shooting, began Irish dancing when he retired as a bank examiner with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in 1996.

"When I started, there was an Irish dance class every Saturday at the Woods Center in Fairfax, but I couldn't find a class on a weekday, so I decided I would teach one," he said. "Once I got into it, I was dancing three or four nights a week so that I would be good enough to teach. See, if you go out and jog on the street, you think: 'Oh, when is this going to be over?' But with Irish dancing, you're sorry when it's over."

For more, go to <http://www.ceilidance.com/>.

From left, sophomore Alastair Young, senior Lizbeth Molina, senior Kevin Truong and sophomore Lauren Truese, members of the Herndon High School Junior ROTC program present the colors while vocal group Tre Voche sings the National Anthem at the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce Gala at the Hyatt Dulles Saturday.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Chamber Honors 'Room of Heroes'

Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce celebrates veterans at gala.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce held its annual gala Saturday at the Hyatt Dulles. The gala's theme was paying tribute to veterans, police officers and firefighters. A portion of the proceeds raised went to the USO.

Several wounded warriors from all branches of the military were in attendance and honored at the start of the event.

Bill Lauer of Tetra Partners, chairman of the board of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce called it "a room of heroes" as he introduced each service member.

Members of the Herndon High School Junior ROTC served as color guards for the event, and said it was inspirational to see the men and women in uniform.

"It was great to see them out here, and it was truly an honor to present the colors in their presence," said senior Lizbeth Molina.

The students said they have presented the colors at other local ceremonies before, but found it especially touching to do so in front of recent veterans.

"It's always an honor to present the colors of our country to the community," said sophomore Lauren Truese.

Former Marine Capt. Vernice Armour, who was the first African-American female combat pilot in the U.S. military, served as the master of ceremonies for the event, who entered to Kenny Loggins' "Danger Zone," and literally ran around the room high-fiving audience members.

"Seeing our service members who are here tonight, it humbles my heart to know right now there are still men and women like them serving overseas," Armour said.

Michael Session, general manager of the Hyatt Dulles, said this event was to "thank these veterans, and to thank their families for what they do, because it affects all of our lives."



Former Marine Capt. Vernice Armour, who was the first African-American female combat pilot in the U.S. military, high-fives audience members during her introduction as master of ceremonies at the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce Gala at the Hyatt Dulles Saturday.

Before dinner was served, time was taken to honor a fallen member of the Herndon Police Department, Sgt. Philip J. Farley, who died unexpectedly Feb. 2. Farley joined the Herndon Police in April 1986, and served as an instructor, as well as helping keep the department up on the latest technologies.

His wife, Tama, son Shane and daughters Sonia and Ashleigh were called up to the stage and Ashleigh reflected on her father's legacy.

"My parents went on a cruise a few weeks before he died, and he saved someone's life by performing CPR," Ashleigh Farley said. "And the thing was, he didn't even think to tell anyone else about it, he didn't do things like that for credit. Everyone who has touched by my father's life was better because of it."



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Celeste Williams, Tina Jay and Vanessa Rose own Maude Salon in Herndon, and were recognized as the Best of Reston small business category this year.

Creating Beauty Inside and Out

Maude Salon wins Best of Reston award for small business.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Maude Hair Salon in Herndon has been open for seven years, and co-owner Celeste Williams says every year they make a concerted effort to help the community around them. This commitment was noticed this year, as Maude won the 2011 Best of Reston Award for small businesses.

"It's nice to feel like you're part of a community, to be part of something bigger than yourself," Williams said. "As a hair salon, our business is to help people feel good about themselves, and we try and extend that wherever we can."

Founded in 2003 by Williams, Vanessa Rose and Tina Jay, Maude was started from day one to be more than just a place to get a haircut.

"We've always believed in creating a positive culture, a safe place to grow and to express yourself," Williams said.

The salon has a yearly donation budget dedicated to helping local charities, including donating gift certificates to fundraisers. They have also worked with Reston Interfaith, YMCA-Reston, the Embury Rucker Community Shelter, Relay for Life, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the American Cancer Society and even helped raise funds to build a black-box theater at the Duke Ellington School for the Arts in Washington, D.C.

Their efforts to help others

aren't limited to groups outside the studio. They also have a two-year apprenticeship program that is nationally certified and recognized, and allows applicants who might not otherwise be able to afford cosmetology school to get into the profession.

"We act as a school, donating our time to educating people who are interested in a career," Williams said. "It takes a little longer than going to cosmetology school, but the apprentices are able to experience the day-to-day work in a real salon while they're learning."

Valerie Roller, a staff member at Maude says she is inspired every day by the philosophy behind Maude.

"They're the best bosses, they really are. They treat us like family," Roller said. "They inspire us every day to make people prettier inside and out."

Judy Redpath, chair of the Honoree Selection Committee for the Best of Reston, says even though Maude's mailing address says Herndon, the extent of their work is truly community-wide.

"They're located in Herndon, but the people they serve are all over the place. We're not concerned with boundaries, we see the positive energy they put into this community," Redpath said. "They're committed to making a vibrant, healthy, viable community all around them."

Maude Salon is located at 775 Station Street in Herndon, and can be found online at www.maudehair.com.

Northern Virginia Gives Input On New Political Districts

Governor's redistricting commission has no bearing on actual lines.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Members of Virginia's bipartisan committee on political redistricting listened intently to the speakers who showed up to a hearing held at George Mason University March 15.

About a dozen Northern Virginia residents came out to share their thoughts about how to redraw boundaries for 11 congressional, 40 state senate and 100 delegate seats in the commonwealth. The new districts are scheduled to be adopted next month and will remain in place until 2021.

"We really appreciate what you are doing — not looking at partisan kinds of issues. We need to avoid as much as possible any type of gerrymandering," said Julia Pfaff, who lives in the Hayfield area and is active with Virginia No Labels, a group that advocates against political partisanship.

A FEW COMMITTEE members nodded in agreement during Pfaff's comments. Unfortunately, the committee members don't actually have any authority to take the political gamesmanship out of political redistricting.

Following the 2008 presidential election, Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) — who was then just a candidate for his current office — said he was in favor of non-partisan redistricting. His Democratic opponent, state Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25), was also in favor of turning over the power to create political districts to an independently appointed committee at the time.

After being elected in a landslide, McDonnell cooled to the idea of nonpartisan redistricting. He formed only an advisory committee — did not back legislation that would create an independent commission with power — and gave the current committee few financial resources and minimal staff.

Democratic Majority Leader and Fairfax County state Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35) has indicated that Democratically controlled Senate and Republican controlled House of Delegates have a gentleman's agreement in place to focus on their own branch of the legislature and not interfere with each other's lines.

SASLAW'S characterization of the process stands in sharp contrast to how citizens who spoke at this week's hearing wanted to see the process move forward.

"The league would prefer a situation where you didn't consider the addresses of incumbents," said Therese Martin, who has worked on redistricting studies for The League of Women Voters of Virginia.

"The people of Virginia deserve better. They deserve fair and sensible legislative districts," said Martin, who lives in Reston.

Martin and Arlington Del. Bob Brink (D-48) also advocated for trying to align political districts with natural community boundaries, even if that makes a district less competitive.

Reston, for example, is within the bounds of one compact delegate seat. The seat is not very competi-

PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION



Gov. Robert McDonnell's advisory commission on redrawing political districts heard from the public during a hearing at George Mason University March 15. The commission can only make recommendations but has no power over the redistricting process, which is largely controlled by the Virginia General Assembly.

tive, but that reflects the values of Reston, which votes overwhelmingly Democratic, according to Martin.

In order to keep communities from being split into more than one political district, Brink said Virginia should allow for greater deviation in the size of district populations.

State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) agreed with Brink. "I think it is important for me that all of my constituents are within a 30-to-40-minute drive of me. You need to have access to your representative," said Petersen.

OTHER SPEAKERS encouraged the committee to take into account specific communities, and to try and create districts that would reflect a certain demographic group.

Virginia is required to comply with the federal voting rights act, which means that a certain number of districts — including one congressional seat — has to be drawn so the majority of people who are of voting age are African American. In order to comply with this rule, Virginia has to draw a least a few gerrymandered districts, which do not respect natural community boundaries, according to the commission members.

Approximately eight percent of Virginia residents are Latino, which should equate to 11 Latino representatives in the General Assembly. Unfortunately there are no Latino members of the state legislature, said Jaime Areizaga-Soto, vice president of the Democratic Latino Organization of Virginia.

Areizaga-Soto said Virginia's Latino population tends to be spread out and is not focused enough that there is an obvious political district even at the delegate level that could be drawn as a majority-Latino seat. But there are areas where Latinos in combination with African American or Asian American groups could form political districts that are over 50 percent minority voters.

For example, 58 percent of voting-age population in the 49th district of the Virginia House of Delegates is an ethnic minority. Areizaga-Soto hopes this district, represented by Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49), will not be redrawn to become a majority white district.

9 Things You Must Know Before Putting Your Home Up for Sale

Washington, D.C. A new report has just been released which reveals the 7 costly mistakes most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you to avoid them and sell your home fast and for the most money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional approaches to selling homes have become increasingly less effective in today's complex and fast paced society. The fact of the matter is that three quarters of home sellers don't get what they want for their homes, become disillusioned and — worse — financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report shows, most home sellers

make the same 7 deadly mistakes costing them thousands of dollars needlessly. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a FREE, Special Report called, "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar."

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OPINION

Opportunity about To Be Squandered

Once-a-decade redistricting offers a chance to do it right; no one with power seems interested.

Have you seen what our political districts look like? It's as if the clown who makes balloon animals has gone mad. And it could be amusing if it didn't matter so much.

Our once-a-decade exercise in partisan hubris is about to unfold. Next week we'll likely see proposals that seek to protect Democratic seats in the Virginia Senate, Republican seats in the Virginia House of Delegates. The status quo in Fairfax County will get another 10-year term. Virginia's incumbents in Congress will get some reassuring padding, even if it means districts that look like boa constrictors that are digesting a couple of meals and have been run over by a car in one or two places.

We are not likely to see districts that best represent residents. No one with power is talking about how to draw lines that increase voter participation and citizen involvement.

Political districts should be drawn by a non-partisan commission that looks at providing communities with representation that works. What works is keeping communities of inter-

est together, so that one town or community is encompassed in some of its political districts. Each resident is represented locally by one member of Congress, a state senator, a state delegate, and then by a county board or city or town council.

EDITORIAL

The Democratically-controlled Senate and Republican-controlled House of Delegates appear to have a gentleman's agreement in place to focus on their own branch of the legislature and not interfere with each other's lines. So Democrats will gerrymander the senate lines and Republicans will gerrymander the delegate lines.

In Northern Virginia, many of these districts sprawl and crawl out like amoebas to capture a given precinct if it will help or hurt partisan balance. Instead districts should be designed for good representation, shared high school boundaries, shared land use concerns, shared traffic challenges, shared public safety concerns. It's unrealistic to think that part-time legislators will be able to master the nuances and needs that spread out across three or more jurisdictions, as some delegate districts do.

Delegate districts in particular are the small-

est unit of representation for many people, with about 80,000 residents to be included in the newly drawn districts. These districts can and should focus compactly on communities.

Meanwhile, in Fairfax County local government, the likely outcome of redistricting will be the status quo, with nine supervisor districts, even though Fairfax County's population has grown by more than 10 percent and so could easily support another district. An additional district would allow for elected officials, both supervisors and school board members, to focus on a smaller number of residents, roads, schools and issues. Fairfax should also consider adding a couple of at-large seats in the future to balance the power of a single supervisor.

Arlington's county board is elected entirely at-large, but should consider changing to have some political districts that could broaden representation for minorities — ethnic minorities, economic minorities and political minorities.

No one actually making decisions seems to be interested in creating districts that best represent the residents of the districts.

— MARY KIMM,

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Virginia in the Nation

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



COMMENTARY

Virginia spends less on per-pupil funding K-12 than does the state of Mississippi, according to an editorial in the Roanoke Times last week. Not much less; but less along with twelve other states that spend less than Mississippi, the state that has always been thought to be the bottom rung on the ladder for school funding. Virginia's state per pupil funding of \$4,840 was significantly less than the national average of \$6,139 and less than Maryland at \$6,503 and West Virginia at \$6,116. Our rank of 38th lowest is a drop from being the 33rd lowest in 2006-07.

Of course, public education is a

partnership between the state and local governments in Virginia and in most states. The numbers above are only part of the story. To understand the full story, one needs also to consider local funding. Virginia's budget is based on a split of the costs of schools with the state on the average paying 55 percent and the local government paying 45 percent. The actual monies a locality receives is based on its wealth as measured by a composite index. Wealthy communities must pay up to 80 percent of their education costs while the poorest localities may pay as little

as 20 percent of educational costs. In practice, however, the state has seldom reached its average of 55 percent. In 2007-08, before the full impact of the recession, Virginia was providing only 41 percent of K-12 revenue; localities had to pick up 53 percent rather than 45 percent. The federal government provided 6 percent of revenue. Put all the sources of revenue together and Virginia's \$11,080 per pupil funding is slightly above the national average of \$11,004.

As you have already figured out, if the state is not providing its required share the localities must make up the difference. That is why the Commonwealth ranks 12th in local per-pupil funding. Local school boards and local supervisors attempt to preserve their schools as much as they can, and

when state revenue is not provided they have to provide more local money. The only source for major local revenue is the property tax. As property values have gone down tax rates have had to be adjusted upward to offset the loss of state revenue. While Richmond politicians brag about not raising taxes, they actually have in reality by forcing more and more school costs down to localities and onto the property tax payers' backs. Local communities pick up the difference because of their commitment to quality schools.

If you want to check the source of any of these numbers, go to www.jlarc.virginia.gov. Go to the publication, "Virginia Compared to Other States, 2011." I will address other comparisons in future columns.

BULLETIN BOARD

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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.

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Fairfax County Mega Job and Entrepreneurship Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fairfax County Government

Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Major area employers, employment experts and skill workshops.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/news/mega-job-fair-employers.htm)

Hunter Mill Community Meeting on the FY 2012 Budget. 9 a.m. Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. One of two meetings in the Hunter Mill district to review the proposed FY 2012 budget. With

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins and County budget staff, Hunter Mill budget committee members, and School Board representative Stu Gibson. Assistance with tax relief program for senior and disabled citizens also be available. hntmill@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SUNDAY/MARCH 27

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group. 6 p.m. Sunrise of Reston, 1778 Fountain Drive, Reston. 703-

956-8934.

TUESDAY/MARCH 29

"Race to Nowhere." 6:30 p.m. South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. A film about the high-pressure culture in schools and children's lives. Preview at www.racetonowhere.com. \$10 pre-sale, \$15 at the door, available at <http://rtnsouthlakeshigh.eventbrite.com>.

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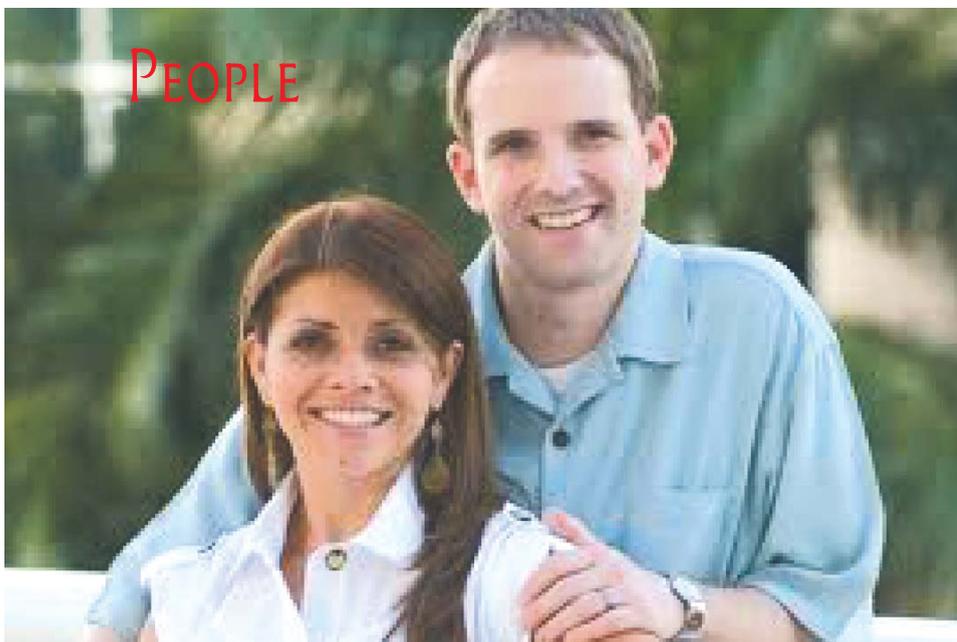
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PEOPLE



Brett Burks and his wife Andrea.

Two Guys and a Truck Changes Hands

Ownership of the Two Guys and a Truck changed hands last week as Brett Burks completed the acquisition of the corporation's assets and the franchisor's trademarks including trade names, logos, service marks, and franchise agreements.

Born and raised in Herndon, Burks said the company's location was appealing, along with fact that he was familiar with moving. Between semesters at Virginia Tech, he worked part-time as a mover before graduating and going on to a career in financial services with Primerica, eventually rising to the position of Regional Vice President.

"We're going to make moving fun," he said. "Think Disney meets moving... it's going to be a wonderful ride."

Two Guys and a Truck is a professional, moving and storage franchise offering a full range of residential, commercial and government services from local moving to national and international shipping and storage. With Corporate Headquarters in Northern Virginia, the Company has franchise locations in Maryland, Virginia, and has been in the moving and storage business, specializing since 1987. For more, visit www.2gt.com or call 703-657-1406.

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From left, volunteers Claudia Patil, Barbara Burleson and Dennis Coffer sort and price housewares Saturday at The Closet, which just re-opened for Spring.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/ THE CONNECTION

Re-Opening The Closet

Nonprofit thrift store stocks new merchandise for Spring.

By ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Many people dream of retirement that involves a warm locale and taking up hobbies they didn't have the time to pursue before. When Barbara Burleson of Reston was working as a math teacher at Chantilly High School, she had a slightly different goal.

"I was always so jealous of my friends that had time to volunteer, I always wanted to work at The Closet," said Burleson, referring to the nonprofit thrift shop in downtown Herndon.

Now Burleson is able to live her dream, and she is one of dozens of volunteers who helped sort incoming goods for the spring re-opening of The Closet last Saturday.

The Closet has cleared out their winter gear and restocked the shelves with clothing for warmer weather and new stock. Volunteers spent most of last week completely cleaning the store as well as putting out new merchandise.

Burleson says she loves going over the boxes and boxes of donated items and seeing what they can find.

"It's fun to see what comes in here, a lot of it is stuff you would never see anywhere else," she said. "Sometimes it can be very expensive stuff that people just can't keep for whatever reason, and it's picked up by someone who will appreciate it."

Burleson remembers seeing a copper Turkish-made hookah come in that was so ornate it looked like a piece of art.

Volunteer Annette Reed of



Maryam Tavava of Herndon, a volunteer at The Closet, sorts donated shoes in the back room during The Closet's Spring re-opening Saturday.

Reston said she enjoys the camaraderie between the volunteers as well.

"I love the people. The customers, the staff, the volunteers all of them," she said. "We're all here because we have something in common, we want to provide a service to this community. It's all about service to others."

While the shoppers lined up outside the door before the store's 10 a.m. opening Saturday, volunteers were already hard at work cataloging and pricing items. Others helped unload donated items from the rear of the store, where donors showed up in droves to drop items off.

Nathan Fisher, 14, a student at Franklin Middle School started volunteering to get his service hours, but ended up enjoying it as well.

"It was a fun way to get service

hours, the people are great and you see some cool stuff," he said. "The coolest thing I've seen was an old picture of a mummy. It looked like it could be in a museum."

Claudia Patil of Reston has been volunteering for the past eight years, and she is one of the volunteers who catalogue items.

"I love the whole idea that drives this place. We're recycling goods that people don't need or want anymore and giving them to people who might otherwise not be able to afford them," Patil said. "And the money that comes in goes to a good purpose. There's no downside here."

As a nonprofit, The Closet also gives away vouchers for shoes and clothing, as well as donating money to organizations such as Herndon-Reston FISH, the Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, the Embry Rucker Community Shelter and Kids R First. Last year alone they donated more than \$80,000 in free clothing and other necessities to needy families.

"Our overall mission is to provide these donated items at reasonable prices for the entire community," said Aaron Sawyer, the store manager. "All the donations we make to local programs come from sales from the store."

Burleson says she loves the idea that "all the money brought in here stays in this area to help local people."

The Closet also serves areas outside the Herndon-Reston.

The Closet is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and donations are accepted the same days from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Closet is located at 845 Station Street in Herndon, and can be found online at www.theclosetofgreaterherndon.org.

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/MARCH 23

Meet Borage the Iditarod Dog. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Learn more about the Iditarod with dog musher Karen Land and meet her dog, Borage. Age 6 and up. 703-689-2700.

Kick-off Meeting for Paint Herndon. 7:30 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Anyone interested in helping to plan this year's Paint Herndon Celebration and Art Competition is invited. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 24

Friends of the Oakton Library Book Sale. 1 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Wide selection, low prices. All ages. 703-242-4020.

Baby Steps Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Interactive storytime. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-689-2700.

FRIDAY/MARCH 25

"Thrill Me: the Leopold and Loeb Story." 8 p.m. The Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The story of Leopold and Loeb, the Chicago "Thrill Killers" of 1924. 703-481-5930 or www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

Mason Dance Company 2011 Gala Concert. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring work by Ohad Naharin, Lar Lubovitch, Robert Battle and Susan Shields. Tickets \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors, available at the Center for the Arts Box Office, open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., or at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." 8 p.m. CenterStage Theater in Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Six teens battle for the top prize in a musical about a spelling bee. Four audience members will be selected to play a cameo. If interested, sign up in the lobby at least 30 minutes before curtain time. Recommended for age 10 and up. Tickets \$18-\$21 at 703-476-4500 or www.rcp-tix.com.

Friends of the Oakton Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Wide selection, low prices. All ages. 703-242-4020.

Reston Chapter of Quilter's Unlimited: Quilt Auction. 6:30 p.m. Armstrong Elementary School, 11900 Lake Newport Road, Reston. Live and silent auctions of a wide variety of items, including things for non-quilters. Proceeds help Reston QU give free quilting lessons and workshops. Free admission and refreshments. MaryjSpence@aol.com

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Ballet and Bordeaux: An Evening of Classical Elegance. 6 p.m. The Center for Innovative Technology, 2214 Rock Hill Road, Herndon. The Classical Ballet Theatre annual celebration of the arts and fundraising event. www.cbntva.org

"Thrill Me: the Leopold and Loeb Story." 8 p.m. The Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The story of Leopold and Loeb, the Chicago "Thrill Killers" of



The Weekend Bluegrass Concert Series presents the Blue Moon Cowgirls on Saturday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road in Herndon. Vocal harmonies and solid instrumentals that harken back to when country music was really "country". Tickets are \$12. www.bluemooncowgirls.com.

1924. 703-481-5930 or www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

Mason Dance Company 2011 Gala Concert. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring work by Ohad Naharin, Lar Lubovitch, Robert Battle and Susan Shields. Tickets \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors, available at the Center for the Arts Box Office, open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., or at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

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Friends of the Oakton Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Wide selection, low prices. All ages. 703-242-4020.

A Staged Reading of "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and a Prayer." 8 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The play explores the way violence affects us all. V-Day is a global movement to end violence against women and girls. V-Day Oakton 2011 beneficiaries are Men Can Stop Rape and Dating Abuse Stops Here (DASH). Tickets \$10-\$25, available at vdayoakton2011.weebly.com.

Fairfax Swing Band. 8 p.m. Fairfax High School Auditorium, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. A big band in the style of Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey, with the Main Street Community Band, a symphonic wind ensemble. \$15 adults, \$9 seniors, free admission for age 18 and younger. www.fairfaxband.org or 703-757-0220.

SUNDAY/MARCH 27

Red Shoe Run & Walk 5K. Race begins 9 a.m. at 2303 Dulles Station Blvd., Herndon. "Kid's Run" begins 10 a.m. Prizes for walkers and runners. Adults \$35, children \$20. Team and family discounts. Proceeds benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Washington D.C. Register at www.redshoe5K.org or 703-698-7080.

Author Alan Orloff. 2 p.m. Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 1851 Fountain Drive, Reston. As part of Hadassah's Read Right Now event, local Orloff will read and discuss "Diamonds for the Dead." 703-437-9490.

Chez Nous Reston Salon presents

Today's Pakistani Woman: From Barred Doors to the Height of Power, featuring novelist Jacqueline St. Joan, author of "My Sisters Made of Light," Nuchhi Currier, President, Woman's National Democratic Club and Lisa Curtis, South Asia Policy Analyst, The Heritage Foundation. Tickets \$35, full buffet. \$45 at the door. Sunset Hills Montessori School 11180 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. cheznoureston@gmail.com or 571-235-3556.

MONDAY/MARCH 28

Michael O'Hanlon, Director of Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution. 8 p.m. Northern

Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. The United States' national security and defense policy analyst will speak on The Limits of Foreign Policy.

Reconsidering the Future Role of the U. S. in World Affairs. Free and open to the public. 703-435-1226.

Easy Reader Book Discussion, Level 2. 3 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Read aloud and enjoy a related craft. Call for title. Age 6-7. 703-689-2700.

ESL For Jobs. 6 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. English conversation and job skills. Adults. 703-689-2700.

TUESDAY/MARCH 29

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Adults. 703-242-4020.

All About Bugs Preschool Storytime. 7 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Stories and rhymes. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-437-8855.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 30

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 3 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Adults. 703-242-4020.

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

Entry deadline for the "At Home in Herndon" Town Calendar. 5 p.m. The competition is open to professional and amateur photographers aged 16 or older. Go to www.artspaceherndon.org and click

on the Classes, Workshops, and Calls for Art link.

FRIDAY/APRIL 1

The Virginia Opera: Puccini's "Madama Butterfly." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.

"Thrill Me: the Leopold and Loeb Story." 8 p.m. The Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The story of Leopold and Loeb, the Chicago "Thrill Killers" of 1924. 703-481-5930 or www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

"Thrill Me: the Leopold and Loeb Story." 8 p.m. The Elden Street Players at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The story of Leopold and Loeb, the Chicago "Thrill Killers" of 1924. 703-481-5930 or www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

Something Different 2011. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The Elden Street Players, Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Four short improvised plays for young audiences, including The Gingerbread Man, The Cracked Pot, The Pied Piper and The Rabbit's Judgment. Written and directed by Holly Harrington. \$7. 703-481-5930 or www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

Artist Christine Lashley. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Art demonstration 2-3 p.m., opening reception and gallery talk 3-5 p.m. for the "Artist in the Garden" exhibit. Free and open to the public. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

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PHOTO BY NISA KATZ/THE CONNECTION

Herndon High School winning team included: Wael Elmisurati, Amanda Bostwick, Manar El-Hadad, Daquan Page, Solomon Dixon, Adam Parks, Jessica Robinson, Sumayya Sulaiman, Katie Patrum, Izaba Sarabi, Sheena Okai, Ryan Withers, Destinee Beckham, Sotheary Un, Nika Bennett, Domonique Collins, Misha Handy, Samhita Nelamangala, Gary Bushrod (coach), Brian Henriquez, Lia-Marie Marmolejos, Qadera Malveaux, Shammah Okai, Claudia Gomez, Julia Diaz-Perez, Nisma Aly, Asha Begum

Herndon High Wins Step Competition

Youth Step USA and South Lakes High School hosted the first ever DC/MD/VA Regional Step Competition. Herndon High School took first place, while Osbourn Park High School took second, and Domin-

ion High School took third. These teams will continue to step up their game at Nationals in Harrisburg, Pa. on May 28.

—NISA KATZ



PHOTO BY JOHN REES

Pictured, from left, top row: Rachel Thompson, Hailey Corkery, Katie Rees, Charlotte DeWolfe, Savanna Salassi, Talley Murphy, Ashley Birman, Michael Feldman, Alina Zufall. Bottom row: Kevin Salassi, Zachary Klein, Sarah Delcoco, Annie Begley, Andrew Rifken, and Jessica Ashworth

Dodgeball Theatre Presents 'Places'

Dodgeball Theatre's Teen Ensemble is now in its third year. Under the direction of Haley Murphy and Heide Zufall, the troupe has developed a completely original work entitled "Places," which will begin local performances next month.

Each year Dodgeball Theatre's Teen Ensemble develops and performs an original work that combines monologues, movement pieces, scenes and other theatrical elements to share the actors' teen perspective on the world around them. The material is created by the members of the troupe, aged 12 to 17.

"One of our objectives is to allow other teens and pre-teens the opportunity to see how they are all connected. The audience members may not have the exact same experiences that our performers do, but they can hopefully relate to the emotions and feelings behind the experiences," said Dodgeball Director Haley Murphy.

"Places" addresses the loss of innocence that happens all too early in the lives of today's young people. According to Murphy and co-director Heide Zufall, the theme emerged from the improvisational work and writing that the teens

shared each week. Once the material was generated, the actors were able to work on the dramatic development of the show, incorporating music and photography as well.

"Working as an ensemble allows the actors to develop a level of trust they might not otherwise have. This enables them to really push their creative boundaries while exploring very personal ideas," said Murphy.

This year's troupe consists of 15 local teenagers from area schools. The teens auditioned to be placed in the troupe in October, and have been working together for the past four months to develop their show.

"Places" will have a premiere performance as a work in progress on April 8 at the GRACE art gallery in Reston, as part of their "Emerging Visions" month. Performances will also include April 30 at the Artistree Studio in Herndon, May 1 at the Great Falls Festival, May 6 at the Artspace Herndon gallery, and June 12 at the Cascades Library in Sterling. Dodgeball Theatre is in residence at Artistree Studios in Herndon.

HOME SALES

In February 2011, 56 homes sold between \$1,030,000-\$105,500 in the Herndon and Oak Hill area. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,030,000-\$490,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
1184 BROAD CREEK PL	4	4	1		HERNDON	\$1,030,000	Detached	0.83		CARIS GLENNE
12803 NETHERLEIGH PL	4	4	1		OAK HILL	\$955,000	Detached	0.29		OAK HILL MANORS
1068 CEDAR CHASE CT	5	4	1		HERNDON	\$880,000	Detached	0.66		CEDAR CHASE
3110 PINE OAKS WAY	6	4	1		HERNDON	\$875,000	Detached	1.86		PINE OAKS
1407 NORTHPOINT GLEN CT	4	4	1		HERNDON	\$757,000	Detached	0.28		NORTH POINT GLEN
13110 LOU ALICE WAY	4	3	1		OAK HILL	\$734,900	Detached	0.34		SMITHSFIELD AT WEST OX
13591 COBRA DR	4	3	1		HERNDON	\$624,950	Detached	0.51		CHANTILLY HIGHLANDS
13312 LOCKGATE PL	4	2	2		HERNDON	\$590,000	Detached	0.25		FRANKLIN FARM
12111 SNOW SHOE CT	5	3	1		HERNDON	\$581,500	Detached	0.57		SUGAR CREEK
1504 MEADOW CHASE DR	5	4	1		HERNDON	\$575,000	Detached	0.22		KINGSTREAM
3123 NESTLEWOOD DR	4	3	1		OAK HILL	\$570,000	Detached	0.21		FRANKLIN FARM
2714 CALKINS RD	5	2	1		OAK HILL	\$560,000	Detached	0.47		MONEYS CORNER
3215 GREENSTONE WAY	4	4	0		OAK HILL	\$545,000	Detached	0.24		CHANTILLY HIGHLANDS
1521 KINGSTREAM CIR	6	3	1		HERNDON	\$540,000	Detached	0.20		KINGSTREAM
13204 HUGHSMITH WAY	4	3	1		OAK HILL	\$535,000	Detached	0.22		CHANTILLY HIGHLANDS
13460 LAKE SHORE DR	4	3	1		OAK HILL	\$530,000	Detached	0.24		SPRING LAKE ESTATES WEST
1022 PAGE CT	4	2	2		HERNDON	\$506,250	Detached	0.23		BENICIA ESTATES
13225 LADYBANK LN	3	3	1		HERNDON	\$490,000	Detached	0.21		CHANTILLY HIGHLANDS

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

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1902 Crescent Park Dr...\$399,000.....Sun. 1-4...Kathy Shipley.....Long & Foster.....703-407-9518
 11711 Stillbrook Ct.....\$387,500.....Sun. 1-4...Peggy Hamaker.....K.D. Hamaker Properties...703-533-1188
 11591 Maple Ridge Rd...\$349,000.....Sun. 1-4...Robert Chevez.....Keller Williams.....703- 679-1700

Herndon

3225 Brynwood Place...\$599,950.....Sun. 1-4...Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert.....703-862-8808
 754 Barbaralynn Pl.....\$379,900.....Sun 1-4...Kevin LaRue.....Century 21.....703-217-6665

Vienna

9450 Deramus Farm Ct...\$1,449,000.....Sun 1-4...Dianne Van Volkenburg...Weichert.....703-980-4553
 601 Plum St.....\$782,500.....Sun 1-4...Lauren Sobol.....Realty Investments..703-615-5812

Oakton

11305 Walnut Creek Ct...\$1,325,000.....Sun 1-4...Ashley White.....TTR Sothebys.....703-431-1705

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905 Falls Bridge Lane.....\$900,000.00.....Sun 1-4...Marc Cormier.....Keller Williams.....703-679-1754
 754 Ellsworth Avenue.....\$1,699,999.00..Sun 1-4...Dianne Van Volkenburg...Weichert.....703-980-4553
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21925 Gullane Way.....\$544,900.....Sun. 1-4...Diana LeFrancois.....Century 21.....703-930-6682

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43718 Moorland Ct.....\$983,500.....Sun 1-3...Carmelle Shea.....C21 Redwood.....703-728-1862

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 P.M.

County Could Add a New Seat

But 120,000 new residents likely to be absorbed into current supervisor districts.

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Advisory Citizens Reapportionment Committee will forward 25 redistricting plans to the Board of Supervisors on March 29, but will recommend no reduction or addition of supervisory districts and will back only size and precinct changes, according to Katherine K. Hanley.

Hanley, chairwoman of the committee, said after its nearly two months of meetings, the commission voted not to add or subtract a district because the 120,000 population rise didn't warrant dramatic change "and the districts were not very out of balance."

She said the cost of creating a new district (estimated at \$1 million) would have come at time that the county is experiencing serious budget deficits.

She said the committee followed two principles on redistricting of county districts: "there is to be as little disruption of the lives of the people of Fairfax" as possible and disparity between district populations must be dramatic to warrant dramatic change.

"The districts were substantially all near the same level" and the "numbers didn't dictate huge upheavals."

In the new 2010 census, the largest district is Mount Vernon with a population of 127,501 and the smallest is Mason District with a population of 109,326.

Anne Kanter, who represented the League of Women Voters on the committee, said that the movement of voter precincts would be relatively small.

"Dranesville is likely to get one from Hunter Mill (second largest district with 126,594 people) and Mount Vernon will have to lose a precinct to Lee District," she said.

The committee received 25 plans for redistricting. Nineteen called for keeping the present 9 district size, two sought 10 districts and one recommended a plan for 11 districts.

The plans will go to the Board of Supervisors without names, Kanter said, to prevent the name of the author influencing the board decision.

Target Population Size for Supervisor Districts: 120,192

Summarized Population Counts by Current Supervisor Districts

Supervisor District	Deviation from Target Population	Total Population	White alone	Black or African American alone	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	Asian alone	Other Race	Hispanic or Latino
Braddock	-7.3%	111,430	73,219	6,593	369	20,791	10,458	17,530
<i>Percent of total</i>			65.7%	5.9%	0.3%	18.7%	9.4%	15.7%
Dranesville	-3.8%	115,586	81,963	4,884	360	18,267	10,112	15,122
<i>Percent of total</i>			70.9%	4.2%	0.3%	15.8%	8.7%	13.1%
Hunter Mill	5.3%	126,594	84,989	9,727	353	21,736	9,789	13,096
<i>Percent of total</i>			67.1%	7.7%	0.3%	17.2%	7.7%	10.3%
Lee	-1.8%	117,984	62,721	20,616	618	15,958	18,071	27,668
<i>Percent of total</i>			53.2%	17.5%	0.5%	13.5%	15.3%	23.5%
Mason	-9.0%	109,326	58,975	12,220	668	18,513	18,950	32,058
<i>Percent of total</i>			53.9%	11.2%	0.6%	16.9%	17.3%	29.3%
Mount Vernon	6.1%	127,501	77,931	22,111	463	14,012	12,984	18,292
<i>Percent of total</i>			61.1%	17.3%	0.4%	11.0%	10.2%	14.3%
Providence	2.6%	123,327	75,028	7,063	467	28,387	12,382	19,131
<i>Percent of total</i>			60.8%	5.7%	0.4%	23.0%	10.0%	15.5%
Springfield	4.6%	125,775	86,463	8,217	283	22,845	7,967	10,977
<i>Percent of total</i>			68.7%	6.5%	0.2%	18.2%	6.3%	8.7%
Sully	3.3%	124,203	76,701	7,787	303	29,152	10,260	14,608
<i>Percent of total</i>			61.8%	6.3%	0.2%	23.5%	8.3%	11.8%
Fairfax County		1,081,726	677,990	99,218	3,884	189,661	110,973	168,482
<i>Percent of total</i>			62.7%	9.2%	0.4%	17.5%	10.3%	15.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File.

This graph shows the population growth in the Fairfax County supervisors' districts.

All 25 plans with a cover letter containing the committee's conclusions will be delivered to the Board of Supervisors on March 29. The board will advertise all the plans and committee conclusions and a public hearing will be conducted on April 12.

On April 26, the board will adopt a redistricting plan. It can follow the committee's recommendations, choose any one of the 25 plans, or create its own plan.

Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) has said she doubted that a new district would be created and there seemed no chance the number of districts would be reduced.

The timing from then on is crucial. Virginia is one a few states with an election on the same year as the new census comes out. The primary new primary date moved from June to Aug. 23.

Fairfax County (and several other Virginia jurisdictions) must forward its plan to the Department of Justice under a section of the Voting Rights Act; to have it certified. The DOJ has 60 days to respond.

Michael Long, office of the County Attorney, who worked on redistricting, said if it arrived by April 28, DOJ might return it by June 28. Ballots then could be printed.

Absentee ballots for all county residents abroad or overseas in the military must be

ready by 45 days before the election or July 8, 2011.

Fairfax County has far less population growth than Loudoun and Prince William counties.

ONE GROUP that publicly sought to form a new district was the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce which covers lower Mount Vernon and Lee districts. Chamber President Tom Riser said that in 1990 districts had some 90,000 citizens and supervisors could manage the needs of constituents far more completely. Now Mount Vernon has some 127,501 citizens which makes it a much larger administrative area.

Rise said Gerry Hyland, the current supervisor is widely respected, but it will soon be time to redraw the lines.

"Gerry has been phenomenal juggler, but ... there is no way to represent your district well when you have 125,000 residents," Riser said.

Hyland confirmed recently that he would seek reelection.

But Riser said he had been briefed on how the committee had ruled and he was still fully satisfied. "It gave us a chance to call attention to the enormous growth down here and it will lay the base for the future."

Mount Vernon is expected to have continuing growth with many new residents coming in as

SCHOOL NOTES

Michelle LoRusso, a rising senior at Oakton High School has been selected to represent Virginia as a National Youth Correspondent to the 2011 Washington Journalism and Media Conference at George Mason University. LoRusso joins a select group of students from all over the country for an intensive study of journalism and media. LoRusso was chosen based on academic accomplishments and a demonstrated interest and excellence in journalism and media studies.

With distinguished faculty, guest speakers, and direct access to elite D.C. practitioners, The Washington Journalism and Media conference offers aspiring journalists and student leaders an unparalleled experience. The Washington Journalism and Media Conference will be held July 10-July 15, 2011.

Herndon High School students **Patrick Miller** and **Zach Ward** made the All Virginia Orchestra and **Matt Larson**, **Ryan Little**, **Kat Lopes**, and **Caitlin Williams** made the All-Virginia Band and Orchestras. **Kevin Hopkins** is an alternate on English horn. These students will perform at Charlottesville HS on April 9.

Robert Snow of Herndon received a bachelor of science in recreation and parks management from Frostburg State University, Frostburg, Md.

Oak Hill residents **John Thomas Palmisano**, **Alison Virginia Silkworth** and **Molly Caitlin McKee** have been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Miami University of Oxford, Ohio.

Lila Herk Rieber of Herndon was named to the fall 2010 honors list at Mary Baldwin College of Staunton, Va.

Herndon residents **Nicholas Jacobs** and **Yoshinori Takeda** have been named to the fall 2010 president's list at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg.

Katherine Diemer of Oak Hill was named to the fall 2010 president's list at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg.

Oak Hill residents **Alex Harper** and **Jodi Lebolt** have been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Washington and Lee University of Lexington, Va.

Taylor Malone of Herndon was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Washington and Lee University of Lexington, Va.

Kevin Wright of Oak Hill was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Frostburg State University of Frostburg, Md.

David Wheeler of Herndon has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Berklee College Of Music of Boston, Mass.

Miranda Smith of Herndon has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Roger Williams University of Bristol, R.I.

Genevieve Freeman of Oak Hill has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore.

Alexandra Ross Ruth of Herndon has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

Ashley Jensen of Herndon has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Marist College of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

BULLETIN BOARD

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

Operation School Bell Weekend Food for Kids. 9:30 a.m. Hoop Magic, 1480 Murdock St., Chantilly. Assistance League of Northern Virginia is looking for volunteers to help pack 500 food bags for students in Fairfax and Prince William counties. The League is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to promoting literacy and well-being through community-based programs. 703-591-2312 or

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

www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 4

Haven Volunteer Bereavement Training. Haven of Northern Virginia, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. from April 4 -15. 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.
American Red Cross Class Resignation. 8:30 a.m. Reston Association, 12001 Sunrise Valley

Drive, Reston. Classes include lifeguard training (initial certification), lifeguard training review (recertification) and CPR/AED for lifeguards (recertification). www.reston.org or aquaticsinfo@reston.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 6

De-Escalating Behaviors at Home. 9 p.m. The Auburn School, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon. With Margarita Benavides, Behavior

Support Specialist. www.theauburnschool.org/forms.

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

Casino Royale Evening and Fundraiser. 8 p.m. Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Clubhouse Road, Reston. Includes two cocktails, heavy appetizers, casino chips, dancing and a D.J. Silent auction includes over 70 items ranging in value from \$30-\$7000. \$85 per person. Sponsored by Oakton Elementary School PTA.

COMMUNITY

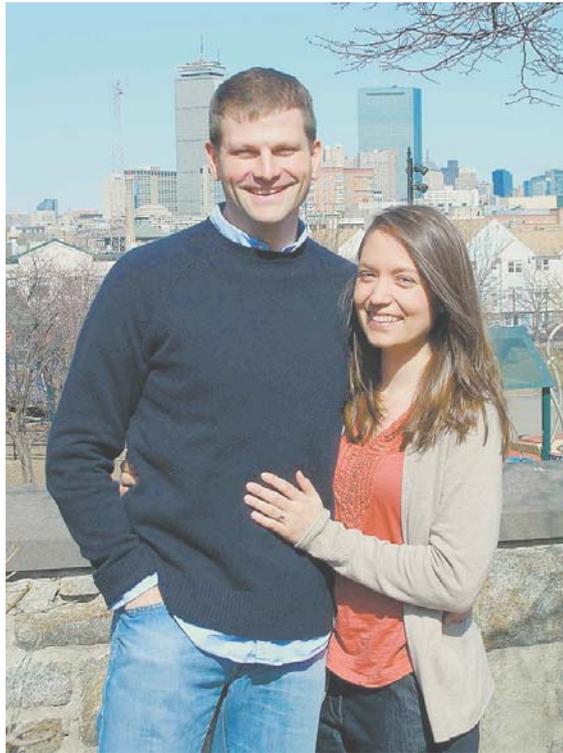
Sara Elizabeth Beese and Joshua Joyner Sims Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Beese of Herndon are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Sara Elizabeth Beese to Joshua Joyner Sims, son of Mrs. Nina Sims of Tallahassee, Fla. and Dr. Joyner Sims of Atlanta, Ga.

Sara, a 2001 Herndon High School graduate, was a Schreyer Honors Scholar at the Pennsylvania State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 2005. She received her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Johns Hopkins University in 2010.

Josh graduated from Marianna High School in Florida in 1996, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Florida in 2000. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tanzania for two years and then resumed his education, earning a PhD in Biophysics from Johns Hopkins University in 2009.

Dr. Beese and Dr. Sims currently hold postdoctoral research positions at Harvard Medical School and reside in Cambridge, Mass. A wedding celebration is planned for April 17 in Baltimore.



Joshua Joyner Sims and Sara Elizabeth Beese

ArtSpace Announces Photography Competition Winners

The March exhibit at ArtSpace Herndon features the finalists of the 2011 Fine Art Photography Competition. Last Saturday night at the opening reception, Ed Hahn, Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts board member, greeted the patrons and introduced the photographers. The winners of the competition were announced by juror Erin Antognoli.

Antognoli gave a brief gallery talk about her philosophy as juror. "Everyone comes to art with a different perspective; that's the beauty of it." She said her desire is to discover images that are different; i.e. "had something new," and she was not disappointed.

The following photographs were selected as winners:

First Place: *Brotherhood, Study 1* by **George Borden**

In comments about the first place winner, Antognoli mentioned how difficult portraiture is and that this particular image moved her.

Second Place: *Dunmore, Pennsylvania June 2010,* by **D. B. Stovall**

Third Place: *Lifeboat Station* by **Jeff Miller**

The second place winner made her chuckle at the words on the building and then she was taken



First Place winner: Brotherhood, Study 1 by George Borden.

by the composition and color.

The third place winner was not evident to Antognoli until she saw it hung in the exhibition and was impressed by the tonal qualities of the print of the lifeboat station.

The exhibit runs through Sunday, March 27, 2011 in the Post Gallery at ArtSpace Herndon is

free and open to the public.

ArtSpace Herndon is located near the Fortnightly Library and W&OD Bike Trail in downtown Herndon at 750 Center Street. The Post Gallery is open Tuesday - Thursday 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 12-5 p.m. Call 703-956-6590.

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

put passion into career plans. \$35 registration fee, \$25 members. www.thewomenscenter.org.

Luncheon Meeting. 11:30 a.m. Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. With Bart Goldstein on "Ways to Make Your Home Comfortable as Your Needs Change and How to Declutter and De-stress." \$17. Reserve by March 24 at 703-435-3523.

MONDAY/MARCH 28
NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241

BULLETIN BOARD

THURSDAY/MARCH 24

Match Your Head to Your Heart. 7 p.m. Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Identify strengths and interests, choose an industry and position to

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Excuse Me



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I want to use my having cancer as an excuse, but let's be honest: it's a pretty good one to have, as far as excuses are concerned. So far as diseases are concerned, however, it's a lousy one, which ironically is the indisputable reason why it's such a good excuse – for almost anything.

Part of my learning to live with my cancer diagnosis/prognosis has been self-discipline – not giving into it, if at all possible; and trying not to use it as a reason to not do something that someone might want or need me to do. It's been extremely difficult, though, to maintain that balance between participating/paying for things that one would consider normal – under everyday-type non-terminal circumstances, and shutting down completely and not doing/paying for anything because I have cancer. "Playing the cancer card" is how Mary, my sponsor, has characterized this almost-reflex action over these last two years.

Generally speaking, it's nearly impossible to get me to do something now, that I don't want to do or am disinclined to even consider. In my subconscious, it's a battle between "Why bother? I have cancer" to "How is it going to benefit me?" And the longer I live with this insidious disease, the more focused on my own pursuits I become and the less flexible in accommodating other's intentions, the best of them though they may be.

If there were a switch to turn off the nonstop, cancer-dominated mindset, I would. It would make life so much easier. But when you have an ace in the hole – so to speak, or a Jeannie in a bottle or some magical power/possession (Lord of the Rings), the drain and demand on your emotional resources is incalculable. Sometimes, resistance is futile; you give in and are assimilated by The Borg. Other times, you find strength you didn't know you had and you persevere.

Having cancer is the ultimate trump card (with all due respect to "The Donald"). Practically speaking, how does one get a terminal patient to do something/anything that he or she doesn't want to do? It's almost a rhetorical question. After I say, "I don't feel like it;" how exactly are you going to make me "feel like it?" You can't! Because most of the time my subconscious is reminding me – although I really don't need a reminder, that I have cancer. Moreover, there's very little that can be said – or done to get me to forget that fact and do whatever, unless I can see – or be convinced somehow, that there is some cancer-related benefit to yours truly. Every day, I fight this selfish self-indulgence. But how can I forget my circumstances? I can't! How can I presume that there are some life-saving medical facts not yet in evidence? I can't! How can I not think that I'm going to pre-decease the people I love the most? I can't! How do I not act like every day could be my last – at age 56, even though my parents lived well into their 80's? Stage IV lung cancer; that's how, and why.

The weight of these emotions – and the wait until the premature end of my life empowers me, sort of. I have cancer, what's your excuse?

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

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For Young Herndon Baseball Team, Hopes are High

South Lakes looking to improve on last year's 6-win season.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

In many regards, Herndon High's 2010 baseball season was quite a success. The Hornets, who were under then-first year head coach Greg Miller, were in the running for the regular season Concorde District title right up to the final two weeks of the season before faltering in losses to district leaders Westfield and Centreville. Herndon ultimately lost its first round district playoff game to Oakton in extra innings to miss out on qualifying for the 16-team playoffs, which had been a goal throughout the season for the Hornets.

While there was disappointment as a result of not qualifying for regionals, Herndon did put together a fairly good overall season in Miller's first year at the helm. The program had struggled in prior years so the Hornets' 11-7 overall mark last spring was a breath of fresh air.

But the Hornets have graduated quite a number of players from last year's team, including 2010 First Team All-Concorde District selections Nick Impellizzeri (outfield), Dan Shill (pitcher), and Zach Reif (DH).

Miller's squad this spring consists of 15 players with no varsity experience. So 2011 will be a season in which talented but inexperienced players get their feet wet at the varsity level.

It could work either way this season. Herndon could surprise its district rivals and, with youthful gusto and enthusiasm, make a run at the regular season district crown. On the other hand, the Hornets could, perhaps, go through the normal growing pains of a younger squad and struggle to win consistently.

The great thing about baseball is, you just never know. Miller wants no part of a "wait until next year" mentality.

"Despite our youth, we still have high expectations this year," said Miller, whose squad consists of just three seniors. "Our defense will be much improved from last year, and we have competition at almost every position. We are hoping to build on the success we had last year. Although it was a good year,



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Herndon High baseball team, shown here during a game versus Centreville (in the field) last year, went 11-7 in 2010. The Hornets are a much younger squad this spring.

we certainly didn't meet one of our major goals of making the regional tournament. This year we not only expect to get to the tournament but we expect to make some noise once we get there."

Herndon certainly was impressive at its own season-opening Alan McCulloch Invitational last weekend, where the Hornets won both of their games - 8-0 over Fauquier High on Friday, and 3-2 over Kettle Run (Nokesville) on Saturday. The tournament is named after McCulloch, the popular, longtime former Herndon High baseball coach who stepped down following the 2009 season. The Hornets' home field diamond - Al McCulloch Field - is named in his honor.

Herndon's lineup consists of three returning starters in sophomore outfielder Ky Parrot, senior second baseman/pitcher Dylan Garten, and junior catcher Matt Smith.

Garten, a right-handed pitcher, recently accepted a scholarship to play baseball at Shepherd University (West Va.). Two Herndon High seniors from last year, Impellizzeri and Paul Hvozdic, are currently members of the Rams' baseball team.

Herndon has received good early season contributions thus far from juniors Chris Dugan (third base), pitcher/outfielder Tyler Reif, and pitcher/second baseman Addison Wright.

Reif, in Herndon's win over Fauquier last week, pitched a complete game one-hitter.

Next Wednesday night, March 30 at 6:30, Herndon will be at home against local rival South Lakes.

SOUTH LAKES HIGH is off to a 1-1 start. The Seahawks, under veteran head coach Galvin Morris,

competed at the McCulloch Invitational at Herndon last weekend. There, South Lakes lost a Friday evening game to Kettle Run, 6-0, then came back strong the following afternoon with a 10-4 win over Fauquier.

In the season-opener loss to Kettle Run, South Lakes tallied just one hit, that coming in the seventh inning off the bat of Billy McLaughlin, who was the lone base-runner of the game for the

Herndon Softball Team 2-0

The Herndon High varsity softball team is 2-0 early on this season, with wins coming at South Lakes, 4-0, on March 14, and at home over visiting Washington-Lee High (Arlington), 8-0, on March 16. Freshmen pitcher Sarah Kurtz was the winning pitcher for the Hornets in the victory over the Generals of W-L. Meanwhile, Michele Le was the winning pitcher in Herndon's win versus South Lakes. Herndon was scheduled to play at Park View High earlier this week on Monday, March 21. Its next game after that will be on April 1 at Loudoun Valley High at 5 p.m.

Seahawks.

South Lakes' starting pitcher John Beck pitched well in the loss, allowing three runs and two hits over five solid innings.

South Lakes got its bats going in Saturday's win over Fauquier. The Seahawks took command from the start by scoring five first inning runs and going on to their first victory of the season. Ryan Forrest, South Lakes' leadoff hitter, knocked around three hits in the game, including a solo home run and a double. Also for South Lakes, right fielder David Odlen and first baseman Austin Gibbons both contributed key hits and drove in three runs. Other good games came from McLaughlin (1 hit, 2 runs), Nick Beaulac (3 runs, RBI), Will Sweet (double, RBI), and Nathan Vellayan (1 hit).

Sweet was the winning pitcher, allowing two runs and five hits over four innings as the Seahawks' starter. Odlen pitched three innings in relief, striking out six.

South Lakes was scheduled to play Liberty District games this week versus visiting Langley on Tuesday, March 22, and at Stone Bridge this Friday night, March 25 at 6:30. Next Tuesday night, March 29 at 6:30, the Seahawks will play at home versus district opponent McLean. The next evening, Wednesday, March 30, South Lakes will play at Herndon.

South Lakes will be looking to improve on last year's 6-16 season. The Seahawks, at last year's district tournament, defeated Langley in a play-in game before seeing their season end with a 9-2 loss to Stone Bridge.



PHOTO BY NISA KATZ/THE CONNECTION

Soccer: Hornets Beat Seahawks, 3-0

South Lakes fights to keep up with Herndon and the ball. They kept the score 0-1 in the first half, until the second half when Herndon scored another two goals. Herndon Hornets defeat South Lakes Seahawks, 3-0. Pictured left to right: Peter Hutchins, Chris Czerwinski, Mohamed El Nahal, Salah Warid