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**Herndon freshman
Alexa Bradley won
the all-around
competition at a
Jan. 16 meet at
Herndon High
School.**

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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY
COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC. TO AMEND
ITS NATURAL GAS CONSERVATION AND RATEMAKING EFFICIENCY PLAN
CASE NO. PUE-2013-00114**

On December 11, 2013, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. ("Columbia Gas" or the "Company"), filed an application ("Application") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") requesting authority to amend its natural gas conservation and ratemaking efficiency plan ("Current CARE Plan") approved by the Commission in Case No. PUE-2012-00013. The Commission approved the Company's Current CARE Plan on April 27, 2012, for the three-year period January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2015. The Company's initial CARE Plan ("Initial CARE Plan") was approved by the Commission in Case No. PUE-2009-00051 for a three-year period that ended December 31, 2012.

Columbia Gas's Application requests authority to amend its Current CARE Plan to add a high-efficiency gas storage water heater measure and a high-efficiency tankless water heater measure to the Home Savings Program and to increase the approved customer rebate amounts for the existing high-efficiency natural gas furnace with an average fuel utilization rate efficiency ("AFUE") \geq 90% measure and the attic insulation measure, both of which are measures currently included in the Home Savings Program (collectively, the "Home Savings Program Amendments"). The Application requests authority to implement the Home Savings Program Amendments effective April 30, 2014, for the remainder of the Current CARE Plan through December 31, 2015, and to incorporate the Home Savings Program Amendments into the previously approved Revenue Normalization Adjustment ("RNA"), CARE Program Adjustment ("CPA") and Program Performance Incentive ("PPI") mechanisms of the Current CARE Plan.

The Application states that year-over-year participation under the Current CARE Plan has declined compared to participation under the Initial CARE Plan and that during 2013, 31% fewer projects were completed as part of the Current CARE Plan as compared to 2012, the last year of the Initial CARE Plan. The Application states that the high-efficiency gas storage water heater and high-efficiency tankless water heater measures were part of the Company's Initial CARE Plan but that they were not included in the Current CARE Plan. Columbia Gas further states that the rebate amounts for the high-efficiency gas furnace (AFUE \geq 90%) and attic insulation measures also were reduced in the Current CARE Plan compared to the Initial CARE Plan. The Company asserts that these changes from the Initial CARE Plan correlate to the reduced rate of customer participation experienced under the Current CARE Plan and that the changes to the Current CARE Plan proposed by the Application are being requested to expand available options for residential customers and increase customer participation.

Specifically, Columbia Gas proposes that the high-efficiency gas storage water heater measure include a customer rebate of \$50 per qualifying unit, which it states is equivalent to the rebate offered under the Initial CARE Plan. For the proposed high-efficiency tankless water heater measure, the Company requests the customer rebate be approved in the amount of \$200 per qualifying unit. Columbia Gas proposes to increase the high-efficiency gas furnace (AFUE \geq 90%) measure from \$200 per qualifying unit to \$300 per qualifying unit and to increase the rebate for the attic insulation measure from \$0.18 per square foot to \$0.30 per square foot for qualifying insulation installed, both of which it states are consistent with the Initial CARE Plan rebate amount for these measures. The Company proposes to add \$25,000 each year to the Home Savings Program portion of the Education and Outreach Program budget for the remaining two years of the Current CARE Plan in order to increase customer awareness of the changes to the Home Savings Program and to increase participation. The Application indicates that this increase can be made within overall approved budget for the Current CARE Plan.

The Company states that the impact of the Home Savings Program Amendments is a slight decrease of \$6,000 from the Commission-approved budget and that the Company proposes to invest a total of \$5.7 million, inclusive of the Home Savings Program Amendments, over the period of the Current CARE Plan, to be recovered under the previously approved CPA tracking mechanism. The CPA, inclusive of the Home Savings Program Amendments, will cost the average residential customer using approximately 70 mcf approximately \$8 in 2014, the same annual cost as currently approved. The Company proposes no methodological changes to the approved RNA or CPA mechanisms contained in the Current CARE Plan.

Through the PPI, the Company recovers up to 15% of the net verified economic benefits created by the utility's approved CARE Plan as provided by § 56-602 F of the Code of Virginia. The Company proposes to modify the usage reduction targets set forth in the Company's approved PPI to incorporate the Home Savings Program Amendments. In addition, the Company states that it has modified the definition of actual cost of gas to include upstream pipeline capacity costs, consistent with the Commission's ruling in Case No. PUE-2012-00118, for the purposes of the gross cumulative energy benefits used to calculate the PPI. To reflect the same Commission ruling, Columbia Gas also has revised the associated acronym from WACCOG, weighted average commodity cost of gas, to WACOG, weighted average cost of gas, in the PPI calculation.

The details of these and other proposals are set forth in the Company's Application. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company's Application and supporting testimony and exhibits for the details of these proposals.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Company's Application.

A copy of the Company's Application may be obtained at no charge by requesting a copy of the same from the Company's counsel, T. Borden Ellis, Senior Counsel, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc., 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, Virginia 23836. The Application and related documents also shall be available for review in the Commission's Document Control Center, Tyler Building, First Floor, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>.

On or before February 21, 2014, interested persons may file written comments on Columbia Gas's Application with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so, on or before February 21, 2014, by following the instructions on the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. Comments shall refer to Case No. PUE-2013-00114.

On or before February 21, 2014, interested persons may request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Company's Application by filing a request for hearing with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Requests for hearing must refer to Case No. PUE-2013-00114 and include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party's interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter.

A copy of any written comments, requests for hearing, and notices of participation shall simultaneously be sent to counsel for the Company: T. Borden Ellis, Senior Counsel, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc., 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, Virginia 23836.

COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.

NEWS



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN / THE CONNECTION

Volunteer John Moseeso who has long organized the annual Herndon High School Homecoming Parade was given a ceremonial key of the Town of Herndon at the Town Council meeting.

Certificates of Congratulations Given at Council Session

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

We have several presentations this evening and we are very excited about all of them because this is the stuff that makes living in Herndon the great place that it

is," said Mayor Lisa Merkel. Merkel was speaking at the Jan. 14 Herndon Town Council Public Session, and she invited town councilmember Melissa Jonas to read the official Certificate of Congratulations for the Herndon High School's "Pride of Herndon" SEE TOWN, PAGE 4

The vandal caused almost \$5,000 in damage to the council chamber building windows Friday evening.



BY ETHAN MCLEOD / THE CONNECTION

Vandal Damages Windows

Police arrived at the Herndon Town Council Chamber building Friday night, Jan. 17, to find that several large windows around the outside of the building had been smashed.

Witnesses reported seeing a tall black male throw an object at the Council Chamber building in downtown Herndon at 10:45 p.m. before taking off running toward Grace Street.

Despite assistance from a Fairfax County Police helicopter, authorities were unable to spot and capture the suspect.

The suspect smashed three panes of glass near the front doors of the chamber building, as well as another around the back close

to the bike trail.

No one has come forward yet with any information on the suspect, but police are hoping that witnesses will start to come forward this week.

"The Herndon Police Department is asking for the public's assistance in identifying the subject," said Lt. Jim Moore in a statement Saturday.

Anyone who observed anything related to this incident can call the police department's main number at 703-435-6846 or contact Sgt. Thompson at 703-435-6881 x 2332 or by email at stephen.thompson@herndon-va.gov.

— ETHAN MCLEOD

'Helping Hungry Kids'

Saturday food drives at Herndon and Reston grocery stores provide weekends meals for area students.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD
THE CONNECTION

Every Saturday leading up to Feb. 17, customers walking into the Fox Mill and North Point shopping center Giant grocery stores will be able to provide food for hungry elementary school children in Herndon and Reston.

The Helping Hungry Kids program kicked off its Stuff the Bus food collection program Jan. 18, at area grocery stores, complete with shopping carts and a stack of food ready to be purchased for generous customers. Volunteers at the front of the store handed out flyers to customers and asked them to help by purchasing \$11 bags filled with child-sized portions of items like macaroni and cheese, granola bars and sugar-free applesauce.

"A lot of the people who come here just take the bag and prepare it themselves," said Colleen Cavitz, a Chantilly resident who has been volunteering each month for three years.

Co-founder Sandy Amato first began collecting monthly food donations in 2009 for area elementary school students on free and



PHOTO BY ETHAN MCLEOD/THE CONNECTION
Volunteers unload food packed into a Fastran bus at the end of the day.

reduced lunch programs. There is a significant gap in food availability for those students on the weekends that Amato says the Helping Hungry Kids program seeks to fill. Giving Circle of Hope, the nonprofit that organizes the monthly food drives, distributes the food at the end of each week for children on free and reduced lunch programs.

The majority of the food, about 300 bags, goes to Dogwood Elementary School students, with an additional 25 to 50 going to students who attend Buzz Aldrin, Terraset, Clearview, Coates and Belvedere elementary schools. Larger items and boxes of food are donated to the Embry Rucker Community Shelter. "The community is so generous," said Amato. "We get about eight grocery carts full every time we come out here to Fox Mill."

The food is then transported to the Altum, Inc. building in Reston, the corporate business partner for the past five years for Giving Circle of Hope, where it is sorted into

bags.

From Jan. 18 to Feb. 17, Fairfax County provides transport for the donations through its Stuff the Bus program with Fastran buses in the parking lots of 13 grocery stores that collect each day's donations. Helping Hungry Kids is one of the initiatives that Fairfax County helps, in addition to replenishing the supplies at area food banks.

Dave Dixon, who works for MV Transportation, has been driving the buses stuffed full of food donations for four years. "After Christmas, there's a real drain on the supplies available for food banks," said Dixon.

Dixon displayed the estimated figures collected during the 2012-2013 school year: 8,570 bags, totaled at \$51,420 in donations.

Amato noted that the collections have grown each year, and hopes that that trend will only continue to provide for the county's hungry children: "Nobody thinks there are hungry kids in Fairfax County, but there really are."

Retail Worries

October numbers artificially inflated; holiday numbers could spell trouble.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

The partial government shutdown was more than an October surprise during the race for governor. Newly available statistics from the Virginia Department of Taxation show the month was also an unexpected boost to sales tax revenues across the commonwealth. Fairfax County, for example, recorded a 15.5 percent spike in sales tax revenue in October 2013 compared to October 2012. But state and local officials say that's because several major department stores neglected to increase their sales tax rate to reflect the new regional tax for transportation when the new fiscal year began in July. So the October numbers represent the backlog of uncollected revenues.

Which retailers flubbed their taxes?

"That's proprietary information, so we can't say," said Marcia Wilds, revenue and economic analysis coordinator with the Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget. "They're big."

The revenue corrections came at a key time for local governments, a month that many expected to be particularly bleak. Many government workers and contractors were out of work in October, when local governments became concerned that spending habits might reflect a sense of uncertainty about the future. Now budget officials across Northern Virginia are worried about what kind of sales tax revenue they'll collect from the holiday season.

"The sales tax will be back with holiday sales," said Stephen Fuller, director of the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University. "Over the year there will only a minor weakening."

BUDGET OFFICIALS are not so sure. As local governments across the region prepare for the first round of budgeting next month, a sense of uncertainty looms over the revenue projections and spending priorities. Part of that is the unemployment rate, which remains at about 6 percent across Virginia. That means consumers may hold back on consumption based spending, which would mean lower revenues for local governments on retail sales and restaurant meals.

SEE SALES TAX, PAGE 11

Body Found in Creek off of Locust Street Identified

A resident reported finding the body of an adult male in downtown Herndon.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD
THE CONNECTION

Herndon Police determined late Friday, Jan. 17, that a body found in a creek bed at the intersection of Locust and Center streets in downtown Herndon was that of 30-year-old Damien Patrick Scanlan.

Police received a call from a resident

of the 600 block of Center Street who spotted the body down in the creek around 8 a.m. on Friday morning.

While a preliminary investigation indicated that there had been no foul play in Scanlan's death, police are asking that anyone who saw him that night to come forward.

"The police are looking for anyone who may have heard or witnessed anything last

night in the area of Center Street and Locust Street between the hours of midnight and 8 a.m. this morning," said Herndon Police Lt. Jim Moore.

Moore said that the police still have to conduct interviews in the coming weeks. The cause of death is determined by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will not be known for months.

Anyone with information on this case or who saw Scanlan that night should contact Herndon Police Sgt. Thompson at 703-435-6881 x 2332 or Detective Diaz at 703-435-2990.



It takes a small army to prepare dinner, snacks, breakfast and a carry-out lunch for up to 40 people.

Floris United Methodist

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Members of Floris United Methodist Church (FUMC) in Herndon have participated in programs assisting the area's homeless for years, mostly through food and clothing donations and by volunteering to serve meals at shelters and seasonal food pantries and kitchens. Last year a number of the congregation who have given their time to those efforts decided to see if FUMC would take their involvement to the next level by agreeing to literally open the church doors for one week as part of the annual Hypothermia Prevention and Response program coordinated by local non-profit FACETS. The response by FUMC leadership and worshipers alike was overwhelmingly positive.

"The group brought a well-thought out five-page proposal — almost like a business plan — to the church leadership," said Director of Serve Ministries Jake McGlothlin. "Even though this was a pretty big commitment, really something beyond what we have done in the past, everyone got right on board. And once we announced the plan to the entire FUMC community, volunteers were immediately stepping up. I've had a pretty easy time of it," McGlothlin laughed.

More than 250 volunteers, aged 14 and older, are handling the many tasks associated with housing and hosting up to 40 clients each night.

Planning committees began meeting as long ago as March of last year, first just once a month, until they began meeting weekly in December in preparation for their turn as hosts during the week of Jan. 12-19. "We are just one of many area faith communities that take part in the FACETS program and house our needful neighbors," said McGlothlin, "but we wanted to put an even more welcoming face on our efforts, so we've billed this as our 'Guest House'

for these clients. We want them to really feel at home."

From 5:30 p.m. until 7 a.m., the fellowship hall is transformed into the sleeping quarters for the guests. Dinner, breakfast and snacks are served in the large main lobby of the church complex, and bagged lunches are offered as the guests depart for the day. Guests are also offered shower facilities, and there are numerous activities available for anyone so inclined to join in.

"Some folks just want to enjoy the peace of a quiet and safe place to rest out of the cold and pretty much keep to themselves," said Vicki Monroe, the food coordinator for the event and a long-time volunteer for homeless causes. "Others are very social and tell us how happy they are to have someone to just sit and talk with. There's been some lively conversation around here. I am really enjoying the personal interaction."

So does volunteer Jay Hilbert. In charge of general logistics and transportation, Hilbert said when he's not running from here to there it's been a great experience to serve the community face-to-face. "I'm also enjoying getting to know other church members that I might never have really met or had much interaction with."

Working with more than 30 area churches and faith communities, FACETS offers the Hypothermia Prevention Program each year starting in late November to give the homeless warm and safe accommodation and several nutritious meals during the cold winter months. Last year the organization served almost 250 clients through the program, one of five such programs operated in partnership with Fairfax County government. "We really wish there wasn't a need for these services," said McGlothlin, "but I am so proud that the FUMC community was ready and willing to say 'Be Our Guest' and then really make it happen."



Certificates were awarded to winners of the 2013 "Dress Up Herndon for the Holidays" contest. From left: Nilton Carhuallanqui, Arita Carhuallanqui, Vice Mayor Connie Hutchinson, Lynn Schumaker, Ken Marter, Mayor Lisa Merkel and David Hartnett. Seated in the back are Melissa Jonas and Charlie Waddel.

Town

FROM PAGE 2
Marching Band.

The Town Council honored the band and director Kathleen Jacoby for their exceptional performance in Hawaii for the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade this past December. Herndon High School students and members of the Pride of Herndon marching band Lizzie Pater and Christian Sheppard recounted their experience and excitement at being awarded Grand Champion honors for their parade performance. "This has been one of the most influential trips I have been on, and I will be eternally grateful," said Sheppard.

The councilmembers and Merkel told the band how proud they were, and remarked on how well the band represented the Town of Herndon to the country. "You guys are a rare breed," said councilmember Charlie Waddel. "I'm a little in awe of what you accomplished ... you made your parents proud and honored the veterans, thank you."

"Pride of Herndon" band members thanked the Town of Herndon for its support and shared a photo slideshow of their trip to Hawaii. A certificate of appreciation was also given to JT Sidhu, an airport operations supervisor for United Airlines who helped make sure chaperone guidelines were met and helped the band secure a \$5,000 discount on shipping the band's instruments and equipment to Hawaii. Sidhu graduated from Herndon High in 1998.

The Town Council made another proclamation recognizing John Mosesso, honoring him for more than 20 years of volunteerism and leadership to

chair and organize the annual Herndon High School Homecoming Parade. Mosesso was also recognized for his volunteerism provided to other organizations including, the annual Herndon Festival and the Herndon Festival Planning Committee, the Girls Scouts, and the former Greater Herndon Jaycees. Mosesso is leaving the position of chair for the annual Herndon Homecoming Parade, which has become a signature Herndon event.

"This is just one of the many people who have made Herndon such a wonderful place to live," said Olem. "Thanks for everything you have done."

"I commend you for all your years of service, we will miss you terribly," said councilmember Grace Wolf.

Mosesso was awarded a ceremonial key of the Town of Herndon. "He kept the parade going when nobody else stepped up to do it," said Herndon Town Manager Arthur Anselene. "It has been a pleasure to work with John with both the parade and the Herndon festival."

One more group of certificates was given out, and that was for winners of the 2013 "Dress Up Herndon for the Holidays" contest, operated by The Cultivating Communities Initiative. Lynn Schumaker read a list of winners who were then invited to come up and receive their certificates of appreciation. Among those who picked up the certificates were David Hartnett, Ken Marter, and Nilton and his wife Arita Carhuallanqui.

To learn more about the Town of Herndon government and council meetings, visit www.herndon-va.gov/Content/Government/.

SCHOOLS



Choreography will be incorporated in the January cabaret performance at Herndon High school. In several scenes the entire cast comes on stage.

PHOTO BY
RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

'Broadway Magic' A "crazy colorful, an explosion of fun" show.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

When you guys land, land on the balls of your feet, don't land with your feet flat. Then pivot on right foot, but sing the melody," Dana Van Slyke said. Herndon High School's Choral Director Van Slyke was speaking to students in the school auditorium practicing choreography for a song from the musical "South Pacific." The cast and crew conducted a weekend recital to prepare for the annual cabaret show. "The cabaret show is about an hour and a half production of songs from classical musicals all the way to contemporary shows," Van Slyke said.

The title for this year's cabaret production is "Broadway Magic," and will feature numbers from "A Chorus Line," "Pippin," "West Side Story," and others. "This is the first show in which all the sound and music mixing will be done upstairs at the Herndon sound and lighting booth," said Adrian Morgan, who has been volunteering with Herndon High School for about 14 years. Dana Van Slyke's husband, Jim Van Slyke, played the keyboard as students rehearsed the song "Saturday Night in City."

Dana Van Slyke reviewed the dance routine. "Let's exaggerate the shoulder rolls, please," she said.

"The kids are so motivated to get the musical together they put in 150 percent effort," said Dana Van Slyke. Outside the auditorium, members of the Herndon Choral Boosters group were putting together posters for the show. "It is amazing how Dana and Jim work together to create this music opportunity for the kids," said Boosters president Julie Frederickson, whose son Michael is a senior at Herndon High and member of the school choir.

"We have a great group of people that we can count on," said Andie Lytle, vice president with the Choral Boosters group. Jerry Vandenberg, a resident of Herndon, was at the weekend rehearsal. "I bring in some of the technical lighting and I do some of the design ideas," said Vandenberg. Vandenberg has assisted with the lighting as a volunteer for 15 years, and described this year's cabaret production lighting design as subtle. "You never want to take the attention away from your performers," said Vandenberg.

"We enjoy putting this production together because we are able to feature so many different kids ... We have been doing this production for about 17 years, and this is my 19th year at Herndon. It is something we look forwards to," said Dana Van Slyke. "I really enjoy the numbers that employ the entire cast, I enjoy those because everybody is on stage and there is a lot of energy on stage, that is inspiring."

The cast is made up of Herndon High students from the 9th through 12th grade. "It is a mixture of different Broadway show tunes and some ensemble numbers, it is a high energy show that I think people will really enjoy," said student Drew Lytle, a junior.

"The show is going to be absolutely amazing, it is going to be crazy colorful, an explosion of fun," said Robin McGrath, a Herndon High sophomore participating in the production.

The production will be Thursday, Jan. 23 (weather depending) and Saturday, Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door with \$10 all admission, \$5 for senior citizens and students. The cabaret show is an opportunity for any school student to audition for without any prerequisites.

To learn more about Herndon High Choir, visit www.herndonchoir.com.

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OPINION

Extend Health Coverage in Virginia

General Assembly should not block coverage for as many as 400,000 uninsured.

Standing on what is essentially scorched earth, Republicans in the Virginia General Assembly have condemned hundreds of thousands of poor Virginians to living without health coverage even though it would be fully funded by Federal money for the next three years, and with Virginia paying 10 percent after five years.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe has pledged to do everything he can to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, and we encourage him to use every creative option available to make that happen. In Ohio, the governor found a legal way to accept the Medicaid funds despite objections from the General Assembly, for example.

Earlier this week, McAuliffe included an amendment to the FY2014 budget bill authorizing the Governor to act in the event that the Medicaid Reform Innovation and Reform Commission (MIRC) fails to decide

whether or not to accept federal funding to cover up to 400,000 uninsured Virginians through Medicaid by the end of the current legislative session.

EDITORIAL

Business groups and chambers of commerce around Virginia, including the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, support accepting the expansion of Medicaid in Virginia under the Affordable Care Act. One persuasive factor for the business community: The expansion would create an estimated 30,000 jobs. Hospitals support expanding Medicaid which would offset many of the costs of caring for uninsured populations.

It isn't as if there is no health care cost for the uninsured now. Right now, they access health care when they are very sick by going to an emergency room or other clinics, where providers spread the cost of care around. This is inefficient, expensive and unhealthy, including for those of us who do have health insur-

ance. It means unvaccinated and/or sick people are going to work and going about their daily lives putting themselves and others at risk.

As of January 2014, in Virginia, Medicaid eligibility for adults without disability is limited to parents with incomes below 51 percent of poverty, or about \$11,900 a year for a family of four, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Adults without dependent children remain ineligible regardless of their income.

The General Assembly should not be able to block coverage for as many as 400,000 Virginians basically out of spite. The established excuse, that the Feds can't afford it and can't be counted on to pay the money, doesn't hold water in Virginia, which receives more Federal dollars per capita than any other state but Alaska. If legislators are so concerned about Federal ability to pay, you might expect to see them refusing transportation money, for example, or to turn the possible FBI headquarters away, or thousands of other ways that Federal dollars make their way into Virginia.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SCHOOLS

Herndon High Cadets Head to National Championship

Herndon High's Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) cadets did not let a cold and dreary day stand in the way of their pursuit of the February 2014 Orienteering National Championship. As one of only two corps with five teams to have completed their courses successfully, the Herndon NJROTC secured an overall 4th place finish in the highly competitive Area Five Orienteering Championship.

There, they ran against 21 other schools from Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

The overall 4th place finish resulted from a determined effort by all Herndon teams and their members.

The varsity team placed 4th out of 19 teams; the junior varsity teams placed 6th and 8th out of 30; and the intermediate teams placed 11th and 12th out of 30. Cadet Wilfredo Bautista earned the individual gold medal at the junior

varsity level, where he outmaneuvered more than 100 competitors. Also, Cadets Zack Tershak, Marshall Wilkins, and Travis Langtry finished 11th, 12th, and 20th, respectively, against a field of 85 varsity team members. "With these finishes, we are very excited about our prospects for Nationals in February," said Coach Clay Wilkins.

Preparation for the National Championship will include running several more orienteering

courses of graded levels of challenge.

As courses increase in difficulty, they require more advanced skills in locating hidden checkpoints, using only a map and compass, as well as more physical strength and endurance. Cadets often find themselves crossing rivers, scaling steep hills, and running as quickly as they can — in the right direction — for miles over rough terrain.

Visit www.herndonnjrotc.com.



Herndon High's NJROTC cadets celebrate earning fourth place at the Area Five Orienteering Championship.

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2012
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Virginia
PRESS
Association

ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

TUESDAY/JAN. 21-SUNDAY/MARCH 2

Something Blue. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Fine textile art is showcased in Something Blue by the Northern Virginia Quilters. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 22-WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19

Art Explorers. 10:30-11:30 a.m., ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon.

Three sessions allow for a more in-depth introduction to the key concepts and will provide some good homework suggestions to help start and develop a habit of sketching. \$200. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 24-SATURDAY/JAN. 25

Les Miserables. 8 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, this revolutionary musical is a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit.

SATURDAY/JAN. 25

"Sing a New Song" Concert. 4 p.m. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1133 Reston Ave., Herndon. The concert explores the high church music of the Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran traditions. Concert is free, but a freewill donation will be collected (suggested: \$20/adult). A reception follows the concert. <http://gslcva.org/ministries/worship/concert-series/>

SUNDAY/JAN. 26

Something Blue Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m., ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. This exhibit showcases fine textile art and is a sampling of blue varetals as used by Northern Virginia Quilters. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 9

Rennie Harris' RHAW 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. RHAW will showcase Dr. Rennie Harris' newest and brightest street dancers as they bring hip hop back to basics. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 12

Lúnasa. 8 p.m., at The Centerstage,

Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. This group of Irishmen continues its 20-year tradition of famed Celtic music. \$20 Reston/\$40 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

SUNDAY/APRIL 6

Mr. Vaudeville and Friends with Mark Brutsché. 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Buddy Silver, and alter-ego Mark Brutsché, returns to to prove, once again, that nothing can take the place of live entertainment. \$5 Reston/\$10 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

SUNDAY/APRIL 27

Trout Fishing in America. 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. This Grammy Award nominated duo's infectious mix of folk/pop and family music is enriched by the diverse influences of reggae, Latin, blues, jazz and classical music. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 28

Modern Moves, in partnership with Dance Place. 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Three of D.C.'s most prominent choreographers – Daniel Burkholder, Daniel Phoenix Singh and Erica Rebollar – come together to create an eclectic evening of thrilling modern dance. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

SATURDAY/MAY 31

Raul Midón. 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Blind since infancy, Midón uses his songwriting and musical talents to shatter stereotypes while establishing himself as one of music's most distinctive and searching voices. \$20 Reston/\$40 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

SUNDAY/JUNE 8

SpeakeasyDC's Born This Way: Stories About Queer Culture in America. 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. One of the region's premiere storytelling theatres presents an adults only afternoon of entertaining and thought-provoking true stories that showcase a range of perspectives

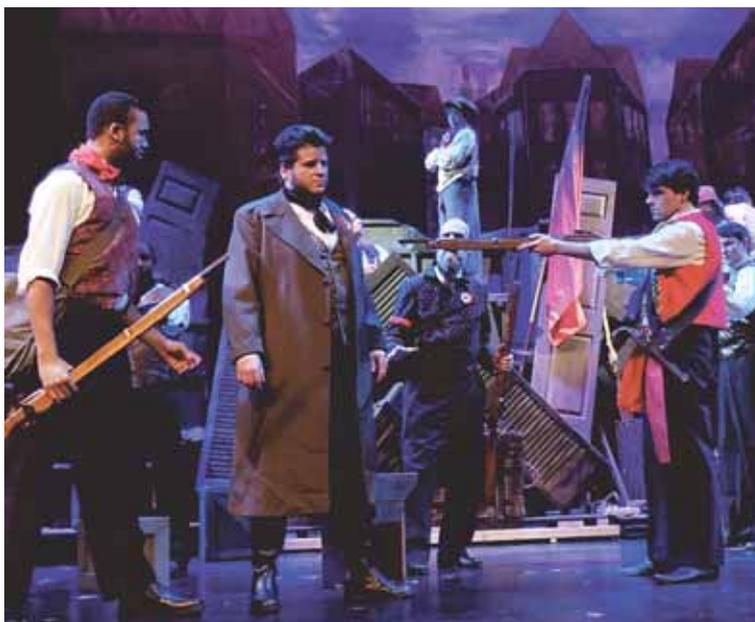


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Join Reston Community Center for a revolutionary musical performance of Les Miserables starting on Jan. 24.

from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) community. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

ONGOING

Free Comedy Showcase. Thursdays 8:30 p.m., at Kalypto's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Lake Anne Village Center, Reston. Kalypto's hosts weekly comedy shows that feature some of the best national touring and local comedians in the area. Free of charge.

"Pinocchio." March 8-30, 2014, Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. NextStop Family Theatre presents a new adaptation of Carlo Collodi's classic story. It is adapted and directed by Paul Reisman and co-produced by Faction of Fools. www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

League of Reston Artists Paints the Town. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at 1763 Fountain Drive, Reston. Approximately 30 works, in a variety of styles, from League of Reston Artists painters are currently being exhibited at the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

Family Fun Entertainment Series. 10-10:45 a.m., at Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market St., Reston. Every Saturday enjoy live shows, children's music and other child-friendly entertainment. 703-476-4500.

Movies and Mimosas. 11 a.m., at Reston Town Center, 11940 Market St., Reston. Saturday and Sunday

showings in the morning; look up showings online. www.bowtiecinemas.com.

Smart Markets. Wednesdays 3-7 p.m., Smart Markets at 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Smart Markets is a producer-only farmers' market that offers food and live music from local jazz group, devoted to supporting local economy and a healthier environment. For more information visit, facebook.com/smartmarketsreston, twitter.com/smartmarkets and www.smartmarkets.org.

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.

TGIF Free Fridays. 5-7 p.m., at Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. An evening of family art making and storytelling. 703-471-9242 or www.restonarts.com.

Insomnia Theater. 11:30 p.m., at Reston Town Center, 11940 Market St., Reston. Friday and Saturday showings; look up showings online. www.bowtiecinemas.com.

Get Active with Athleta. Yoga, Pilates, dance, cardio, and core strength, 7:30-8:30 a.m., Saturdays; Cycle Club meet-up at the Bike Lane for 20 miles at a mild pace, 9-11 a.m., Saturdays; Brisk power walking with the Walk-about Club at Athleta, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Sundays. Reston Town Center Pavilion, 1818 Discovery Street, Reston. Free admission. 703-668-0256 or athleta.com.



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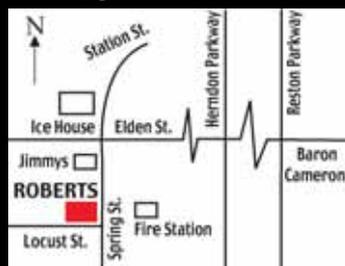
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Herndon Gymnast Bradley Knocks Off Rust

Freshman wins all-around at Jan. 16 home meet.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Alexa Bradley isn't as good as she used to be and admits she probably never will be. But these days, the Herndon freshman is having fun with gymnastics and recently showed she still has plenty of ability.

Bradley, 14, won the all-around competition at a home meet on Jan. 16. The Hornets placed second as a team, finishing behind first-place Stone Bridge.

Bradley compiled a score of 34.9. She finished first on floor (9.2) and vault (9.1), and placed second on bars (8.4) and beam (8.2).

Bradley started competing at the club level when she was 3 years old and progressed to a level 8 gymnast at Dulles Gymnastics Academy in Sterling before stopping at age 13. Now a freshman, Bradley got back into gymnastics at the high school level and also competes for the Herndon cheerleading team.

"I did it for my mom," Bradley said about returning to gymnastics. "She really loves gymnastics and high school is not that big of a commitment. I wanted to make her happy."

Bradley said she used to train four hours a day, five times a week while competing at the club level. At the high school level, she trains for 90 minutes four times a week. While her skills aren't where they used to be, Bradley said being part of the Herndon gymnastics team brings more fun and less pressure.

"I was so rusty," Bradley said about her return to gymnastics. "It took me awhile to get back into it — I'm still getting back into it. I still haven't fully peaked. I never will



Herndon freshman Alexa Bradley started competing in club gymnastics when she was 3 and stopped at 13. She now competes at the high school level.

be as good as I used to be because I was training so much. ... It was really frustrating when I couldn't complete my routines. I would be like, why? I've done this so many times before. I can do it again. You've just got to stay confident. You've got to keep

pushing and trying again."

Herndon head coach Keith Naquin said Bradley has performed well in her return to gymnastics. "Part of it is mental in the sense that the club scene is extremely demanding and it's rigorous, and the high

school venue is more fun," Naquin said. "It's lighter and I think that's helped her transition easily back into it, where there's not as much stress. She's picked up the skills very easily. She's very coachable."

Herndon sophomore Shannon Kelly placed third in the all-around with a score of 34.05. She finished first on bars (8.7) and placed fourth on beam (8.15), fifth on vault (8.7) and fifth on floor (8.5).

"She's had hip surgery," Naquin said. "For her just to actually be here and compete at this level is respectable."

Stone Bridge won the team competition with a score of 133.2. Herndon finished second with a score of 122.55, followed by South County, Lake Braddock and Hayfield.

Herndon will compete in a meet at Marshall High School on Jan. 22, starting at 6:30 p.m. The Conference 5 meet will be held on Feb. 6 at Centreville High School.

"It was really frustrating when I couldn't complete my routines. I would be like, why? I've done this so many times before. I can do it again. You've just got to stay confident. You've got to keep pushing and trying again."

— Herndon freshman
Alexa Bradley

SPORTS BRIEFS

TJ Swim and Dive Beats South Lakes

The TJ boys continued their winning ways (211-94) at the first meet of the new year against South Lakes.

The boys' 200 medley relay — Luke Thorsell (Oak Hill), Joseph Doran (Springfield), Lucas Lin (Fairfax), Miles Oakley (Fairfax) — placed first, and TJ boys' 400 free relay teams took both first — Michael You (Alexandria), Emilio Sison (Annandale), Thorsell, Kyle Alexander (McLean) — and second place — Matthew Szilagyi

(Lansdowne), Jared Nirenberg (Springfield), Andrew Seliskar (McLean), Nathan Ouyang (Oak Hill). Seliskar (200 free, 100 fly), Thorsell (200 IM, 100 back), Oakley (50 free, 100 free), and Sison (500 free, 100 breast) were individual double winners as well.

The girls lost (171-144), but Carrie Heilbrun (Fairfax Station) (100 fly) and Sophie Bennett (Arlington) (500 free) finished first, continuing a strong season. Heilbrun and Bennett were also part of the winning girls 200 free relay with Charlie Lertlumprasert, Sophia Moses (Arlington).

In boys' diving, CJ Wilson (Alexandria) finished first, while

Callan Monette (Fairfax) took first and Gloria Chen second place for the girls.

TJ Swim and Dive Competes in 5A Invitational

TJ swim and dive team members took part in the 5A Invitational in Richmond over the holidays. Carrie Heilbrun (Fairfax Station) finished first (200 IM, 100 back), and was part of the winning girls 400 free relay with Cynthia Zhuang, Sophia Moses (Arlington), and Sophie Bennett (Arlington). Miles Oakley (Fairfax) won 50 free.



Herndon senior Deandre Thomas drives to the basket against Lake Braddock on Jan. 18. The Hornets defeated the Bruins 99-86, improving their record to 11-2.

PHOTO BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/
THE CONNECTION

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com by the Friday prior to the following week's paper.

SATURDAY/JAN. 25

Furry Foxes. 11 a.m.-Noon. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Find out what foxes eat, which of their wild cousins also live in Reston, and feel the furs of all these animals as well as go on a short hike. Reston Association members: \$7; Non-members: \$9. 703-476-9689 or naturecenter@reston.org.

Useful Services Exchange Annual Potluck Dinner and Meeting. 4:30-8 p.m. Unitarian-Universalist Church of Reston, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. A time-trading barter system to exchange services among Reston/Herndon residents. All current and prospective members are invited. No charge, beverages will be provided. To RSVP call 703-435-6283.

SUNDAY/ JAN. 26

Creatures of the Chesapeake Bay. 1:30-2:30 p.m. or 3-4 p.m., Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Learn about bay ecology and how the way we treat water at home affects the water quality and wildlife found in the bay with a marine biologist. Reston Association members: \$8; Non-members: \$12. naturecenter@reston.org or 703-476-9689.

MONDAY/ JAN. 27

Choices for Sustainable Living. 7-9 p.m., Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Join this seven session, facilitated discussion course to explore the meaning of sustainable living and the ties between lifestyle choices and their impact on the earth. Reston Association Members: \$30; Non-members: \$40. 703-476-9689 or naturecenter@reston.org.

THURSDAY/ JAN. 30

Paper Making. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Discover how to make your own paper using a variety of materials and learn how to use it in future craft projects. Child Reston Association member: \$7; Non-members: \$9. naturecenter@reston.org or 703-476-9689.

ONGOING

Fairfax County's Meals on Wheels urgently needs drivers in the Annandale, Franconia/Kingstowne, Reston, Mount Vernon and McLean areas. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

Herndon Senior Center seeks a knitting enthusiast to teach basic procedures. Class meets Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. to noon and musicians to play soothing music on weekend mornings. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

AWANA Club for Christian Children. 7-8:30 p.m., at MLK Christian Church, 11400 North Shore Drive, Reston. Awana helps churches and parents work together to develop spiritually strong youth who faithfully follow Jesus Christ. 703-709-3641.

Knitting Enthusiasts, Musicians Needed. 10:30 a.m.-noon, at Herndon Senior Center. Herndon Senior Center seeks a knitting enthusiast to teach basic procedures. 703-324-5406, TTY 711, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadult or VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Herndon Senior Center at 873 Grace St., Herndon, needs a volunteer musician to play soothing music for participants; piano available. 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.






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Friends Forever

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Since it had been more than a few months, today I summoned up the courage to Google my long-time friend and fellow stage IV lung cancer survivor, Suzanne. Suzanne and I had been years out of touch (for no real reason other than initiative and the geographic consideration that she lived in Barnstable, Ma. and I live in Burtonsville, Md.) and recently back in touch – due to our identical cancer diagnoses. I learned that she had succumbed to her disease back in October, 2013. We last had contact electronically back in the summer. She was extremely weak then, she said, too weak to talk, so e-mailing was best. In that e-mail, ultimately her last, she wrote that the most recent chemotherapy drug with which she was infused was no longer effective and that her oncologist had no other drugs left to recommend. Not that she said it in so many words, but at that point her prognosis was grim. She offered that her two boys were with her and from them she would gain great comfort. The news was very unsettling to me and I was afraid that this e-mail might be our last – and so it was.

Suzanne and I were never boyfriend/girlfriend, but from Elementary School through High School we were extremely close and confidants of the highest order (“thick as thieves,” to invoke a quote from the warden in the movie, “Shawshank Redemption” describing the close relationship between Tim Robbins – “Andy Dufresne” and “Red,” – Morgan Freeman). Our friendship was forged during those formative, pre-adolescent years and maintained on – and then off – until back on again a year or so ago, for nearly 50 years. The reason I hadn’t inquired sooner than today was because I was fearful of what I would find out. Typically her e-mails were fairly random and on the occasion when I would e-mail her, she would rarely respond in a timely manner. I tried not to worry about this last silent interval. Today my worst fears were realized.

Just as cancer survivors draw great strength from those of us still living with this terrible disease, so too are we weakened when one of us dies. Rather than feeling fortunate that I am still alive, I feel sadness that Suzanne is not. When one of us dies, we all die – a little bit, or at least, our resolve to persevere dies a little bit. I’ve always said that there is strength in our numbers, numbers that we cannot afford to lose. (Lung Cancer causes approximately 160,000 deaths a year, the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States.)

Certainly Suzanne’s death affects her family way more than it affects me. However, learning that she has died has given me pause to consider/reconsider how serious my health situation is. It’s ironic that Suzanne and I were friends for so many years and that ultimately we should be diagnosed with the same disease and given a similar prognosis. It seems only fitting that since we started together, we should finish together. I imagine I’ll see her soon enough. For the moment however, I hope it will be in my dreams – not that other place.

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

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Sales Tax Error Artificially Inflates October Revenue

FROM PAGE 3

"If revenues continue to decline, it may be necessary to make up any additional shortfalls with expenditure reductions," wrote Alexandria City Manager Rashad Young in a memorandum to City Council members this month.

The concerns are larger than retail sales. One of the potential problems on the horizon is transient occupancy tax revenues. In Alexandria, for example, the hotel occupancy rate fell from 76.1 percent in October 2012 to 72.4 percent in October 2013. In Arlington, hotel occupancy tax revenues fell 15 percent in November compared to the previous year and 18 percent in December compared to the previous year.

"Am I worried? Yes," acknowledged Arlington Budget Director Richard Stevenson. "But that's what budget directors do. We worry."

EXPERTS WHO FOLLOW local government revenues say jurisdictions are worried for two reasons. The first is the lack of continuity on the part of the federal government. When the shutdown was happening, nobody knew how long it would last or when it would end. That led families to cut back their spending habits and cast a wary eye toward the future.

"That, obviously, is scary," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Government at George Mason University. "It means for a family that you always have to leave something aside instead of using it at a local restaurant, store or other facility."

A second reason for worry is that the uncertainty is far from over. The budget agree-

ment reached between Congress and the president is good through September, leaving open the possibility of yet another battle about bankruptcy and insolvency. That leaves open a sense of doubt for long-term contracts involving everything from bridges and fighter planes to satellite and veterans hospitals.

"With the Federal Highway Trust Fund expected to be insolvent by next year," said Shafroth, "a key partner in the regional Washington economy is becoming an uncertain one."

THE NEXT FEW months will detail the extent of the economic damage created by sequester and shutdown. Will the numbers track with expectations? Or will they fall well below the budgets local leaders voted for last spring? That has local governments worried and prepared to make reductions if necessary. Then again, they also don't want to make spending reduction that are unnecessary and potentially damaging.

"What you don't want to do is make cuts that if we recover enough we didn't need to make," said Laura Triggs, finance director with the city of Alexandria. "But by law, if it continues to be low then yes I have to cut back on expenditures."

Part of the problem is revenue growth not meeting expectations. Even if local governments see an increase in revenue from sales tax revenue, failure to meet expectations could spell trouble for balancing the books in the current fiscal year. And that means even more headaches for trying to predict the future in fiscal year 2015.

"Normally our sales tax is increasing at a larger extent than it is right now," said Wilds.

month	Alexandria	Arlington	Fairfax
July, 2012	\$2,095,566.17	\$3,209,203.92	\$13,721,734.05
July, 2013	\$2,131,996.31	\$3,035,747.37	\$13,659,947.01
difference	\$36,430.14	-\$173,456.55	-\$61,787.04
percent change	1.74%	-5.40%	-0.45%
August, 2012	\$2,140,318.83	\$3,319,659.04	\$14,475,843.20
August, 2013	\$2,026,859.07	\$3,037,107.38	\$13,530,731.80
difference	-\$113,459.76	-\$282,551.66	-\$945,111.40
percent change	-5.30%	-8.51%	-6.53%
September, 2012	\$2,183,674.38	\$3,285,824.25	\$13,581,370.46
September, 2013	\$2,103,012.61	\$3,067,027.71	\$13,521,411.87
difference	-\$80,661.77	-\$218,796.54	-\$59,958.59
percent change	-3.69%	-6.66%	-0.44%
October, 2012	\$2,027,158.90	\$3,178,335.39	\$13,614,131.71
October, 2013	\$2,208,159.20	\$3,661,773.43	\$15,728,025.92
difference	\$181,000.30	\$483,438.04	\$2,113,894.21
percent change	8.93%	15.21%	15.53%
November, 2012	\$2,078,264.35	\$3,301,839.75	\$14,234,067.26
November, 2013	\$2,062,527.46	\$3,218,338.10	\$13,908,035.89
difference	-\$15,736.89	-\$83,501.65	-\$326,031.37
percent change	-0.76%	-2.53%	-2.29%

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-William Van Horne

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