

# Romney Addresses Technology Council

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Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney addresses members of the Northern Virginia Technology Council Friday, Feb. 10.

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

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## THE COUNTY LINE

# Fairfax County Considers Meals Tax Referendum

Revenue would be earmarked for transportation projects.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

Last week, it looked as if the Virginia General Assembly might give Fairfax County something it has craved for years: the ability to generate new revenue through user fees, such as tax on restaurant meals, which would drive down the County's reliance on property taxes.

"We had heard rumblings that the state might give us the authority to do that," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), chairman of the board's transportation committee. "That's how we started talking about a meals tax that would generate revenue for transportation upgrades."

But when McKay and several other supervisors went to Richmond last Thursday to review the bills coming out of the Virginia General Assembly, they spotted the stick that came with that carrot.

"Yes, they were saying, we'll give you this authority, but you also have to take responsibility for maintaining your roads," McKay said. "The other shoe dropping was basically the sound of devolution... That's what really infuriated me."

Virginia is one of three states in the country where the state, rather than local counties and municipalities, have the responsibility to maintain substantially all public roads. McKay said the pending legislation would transfer that maintenance responsibility to the County (a process known as devolution), but not return to the County any of the state tax revenues that currently pay for that maintenance.

"It's time for Fairfax County to stop being the state's ATM machine," McKay added. "The state continues every year to suck more money from Northern Virginia... We're not going to let the state off the hook for its responsibility to maintain our roads."

Rather than relying upon the Commonwealth to grant the County additional taxing authority to address anticipated budget shortfalls, Supervisors are now considering asking voters to approve a meals tax through a referendum. Such a referendum would not require additional authority from the General Assembly.

**A VOTER REFERENDUM** on a meals tax is an idea that gained bipartisan support during a two-day retreat for the board held last Monday and Tuesday, Feb 6-7, at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center.

Although similar referendums have failed in the past, supervisors say voters might approve the tax if they were assured the revenue would go directly to a specific list of transportation improvements, such as widening roads and building interchanges to reduce gridlock.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said a 4 percent tax on restaurant meals - something that Vienna, the City of Fairfax and Alexandria already do - could generate up to \$80 million a year over the next de-



Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) reviews goals during the Board of Supervisors retreat, held Feb. 6-7 at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center.

cade. He said there is also a potential \$150 million on the table from a list of transportation-related fees the board discussed in 2007.

"We had a pretty robust discussion of what it would take to meet our transportation needs," Cook said. He said the sobering financial picture presented by County Executive Tony Griffin revealed a \$300 - \$400 million gap "between what we need in Fairfax and what we would get under current law and budgets."

"If voters approved a meals tax referendum, we could start to close that gap. It's worth having a serious discussion about this," Cook said. But Cook stressed he has not come down one way or the other on the meals tax referendum, but he does want it to be part of the discussion.

"We have to wait and see what ends up passing in Richmond, We need to step back and let state have its session," Cook said. "There's all sorts of things flying around - an index tax, whether there's devolution or not - and we need to have a hand on the spoon stirring the pot. I have not endorsed it or rejected it."

**CHAIRMAN SHARON BULOVA** (D-at-large) said a meals tax could be a source of funding for road maintenance, education or tax diversification.

But Bulova also noted the precarious success rate of similar referendums in the past, when voters rejected tax increases in 1992 and 2002.

"A lot has changed since those referendums failed," Bulova said. "In my heart of hearts, I think we should have a meals tax because everyone around us has it. It levels the playing field."

Senator Chap Petersen (D-34) said even though Vienna and the City of Fairfax have 4 percent meal tax, "the board needs to really lobby the issue in order to get passage."

Bulova agreed, saying that community engagement is key to the success of any referendum.

"There's no way I would support putting a meals tax to a referendum without it being clearly defined. And we would have to have, if not support, then at least neutrality from restaurant associations."

"There was agreement on the board that this was the beginning of the discussion not the end," Bulova said. "Transportation funding is parked in future transportation meeting and budget committee meetings. We don't have an action plan yet."

**"It's time for Fairfax County to stop being the state's ATM machine."**

— Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee)

# Wolf's Crusade

Book tells his experiences with human rights violations around the world.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

As a public servant for more than 30 years, Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) has had his share of experiences. But it was a trip to Ethiopia in 1984 that he calls a "life changing experience," because it opened his eyes to human rights violations around the globe.

Since that trip, Wolf has traveled to the Sudan, Kabul, Romania, Beijing and more, witnessing some of the worst cruelty human beings are capable of. His travels inspired his recent book, "Prisoner of Con-

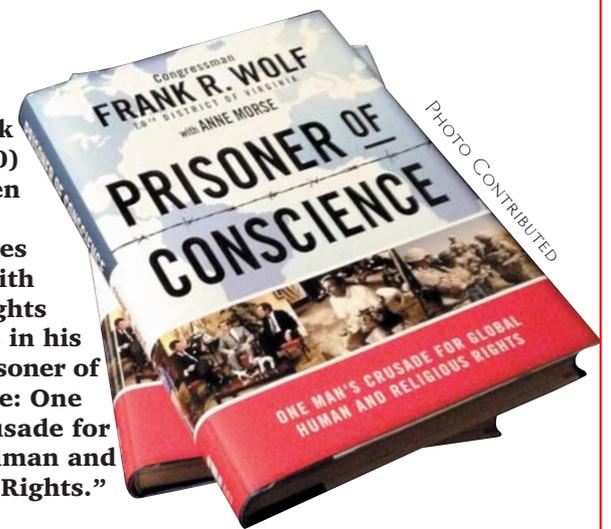
easier now than it's ever been, but the problem is at times there seems to be less interest."

Wolf's experiences don't all stretch back to ten, twenty, thirty years ago. He recalled going to Beijing for the 2008 Olympics to meet with some religious leaders, and found they had been recently attacked. Other situations haven't changed much either.

"The genocide in Darfur is still going on," he said. "You go over there right now, there would be women living in the same camps as they were the day I went there five years ago," he said.

He said he is frustrated at

**Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) has written about his experiences dealing with human rights violations in his book "Prisoner of Conscience: One Man's Crusade for Global Human and Religious Rights."**



science: One Man's Crusade for Global Human and Religious Rights," which tells the story of his efforts to bring these crimes to light.

"During the '80s, it seemed like there was always strong bipartisan support for human rights," Wolf said. "But I noticed at the end of the Bush administration, that really waned and during the beginning of the Obama administration the same thing happened."

Wolf said he has noticed the change that social media has brought about, especially with the uprisings in the Middle East over the last year, but he said it's a mixed blessing.

"We're almost hitting an information overload," he said. "It's very hard now for governments to keep things quiet, a lot what we're finding out about what's taking place in Syria is because of social media. If we want to be engaged and change these governments, I think it's

times with current attitudes towards human rights issues.

"There's less of a concern with these issues in the administration, and less of a concern in congress in both political parties," he said. "I'm really not seeing progress for some reason, maybe it's the economy... but I'm just not seeing it now."

Wolf says his experiences have shown him that it is possible to enact change when it comes to exposing human rights violations, but that it will take a shift in attitude from the way things are currently going.

"The Declaration of Independence says all men are created equal, and have a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," he said. "I think when we advocate and speak out, it really can make a tremendous difference to people all over the world, as we would want someone to do if we were in the same situation."

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## NEWS

# Romney Addresses Technology Council

Presidential hopeful speaks on importance of innovation.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Virginia Technology Council welcomed Republican presidential hopeful

Mitt Romney Friday, Feb. 10 at the Hyatt Regency Reston. The former Massachusetts governor spoke about his experiences in the world of business and the importance of allowing innovation to flourish.

"What are we going to do to encourage innovation to reside here? We cannot be number 40 or 41 on the table of innovative environments. We will lose innovation, and it will go elsewhere," he said. "I look at what's happening and say we're going to have to make dramatic, bold, creative change to how our nation interacts with our government, or else we're going to find ourselves eclipsed by other nations."

Romney advocated for a change in the tax structure that would encourage business ventures.

"We right now have corporate taxes that are the highest in the world. This doesn't make a lot of sense if you're trying to encourage people to take risks," he said. "I'd bring those rates down dramatically."

He also called for government regulators to take a different viewpoint when it comes to their job, that they should see it as their re-



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney speaks about the importance of innovations Friday, Feb. 10 at the Hyatt Regency Reston.**

sponsibility to encourage the private sector, as opposed to killing all potential risk.

"If you've been in an enterprise, and the culture is 'if you're wrong mister, you're going to lose your job,' you're never going to see innovation," he said. "We have a government that basically says there is basically never any risk whatsoever."

He pointed to the California-based company Solyndra as an example of what has gone wrong. In 2009, it received more than \$500 million in support from the government.

"I'm not going to be critical because Solyndra went out of business, any venture capitalist knows you make terrible mistakes from time to time. But when they put \$500 million in Solyndra, they thought they were encouraging solar energy in this country, but they did the opposite," he said. "When they put their \$500 million into Solyndra, the other 100 entrepreneurs in this country work-

ing on solar energy just lost any potential to get capital."

Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell was at the event, and he introduced Romney. He praised the former governor's variety of experience, saying Romney has "a profound understanding of the technology community and its importance to the overall prosperity of our nation."

Other attendees at the event said they were similarly impressed by the skill set Romney brings to the table.

"If we tasked headhunters with selecting a president based on relevant management and government experience, financial and budget acumen, leadership and integrity, they would identify Mitt on their own as a leading candidate," said Gary Shapiro, president and CEO of the Consumer Electronics Association.

The event was the NVTC's latest in its Presidential Series. Former candidate Herman Cain spoke in November.

## Herndon Officials Visit Richmond

Town of Herndon elected officials and staff traveled to Richmond on Thursday, Feb. 9, to visit the town's representatives at the General Assembly and to discuss the town's 2012 legislative agenda.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**From left: Mayor Steve DeBenedittis, Councilmember Bill Tirrell, Town Attorney Richard Kaufman, Senator Mark Herring, Councilmember Grace Wolf, Councilmember Connie Hutchinson, and Town Manager Art Anselene.**

**From left: Councilmember Grace Wolf, Councilmember Connie Hutchinson, Town Manager Art Anselene, Delegate Tom Rust, Mayor Steve DeBenedittis, Councilmember Bill Tirrell, and Town Attorney Richard Kaufman.**

# OPINION

## Saving the Bay: A Good Investment

Cleaning up the water that runs into the Chesapeake Bay will help create jobs and economic activity in Virginia.

A plan to raise \$300 million in bonds to upgrade wastewater treatment plants around the commonwealth stalled in a House of Delegates committee last week, a setback in meeting EPA requirements to clean up the water that leads to the Bay. Money is tight, lawmakers say, although an identical plan cleared the Senate.

Let's be clear that part of what we're talking about by delay is continuing to allow raw sewage to run into Virginia's waterways every time it rains.

This is like deciding to let the toilets in the house overflow rather than spend money on the plumber. Not only is it unhealthy and unpleasant, it also makes Virginia less attractive for tourists and eco-tourists.

Upgrading the sewage treatment plants will

generate jobs, but also upgrade the quality of the water Virginians depend on for drinking, household and business use and recreation.

More than 30 years of "saving" the Chesapeake Bay has accomplished about half of what needs to be done. The bay is primary attraction for tourists in Virginia, and is the basis for many jobs. The investment in the health of the bay is a jobs bill for Virginia.

Aside from upgrading the treatment plants, states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed will need to find ways slow the pace of stormwater runoff, do better with erosion control, change some agricultural practices to keep "fertilizer" from rushing into waterways every time it rains, and more. Efforts made upstream by other states will also benefit Virginia's water-

ways. There are new green and more cost effective ways to go about many of these tasks.

The mission will also need the continued involvement of individuals and organizations who are dedicated to the Chesapeake Bay.

It's an investment that will pay dividends for Virginia.

### Pet Connection

Send us photos of your pets this week for inclusion in next week's Pet Connection. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans. Please identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description of your pet, include address and phone number, and email to: north@connectionnewspapers.com

## Community Engagement, Transportation Dominate Agenda

Chairman reflects on Board of Supervisors retreat.

BY SHARON BULOVA  
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



ing our growing minority and immigrant community, as well as our younger generations, was identified as a challenge and will be the subject for future Board discussion.

On Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 6-7, Board of Supervisors engaged in a two day Strategic Planning Retreat. The retreat, held at the Lorton Arts Workhouse Center, was an opportunity for board members to engage in some informal, in-depth discussion of our respective district issues, as well as countywide opportunities and challenges. Our location, the site of the former Lorton Prison, served as an impressive example of revitalization and historic re-use in the South County area of Fairfax County. The old prison buildings, built at the beginning of the 20th century, are now home to artists' studios and performance arenas. If you haven't visited, I hope you will do so. During a tour of the studios at lunchtime, I chatted with several of the artists and vowed to return to purchase some original artwork.

The importance of Community Engagement was woven throughout all topics during our two days. The board recognized that we make the best decisions when we have the community at the table with us. Some examples of especially successful community engagement have been our Community Dialogues on the Budget, Neighborhood College sessions, the Parks Listening Tours, and our use of new social media using online chats and surveys. Engag-

❖ Day One of our Retreat included a presentation by Fairfax County's Financial Advisor, Public Financial Management, (PFM Group) on how the Rating Agencies view us. We were described as having "Gilt Edged" ratings, which we're very proud of and which saves us millions of dollars when we sell bonds to pay for County and School facilities. Board members were complimented on our disciplined fiscal stewardship and adherence to the 10 Principals of Financial Management that guide budget decisions. The presentation sparked discussion about how large or small the county's liquid reserves need to be. Rating agencies would like them to be larger. Budget watchdogs question whether we have too much "cushion" that should instead be used to reduce the tax rate, or fund more services. More discussion of adequate vs. inadequate reserves will be subject to future discussion.

❖ Transportation played a major role on our agenda during both days. Each Board member spoke to the need to identify creative, multimodal solutions to traffic

congestion within their districts and throughout Fairfax County. With less and less funding coming from the federal government and the state, local governments are pressured to assume more responsibility for transportation - for capital, operation and maintenance. A great deal of discussion took place both days about a new Board of Supervisors Four-Year Transportation Plan that will be developed during upcoming Board Transportation Committee meetings, as well as potential sources of new revenue to support it.

Our Board continues to be concerned about plans at the state level to "devolve" the maintenance of neighborhood and secondary streets to the localities. Without sufficient state investment, our streets have deteriorated to an alarming degree. Assuming this responsibility without sufficient funding will result in a significant cost to local taxpayers.

❖ The topic of Transportation was coupled with a presentation on our Financial Outlook as we undergo a sluggish recovery from the Great Recession and as we face additional major Capital and Operational Challenges to support our growing and changing community. Bottom line, we have more needs than anticipated revenue. Both opportunity and challenges will result from future economic development and from the redevelopment of older parts of Fairfax County. The presentation was extremely valuable in setting the stage for this Board's challenges as we begin this four year term.

❖ The second day of our retreat ended with a discussion of planning and development - The Next

Planning Horizon. When Fairfax County experienced its earlier periods of growth we were a community of farms and villages. The early planning process involved Annual Plan Reviews, later changed to Area Plan Reviews. Early planning called for everything (residential, retail, commercial) to be separated from each other. The pattern requires us to get into our car in order to get almost anywhere. Newer development strategies call for more mixed use, "walkable" communities and more connections of pedestrian, bike and transit modes of transportation.

As Fairfax County matures, our growth and development will involve more Redevelopment and Revitalization of our older commercial and industrial area. Retreat discussion on this topic dealt with how we can adopt better tools for this pattern of development, and how best we can engage our community in the process. The development of a Next Planning Horizon process will take place during the next months at the Board's Revitalization Committee.

❖ Education continues to be our number one priority. Throughout the retreat Board members expressed that they are looking forward to meeting with members of the School Board at a full day retreat on Saturday, Feb. 25. A number of areas for collaboration (human services, transportation, sharing capital facilities) were suggested for discussion at that venue. As we continue to struggle with fiscal challenges and changes, it is critical that we forge an effective working relationship with our partners on the School side of the aisle.

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# Making the Grade

Local school officials offer strategies for strengthening study habits.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

When Jackie Jackson's son brought home his report card recently, the Centreville mother of three was shocked.

"His grades had fallen to an unacceptable level," said Jackson. "Getting my son to do his homework has always been a battle, but during the winter break when there was no school, we got out of our routine and haven't been able to get back on track."

Children with low grades and poor study habits can be a source of stress for some parents. Educational experts say that there are effective techniques that can improve learning practices.

Starting a dialogue is a good first

step. "In terms of academic success, it is key that there is open communication between parents, students and teachers," said Lizabeth Borra, School Counselor at Potomac Elementary School in Potomac, Md. "We want to work as a team to teach students the tools to be life-long learners. In order to do so, we must set expectations and work together."

Experts say that one of the best ways to improve academic performance and decrease battles over completing homework assignments is to develop a daily schedule that includes time for studying and relaxation. "Set up a regular time to do homework; routines develop into habits," said Borra.

"Establish a regular procedure; study for a length of time, have a short break, and return to studying."

Once the schedule is in place, work to maintain it and hold children accountable. "Consistency helps establish a pattern. When it is done on a regular basis it becomes second nature," said Valerie Garcia, principal, Blessed Sacrament School in Alexandria. "When a student is personally responsible they understand accountability and they understand the consequences if they don't follow through. Those consequences can end up being a less than desirable report card."

Create a study environment with minimal distractions. "The best way to help children is to have a quiet place in the home for homework," said Dr. Marjorie Myers, principal, Key Elementary School.

Support children, but avoid over involvement. "If parents help too much, children become dependent on them and don't develop their own sense of responsibility for getting their homework and studying done," said Myers. "Let them get a

'C' or a 'D' on a test and show them that if they ... study ... and pay attention in class, they can change those grades to 'A's' and 'B's.' It's their responsibility to learn and the intrinsic reward of earning that grade on their own is extremely valuable for future academic success."

There might be times when a child needs extra help. "If parents are concerned that their child may have difficulty learning they should contact the teacher," said Borra. "Teachers are well trained in working with students that have many different learning styles."

Organization is critical, particularly for older students. "Plan ahead," said Leila Sidawy of Georgetown Learning Centers in Great Falls and McLean. "A great way to do that is to get a planner.

This is important especially for students who have multiple activities that they are juggling like sports or clubs. Having a planner can help them stay on top of their assignments and avoid procrastination.



Students at Francis Scott Key Elementary School in Arlington practice math skills. A quiet study environment can help students improve their grades.

The planner should include test dates, project due dates and after school activities. Getting organized will help a student feel more in control."

"Note taking is a crucial, but often overlooked aspect of academic success," said Sidawy. "Make sure students take good notes and keep them organized by date or subject, and include headings on the notes as well as relevant chapters or page

numbers. After class, students should review the notes to help solidify the material."

Educators encourage parents to stay optimistic. "Maintain a positive attitude regardless of how challenging an assignment may appear," said Borra. "Prioritize studying and homework. Help your child understand the purpose of learning and that they will do it throughout their lives."

## OBITUARY

### Barbara Parkinson, 67, Longtime Connection Employee, Dies

Barbara Jean Parkinson, 67, of Sterling, Va., died Feb. 7, 2012 at her residence. Born on Sept. 17, 1944 in New York she was the daughter of the late Charles and Elizabeth Lundy. Ms. Parkinson was a member of Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg, Va.

Barbara attended Michigan State University where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Music. During her college years she was a member of the singing group known as The Jills. Being a Music major in college she had a talent and love for music. She also played the piano and enjoyed singing.

She worked for Connection Newspapers for many years.

Barbara enjoyed and loved spending time with her grandchildren and doing crafts with them.

Barbara was passionate about her faith and enjoyed sharing it with others.

She is survived by her son Mark Parkinson and his wife Rachel, of Purcellville, Va.; daughter Jennifer Daughtry and



Barbara Parkinson

her husband Jay of Sterling, Va.; brother Wayne Lundy of Loveland, Ohio; and five grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on Friday, Feb. 10, 2012 at Ebenezer Cemetery, in Round Hill, Va. with Pastor Mike Emerson officiating.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Cornerstone Chapel at

www.cornerstonechapel.net. Please visit www.hallfh.com to express online condolences to the family.

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2410 Dew Meadow Ct. \$339,900...Sun 1-4...Dave King...Long & Foster...703-509-5137

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# South Lakes Wrestling Breaks Through for Third Place District Finish

**Forrest brothers, Ryan and Josh, both gain individual Liberty titles.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

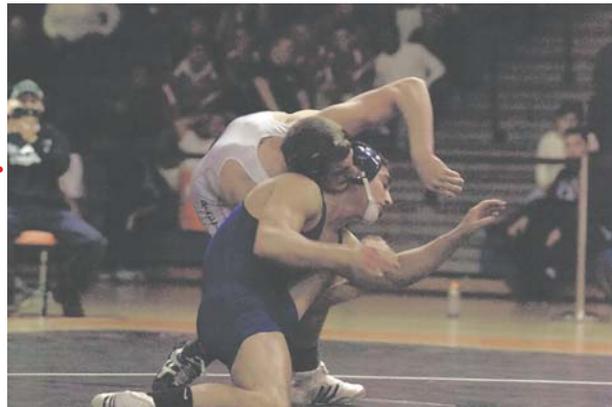


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**South Lakes' Ryan Forrest (bottom) wrestles in the 160 region finals match versus South County's Brett Stein last Saturday night at Hayfield High School. Forrest, who won his fourth Liberty District crown two weeks ago, lost a tough 5-3 decision to Stein but is still headed to the state tournament.**

The South Lakes High wrestling team put together its best postseason showing in recent memory when the Seahawks earned a third place team finish at the recent Liberty District Championships. The two-day event (Friday and Saturday, Feb. 3-4) took place at Langley High School.

More recently, at last Friday and Saturday's (Feb. 10-11) 30-team Northern Region Championships at Hayfield High School, South Lakes finished 12th overall in the team standings. Ryan Forrest of South Lakes finished second in the region at his 160 weight class.

At districts, the accomplishment of a third place team showing was a watershed moment for a Seahawks' program which has made an almost complete turnaround during head coach Bruce Hall's five years in charge of the program. During his first year as head coach (2006-'07 season) South Lakes had just four fulltime varsity wrestlers.

But in each season since the Seahawks have increased roster size and gotten better and better. Last year, South Lakes went an outstanding 19-6 in regular season dual meets before a disappointing showing at districts partially tarnished an otherwise good season. This year, the Seahawks did not have as good a dual meet record as a year ago, but they still finished over the .500 mark in dual matches and began the postseason with a breakthrough showing at last weekend's districts.

"This year we had a winning record but not a great record," said Hall. "We had injuries. But at the district tournament, almost everyone was back."

South Lakes scored 144 team points at districts to garner the third place position, behind champion Langley (216.60) and second place Marshall (192).

Those teams behind South Lakes were fourth place Fairfax (138.50), fifth place Madison (134.50), sixth place Jefferson (114), seventh place Stone Bridge (100), and eighth place McLean (93).

**SOUTH LAKES** had two individual champions with the Forrest brothers capturing titles - Ryan at the 160 weight class and Josh at 170.

Ryan, a senior who won his fourth career district title, defeated Stone Bridge's Josh Toal by major decision, 21-9, in the 160 championship match. Forrest is the lone

South Lakes wrestler in program history to win four district crowns.

"He looked good," said Hall, of Forrest's showing at districts. "On a scale of 10, he's probably [wrestling at] an eight or nine right now."

Hall went on to say Forrest's ultimate postseason competition could come at the upcoming state tournament in a few weeks if he gets a chance to wrestle a three-time state champion from Hopewell High (Central Region).

Ryan's brother, Josh, won his 170 district finals match over Langley's Gabe O'Neal by a first period pin.

Josh, who finished third at districts last year at 130 weight class, missed about two months of this season due to a concussion. Since his return, Hall has brought Forrest along slowly. The wrestler has been using Everlast boxer head gear, with the backing and permission of the local Referee Association, in order to better protect his head and help prevent any recurring concussion issues.

Josh Forrest is much physically bigger this year than a year ago. He put together an outstanding district tournament showing.

"He's gotten bigger and he and Ryan are now about the same size," said Hall. "Josh is a stud."

South Lakes earned one second place finish at districts - that coming from heavy-weight Alex Smurda, who reached the finals before losing to Marshall's Matt Crawford on a second period pin.

Two South Lakes wrestlers - Mike Shoebottom (195) and Devon Johnson (138) - gained third place finishes. Shoebottom won his consolation match for third place over McLean's Noah Cherry. Johnson won his consolation finals match over Connor Legan of Stone Bridge.

Shoebottom, who became eligible to wrestle on Feb. 1, wrestled at a heavier weight class than he is used to but still came away with an impressive showing. Meanwhile, Johnson, a senior and a First Team All-District defensive back on the football field last fall, concluded his district wrestling career with a solid district tournament outing.

South Lakes had two other wrestlers qualify for regionals in Eric Dismuke (182)

and Chris Maginniss (145), who both finished fourth in their respective weight classes.

Dismuke, who wrestled at 170 weight class all season, moved up to 182 at districts.

Seahawks missing region bids but earning top six medals at districts were: Abdul Raufi (fifth place at 113 class), Terry Petersen (sixth at 120), Matt Kelly (sixth at 126), Tim Kim (sixth at 152), and senior Owen Wolfe (sixth at 220).

So, in all, 12 South Lakes wrestlers earned top six medals with seven of them qualifying for regionals.

One disappointment at districts for South Lakes was junior Kevin Argueta (106 weight class) not being allowed to compete at districts due to officials' decision for medical reasons. Argueta went 24-7 this season and, according to Hall, would have been the wrestler to beat at districts in his weight class.

Hall said Argueta handled his misfortune at districts like a champ.

"We probably would have finished second [in the team standings] if Kevin had been there," said Hall. "The kid who won the tournament [at 106] from Marshall [Christian Valencia] was pinned by Kevin this season. Kevin could have very well been the 106 pound champion this season. The good news is that he is a junior and will be back

next year. He's a great kid and took it well. He helped me during the entire tournament."

The 144 team points by South Lakes at districts was a team record.

South Lakes' wrestling future beyond this season looks bright as just four Seahawks will be lost to graduation this spring, meaning a majority of team members will likely be back next school year.

**AT REGIONALS**, Ryan Forrest made it all the way to the 160 finals where he lost a 5-3 decision to South County's Brett Stein. Forrest, the top seed from the Liberty District, won three straight matches to reach the title match - victories over Herndon's Dan Walker, West Potomac's William Rupp, and Robinson's Jonathan Simmons, 6-2, in a semifinals round match. Forrest was the lone top six place finisher for South Lakes at regionals. He will next go on to compete at the Virginia State AAA championships.

**FROM HERNDON HIGH**, Gabe Pike earned a sixth place medal in the 126-pound weight class at regionals. Pike, the top seed from the Concorde District, won his first two matches at regionals - wins over Hayfield's Ziad Adiyeh and Woodson's Mitchell Kohlhas before falling into the loser's bracket with a loss to Mount Vernon's Cody Marino. He then lost his next two matches to finish sixth overall.

At the Concorde District Championships two weeks ago, Pike captured the 126-division title. There, Pike won his semifinals bout versus Centreville's Jerry Cowman by a first period pin. Then, in the championship match, he defeated Oakton's Eddie Gerow, 4-2.

Other top four place finishers at districts for Herndon were: fourth place Jared Nielsen (103 division); fourth place Sean Pike (132); and fourth place Andrew Healy (220).

## SPORTS ROUNDUPS

**The Herndon/Loudoun Volleyball League**, sponsored by i9 Sports, is holding its Spring 2012 Registration. The next registration dates are for Wednesdays, Feb. 22 and 29. The developmental skills league program is open to all children ages 7 thru 14 and is being headed up by former college volleyball standout Jowita Snowden. For more information or to register, visit [www.i9sports.com](http://www.i9sports.com) or call 571-225-5494.

**Registration for Reston Youth Association's (RYA) Flag Football League** is now open for Spring 2012. RYA Flag Football is coed, non-contact flag football designed for boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 16. All teams

will practice once a week followed by a game on Saturday. Registration fees are \$75 for the first child and \$65 for a second child. Registration includes a team jersey and a set of flags for each child. Please visit <http://restonseahawks.org/Registration> to register your child today.

**The i9 Sports Youth Flag Football League** is offering early bird discount registration for the spring 2012 season on Wednesday, Feb. 22 and Wednesday, Feb. 29. Enrollment is expected to fill up quickly as the fall season saw more than 1,000 youngsters ages 4-to-14 participate. Early Bird discounts are available now. For more information or to register visit [i9sports.com](http://i9sports.com) or call 571-225-5494.

# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## THURSDAY/FEB. 16

- Broadway Cabaret.** 7:30 p.m. Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. [www.herndonrama.org](http://www.herndonrama.org).
- Gregory Alan Isakov with Jeffrey Foucault.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. A blend of punk folk, Americana, and Celtic music. \$18. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).
- One-on-One Computer Tutoring.** 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.
- One-on-One English Practice.** 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Call for appointment with an ESL volunteer. Adults. 703-242-4020.
- Book Discussion.** 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton. Adults. 703-242-4020.
- eBook/eReader Instruction.** 7:30 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn about library eBooks and how to access them with your compatible device. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 17

- Broadway Cabaret.** 7:30 p.m. Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. [www.herndonrama.org](http://www.herndonrama.org).
- "Earth and Sky."** 8 p.m. Waddell Theater, 1000 Harry Byrd Highway Sterling. Taking Flight Theatre Company's season opener. \$15. [www.tfttheatre.org](http://www.tfttheatre.org).
- America's National Parks: Through the Artist's Lens.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. A sampling of photographs from 88 national parks, accompanied by soprano Melissa Shippen Burrows, mezzo-soprano Jamie Van Eyck, tenor David Portillo, baritone Alex Tall and pianist Kim Witman. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 18

- Broadway Cabaret.** 7:30 p.m. Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. [www.herndonrama.org](http://www.herndonrama.org).
- "Earth and Sky."** 8 p.m. Waddell Theater, 1000 Harry Byrd Highway Sterling. Taking Flight Theatre Company's season opener. \$15. [www.tfttheatre.org](http://www.tfttheatre.org).
- Speidel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille.** 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap,



**"Shark" by Michael Auger. "Alternate Realities: Four Views from the Edge" highlights alternate views of reality by visionary artists Michael Auger, Jennifer Beinbacher, Todd Gardner, and Emily Greene Liddle. There will be an Artist Reception on Sunday, Feb. 19 from 3-5 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon, and the exhibit will be open from Feb. 16-March 11. [www.ArtSpaceHerndon.com](http://www.ArtSpaceHerndon.com).**

- 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Guitar-backed harmonies. \$22. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).
- Penguin's Playground.** 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Puppeteer Bob Brown for an Awesome Arctic Adventure exploring a Super-Secret Playground, hidden at the very bottom of the world. 703-689-2700.
- Buckley's Story: Lessons from a Feline Master Teacher.** 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Ingrid King, author and former veterinary hospital manager, talks about her book. 703-689-2700.
- Spring Consignment Sale.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Clothing, shoes, toys, books and more for the whole family. Sponsored by Fairfax County Mothers of Multiples. Free admission. [www.fcmmom.org](http://www.fcmmom.org).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 19

- Virginia Chamber Orchestra: Baroque to Jazz.** 4 p.m. Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 21

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

- Music Director Emil de Cou presents Handel's Two concerti grossi from the Twelve Grand Concertos, Opus 6; Tchaikovsky's Andante Cantabile from String Quartet Opus 11, No. 1; Edvard Grieg's Holberg Suite; Duke Ellington's Solitude and Leroy Anderson's Jazz Pizzicato and Jazz Legato. Reception to follow. Adults \$20, seniors \$18, students free. 703-758-0179 or [www.virginiachamberorchestra.org](http://www.virginiachamberorchestra.org).
- Artist Reception.** 3-5 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. "Alternate Realities: Four Views from the Edge," with Michael J. Auger, Jennifer Beinbacher, Todd Gardner and Emily Greene Liddle. Exhibit open Feb. 16-March 11. [www.ArtSpaceHerndon.com](http://www.ArtSpaceHerndon.com).
- "Earth and Sky."** 7 p.m. Waddell Theater, 1000 Harry Byrd Highway Sterling. Taking Flight Theatre Company's season opener. \$15. [www.tfttheatre.org](http://www.tfttheatre.org).

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# "Diseased"



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

But not sickness. Not health, either, as last week's column ended. At least that's the way I characterize my having stage IV lung cancer. And I don't know if I'm splitting hairs here, since I've never worked in a salon, although I do get my hair cut regularly; but I have been accused of speaking double-talk. Double entendres and unnecessary redundancies I will admit to, though. Nevertheless, the characterization seems to help me navigate the occasionally treacherous waters that a terminal patient undergoing chemotherapy – again, can expect, both mentally and of course, physically. It's a game – to me, anyway; how to spin something so terribly unexpected: diagnosed with cancer at age 54 and a half, despite being a lifelong non-smoker from an immediate family with NO cancer history, into something manageable. And for those who know me – or read my columns regularly enough, I think you would admit I manage it reasonably well, something which I am quite proud of, by the way.

And as I continue to psych myself up for the inevitable chemotherapy-related changes – and challenges – ahead (infusions three through six are still ahead), I am eager – sort of, and of course, grateful for surviving this long, post-diagnosis, to have yet another opportunity to slay the dragon (shrink my tumors) again. It sure beats the alternative – no opportunity because, well, you know: I wouldn't be here writing this column, or anything else for that matter.

But writing I am, and hopeful I remain. Next week's column will be my three-year anniversary column. When initially diagnosed, back in February, 2009, I was given a "13-month-to-two-year prognosis" (life expectancy), and not given too much hope, if truth be told. Oncologists are not in the business – from what I had been told previously, and have now experienced for myself, of "blowing any sunshine up your skirt," to invoke a quote from M\*A\*S\*H's Lt. Col. Henry Blake (the recently deceased McLean Stevenson); honesty for which I asked and have thankfully always received. I'd rather know what I'm up against and work to overcome it than resign myself to its inevitability. And so far, given my post-diagnosis status, (still typing), I would say it – or something in combination with it, is working.

Although I don't expect the next 10-12 weeks of enduring chemotherapy to be very pleasant, it is nonetheless the best option available to me, given my rather limited knowledge of the subject. However, I am confident and comfortable in my oncologist's steady hand and ongoing concern as he continues to encourage me treating forward. We get along pretty well, although sometimes my Kenny-speak (unintended though it may be) is perplexing to him, so now what he does to interpret what he thinks I'm asking, is to speak back to me in words and phrases which he's comfortable using, and then await my reply. It's a tiny bit of a process – for which obviously we both have time, but it assures us that we're in complete understanding with what one another is trying to say. Given the fact that I've now outlived my original, worst-case prognosis: 13 months, by almost two years, I would say that whatever the doctor and I are doing, however we're communicating, it's working. I mean, I'm still alive. So onward and upward we go.

My next fact-to-face appointment with my oncologist is scheduled for February 24th, a week following my next CT Scan, the first scan since I will have re-started this "second line" of chemotherapy; another crossroads moment to be sure. "Progression" started this, perhaps regression (shrinkage) can end it? Two infusions in, four more to go. I still don't feel anything. But then again, I rarely have.

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

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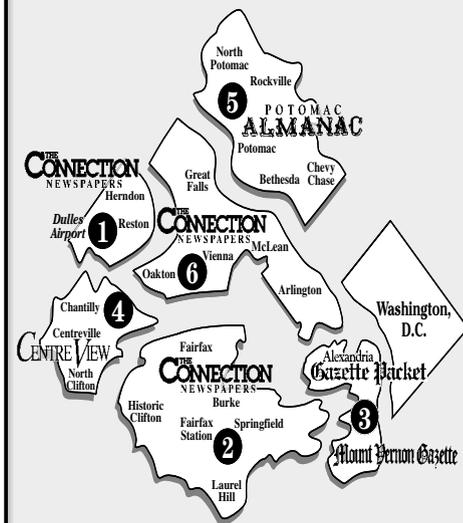
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- Zone 3:** The Alexandria Gazette Packet  
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**Barbara Jean Parkinson, age 67**  
 of Sterling, VA, died February 7, 2012 at her residence. Born on September 17, 1944 in New York she was the daughter of the late Charles and Elizabeth Lundy. Ms. Parkinson was a member of Cornerstone Chapel in Leesburg, VA. Barbara attended Michigan State University where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Music. During her high school years she was a member of the singing group known as The Jill's. She worked for Connection Newspapers for many years. Barbara enjoyed and loved spending time with her grandchildren and doing crafts with them.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.  
 -Werner Heisenberg

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**Zone 6:** The Arlington Connection  
 The Vienna/Oakton Connection  
 The McLean Connection  
 The Great Falls Connection

She is survived by her son Mark(Rachel) Parkinson of Purcellville, VA; daughter Jennifer(Jay) Daughtry of Sterling, VA; brother Wayne Lundy of Loveland, OH; and five grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on Friday, February 10, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. Ebenezer Cemetery, Round Hill, VA with Pastor Mike Emerson officiating.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Cornerstone Chapel at [www.cornerstone-chapel.net](http://www.cornerstone-chapel.net).

Please visit [www.hallfh.com](http://www.hallfh.com) to express online condolences to the family.

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The future comes one day at a time.  
 -Dean Acheson

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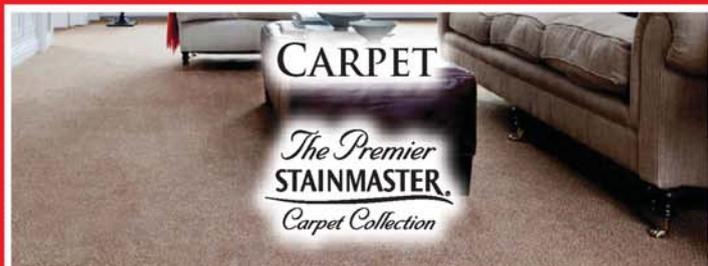
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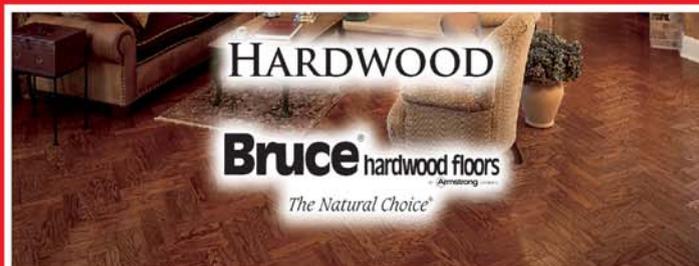
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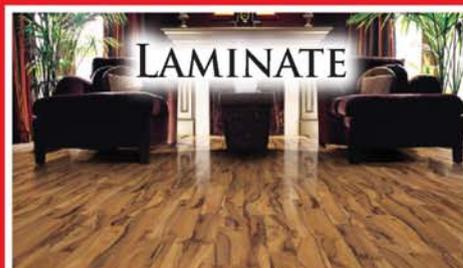


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