

Herndon High School students rehearse for the production of Robin Hood at the school auditorium. From left, Nathan Burns, Raleigh Hampson, Jack Norcross, Meaghan Graney, and Clarie Smallwood pose for a photo.



Herndon High To Produce 'Robin Hood'

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8

How Red Is the 10th District?

NEWS, PAGE 4

Heaven and Earth Akido Hosts Fundraiser

NEWS, PAGE 3

OPINION, PAGE 6 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

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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.

THURSDAY/FEB. 20

Women's Club of Greater Reston Meeting. 10 a.m. Lake Anne Community Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. This meeting will be about shade gardening, container gardening and deer resistant plants. Free. www.restonnewcomers.org.

American Red Cross Blood Drive. 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Hallmark Building, 13873 Park Center Rd, Herndon.

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

St. Timothy's Preschool Registration. St. Timothy's Pre-School, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. Registration for fall 2014 classes. Call 703-437-4767 for details.

SUNDAY/FEB. 23

American Red Cross Blood Drive. 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

American Red Cross Blood Drive. 4-8 p.m. St. Thomas A Becket Rcc, 1421 Wiehle Ave, Reston.

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.

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

Habitat Heroes Project. The fourth Saturday of each month. Join the Habitat Heroes in protecting Reston's forests from aggressive plants and restoring them to their natural state. Wear long sleeves, long pants, and if possible, gardening gloves to protect from insects and dangerous plants. R.A. will provide tools, gloves, snacks, and water. To volunteer and find more information, contact habrock@reston.org or 703-435-7986.

Arabic-speaking Older Adult Social Visits. Fairfax County needs volunteers who speak Arabic to provide social visits to an elderly person in Reston for four hours per month. 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.

Long-Term Care Volunteer Ombudsman Program Needs Volunteers. Ombudsmen advocate for the rights of residents of nursing and assisted living facilities—they also help residents resolve conflict and improve their quality of life. 703-324-5861 TTY 711 or Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Shepherds Center McLean-Arlington-Falls Church Area Needs Volunteers. Varying times, 1205 Dolley Madison Boulevard, McLean. Volunteers who can provide transport to and from medical appointments, assistance during grocery and pharmacy trips, make friendly calls to homebound individuals, help complete minor home repairs, and assist in yard work and chores are needed. 703-506-2199.

Delegates Rust, Plum Provide Richmond Updates

Delegates Tom Rust (R-86) and Kenneth Plum (D-36) recap successes and missed opportunities in the first part of this year's General Assembly session.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD
THE CONNECTION

Herndon and Reston Delegates Tom Rust (R-86) and Kenneth Plum (D-36) ended the first half of the 2014 General Assembly session happy with the House of Delegates' passage of transportation, education and absentee military voting bills. Tuesday, Feb. 11 marked the "cross-over" point for this year's General Assembly session, when both houses of the General Assembly must vote on all non-budget related legislation or allow those bills to die.

A HIGHLIGHT for both Rust and Plum was both houses' passage of identical transportation legislation that will repeal the oft-criticized hybrid vehicle tax that charges hybrid drivers an annual \$64 fee. Rust served as chairman of the 22-member transportation committee this year, which approved that piece of legislation, one of 112 bills it examined over the course of five weeks.

"The explanation last year was that people who drive hybrid vehicles use less fuel and therefore pay fewer fuel taxes," said Plum, a strong advocate for that bill. "Many people, including myself, thought there was a contradiction in the fact that we promote people's decisions to drive more fuel efficient vehicles, but penalize them for not partaking in our state's tax policy."



Plum



Rust

Rust also noted the passage of HB 759, which provides for secure electronic means for voting by overseas military members, as a major success.

Rust said that in the past, Americans serving in uniform had to mail paper ballots back, which proved difficult for those serving in battle zones or at sea.

Rust also was chief patron of HB 754, providing school officials with increased flexibility for expul-

mittee until 2015.

HB 705, which loosened requirement for recognition of out-of-state gun permits in Virginia, passed in the House, but was defeated 9-6 in a Senate committee, something Plum saw as a positive. "The difficulty with this is that we have no way of doing background checks on their permits already," said Plum.

For the second half of the budget-focused General Assembly session, Plum hopes to see additional funds allotted for Medicaid expansion for Virginians. "We could insure 400,000 additional Virginians with federal money if we could expand our program," said Plum.

According to Rust, there is no agreement on any

additional funds for Medicaid expansion in the House's proposed budget, though there may be some language in the Senate budget, a difference in bipartisan cooperation between houses that Plum also noted.

The topic of Medicaid expansion has been particularly divisive for this year's session, for which there has otherwise been more bipartisan cooperation than in years past, according to a Feb. 14 update from Del. Jim LeMunyon (R-67).

THIS YEAR'S SESSION will conclude Thursday, March 8. To stay updated or track specific legislation, visit <http://lis.virginia.gov/lis.htm>.

"Many people, including myself, thought there was a contradiction in the fact that we promote people's decisions to drive more fuel efficient vehicles, but penalize them for not partaking in our state's tax policy."

— Del. Kenneth Plum (D-36)

sion terms as opposed to mandatory periods, which passed in the House on Feb. 6. "Right now for school boards there are mandatory sentences for up to a year of expulsion for certain students," said Rust. "We put a package together that allows some flexibility with that for certain cases."

Plum, an advocate for increased gun control legislation, said that several bills had either been defeated in the Senate or were not expected to pass through the House this year.

This included SB 39, requiring background checks for those attempting to purchase firearms at a gun show, which was tabled to the Senate's Courts of Justice com-



Gidon Albert (right) explains a marital art Aikido technique with a student at the Heaven and Earth Aikido studio in Herndon.

Heaven and Earth Aikido Hosts Fundraiser

Funds raised for family of departed Herndon waiter.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Damien was one of the first folks who I spoke with when I came back to the area after being overseas over three years," said Ben Ericksen. "We stuck up a pleasant conversation, and I told him I was back from Afghanistan. I would take some of the students up to the O'Sullivan's restaurant."

In January, 30-year-old Damien Patrick Scanlan died after fracturing his skull having slipped on ice near the intersections of Locust Street and Center Street. Scanlan was remembered as a sweet and funny man who worked for two years at O'Sullivan's Irish Pub in downtown Herndon.

On Thursday, Jan. 23, O'Sullivan's hosted an all-day fundraiser to help pay the costs of Scanlan's casket and trip home to County Limerick, Ireland, where he was buried near family. "He was a good guy, I was really sad to hear about how things ended," said Ericksen. "We were able to raise a small amount of money, under \$300, which will be di-



Chief Instructor Brian Ericksen, 4th Dan Shidojin at the Heaven and Earth Aikido studio in Herndon.

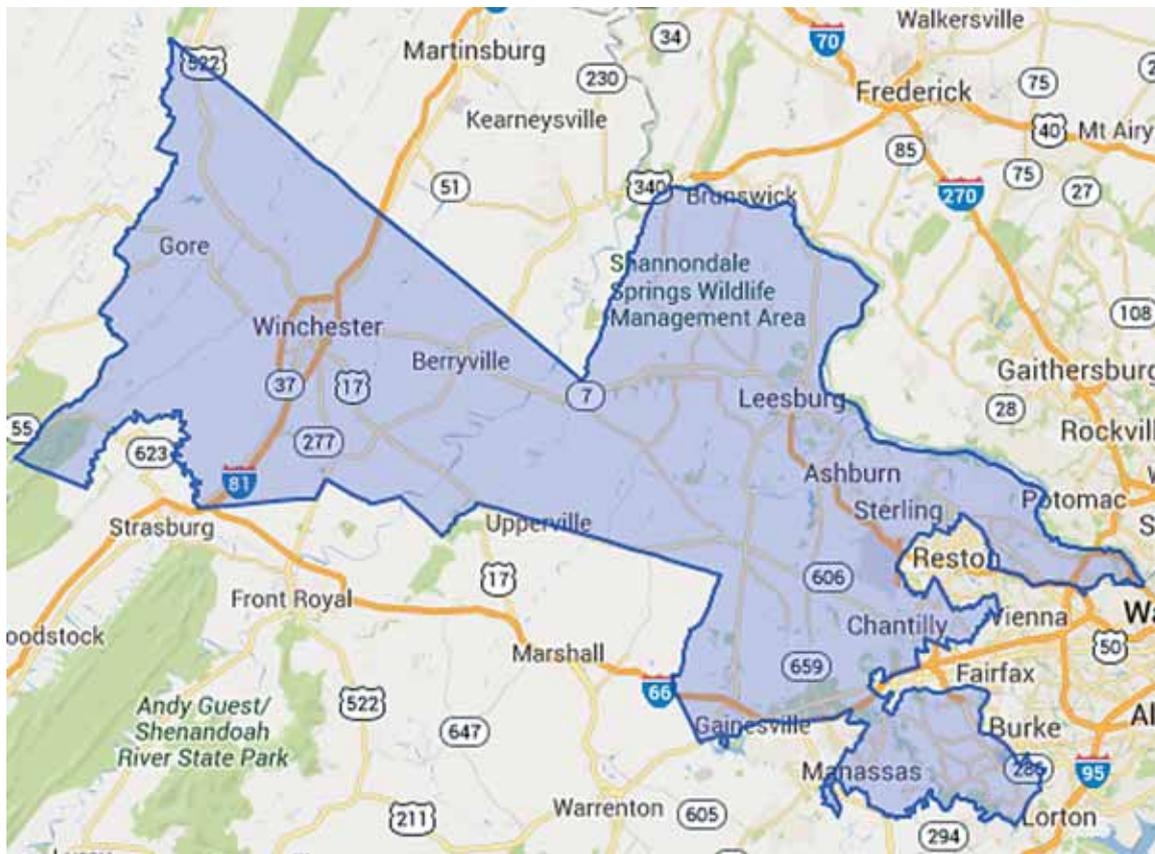
rected to O'Sullivan's and passed over to his family in Ireland." Ben Ericksen founded Baghdad Aikikai to teach Iraqi and U.S. service members and civilians. He returned from Afghanistan where he taught Aikido martial applications to U.S. Marines and soldiers. Aikido strengthened and sustained him throughout. Ericksen founded Heaven and Earth Aikido in Herndon to pass on the martial and spiritual lessons he refined from these experiences.

Heaven and Earth Aikido is located at 688 Spring Street, Herndon. To learn more about Heaven and Earth Aikido, visit www.heavenandearthaikido.com



Students and instructors review martial arts moves at the Heaven and Earth Aikido studio in Herndon. Visitors are welcome to watch Aikido cases during scheduled practice times.

PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION



MAP COURTESY OF VPAP.ORG

The 10th district includes all of Clarke, Frederick, Loudoun, and Warren counties and the independent cities of Manassas, Park, Winchester, along with portions of Fairfax, Fauquier, Prince William counties.

How Red Is the 10th District?

Wolf's retirement sparks crowded political stage as both parties vie for coveted Congressional seat.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

U.S. Rep. Frank R. Wolf's announcement in December that he would not seek reelection to an 18th term in Congress came as a surprise to both Republicans and Democrats.

Wolf's retirement notice instantly set off a feeding frenzy among politicians maneuvering to gain the Northern Virginia Congressional seat.

The 74-year-old Republican held the seat for more than three decades. But Democrats now see a prize pickup opportunity for this year's midterm elections, and potential candidates have rapidly dropped in and out of the race as political pundits question how red the district will remain.

Democrat John Foust, a Fairfax County Supervisor from McLean, announced he would challenge the incumbent a week before Wolf's retirement news.

Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34), a McLean attorney and Wolf's former senior aide, emerged as the one to watch when she announced her candidacy in January. Like Foust, Comstock is a formidable fundraiser and she quickly received the endorsement of many party officials, including presidential hopeful Mitt Romney, for whom she worked in the 2012 campaign.

DEMOCRATIC STRATEGISTS considered Foust to be one of Wolf's most challenging opponents in years, and Foust quickly racked up a slew of endorsements from more than 50 former and current elected offi-

cial, including Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam and U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8). Moran later announced he would not seek reelection. Foust's momentum had a rain-making impact on donors. In late January, Foust reported raising more than \$217,000, with nearly that amount — \$210,000 — reported as cash on hand.

"This is another clear sign that our message of bringing problem solving, bipartisan leadership back to Congress is resonating with Northern Virginia residents," Foust said in a statement about his successful fundraising.

"We had fewer than 20 days to do three months of work, but residents sent a clear message that they're tired of the gridlock and finger-pointing in Washington and are ready for our brand of commonsense leadership."

"My money is on John Foust," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in an interview Sunday. "His constituent service is second to none and he has really delivered for his Dranesville constituents. Republicans and Democrats alike love him."

In less than a month, three other Democrats currently join Foust in vying for the seat: Fairfax lawyer Richard Bolger, Leesburg architect Sam Kubba and Iraq War veteran David Wroblewski. Several others might still consider a run.

ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE, speculation about who would enter the race ran the gamut from the obvious to the absurd. Tareq Salahi, a write-in candidate for last year's governor's race, remains in the race. A vintner and television personality, Salahi gained national attention when he and his ex-wife crashed a White House state dinner in 2009.

When announcing her candidacy, Comstock said: "I have a demonstrated record of winning important legislative victories for Northern Virginians as well as winning hard fought, principled elections."

SEE BATTLE, PAGE 5



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) and Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) are considered frontrunners for the 10th District Congressional seat.

10th District: Still Solid Red or Swing Seat?

In 2011, after the last round of redistricting, the risk of competitive congressional races diminished for Virginia's three Democratic members of Congress and eight Republicans members of Congress. On paper, the 10th district was considered safe Republican territory.

But that was 2011. "The demographics are shifting as we're talking," state Sen. David Marsden (D-37) said in an interview Sunday. "Foust is the one to beat." Republican Supervisor John Cook (Braddock) said the seat will remain in Republican hands.

"It is a Republican seat and I think we will have a strong candidate, in which case we will win," Cook said in an interview Sunday night.

In December, Rothenberg Political Report and Roll Call rated the 10th district contest a "Lean Republican" race, based on Bloomberg's number-crunching in the most recent state and national elections.

In last year's presidential race, for example, Mitt Romney won the 10th district, 50-49 percent.

In this year's gubernatorial race, Republican Ken Cuccinelli carried the district over Democrat Terry McAulliffe 48-47 percent. Republican Mark Obenshain and Democrat Mark Herring fought to a standoff in the race for attorney general, with Obenshain winning the 10th district by 72 votes before the recount. The 10th gave Democrat Ralph Northam a more solid victory, with a 52-48 percent win over Republican E.W. Jackson.

The district includes all of Clarke, Frederick, Loudoun, and Warren counties and the independent cities of Manassas, Manassas Park, Winchester, along with portions of Fairfax, Fauquier, Prince William counties. Wolf won the 2012 race with 58 percent of the vote against Democrat Kristin Cabral (39 percent) and Independent J. Kevin Chisholm (3 percent).

Who is Running?

REPUBLICAN DECLARED CANDIDATES

- ◆ Barbara Comstock, State Delegate, 34th District
- ◆ Luellen Hoffman, Director of Exhibits at the National Defense Industrial Association
- ◆ Stephen Hollingshead, former U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development adviser
- ◆ Bob Marshall, State Delegate
- ◆ Tareq Salahi, television personality and write-in candidate for Governor in 2013
- ◆ Marc Savitt, President of the National Association of Independent Housing Professionals
- ◆ Richard Shickle, Chairman of the Frederick County Board of Supervisors
- ◆ Rob Wasinger, former Chief of Staff to U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio
- ◆ Democratic Declared Candidates
- ◆ Richard Bolger, Fairfax attorney
- ◆ John Foust, Fairfax County Supervisor, Dranesville district
- ◆ Sam Kubba, Leesburg architect
- ◆ David Wroblewski, Iraq War veteran

How Will Parties Select Nominees?

◆ The Republican nominee will be selected in a "firehouse primary," also called a party canvas, to be held April 26.

◆ On Feb. 8, the 10th Congressional District Democratic Committee voted unanimously to hold a convention on April 26 to select the 2014 Democratic nominee.

Source: Ballotpedia

Fundamental Freedom To Choose To Marry

Virginia is historically slow in extending rights.

In 1967, Virginia was one of 16 states that banned interracial marriage and had criminal penalties for violators.

Mildred Jeter, an African-American woman, and Richard Loving a white man, married in 1958, were convicted and banished from living in Virginia for 25 years to avoid serving a one-year prison sentence. On June 12, 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Loving v. Virginia*, overturned the convictions of Mildred and Richard Loving, declaring the ban on interracial marriage unconstitutional.

Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote the opinion: "Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival. ... To deny this fundamental freedom on so unsupportable a basis as the racial classifications embodied in these statutes, classifications so directly subversive of the principle of equality at the heart of the Fourteenth Amendment, is surely to deprive all the State's citizens of liberty without due process of law. The Fourteenth Amendment requires that the freedom of choice to marry not be restricted by invidious racial discriminations. Under our Constitution, the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with

the individual, and cannot be infringed by the State."

Less than 50 years ago, it was still illegal in Virginia, punishable by prison time, for a white person to marry someone of another race.

Judge Arenda Wright Allen last week on Valentine's Day, ruled that Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. In the opening of her order, Allen quotes Mildred Loving in a statement she made in 2007 on the 40th anniversary of *Loving v. Virginia*:

EDITORIAL

"We made a commitment to each other in our love and lives, and now had the legal commitment, called marriage, to match. Isn't that what marriage is? ... Today's young people realize that if someone loves someone they have a right to marry. Surrounded as I am now by wonderful children and grandchildren, not a day goes by that I don't think of Richard and our love, our right to marry, and how much it meant to me to have that freedom to marry the person precious to me, even if others thought he was the 'wrong kind of person' for me to marry. I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no matter their sexual orientation, should have that same freedom to marry. Government has no business imposing some people's religious beliefs over others. ... I support the freedom to marry for all. That's what Loving, and loving, are all about."

Judge Allen's written decision is compelling

and well worth reading. You can find a copy of it on the Connection website.

It begins:

"A spirited and controversial debate is underway regarding who may enjoy the right to marry in the United States of America. America has pursued a journey to make and keep our citizens free. This journey has never been easy, and at times has been painful and poignant. The ultimate exercise of our freedom is choice. Our Declaration of Independence recognizes that 'all men' are created equal. Surely this means all of us. While ever-vigilant for the wisdom that can come from the voices of our voting public, our courts have never long tolerated the perpetuation of laws rooted in unlawful prejudice. One of the judiciary's noblest endeavors is to scrutinize laws that emerge from such roots.

"Plaintiffs assert that the restriction on their freedom to choose to marry the person they love infringes on the rights to due process and equal protection guaranteed to them under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. These challenges are well-taken....

"The Court is compelled to conclude that Virginia's Marriage Laws unconstitutionally deny Virginia's gay and lesbian citizens the fundamental freedom to choose to marry."

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Expand Medicaid in Virginia

To the Editor:

Do you know someone who works but cannot afford health insurance? I do. My hairdresser supports an adult son who cannot work because of a physical condition, and her four-year-old granddaughter. She simply does not have the money to buy insurance even under the Affordable Care Act. And she is not alone. In Virginia, 70 percent of the uninsured come from families where at least one person is employed.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the uninsured are more likely to use the Emergency Room because they do not have a family doctor. Hoping their symptoms will go away, they often delay getting medical help until their condition is serious and more expensive to treat.

Those of us who can afford insurance bear the cost of the uninsured (working folks, pregnant women and children) in several ways. The General Assembly usually appropriates \$100M from the General Fund (our tax revenues) for indigent care at state teaching

hospitals. Hundreds of millions more are lost by private hospitals when they don't get paid by the uninsured. Those of us who do have insurance pick up these costs in higher premiums.

Virginia is the eighth wealthiest state, yet it is 46th in Medicaid expenditure.

If Virginia accepts Washington's help to make more people eligible for Medicaid, the federal government will pay 100 percent of the cost through 2016 and 90 percent thereafter. And if sometime in the future, the federal government reduces its contribution to Medicaid expansion, Virginia can modify its program. The state budget already includes language that compels the Department of Medical Assistance Services to disenroll the expansion population if the federal match rate falls below current legal requirements.

I'd like to see my federal tax dollars used to insure my hairdresser and other hard-working people right here in Virginia so they can address health problems before they become health emergencies. It's a more common-sense approach and a better use of our tax dollars.

Helen Kelly
Herndon

Supporting Mental Health

To the Editor:

The editorial by Mary Kimm ["On Mental Health," Connection, Feb. 12-18, 2014], referencing reporting by Michael Pope, makes an incorrect assertion that our services to people with mental illness in Fairfax County have been "dramatically cut back."

In fact, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) served more individuals in FY2013 than in previous fiscal years, thanks to the generous and consistent support of Fairfax County government and the taxpayers of Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. The bulk of our budget comes from local, rather than state, dollars. This enables our CSB to provide services that many other Virginia jurisdictions are not able to have, including a mobile crisis unit, crisis stabilization, and many other services. To suggest that our local government has dramatically cut back mental health services is simply not true and needs to be corrected for the record.

Here are the numbers (total number of individuals served by the CSB, which includes those

with mental illness and/or substance use disorders, intellectual disability, and infants and toddlers with developmental delays):

FY 2013:	20,988
FY 2012:	20,446
FY 2011:	20,058

What appeared to the reporter as a dramatic drop in the number of individuals served was the result of a change in the way we define the categories of individuals served. The county's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) he referenced does not include an entire category (that we are now required by the state to count separately) of individuals who receive "Services Outside of Program Area," including emergency services, assessment and monitoring. Prior to FY2012, those individuals were included in either "mental health services," "alcohol and drug services," or "intellectual disability services." The county's CAFR has retained the old categories but has not added this new one. Therefore, there is an appearance that services have been reduced, when in reality we are just more narrowly defining who is categorized as receiving a service defined by a particular disability. The number of individuals served

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

who are not counted in the CAFR is large: in FY2013, there were 13,249 individuals who received CSB services that were not categorized in those three disability area categories.

If you actually compare apples to apples, our numbers have remained consistent, and have even increased slightly, despite the economic difficulties of recent years. For this, we can thank our county leaders and our community who recognize, as you do, the importance of supporting these critical CSB services.

Thank you very much for your support.

George Braunstein
Executive Director
Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Meals on Wheels needs drivers in Fairfax, Reston, McLean and Falls Church. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities. Training is provided in March. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Find more information on becoming a Long-Term Care Ombudsman Volunteer.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov

Grocery shoppers and social visitors needed for older adults in Annandale, Falls Church and McLean. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/

olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov

The Little River Glen Senior Center in Fairfax needs help with special events and an arts and crafts instructor. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov

The Kingstowne Senior Center in Alexandria needs instructors for classes in art and bridge as well as an experienced boater to discuss boating. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center in Alexandria needs a volunteer assistant from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Fridays to assist with activities and on Fridays from 3-5 p.m. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov

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Herndon High School students Nathan Burns, Claire Smallwood, Sierra Siebold, Maren Larsen, and Anna Hughes rehearse for the February production of Robin Hood.



Herndon High To Produce 'Robin Hood'

Children's show also fundraiser for HHS Drama Boosters.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

"No cast member goes on stage while tech crew is doing operations," said Catherine "Cassie" Szymczyk.

Szymczyk was speaking to cast members rehearsing for the upcoming production of "Robin Hood and the Heroes of the Sherwood Forest". Szymczyk and Veronica McGrath are two Herndon High seniors working as artistic directors for the show's production at the school auditorium.

"Everyone knows about the story of Robin Hood, so it is fun to bring Robin to life on the stage," said McGrath. This will be the first time McGrath has directed a play, although she had provided stage sup-



Herndon High School senior Veronica McGrath is one of the two directors for the February production of Robin Hood at Herndon High.

port to other drama productions. "Hands down, theatre is my passion," said McGrath. "Directing is something I will continue to pursue."

The show is sponsored by the Herndon High School Drama Boosters, and although the show's target audience is children, it will be entertaining for all ages. "It is going to be a wonderful show because of all the hard work put into the production," said senior Jacob Snellbaker. Snellbaker is the company's stage manager, master carpenter, and tech director.

The one challenge has been missing several rehearsal days due to recent winter snowstorms. "Missing a week has been hard, but the cast is incredible, and willing to do anything to bring this show to life," said Snellbaker. "This will definitely be a show worthwhile to see. I am proud of this production."

Sophomore Nathan Burns will be playing Robin Hood.

"I was excited because I really like archery," said Burns. "The production will be humorous, but will also have classical elements of the Robin Hood story... I enjoy the other members of the cast as they are all committed to the show." The role of Little John is going to Anna Hughes, also a sophomore. "It is just so much fun," said Hughes. "The play has some unexpected humor... there will also be some fighting scenes."

"I am proud of how hard our artistic directors have worked," said Zoe Dillard, Herndon High director.

The show will have two acts and an intermission. Production dates will be Friday, Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 22 at 10 a.m. Tickets: \$5. To learn more, visit www.herndonhighdrama.org.



Herndon High freshman Allie Kassraic with Anna Hughes at the Herndon High auditorium. Kassraic will be playing Friar Tuck, and Hughes will be playing Little John.

CALENDAR

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

TUESDAY / FEB. 18- 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 / 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 / FEB. 21
12th Annual Lincoln-Reagan Dinner. 6:30 p.m. Hidden Creek Country Club's Fairway Room, 1711 Clubhouse Rd., Reston. The Republican Club of Greater Reston invites all comers to the 12th Annual Lincoln-Reagan Dinner. A delicious dinner awaits you to hear our main speaker, Mr. Thomas P. McDevitt, Chairman of The Washington Times. Delegate Barbara Comstock will bring us up-to-date with an interim report on the 2014 General Assembly proceedings. Please contact Alma Jackson at 703-477-8391 or aljoy904@aol.com to make reservations.

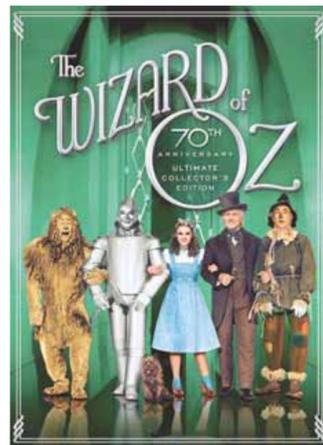
An Evening of Classical Ballet. 6 p.m. CenterStage at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Celebrate the joy of movement with

Classical Ballet Theatre (CBT) as it presents an exciting evening of classical and cutting edge contemporary choreography. \$22 per Adult; \$18 per Senior/Student. 703-471-0750

Senior Tea. 1-2 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Every month seniors are invited to visit the gallery to view the current exhibit and enjoy a cup of tea. Free and open to the public.

FRIDAY / FEB. 21- SUNDAY / FEB. 23
SingStrong: A Capella Music Festival. South Lakes High School, 11400 S Lakes Drive, Reston. This A Cappella Music Festival, which will benefit the Alzheimer's Association, will feature workshops, clinics and concerts. "Ten", which finished second in this year's Sing-Off on NBC last fall, is one of the groups that will perform. <http://southlakeschorus.org/special-events/singstrong/>

SATURDAY / FEB. 22
Skull Lab. 11 a.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. All ages. Join us in the "Skull Lab" to learn what teeth can tell us about an animal's diet. Discover how eye position reveals if an animal is predator or prey. Learn to use simple dichotomous keys with sample skulls to discover their identities. Reservations required by Feb. 19. Fee: \$5/person RA members, \$7/person Non-members. Email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.



Come out to ArtSpace Herndon on Feb. 22 for an interactive performance of the classic movie, The Wizard of Oz.

Wizard of Oz Movie Move-a-Long. 6:30 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. An interactive screening of the Wizard of Oz. Young actors and dancers from local schools will perform with the movie. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children. www.artspaceherndon.org or 703-956-6590.

The African American Contributions to American Cuisine. 2-4 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Learn and enjoy Soul Food

– An American Staple! Contributed by Elise Ashby Arrington with help from Herndon High School Students. This event is free and open to the public. www.artspaceherndon.org

FRIDAY / FEB. 28
Mosaic Harmony. 11 a.m. Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace Street, Herndon. Local choir Mosaic Harmony performs dynamic, energizing music influenced by spiritual and gospel music.

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.



Herndon School Step Team captain Hannah Vaughn, Step coach Gary Bushrod, captain Chris Donald, and captain Sumayya Sulaiman.



The Herndon High school Step Team rehearses for February StopFest event. The year 2014 marks the Step Team's 20th year at Herndon High.

Herndon High Prepares For StopFest

Year marks Step Team's 20th year at school.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

High school step teams from around the area will be arriving at Herndon High on Saturday, Feb. 22 for the annual StopFest. "This will be the biggest event we have ever had," said team captain Hannah Vaughn. The Herndon High step team was founded in 1994, and StopFest has been an annual event for sixteen years. "We hold it in February in cel-

ebration of Black History Month," said Coach Gary Bushrod. Bushrod attended Herndon Middle School and Herndon High, and participated in the step team where he became a team captain. "We get to host the show and will reveal our new uniforms," said Bushrod. "Some of the best step teams in the Washington D.C. area will be competing for cash prizes."

Upon graduation from Herndon High in 2000, Bushrod went on to pursue his bachelor's degree in Business Management at Hampton

University, and graduated in 2004. While at Hampton, he was a member of the James Hall Step Team, and choreographed a routine for the Gamma Theta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Stepping is a percussive dance performance in which the participants' entire body is used as an instrument to produce complex rhythms and sounds. It is now practiced worldwide, having been developed by African American fraternities and sororities. "We invited a lot of step teams to this event,"

said team captain Sumayya Sulaiman. "We always work hard to live up to expectations."

Since 2009 Bushrod has been an active leader for the Herndon Step Team, but this year will be his last as coach. Later this year he will be departing for New York. During his time as step team coach, Bushrod helped the Herndon High Step Team achieve the 2011 Youth Step USA National Championship, a title reclaimed in 2013.

StopFest will be held Saturday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. in the Herndon High School auditorium. Admission is \$10 and the doors open at 5 p.m.

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Launch Pad for Young Adults?

Paws4people develops pilot for former foster children, others.

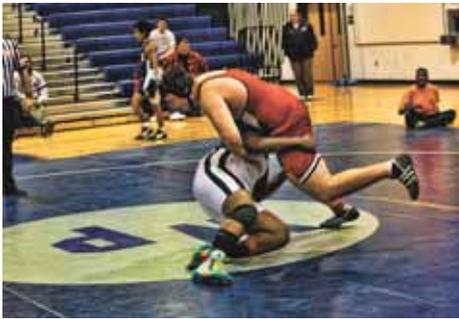


PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

2008: Hayfield High wrestling



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

2008: Tyrell as a young photographer, Lake Accotink Park during the annual 5K to benefit kids in foster care.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

2008: Voices for Change arts competition for Virginia foster kids. Tyrell won 2nd place awarded at the Governor's mansion



2009: Tyrell's high school graduation selfie which he combined with an image of the Fairfax Families4kids group, winning 3rd place in the 2009 Voices for Change competition



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

2009: After graduation, Tyrell played for the Northern Riverneck semi-pro football team



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

2013: Tyrell was living precariously, without prospects for a better future

By JOAN R. BRADY
THE CONNECTION

Imagine if in your childhood, it was normal for a social worker to show up unexpectedly, hand you a big black garbage bag and tell you to pack your things.

That's what happened to Tyrell in the first quarter of his senior year of high school. Left behind were Tyrell's friends, the football and wrestling teams he had played on and the security he had finally found after nine years in foster care.

Tyrell, a resident of Fairfax County, was once among the 500,000 kids who are in foster care across the United States. He struggled to earn his high school diploma in his new school but succeeded, thanks in part to a mentor from Fairfax Families4Kids.

Earning that high-school diploma put Tyrell ahead of more than 50 percent of kids who have been in foster care, according to a report by the Association of Small Foundations/Annie E. Casey Foundation.

In Fairfax County, foster kids can choose to stay in foster care until they are 21, rather than aging out at 18. The extra years of services come with requirements that are designed to prepare kids for adulthood. They must go to school or work with little oversight. Imagine young adults who, in many cases in foster care, were housed more than they were raised. Kids whose caregivers did not work to instill ambition, confidence, self-esteem, work ethic or core social skills. What are their chances for becoming self-reliant? Many former foster children can't meet the requirements to stay in the system, and even those who made it through until 21 did not gain the skills needed to be successful.

NOW 22, TYRELL IS one of the 26,000 young adults who age out of the foster care system each year in the U.S. without family and the emotional and economic support that often come with family. In Fairfax County in 2012, 49 foster children aged out. Nationwide, four years after aging out of foster care, 25 percent have been homeless and more than 80 percent are unable to support themselves, according to Association of Small Foundations/Annie E. Casey.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Tyrell with his new boss April Cook (left), Terry Henry, Claire, a psychiatric service dog, and Kyria Henry, founder of paws4people.org.

Despite his winning smile, good nature and potential, Tyrell was living precariously. He has been essentially homeless. Alternating between the couches of friends and not having a place to sleep, there have been times when Tyrell stayed on the bus, where it was warm, until it stopped running at 3 a.m. Then he would head to an all-night McDonald's where he would hope that the manager didn't kick him out.

Mentors and other adults tried to support Tyrell, both emotionally and materially by paying his phone bill and providing him with leads on jobs. He never followed through on the job leads. Like the social workers before them, these well-meaning adults, myself included, became frustrated. For an adult who was raised with caring parents, it was mind-boggling. How could he not make one single phone call to help himself? Why

didn't he see that he had to change his life? This was a kid who we believed in, why couldn't he believe in himself?

But Tyrell represents so many young adults who have grown up in the system. They are focused on survival, food and shelter. They don't trust. They have seen only failure, despite their potential. Their expectations are low. Their dreams don't exist. They are lacking that one person who is pivotal to success: the full-time, caring motivator. The person who is on them, as emerging adults, every waking minute to get out of bed, to follow up on job leads, to never give up.

I was working to develop a plan for Tyrell and others that would incorporate this "caring motivator," that could include housing and maybe even employment, when Kyria Henry, co-founder of paws4people.org, contacted me. Understanding the human and actual price tag that comes along with foster care's failures, Kyria wanted discuss developing a program for young adults, paws4potential.

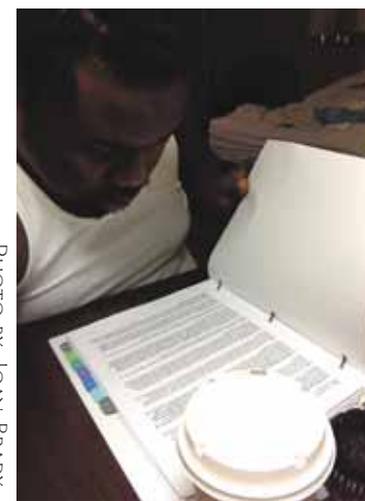
The non-profit that Kyria Henry founded with her parents, paws4people.org, has a mission to enhance the lives of those living with serious illnesses or disabilities.

Kyria Henry founded with her parents, paws4people.org, has a mission to enhance the lives of those living with serious illnesses or disabilities.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Feb 1, 2014 Tyrell arrives at his housing for the pilot program



Feb 2, 2014 - Tyrell's selfie, pouring over his job manual before his first official day of work.

ties by utilizing highly trained assistance dogs for children, veterans and civilians. The bulk of the dog training is done in prisons by inmates. I have seen firsthand the magic that happens when you bring together dogs and people with emotional and physical needs. Many lives have been forever changed by paws4people.

Kyria's proposal had the right ingredients to create success. The program frees participants from the stresses of seeking shelter and job. These emerging adults have stability inside a supportive community of staff, volunteers, students, clients and the dogs themselves. They learn marketable skills, among them dog grooming, care and training as well as facility maintenance skills. The boss becomes the full-time, caring motivator.

Tyrell said he was ready to get his life on track. He agreed that if he was accepted into the program, he would leave friends and family behind here to move to Wilmington, N.C. for the three-month pilot program.

The first hurdle was getting him down to Wilmington for his interview. Tyrell was more than three hours late to meet me for the six-hour drive. Biting back my frustration, I told him that, if he was accepted, being on time was a something they would help him with. I knew he could do this. He had to believe it too.

When Tyrell was offered the one place in the pilot program, he was shyly pleased.

There were two weeks between that day and the day I drove him to North Carolina to start his new life. We were in constant communication, talking through the what-ifs, me constantly reassuring him that he could do it. And he reminding himself that it was only three months.

TWO DAYS BEFORE we were to drive down to Wilmington, I got a text from Tyrell. He couldn't do it, he wrote. He wasn't going to go.



Tyrell working with a young dog at paws4potential

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Tyrell, selfie with Joan Brady

My heart fell. The statistics were already against him. He had to really want this in order for him to have a chance of succeeding. In my opinion, this pilot program would give him the best chance of having a successful life. Then he texted, "I new I would get u. Haha. U fell for it. See you at 10:30am on Saturday."

The kids I have watched grow up in the foster care system are in now prison, living on the street and/or are parents. There are very few success stories. I believe that the many young adults who have been let down by both their families and the foster care system can succeed if given the right opportunity. These were once babies who entered the world expecting to be loved, taken care of and supported. They didn't get those things as children. Nothing about this is easy. It will take commitment and caring support.

Tyrell texted me after I left him at the extended stay hotel which would be his home for the next three months, "I am going to do my best to complete the program. [This] is what I'm starving for. I know it'll all work out for me. I just have to leave everything in the past and I will be ok."

Paws4potential isn't going to be the right fit for everyone, but I believe that paws4people.org is on the right track to change outcomes for kids who have aged out of foster care and others similarly at risk. According to a study by the Jim Casey Youth Initiative, every person who gets his or her life on track, saves society an average lifetime cost of \$300,000. Getting ex-foster kids successfully launched makes for a better society and a better world.

If you are interested in finding out more and/or would like to help turn this pilot into a long-term program, please contact me joan@joanbradyphotography.com. Or go to paws4people.org and click on the paws4potential program page.

Joan Brady is a professional photographer; mentor and advocate for current and former foster children; volunteer with Paws4People; and a resident of Great Falls.

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SPORTS

Grapplers Earn Spotlight Experience at Region Tournament

Herndon's Pike, Milligan, South Lakes' Laxton place at tourney.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Brendan Grammes said he lost to a “stronger” opponent during the 6A North region wrestling championships on Sunday, but the McLean freshman’s pre-season goals remain attainable.

Jacob Adams came up short in the region finals, but the Langley senior said he will learn from his experience in the spotlight.

Connor Eckhardt suffered a knee injury in defeat, but the Madison senior vowed to return for the state meet.

For wrestlers unable to secure a title during Sunday’s region finals at Centreville High School, the state meet on Feb. 21-22 at Robinson Secondary School will provide another opportunity to prove themselves with a championship up for grabs.

Grammes lost to Battlefield junior Matthew Asper by decision, 10-4, in the 113-pound region final. Grammes entered the match with a 43-3 season record, including an 11-6 victory over Centreville’s Victor Echeverria in the semifinals, but settled for region runner-up.

“He was just stronger than me, for the most part,” Grammes said. “I felt like he was more developed than me. He was a little quicker. In the very beginning, I felt like I came out a little tense because I was a little nervous. I worked that out by the end, but I was down by a little bit at that point.”

EARLY IN THE SEASON, Grammes set goals of winning the Conference 6 championship, finishing runner-up in the region and placing at states. The McLean grappler came through with a conference crown and remains on track to achieve his goals.

“I thought it was a little [far-fetched], like [they were] pretty challenging goals,” Grammes said, “but I thought I could do it if I really tried.”

Adams lost to Robinson senior Dane Robbins by decision, 4-1, in the 138-pound final. He entered the match with a 42-4 season record, having won the Conference 6 championship.

“I want to win,” Adams said about his goal at the state meet. “I’ll be on the opposite side of the bracket as [Robbins], so I should get another shot at him in the finals.”

Adams wrestled at 132 pounds as a junior, when he placed fifth at regionals. He said Sunday’s experience in a championship setting should help him at states.

“It’s probably the biggest crowd I’ve ever wrestled in front of,” he said. “I’m starting to get used to it and I think it will definitely help at states — the spotlight and everything.”

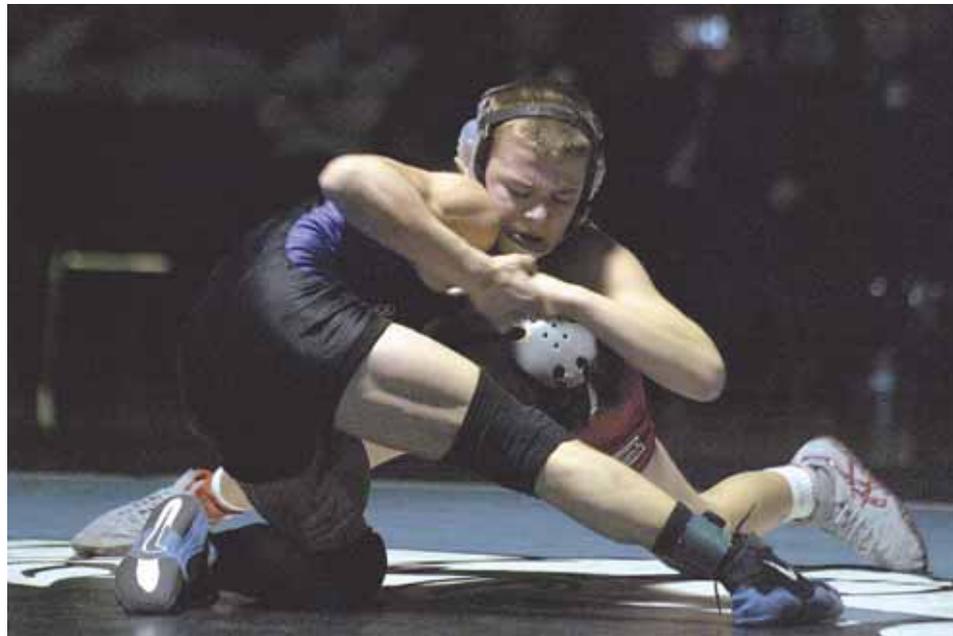


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

McLean freshman Brendan Grammes placed runner-up in the 113-pound bracket during the 6A North region wrestling championships on Sunday at Centreville High School.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Langley senior Jacob Adams, left, lost to Robinson’s Dane Robbins in the 138-pound final at the 6A North region wrestling championships on Sunday at Centreville High School.

Eckhardt, a Conference 6 champion experiencing his best season as a high school wrestler, injured his left knee during the 145-pound final. He finished the match, but lost to Chantilly senior Walter Carlson by decision, 10-4.

Eckhardt said he had multiple surgeries on the knee in the past. He walked with an ice pack on the knee after the match, but said he will “definitely be able to compete at states.”

“I wrestled terribly,” Eckhardt said about

his performance in the region final. “... I didn’t wrestle my match. I didn’t take my shots. I could have wrestled a better match, and that’s what I’m going to have to do next weekend to get a state title.”

McLean sophomore Conor Grammes placed third in the 132-pound bracket, beating Westfield junior Ryan Yorkdale via injury in the third-place match.

Langley senior Alex Pratte placed sixth in the 145-pound class, losing to Centreville senior Connor Mitchell via pin in the fifth-

place match.

Madison 195-pound senior Chris Hines finished fourth, falling to Osbourn Park sophomore Jacob Maile by decision, 16-9, in the third-place match. Warhawks junior Ryan Barrett captured fifth place at 182 pounds, beating Chantilly senior Logan Barr via decision, 7-4, in the fifth-place match.

Herndon senior Sean Pike took fifth place in the 160-pound bracket, beating Chantilly senior Jeffrey Weinberg via decision, 9-5. Hornets sophomore Sam Milligan finished sixth in the 138-pound bracket, falling to West Springfield’s Junior Ramos by major decision, 15-5, in the fifth-place match.

South Lakes senior Colby Laxton finished fifth in the 195-pound bracket, pinning Robinson senior Maksym Sears in the fifth-place match.

Robinson won the team championship with 257.5 points, giving the Rams three region titles in four seasons. Robinson has also won two of the last three state championships.

“It’s probably the biggest crowd I’ve ever wrestled in front of. I’m starting to get used to it and I think it will definitely help at states — the spotlight and everything.”

— Langley senior Jacob Adams

“This is a pretty special team, a great group of kids,” Robinson head coach Bryan Hazard said. “They’ve been together a long time. They have an expectation that they place on themselves and they really competed well.”

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS: Lake Braddock’s Dante Wiles (106); Asper (113); Lake Braddock’s Ryan Haskett (120); Robinson’s Mason Rockman (126); South County’s Hunter Manley (132); Robbins (138); Carlson (145); Robinson’s Jack Bass (152); Robinson’s Zak DePasquale (160); Robinson’s Daniel Mika (170); Robinson’s Cole DePasquale (182); Centreville’s Tyler Love (195); Osbourn’s Jake Garcia (220); and Robinson’s Jake Pinkston (285).

Herndon Rotary Club Holds Valentine's Sock Hop

Final show for Herndon fundraising event.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

The Fabulous Hubcaps band preformed Saturday evening at the Herndon Community Center's gymnasium, playing some favorite classic rock n' roll hits including "Surfin' USA" and "Get Around." The Valentine's Sock Hop has been an annual event for the Herndon Rotary Club, but due to multiple factors will no longer be held as a fundraising event.

"It was always on the Saturday evening closest to Valentine's Day," said Chris Mogensen, a resident of Herndon and event coordinator with the Herndon Rotary Club. "We have been coming to this event four to five years," said Steve Lemanski, member of the Herndon Rotary Club. "I think everyone who has attended will miss it, but the economics have gotten to the point where it doesn't pay to continue."

The Rotary Club is the world's largest community service organization. The chapter in Herndon has several fundraisers over the course of the year to serve the community. "We have been sponsoring this dance with the Hubcap band close to 30 years as a fundraiser," said Mogensen. "Last year for this event we sold 249 tickets, and this year my guess is 260 tickets."

Earlier that afternoon volunteers decorated the gymnasium for the event. Couples mixed and danced

while the Hubcaps played favorite music and melodies of the 1950s and 1960s. "Our group cannot do it any more," said Mogenson. "If we don't run successful fundraisers we cannot serve our community... the community center began lowering their costs to keep the event going, but it has been harder and harder to pull it off functionally. We just can't do it as a fundraiser anymore."

The Herndon Rotary Club has been involved in several community-centered programs. Last year Herndon Rotary raised funds to pay for the Herndon High School marching band "Pride of Herndon" trip to Hawaii for the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade. Herndon High has a tutoring program, and Herndon Rotary Club pays for the infrastructure costs of that organization.

The Rotary Club of Herndon Scholarship Fund also awards a scholarship to a graduating senior from Herndon High School or a resident of Herndon who attends another school or is home schooled. Applicants are considered based on good citizenship, extracurricular activities, employment or special skills outside of school, academic record, and financial need.

"It had been a great event," said Curt Rose, a resident of Reston and member of the Herndon Rotary Club. Owner of Aspen Jewelry Designs at Centreville Road in Herndon, Rose brought his children to the evening show. "It has just gotten to point where we needed to manage our fundraisers more," said Rose.

The Herndon Rotary Club meets on Wednesdays 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. at the Amphora Diner Deluxe at 1151 Elden Street in Herndon. For more information visit www.herndonrotary.org.



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/ THE CONNECTION

Herndon Rotary Club members Hayward Hull and Chris Mogensen near a sign advertising the evening events at the Herndon Community Center.

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Until Further Notice



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Not to state the obvious (which I readily admit I do), but to be given a terminal diagnosis: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, along with a rather disappointing prognosis: "13 months to two years" is a challenging set of extremely unexpected (given my immediate family's medical history) circumstances. I don't want to say that I live under a dark cloud – because I don't like the negative implication or reaction it conjures, but I definitely feel as if I have a metaphorical sword of Damocles hanging over my head; which I only refer to as an out-of-context Three Stooges reference wherein a non-Stooge was innocently standing under a pie which Moe had thrown to the ceiling and there it stuck, hanging precariously over the character's head. Now I still don't know the proper historical context of the sword of Damocles, I only know the Three Stooges version, but there was some imminent danger involved (not death, mind you), but rather a falling pie which ultimately landed flush on the character's face as she looked up to make further inquiries.

Nevertheless, pie issues/references notwithstanding, having seen my oncologist today while being infused and receiving a big smile/ "you're going great"/thumbs-up set of gestures/reactions while reclining in my Barcalounger with a chemotherapy I.V. dripping medicine into my right arm, is the kind of super-positive feedback with which I can live. Along with my every-three-week pre-chemotherapy lab work and my every-three-month CT Scan followed by my every-three-month face-to-face appointment with my oncologist, this is how I roll. Worrying about upcoming tests, waiting anxiously for results, trying not to anticipate good, bad or indifferent; living day to day and trying to appreciate my good fortune and the unexpected above-average quality of life with which I've been blessed – for a terminal cancer patient, that is.

Ergo, the title of this column: "Until Further Notice." Whenever I'm asked by those in my know how I'm doing, I typically respond: "I'm doing fine, until further notice." And "further notice" is my way of lightening the emotional load under which I live and thankfully still breathe; any port in a storm, you might say. Moreover, even though there's relative calm right now, given my diagnosis/prognosis, there's likely to be some inevitable unpleasantness down the road – as I'm semi-fond of saying/joking. And as many changes as I've already made to diet and lifestyle since I was diagnosed, I don't suppose I'll know what turns I've taken until my oncologist advises me after my miscellaneous test results have been analyzed. As much as I'm doing internally, I still feel as if the news will come externally. As a result, I feel pressure every day; self-assessing, analyzing, introspecting; it's a constant battle of mind over what may or not matter yet. And of course, I can never forget the pie.

The great Satchel Page joked to not look back because you never know who's chasing you. And though I'm certainly mindful of death and what's chasing me (figuratively speaking), ignoring certain facts as they were presented to me by my oncologist is much easier said than done. When I first learned about my medical situation/diagnosis/prognosis, it certainly sounded like a death sentence; now, five years later, it has evolved into more of a life sentence. And though it's unlikely I'll ever make parole, it is life nonetheless, and though there are some days when it's not very pretty, these are days I didn't anticipate having. And so far, there's been no pie or sword to diminish them – all things considered.

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

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PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/ THE CONNECTION

For the February game, the student basketball team included Tinwin Ricks, Max Wilson, Jameel Byrd, Nathan Cole, Simoa Lauth, Ronald Castano, Schuyler Carman, Hasib Zaman, Eric Schlawin, Jaden Snead, Aayshaun Hogan, Bart Bush, Corey Myers, and Jack Donlan.

Teacher Vs. Student Basketball Game

Teachers win competitive game against students at Herndon Middle.



BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Herndon High senior Malcolm McKenzie was one of the referees for the February teachers versus students basketball game.

On Feb. 6, a team of seventh and eighth grade students from Herndon Middle School competed in a basketball match against school teachers. "We had a lot of students attend this year's event," said after-school specialist Mike Thomas who was also helping as game announcer.

"I think each year we get more students involved, which makes it more exciting," said Jamie Hyatt, Herndon Middle School teacher and Student Council Association (SCA) sponsor. "I think the game is fun and builds school spirit," said teacher Amanda Chabay, also an SCA sponsor.

Two Herndon High seniors on the basketball varsity team volunteered to be game referees, Malcolm McKenzie and Dorian Johnson. At the end of the first half, the student team had a lead with a score of 24-21. Yet the teachers rallied and won with a final score of 36-33. Over 250 tickets were sold for the game. The SCA will use these funds for an upcoming school dance. "These games foster a lot of school spirit," said Principal Justine Klena.

To learn more about Herndon Middle School, visit www.fcps.edu/HerndonMS/



For the February game, the teacher's basketball team included Nick Stames, Ryan Vita, Jamie Hyatt, Aidan Vigil, Jessica Moberly, Alex Bishop, Matthew Lanoue-Chapman, Lenwood Compton, Cory Raupers, Leigh Henderson, Sedrick Moody, Kent Harris, and Ryan Yantz.

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LAURA JEAN BEARCE

Plaintiff,

SUMMONS

vs

SONER CAPAN

Defendant,

THE STATE OF NEVADA SENDS GREETINGS TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:

You are hereby **SUMMONED** and required to serve upon plaintiff, LAURA JEAN BEARCE, whose address is 1314 10TH ST, W. APT 2, WILLISTON, ND 58801, an **ANSWER** to the Complaint which is herewith served upon you, within 20 days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. In addition, you must file with the Clerk of this Court, whose address is shown below, a formal written answer to the complaint, along with the appropriate filing fees, in accordance with the rules of the Court. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. This action is brought to recover a judgment dissolving the contract of marriage existing between you and the Plaintiff.

The filer certifies that this document does not contain the social security number of any person.

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