

Herndon Mayor Steve DeBenedittis and American Legion Post 184 Commander Dave Kirby lay wreaths at the graves of two unknown Confederate soldiers at Chestnut Grove Cemetery Monday, May 28.



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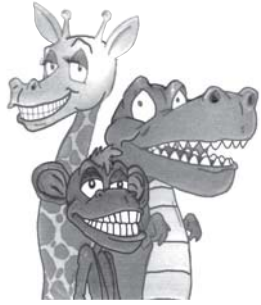
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BULLETIN BOARD

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

MONDAY/JUNE 4

Legislative Update. 7 p.m. Reston Association Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Review of recent Virginia General Assembly legislation affecting residents and common-interest communities. Free. 703-435-6503 or Arlene@reston.org.

HYS Comets White U16 Travel Team Tryouts. 8 a.m. Herndon High School, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. Trained and coached by Todd Hamlin (USSF B License) with Total Futbol. 703-489-6686 or www.eteamz.com/hyscometswhite.

FRIDAY/JUNE 8

Friday Forum Business

Networking. 7:30 a.m. Sheraton Reston Hotel Syrah Restaurant, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Business professionals focused on generating business for members through qualified referrals. New group being formed. Meeting free and open to all, breakfast available for purchase. Meetings every Friday. 703-802-0334.

HYS Comets White U16 Travel Team Tryouts. 6:30 p.m. Herndon High School, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. Trained and coached by Todd Hamlin (USSF B License) with Total Futbol. 703-489-6686 or www.eteamz.com/hyscometswhite.

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herndon@connectionnewsletters.com



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Herndon Mayor Steve DeBenedittis and American Legion Post 184 Commander Dave Kirby salute wreaths laid at the graves of two unknown Confederate soldiers at Chestnut Grove Cemetery Monday, May 28.

Herndon Remembers Fallen

Chestnut Grove hosts annual observance ceremony.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Herndon hosted its annual Memorial Day observance at Chestnut Grove Cemetery Monday, May 28. Members of the American Legion joined with local officials and dozens of residents to commemorate the lives given up for their country.

Dave Kirby, councilmember-elect and commander of American Legion Post 184, pointed to recent conflicts as the latest generation of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and guardsmen who volunteered to serve this country's freedom.

"By the time our last remaining troops returned from Iraq in December 2011, nearly 4,500 of their comrades lost their lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. We continue to lose American heroes everyday in Afghanistan, military training accidents and missions around the world. The loss to their families, friends, fellow service members and country is permanent."

Kirby pointed to the example of Marine Cpl. Jason Dunham, the first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War. Dunham was in Iraq when his unit came under fire, and in the course of action, a live grenade was dropped by the enemy and Dunham threw himself over it, shielding his fellow Marines from the blast.

Dunham died eight days later, and was posthumously given the Medal of Honor in Jan. 2007.

"From the American Revolution to the Global War on Terror, one million American men and women like

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



From left, Cadet Lt. Alastair Young and Cadet Lt. Claire Hirschhorn of the Herndon High School Jr. ROTC carry the American and Virginia flag to the Memorial Day observance at Chestnut Grove Cemetery Monday, May 28.

Cpl. Dunham have made the supreme sacrifice," Kirby said. "They died so that we could continue to cherish the things we love: God, country and family."

A NEW FLAG was flying over the cemetery Monday, the black and white POW-MIA flag, which pays tribute to American service members that have been prisoners of war or are missing in action.

Herndon Mayor Steve DeBenedittis put out a mandate that the flag be flown in the Town of Herndon at the cemetery, the town hall and the municipal center. The American Legion donated the three flags to the town.

DeBenedittis spoke at the event, and he recalled a free moment he had last week when he was able to kick a soccer ball around with his son. He said it brought to mind a family friend and former Langley teacher Dave Sharrett, who used to play outside with his son, Dave

Sharrett II.

Pfc. Dave Sharrett II was killed in Iraq in January 2008 while serving with the Army.

"The details of Pfc. Sharrett's passing are still under investigation, but what is abundantly clear is the pain, the heartbreak and the fierce pride felt by his family," he said. "By his service, and his sacrifice, that boy whose carefree days tossing a ball with his dad in Oakton set an example of heroism and patriotism that's a shining example of inspiration to us all."

The Oakton post office on White Granite was named after Pfc. Sharrett in 2008.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Artist Keith Naquin stands in front of his mural, which he is painting on the back of the NAPA Auto Parts building in downtown Herndon.

Beautifying Downtown

Artist Keith Naquin paints mural on NAPA Auto Parts building.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION of primer.

Since April, Keith Naquin has been hard at work on a brick wall. The artist was recently contracted by the Council for the Arts of Herndon to transform the rear of the NAPA Auto Parts building in downtown Herndon into a picturesque glimpse of rural life.

Naquin recently retired from teaching art, photography and computer graphics at Herndon High School. He started his own business, as he puts it, "actually doing the things I've been teaching," which is designing logos and graphics.

Seen from Locust street, Naquin has been transforming 93 feet spread over three separate walls, each 13 feet high. It's made of cinderblock, which Naquin says makes it harder to get the small details and lines down. He spent the first few days scraping the existing paint off, then putting on two coats

ABOUT A THIRD of the painting is a cloud-filled sky, which then gives way to rolling green mountains and gently sloping fields, ponds and several other rural landscape features, a barn, vineyard, pond and more. "I like to work in layers, so I'll slowly build it up, from bigger details to small," he said. "And I constantly have to step back and look, because up close it can look completely different."

Naquin is also incorporating the building's features into his landscape. The floodlights on the corners will become part of a painted lamppost, and the rear entrance door is now part of a gazebo.

"I thought it would be a cool idea to be able to enter the gazebo, I just had to figure a way to use that door," he said.

Naquin says his inspiration comes from pictures of winery
SEE BRIGHTENING, PAGE 4

Greeting New 'Fellow Americans'

Fairfax County hosts fourth annual naturalization ceremony.

By VICTORIA ROSS

THE CONNECTION

"My fellow Americans," U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11) said with gravitas, pausing to let the meaning sink in.

And when it did, 75 immigrants - from Afghanistan to Uzbekistan - who had just raised their right hand and taken the Oath of Allegiance to become American citizens, erupted with applause and tears, waving American flags and hugging family members. They were gathered at the Fairfax County Government Center Friday, May 25, for the county's fourth annual naturalization ceremony.

"You now join us...Every new wave of immigrants refreshes us, makes us stronger," Connolly said, leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

"I am happy for today," said Shahinaz Hassan, a recent immigrant from Egypt who lives in Fairfax. "Everything gets easier here," she said in halting English. She said she was looking forward to voting in the presidential elections this fall.

Yesuf Beshir, originally from Ethiopia, works as a government contractor in Springfield and brought his daughter, Kedja, 4, who was born in Virginia, to the ceremony. Beshir said he pursued American citizenship for many reasons.

"I am proud of being an American," Beshir said. "The main thing is democracy. Here, you can vote. You can be what you want in America. You can be president...If you want to be a doctor, you can be a doctor," he said, smiling at his daughter. "I tell her the possibilities are endless."

MODERATED by Corazon Sandoval Foley, the naturalization ceremony for 75 candidates from around the globe was part of the county's Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month celebrations. The event began with the Presentation of Colors by the Fairfax County Public Safety Honor Guard and the National Anthem sung by Captain Francis Mensah of the



PHOTOS BY CAROLINE PAXTON/THE CONNECTION

Seventy-five candidates took the Oath of Allegiance during a special naturalization ceremony May 25 at the Fairfax County Government Center. The ceremony is part of the county's Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month celebrations.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFRD).

Samuel DeVera, a captain with the county's Fire and Rescue Department and a member of the Fairfax County Asian American Firefighters' Association, gave the keynote address, telling the audience his personal story of coming to America from the Philippines when he was 14 years old in 1983. After becoming a paramedic in 1994, he received a Valor award and, in 2010, scored first on the test to become a captain with the Fire and Rescue Department.

"Look at me. The one thing I can say is work hard to make you and your families better," DeVera said. "If you're vice president of the company, aim to be president. I'm not here to encourage you; I want to challenge you."

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) presented the Certificates of Naturalization to the new Americans.

"Some of you have endured hardships to arrive at this time and place," Bulova said in her remarks. "All of you have invested your time, money and efforts to become citizens. Many of you came here to escape war or endless poverty."

She said she was "proud" to see the growing number of small businesses being opened by immigrants.

"Fairfax County has a very strong sense of community. Our residents and corporate neighbors are highly engaged, with a seat at the table when decisions are made...You who are here today now officially have a seat at that table."

Andrew Eade from England received a loud applause and cheers from his family and friends when Bulova presented him with his certificate. A resident of Herndon for 16 years, Eade said he wanted to become a citizen so he could "fully participate in the system and vote."

"You want to feel like you are getting your voice heard," he said.

THE NATURALIZATION CANDIDATES originated from nearly 30 countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burma, China, El Salvador, Iraq, Iran, South Korea and Sudan.



From left, Andrew Eade, wife Stephanie and son Greyson, 21-months, of Herndon. Andrew Eade, from England, was one of 75 candidates who took the Oath of Allegiance during a special naturalization ceremony May 25 at the Fairfax County Government Center.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

BEFORE: The back of the NAPA Auto Parts building in downtown Herndon before artist Keith Naquin began his mural.

Brightening the Town

FROM PAGE 3

tours he's taken, as well as the landscape along Route 81 going south. The father of six children who went to schools along that corridor, he said it's a trip he's made many times.

He says he's thankful that it's mostly been good weather so far, he's only had to redo a few things. The project has been more demanding than his teaching schedule, he works from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and then a half-day on Saturdays.

"It's been more challenging than I thought because of the sheer scope, but I've really enjoyed it," he said. "In fact, I can't wait to go to work. I show up, put my iPod in, and I just get engrossed, I can lose track of time quite easily."

Even when he gets home after a long day, Naquin says he's "always pondering" his next move, and when he can, he'll even head to a place like Skyline Drive for inspiration. He credits the Council for the Arts of Herndon with conceiving of the project.

"They're trying to keep arts alive, and this is a great way to spread it around Herndon, and turn an old dilapidated building into something special," he said. "For me personally, I was in a quandary when it came to finding something to do after

retirement, and I'm just so grateful that I can do something that's truly my passion."

His work has already brightened up the daily routines of several local residents.

"I walk my daughter to Herndon Middle School, and it's become a special part of my day," said Julia Montague, who lives on nearby Oak Street. "We have a game, where every day we look at it in the morning, and when I pick her up we try and see what has changed throughout the day. She has so much fun that on weekends she'll ask me, 'what do you think will be there next?'"

RANDY SAEZ of Herndon said the mural has noticeably improved the feel of that section of Locust Street.

"It's like night and day looking at the building and the parking lot, it seems like it sort of radiates out to the surroundings as well," he said. "Before it was just a beat up old brick building and an old parking lot, but the colors make it a sort of beacon that just brightens up the whole block."

Naquin says he still needs to add details to the foreground of the mural, and says he hopes to be done around mid-June.

More information on the Arts Council can be found at www.herndonarts.org.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

AFTER: Almost six weeks later, artist Keith Naquin has transformed the back of the NAPA Auto Parts building in downtown Herndon.

NEWS

A wounded calf.



POLICE PHOTO

Animals Assaulted at Kidwell Barn

Weekend incident is similar to nearby April 26 stabbing of three horses.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Two goats, a calf and a chicken were assaulted at Kidwell Barn at Frying Pan Farm Park sometime between 5 p.m. Saturday, May 26 and 7 a.m. Sunday, May 27. Staff at Kidwell Farm at Frying Pan Park went to feed the animals the morning of Sunday, May 27 and found the animals, who were injured by an unknown assailant.

According to the Fairfax County Police Department, one of the goats and the calf are both bottle-fed and under a year old, so they would have no reason to fear humans and are used to approaching people.

Fairfax County Park Authority spokeswoman Judy Pedersen said that the animals were tended to by veterinarians and were treated with stitches. The injuries do not appear to be life threatening.

Animal control officers and detectives are continuing the investigation. The Park Authority and the Fairfax County Police Department will meet over the coming days to discuss ways to increase security at the farm.

The attacks resemble the April 26 stabbing of three horses in a barn on the 2600 block of Centreville Road, adjacent to Frying Pan Farm Park, not on park property.

"The attacks are similar, and the April 26 incident is currently unsolved, but we can't say 100 percent



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

A goat from Frying Pan Farm Park interacts with a child at Runnymede Park in Herndon. Two goats, a chicken and a calf were assaulted over the weekend at Kidwell barn. The assaults resemble one that happened nearby a month ago.

that they're connected," said Lucy Caldwell, public information officer with the Fairfax County Police Department. "But we are continuing to look hard at both situations, the public is understandably upset and we're going to work hard to resolve this."

Anyone who recalls seeing anything suspicious near Frying Pan Farm Park is asked to contact Crime Solvers at 866-411-8477, text "TIP187" and a message to 274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

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Surviving through Summer

Helping teens.

It is that time again, the time from proms to graduation, and all the celebrations that come with it. It's lovely to think, from a distance, that this is a happy and uncomplicated time for teens as the school year winds down, many look forward to college in the fall and a summer of internships or other interesting activities.

Few adults with clear memories of high schools would likely be willing to turn back the clock and relive that time, especially with the addition of mobile phone videos and photos to accompany those awkward moments or more serious bullying or harassment.

We do know that many, if not most, teenagers will be celebrating, or possibly self-medicating, with alcohol, and that many will en-

gage in binge drinking. While drinking and driving, or getting into a car with a driver who has been drinking, can kill, there are many other problems that come along with binge drinking. Parents owe it to themselves to talk to their teens about it, even as the teen turns away, rolls eyes, and otherwise indicates he or she is ignoring everything you say, some information will go in. They do hear you, and sometimes even make use of the information later.

Keep talking. Tell them you love them. Tell them it's been too much work to get them to this point to risk losing them. Tell them not to text and drive. Tell them not to drink and drive. Tell them not to get in a car with anyone driving who has been drinking. Tell them you'll come pick them up anytime that they need a safe ride home, without grounding them for the summer.

EDITORIALS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Human Rights Champion

To the Editor:

Aside from the domestic issues currently facing our nation, there are parts of the world experiencing unstable and volatile situations. Among the global issues is the human rights abuse observed in countries under totalitarian regimes, preventing the spread of democracy and liberty. In order for the United States to maintain a strong stance against human rights abuse, we must re-elect Congressman Frank Wolf of Virginia's 10th Congressional District.

As co-chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, Congressman Wolf is one of our nation's premier leaders on human rights. Throughout his service as our representative, he has championed ideas for our welfare and for the welfare of others. From Sudan to China, Congressman Wolf has been essential in establishing the United States' position on relations with other nations.

Movements toward democratization and liberalization have occurred over the past few years in nations in which totalitarian regimes once violated the livelihood of people. The people have arisen to the occasion to take back the basic rights all humans have. Within the past year, both Mubarak and Gadaffi were removed from office after decades of unchallenged rule, indicative of the people's rise to the need for actions on human rights.

What is the best thing voters can do to ensure that the voice of all people around the world is an-

swered? The answer is simple. For residents of the 10th Congressional District, re-electing Frank Wolf will ensure that preventing human rights abuse is a key part of Congress' agenda. Partisan bickering needs to stop in Washington. The leaders we elect to Washington must work efficiently to best represent our issues. One thing all

members of Congress will agree on is to ensure equal human rights for the entire world.

As a young Korean-American, I am proud to have been represented by Frank Wolf the past 15 years I have lived in his district. His experience and his leadership are pivotal for fighting human rights abuse, and as long as he is

in office, he will do his best to fight for all the citizens of the world. Congressman Wolf is one Virginia leader who has done his utmost best to work for his constituents, and I intend to vote for him at the polls this November.

Earl Park
Herndon



Bike to Work Day Celebrated

Megaprojects communications specialist Lauren Frazier, on right, greets cyclists at a Merrifield pit stop along the W&OD trail on Bike To Work Day, Friday, May 18. The pit stop was manned by Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence), Transurban officials, Megaprojects staff, Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling (FABB), INOVA Fairfax Hospital and area volunteers.

Father's Day Photos

Father's Day is Sunday, June 17, and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Every year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grand children.

Send in photos as soon as possible, including names of everyone in the picture, the date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to include your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 8.

You can submit your photos online at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday> or email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

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/MAY 30

Open Mic Night. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring St., Herndon. Every Wednesday. Register your band at BluesSlide@aol.com or 703-593-5206. www.jimmystavern.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 31

Backyard Composting. 7 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Adults. Learn how to recycle kitchen waste, leaves and other yard debris. \$5-\$8. 703-476-9689 or naturecenter@reston.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.

eBook/eReader Instruction. 7:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn about library ebooks and how to access them with your compatible device. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

"MacBeth" by William Shakespeare. 7:30 p.m. Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. Advanced Student theatre production. Tickets \$10. www.herndonrama.org.

SuperDuper! Benefit Concert. 6 p.m. Frying Pan Park Visitor Center, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Performers include Send the City, All Access, Andrew Rohlk, Madam Myopia and more. Proceeds benefit Charity Music Inc. from Michigan that gives instruments to children in need. \$7. 703-501-1976.

Saturday/June 2

"MacBeth" by William Shakespeare. 7:30 p.m. Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. Advanced Student theatre production. Tickets \$10. www.herndonrama.org.

Storytellers Better Said Than Done. 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. "Our Bodies, Our Selves," stories about self discovery, self control and self destruction. Refreshments available for purchase. Adults. \$15. www.betersaidthandone.com.

Flea Market. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. With food and a bake sale. 703-281-4411 or www.oaktonbrethren.org.

Summer Bird Count. 6:45 a.m.-12 p.m. Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Meet local bird experts, learn tips on identification and help obtain important information. Optional lunch. Free. 703-476-9689 or enviroed@reston.org.

Clean the Bay Day - Reston Cleanup. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Access points at Lake Audubon, Thoreau and Anne. Looking for volunteers to get on their boats and to walk the shorelines of each lake to collect trash. 703-435-7986 or e-mail to habrock@reston.org.

Our Bodies, Our Selves. 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The four-day festival will feature entertainment on three stages, a carnival, fireworks, a Kid's Alley with children's hands-on art area, arts & crafts show, business expo, 10K/5K races and fitness expo, and a variety of top-quality food vendors.

Herndon Festival Set for May 31-June 3

Festival Features free Entertainment, fireworks and carnival.

The 32nd annual Herndon Festival, a community-wide celebration that has earned national recognition as a premier event for families, will be held May 31-June 3, in and around Herndon's Municipal Center complex and historic Town Hall Square. The 2012 Herndon Festival Title Sponsor is Volkswagen. To learn more about event details and the entertainment schedule visit www.Herndonfestival.net.

The four-day festival, produced by the Town of Herndon's Parks and Recreation Department with assistance from area civic organizations

and businesses, will feature entertainment on three stages, a carnival, fireworks, a Kid's Alley with children's hands-on art area, arts & crafts show, business expo, 10K/5K races and fitness expo, and an eclectic variety of top-quality food vendors. The Herndon Festival is free and open to the public, although there is a charge for some activities.

ENTERTAINMENT HEADLINERS

- ◆ **Thursday** - Chopteeth Afrofunk Big Band; Sandbar; Melodime
- ◆ **Friday** - 42 Coldplay Tribute; Flynn; Trio Caliente and Friends
- ◆ **Saturday Night** - Brass Transit; Locksley
- ◆ **Sunday** - Red Molly

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 703-787-7300 or visit www.herndonfestival.net.

"Stories of Self Discovery and Self Destruction." \$15. <http://ourbodystories.eventbrite.com>.

SUNDAY/JUNE 3

Cycle Fest and Israel Street Festival. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Fairfax Corner, 4100 Monument Corner Drive, Sully. Three ride distances, Israeli rock and roller Danny Sanderson, Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan, local dance and choir groups, shuk market and more. Sponsored by the JCCNV, The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, Embassy of Israel and local synagogues. Free admission. 703-227-0895 or www.jccnv.org.

Grand Finale Concert. 3 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. American Youth Symphonic Orchestra, conductor Carl J. Bianchi; American Youth Philharmonic, music director and conductor Daniel Spalding; pianist AnnaMaria Mottola. \$10-\$14. www.aypo.org or 703-642-8051.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 6

The 20th Century's Greatest Volcanic Eruption: Mt Katmai 100 Years Later. 7 p.m. USGS. 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive Reston. Bill Burton on the June 6-8, 1912 eruption of Mount Katmai in Alaska, which was 30 times larger than the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens, causing widespread devastation and inspiring heroic efforts at survival. Learn what lessons there are for modern-day monitoring of volcano hazards. Free. Federal facility, photo ID required. Requests for sign language interpreting require at least two weeks notice. jcorley@usgs.gov or 703-648-7770.

THURSDAY/JUNE 7

Tom Principato. 7:30 p.m. Frying Pan Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Blues. Free. 703-324-7469.

Get the Led Out. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Rock music. www.wolftrap.org.

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Langley Lacrosse Wins Northern Region

Saxons defeat Oakton in semifinals and Chantilly in finals.

The Langley Saxons defeated the Oakton Cougars in a Northern Region boys' lacrosse semifinals playoff game last Thursday, May 24. As a result, the Saxons booked their passage to the Northern Region boys' finals the following day (Friday, May 25 versus Chantilly) and also earned an automatic seeding for the upcoming Virginia High School League (VHSL) state playoffs for the fourth year running.

Langley, in Thursday's region semifinals, bested the talented and

host team Cougars by a score of 16-12. The Saxons then went on to defeat the Chantilly Chargers, 7-6, for the region crown on Friday night at Langley. Chantilly had earned its place in the championship game by defeating W.T. Woodson in an overtime contest of the other semifinals game on Thursday.

With only two state competition slots allotted to Northern Region teams starting this year, the loss on Thursday ended a Cougar campaign just short of advancing beyond regional play.



Luke Salzer (3) of Langley moves with the ball during the Saxons' region finals win over Chantilly last Friday.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/
THE CONNECTION

Sarah Delaney (sitting), earlier in May, signed her letter of intent to attend James Madison University next school year. There, she will be a part of the Dukes' women's volleyball team. She celebrated her signing moment with family members and school administrators. South Lakes volleyball head coach Cheri Hostetler is at the far left.



PHOTO/COURTESY SOUTH LAKES VOLLEYBALL

Delaney Set to Play Volleyball at JMU

South Lakes volleyball standout earned Seahawks' Offensive Player of Year honors the past two fall seasons.

Sarah Delaney, a senior at South Lakes High School and a key member of the Seahawks' volleyball team during her four years with the program (three as a varsity team member), recently signed a collegiate letter of intent to play the sport next school year at James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

Delaney holds South Lakes' single season record for the most blocks per season as well as most kills per season.

This past fall, her senior season, Delaney was a team captain and earned a varsity letter at middle hitter position. She earned First Team All-Liberty District honors as well as being named Honorable Mention All-Northern Region.

Among team accolades, Delaney earned the Offensive Player Award as well as Top Blocker Award. She was also among those Seahawk student-athletes to be named to the Athletic

Honor Roll.

Her junior season, Delaney was part of a Seahawks' team which earned credentials as the school's Top Academic Varsity Sports Team. That season (fall of 2010) saw Delaney, as a middle hitter, earn Second Team All-District success as well as varsity letter status. She was selected for both the Offensive Player Award as well as the Top Blocker Award.

Back as a sophomore in the fall season of 2009, Delaney earned a varsity letter with the varsity team. Away from the volleyball court, she was a member of the Latin Club as well as the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

Her freshmen season, Delaney was a member of the South Lakes' JV volleyball squad.

Delaney's head coach throughout her high school varsity career was Cheri Hostetler.

Delaney, along with being a part of South Lakes volleyball for her four years, also played club volleyball for NVVA for two years (2009-2011) and the Virginia Elite for a year (2011-12 school year).

In addition to seven goals from Adams and Ahearn's three for the night, the Saxons got a pair of goals from Meyer and senior middle Slater Howell, as well as the solo strikes from Rivers and Sibio. Three Cougar attackers delivered hat tricks in the game - seniors Evan Lalande and Sean

Schweiker, and junior Jack Harris - to go with single goals from three middies — seniors Michael Durst and Stephen Lambrides, and sophomore Cory Harris.

—SUBMITTED BY LANGLEY LACROSSE

Davis Carries Oakton Softball to Region Semifinals

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Members of the Oakton softball team endearingly refer to standout sophomore pitcher Allison Davis as "The Chosen One." Facing a win-or-go-home scenario on May 28, Davis gave the Hayfield Hawks a glimpse of the talents that earned her the same moniker as NBA star LeBron James.

Davis threw a two-hit shutout and delivered a two-run double as Oakton defeated Hayfield, 6-0, in a Northern Region quarterfinal matchup at Falls Church High School. Davis walked one, hit one batter and struck out 11 while allowing only one runner to reach third base. At the plate, her two-run double was part of a four-run fourth inning for the Cougars.

"She works so hard," Oakton head coach Ray Gordon said. "Allison works at the game 12 months of the year. She's re-

ally good."

While Davis' work ethic continues to improve her on-field talents, No. 21 said she has also gotten better at handling pressure.

"I think I took a lot of the weight last year just being the pitcher and I let it get to me a little bit," the sophomore said. "This year, I've just kind of calmed down and relaxed and I've learned to trust my team because they're really good on defense."

Right-fielder Mary Kate Mehegan gave Oakton a 2-0 lead with an RBI groundout in the second. Sophomore second baseman Becky Cerva produced a run-scoring single in the fourth and two batters later, junior shortstop Emily Krisanda delivered an RBI double.

Oakton, the No. 2 seed from the Concorde District, will take on Patriot District champion South County in the regional semifinals at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 30 at Madison High School.



Matt Baughman as Charle Gordon and Lauren Kiesling as Alice Kinnian in the Elden Street Players production of "Flowers for Algernon," which runs through June 30 at the Industrial Strength Theater.

PHOTOS BY DAVID SIEGEL/
THE CONNECTION

Longing for Peace and Happiness

Elden Street Players present "Flowers for Algernon."

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

"I wanted to give audiences a timeless classic play; one that touches on many different issues," said the award-winning Gloria DuGan, director of "Flowers for Algernon," the next Elden Street Players production. "This play deals with important moral and ethical matters, including how life can be both beautiful and painful."

"The play raises a major question for all of us, just because we can do something, is it for the best to do it?" said DuGan.

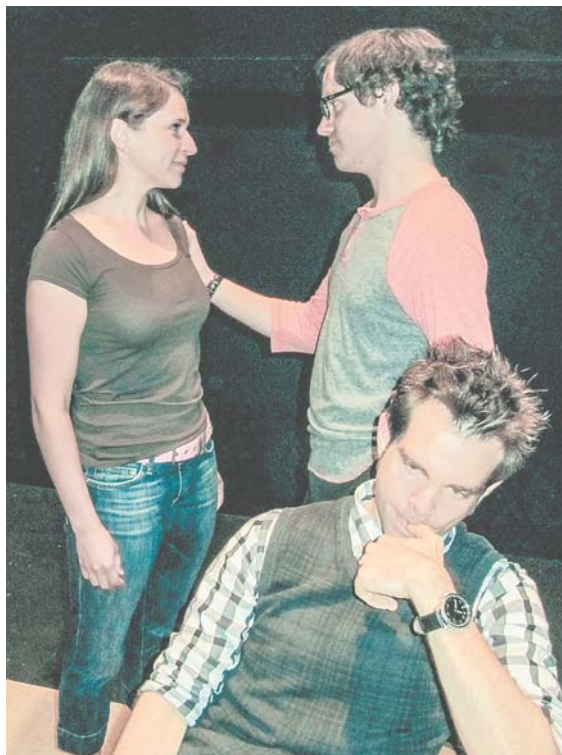
"Flowers for Algernon" is based upon a short story and an award winning 1966 science fiction book by Daniel Keyes, adapted by David Rogers into a play. It is the story of Charlie Gordon, a grown man who is developmentally disabled. He is chosen for experimental surgery that is expected to lead to a dramatic increase in his IQ; or so the researchers think.

After the operation Charlie does gain new intellectual and emotional capacities. And then he discovers that all his gains may only be temporary. What will a regression mean to Charlie? How will he cope? How will the changes impact those in Charlie's life?

Matt Baughman plays Charlie. In his reactions to reading the script to find the authentic way to prepare himself for his role, Baughman "remembered his days as a volunteer when he was younger" working with the developmentally disabled. He used his own memory to build his Charlie character. He wanted the audience to come to understand "all the challenges, and all the tics" of his character. He wanted to show an audience "the bewilderment of his character."

Lauren Kiesling plays Alice Kinnian, a woman who cares very deeply for Charlie. Kiesling described the arc of the play as one that "shows not only how Charlie is affected as he changes after the surgery, but how Charlie's changes affect all those surrounding him, whether they know him professionally or personally. Everyone has to adapt to Charlie as he goes through everything even his decline."

"This play is like a classic Greek tale," said Steve Custer, playing one of the medical researchers involved with the experiment. "It is about the rise and fall over time of a human being. It is an ultimately



From left standing, Lauren Kiesling as Alice, center seated, Matt Baughman as Charlie, and right standing, Steve Custer as Burt Selden, a medical researcher in "Flowers for Algernon," which runs through June 30 at the Industrial Strength Theater.

Where and When

Elden Street Players, Industrial Strength Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive in Herndon. Performances June 8- 30. Friday-Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday, June 17 at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 24 at 7 p.m. and Thursday, June 28 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$20. Call 703-481-5930 or visit www.eldenstreetplayers.org

tragic tale with deep meaning that will genuinely affect the audience."

For those unfamiliar with "Flowers for Algernon," the title refers to a mouse named Algernon that first undergoes the experimental surgery with unforeseen consequences.



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Off Topic, Almost



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If only it were that simple. And as much I'd like to turn the cancer switch off, finding that switch has proven to be extremely challenging. Not that I'm forever looking for it mind you, but if it were to present itself, I hope I wouldn't be so self-absorbed in its pursuit to not take advantage of its proximity. Under the present circumstances (as I live and breathe, still), a break and/or a brake in all this cancer focus/action would be most welcome. A cure even better, but if nothing else, I am realistic about my cancer diagnosis. I'm not quite ready to admit that I'm consumed by it however (really?), but if I were to be honest, I'd have to say my life is certainly controlled by it.

The enlightened view is of course, given the "terminal" characterization of my diagnosis/prognosis, that as long as I am still controlled by cancer, I am still living with it. And so far as we know, generally speaking it beats the alternative of not living with it. Dying might be a beginning for some, but for me, it sort of represents an end, an end I'd rather not reach, at least not before my pre-cancer diagnosis, life-expectancy age of 85 or so. It just doesn't seem right (you'll note I didn't say fair), to die at a younger age than either of my parents (age 86 and 87) did. Aren't succeeding generations supposed to naturally evolve and live longer and healthier than those which preceded them?

I know. There's no guarantee. Oh, there is, actually: "death and taxes," as the old joke says, (ironic, given my situation). And really, who else am I supposed to be concerned about? Granted, it can't be all about Kenny all the time; that would be boring (as some of you occasional readers have opined). But unless I start at home, I'll never make it out on the road. I don't want to be a metaphorical black hole that sucks all the life and laughter out of a room because I have cancer. I want to be the exact opposite. Part of my intention is that I believe that what goes around comes around, and being positive to others will generate positivity back to me (of that I'm positive). Ultimately, I am being selfish. I need that positivity sent my way. I don't need to be around any "nattering nabobs of negativism" (Spiro T. Agnew). The other part is, it's not my nature to be negative, and when it happens that I receive and/or sense negativity, it really drains my emotional wherewithal - which after three-plus years of living with a terminal diagnosis, it is wherewithal which has come and often gone. It's simply too difficult to overcome. I already have enough physical and medical challenges. I don't need any matters being made worse.

On the contrary, to prevent further erosion, I need to be over-compensated for my troubles. Apparently, the longer one lives as a cancer survivor/patient, the greater the cumulative weight of the underlying diagnosis. If it's ever gone (remission), it's certainly not forgotten - by the patient. One way or another, it's with you for the rest of your life. And good health guarantees? Right next to your "Get out of jail free card." Nevertheless, after sifting and sorting through the emotional maze these last three years, I feel as if I have a pretty good handle on what I'm doing and why. The only problem is, cancer doesn't care; it does what it wants and it causes what it causes. As much as you try, it overwhelms. Some days are worse than others, as you no doubt can read for yourself.

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

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IFTA is a visual and performing arts program for students entering grades 7-12 in the 2012-13 school year. Dozens of enrichment classes, taught by professionals, help students grow and expand their knowledge of dance, music, theatre, cartooning, computer graphics, photography, and more.

The Elementary Institute for Arts (E-IFTA) offers enrichment classes for students entering grades 4-6 in the 2012-13 school year. Students experience total immersion in the arts as they rotate through exciting and stimulating classes in dance, drama, music, and visual art.

"Students develop skills and talents while exploring subjects or fields that interest them when they take enrichment courses," said Folly. "For example, Tech Adventure Camp gives students a chance to rotate through a series of eight classes including automotive technology, culinary arts, CAD/3D design, gaming, graphic arts, robotics, video and webpage design. It is great exposure to many forms of technology for students who have an interest in that area."

Young people interested in pursuing a career as models, fashion designers, makeup artists, or hair stylists will explore all that and more at Fashion Camp, July 9-13, at Fairfax High School. The camp is open to all students entering first grade through ninth grade. Campers will participate in activities designed for separate age groups. Campers will learn about fashion trends and create their own personally styled outfits, jewelry, and accessories in preparation for a fashion show at the end of the week.

Dive into a Good Book

Summer is a great time for children to explore books and discover reading for enjoyment. Students who read during the summer are more likely to improve their word recognition and reading comprehension skills. So encourage your child to pick up a book, discover a new subject or author, and have fun too! Many schools provide summer reading lists for students and the Fairfax County Public Library offers a summer reading program.

Summer Learning Fun

Splashing around in the pool, bicycle riding in the neighborhood, playing video games -- just a few ways children spend their summer days. Do you want to add some exciting, fun, and even educational activities to your child's summer?

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) offers many programs to keep students learning throughout the summer including fashion camp, art classes, drivers' education classes, foreign language camps, and more.

"Learning doesn't occur just between September and June," said Levi Folly, manager of FCPS summer programs. "Summer academic and enrichment courses expose students to subjects and areas they might not access during the school year and they provide opportunities for students to focus on areas of interest with like-minded students."

"Completing an academic course during the summer gives students more flexibility in their

fall schedule. In fact, most students who take an academic summer course do so to get ahead," he said.

Academic programs are available for students who want to accelerate their course of study during the summer, need to recover a credit, or pass a Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) end-of-course test.

The Summer Online Campus is open to FCPS

students and non-FCPS students and includes mathematics, science, English, history, physical education, and Spanish courses. New online courses include creative writing, Algebra 2 head start, college essay writing, and rich writing.

FCPS also offers two summer sessions for students seeking SOL credit. An SOL writing test remediation session will be held July 9-20 and a non-writing test session will be held July 9-24 for the following courses: Algebra 1, Geometry, Biology, Chemistry, World History-Geography 1, World History-Geography 2, and Virginia-US History.

Current FCPS high school seniors who need to earn one standard credit in Algebra 2, Geometry, English 12, or Virginia-U.S. government in order to graduate can enroll in the Term Graduate Academy to receive credit and graduate by August 31. The classes will be taught at Lake Braddock Secondary School July 9-27.

Left: The go-cart was constructed in the Automotive Technology class "Start Your Engines" at Tech Adventure Camp last summer. The campers assembled and drove the go-carts.

This Just In

Fairfax County School Board adopted the FY2013 budget of \$2.4 billion. For details visit www.fcps.edu and click on FY 2013 Budget.



To learn more about all FCPS summer programs visit www.fcps.edu and click on Summer Programs.

Learn Languages and More Through ACE

FCPS Adult and Community Education (ACE) offer a variety of classes for everyone in the community.

Exploring world languages through games, art, songs, crafts, and activities help students in grades K-6 learn other languages. The Foreign Language Experience (FLEX) Summer Camps provide instruction in Chinese, French, German, and Spanish.

High school students who need classroom and behind-the-wheel training to meet state driver education requirements can fulfill the requirement by completing their classes through ACE.



Getting To Know Us

IFTA Visual Art Chair

Joe Dailey

Joe Dailey admits he enjoys spending several weeks each summer with young people in a high energy atmosphere.

He is the visual arts chairman for the Institute for the Arts (IFTA), a unique academic program for students who want to explore visual and performing arts during the summer. Courses in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts offer students opportunities to explore various arts disciplines they may not experience in their regular school setting.

"The students are pretty spectacular," he said. "They come to IFTA excited about creating and processing their thoughts and they are excited to be with other students just like themselves who share the same interests."

Did You Know?

IFTA students register to take four classes from a variety of course offerings. They are encouraged to enroll in one course from each discipline to grow and expand their knowledge of the arts during the month long program.

Many FCPS high school booster clubs offer summer camps for students. Contact your school to learn more!

"It's a great experience for the students because they are with other students who want to excel and be challenged," said Dailey. "It's also rejuvenating for teachers to work with these students."

Students who enroll in IFTA can earn a half a credit for completing the program.

"IFTA will be an experience they won't forget," said Dailey. "The students are in their element, developing concepts and creating art. The experience from the process is very rewarding."

FCPS also offers an arts enrichment program for elementary school students in grades 3-5 through the Elementary Institute for the Arts (E-IFTA).



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