Reston Water Mine Pool to Expand

News, Page 4

Kickoff Held For Fairfax 2015 Games

News, Page 13

Hawaii Spirit at Lake Anne Plaza

News, Page 8

Sam Reed and his sister Sophia try the junior ultimate fire fighter course at Reston Town Center on July 13. The Athlete's Village for the Fairfax 2015 Games will be at the Reston Town Center.
WASHINGTON is on the road to creating a short-term fix for funding the nation’s highways, kicking the can down the road and handing the problem to the next Congress. That means voters will have the final say when they cast a ballot in this year’s hotly contested race for Senate, a contest that features three candidates with sharply different perspectives on how to handle the $100 billion shortfall over the next six years.

Democratic incumbent Mark Warner supports public-private partnerships as a way to raising new revenue, an approach that includes a bipartisan proposal to leverage private capital known as the Bridge Act. Republican challenger Ed Gillespie says revenues for roads could be raised from offshore energy exploration, an approach that Republicans say Democratic President Barack Obama has blocked. Libertarian candidate Robert Sarvis says the federal government should get out of the business of funding highways altogether, leaving the role of funding surface transportation to the states.

“This is an issue that voters should care about,” said Geoff Skelley, analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics. “It’s something of daily importance that could impact voters directly, whereas it’s harder sometimes to draw a direct connection between immigration policy or certain aspects of health-care policy.”

One aspect of the debate all the candidates agree on is that revenues from the gas tax are on the decline, and as automo-

bles become more efficient the government continues to receive less money. One solution is to raise the gas tax, a proposal supported by Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) and Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.). But neither Corker nor Murphy are up for reelection this year. Gillespie opposes raising the gas tax, and a spokesman for Warner says he does not support the proposal currently before Congress to raise the gas tax.

“This is going to be a very big issue next year,” said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University. “So it’s something voters should consider when they go to the polls in terms of what this means to the taxpayers of Virginia.”

THE HIGHWAY TRUST Fund was created during the Eisenhower administration in 1956, when the Highway Revenue Act created a new tax of three cents per gallon. In January 1983, Republican President Ronald Reagan signed a bill that increased the gas tax to nine cents a gallon. A few years later, Republican President George H.W. Bush increased it to 14 cents a gallon. Then Democratic President Bill Clinton increased the gas tax to 18.4 cents a gallon, which remains the current rate. That brings in about $34 billion a year even though the current transportation bill includes about $50 billion in infrastructure spending.

“Despite months of debate, lawmakers have failed to act,” said BlueGreen Alliance executive director Kim Glas in a written statement. “The job market is steadily improving but the threat that Congress will let the Highway Trust Fund go bankrupt looms large.”

Conservatives in Congress have questioned the role of the federal government should play in surface transportation. Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okl.) introduced legislation that would eliminate the 20 percent of the trust fund that is not spent on roads. And Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) wants to create a fund for emergency transportation projects paid for by repatriating overseas capital back to the United States. Libertarian candidate takes those arguments a step farther, saying the federal government should get out of funding surface transportation altogether.

“It just creates graft and corruption and inefficient use of resources,” said Sarvis. “The federal government should not be channeling billions of dollars of taxpayers dollars through the federal bureaucracy to the states.

THE TWO MAJORITY party candidates both believe that the gas tax is a dwindling source of revenue, and neither candidate supports raising it. Instead, Warner and Gillespie have seized on alternatives sources of revenue in a way that reveals something about their priorities and legislative style. As governor, Warner supported public-private part-

nerships such as rail to Dulles. Now that he’s in the Senate, he hopes to use his background as a venture capitalist to forge a solution to the funding crunch facing the nation’s roads.

“We need to acknowledge that the current funding mechanism - the gas tax - is a declining source of revenue, and that means everyone will have to bring some new ideas to the table,” said Kevin Hall, spokesman for Warner. “That should include Sen. Warner’s Bridge Act, a bipartisan proposal that will leverage more private capital to jumpstart work building and modernizing our country’s infrastructure.”

On the Republican side, Gillespie responded to a question about the Highway Trust Fund by blasting Democrats for pre-

siding over an economy when gas prices have gone up so dramatically.

“We need to increase accountability in how transportation funds are spent, give states more say in spending decisions, and identify a stream of revenue to fund our transportation infrastructure projects for the long-term,” said Paul Logan, a spokesman for Gillespie. “One such revenue source could be new revenues from offshore energy exploration, which this administration has consistently blocked.”
Bus changes help ensure Silver Line success.

By Ryan Dunn
The Connection

On July 26, the Silver Line, an extension of the Washington Metro rapid transit system will have its opening day. Silver Line riders will be able to board trains at the Wiehle Avenue station in Reston at noon that Saturday, according to an announcement by Metro General Manager Richard Sarles. Officials anticipated the Silver Line would open months earlier, but the decision was put off because of construction delays. Among the changes are elimination of old bus routes and the closure of the Sunset Hills Interim parking in Reston near the intersection of Sunset Hills Road and Town Center Parkway.

The $2.9 billion first phase of the Silver Line is 11.4 miles of track from Wiehle Avenue to East Falls Church, where the route meets the Orange Line. The Silver Line will have one station in Reston and four in Tysons Corner. Ultimately, the Silver Line will extend to Dulles International Airport and serve passengers traveling to Tysons Corner. The Silver Line would open months earlier, but the decision was put off because of construction delays. Among the changes are elimination of old bus routes and the closure of the Sunset Hills Interim parking in Reston near the intersection of Sunset Hills Road and Town Center Parkway.

The Silver Line will have one station in Reston and four in Tysons Corner. Ultimately, the Silver Line will extend to Dulles International Airport and serve passengers traveling to Tysons from the Dulles Corridor to the west, and from Arlington and the District of Columbia to the east.

Fairfax County transportation experts have been preparing the public for the new transportation routes bus services will offer at Silver Line stations. Route 950 will continue to serve Sunrise Valley Drive as it does today and connect to the Wiehle station after serving Herndon-Monroe daily. Route 950 will continue to serve Sunrise Valley Drive as it does today and will connect to the Wiehle station after serving Herndon-Monroe daily. In addition, routes 924, 926, and 929 will connect Herndon-Monroe and Wiehle during weekday rush hours. For the year 2013, the most used five Fairfax Connector bus routes were Routes 401 and 402: Backlick - Gallows Road, Route 171 Richmond Highway, Route 950 Herndon – Reston, Route 980 Herndon-Monroe Park and Ride, and Route 310 Franconia Road - Rolling Valley.

On Wednesday, July 9 Nick Perfilli, Fairfax Connector operations and planning manager, and Martha Goelé, Dulles Rail project planner, held an online discussion on Fairfax Connector's upcoming Silver Line service. Using the online Ask Fairfax! forum, they took 66 questions about bus route and schedule changes, park and ride options, and other topics related to the Silver Line.

Reston Hospital Center Gets STAR Program Certification

At an open house event earlier this month, Reston Hospital Center's Ann B. Rodriguez Cancer Center announced its STAR Program Certification from the Massachusetts-based Oncology Rehab Partners, leading experts in the field of survivorship care. Reston Hospital Center is leading the way by offering excellent cancer rehabilitation services to its patients by becoming STAR Program Certified.

The STAR Cancer Rehabilitation Program at Reston Hospital is now uniquely qualified to offer premium cancer rehabilitation and survivorship services to people who suffer from the debilitating side effects caused by cancer treatments. To receive its certification, Reston Hospital implemented the STAR Program which involves training clinicians and focusing on improving patient care outcomes. The healthcare services offered by the STAR Cancer Rehabilitation Program are covered by most insurance providers, including Medicare, and will be offered to patients by knowledgeable and sensitive medical staff that is specially trained to work with survivors of all forms of cancer.

Specially trained caregivers from a pool of disciplines—including physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, dieticians, mental health professionals, and others—will work together with each patient on a personalized rehabilitation plan to increase strength and energy, alleviate pain, and improve daily function and quality of life. The STAR Program is a best practices multidisciplinary cancer rehabilitation service-line model that improves patient care. STAR Program Certification provides healthcare facilities and clinicians with the tools (education, training, evaluation and treatment protocols, and outcomes support) to develop and deliver state-of-the-art cancer rehabilitation services to survivors who suffer the side effects and after effects of treatments — whether they are in remission, living with cancer or cured. All of the services integrated in the STAR Program, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, mental health counseling, and consultations with rehabilitation medicine physicians (physiatrists), are typically covered by health insurance.

Learn more at www.OncologyRehabPartners.com. For more information about Reston Hospital Center visit www.restonhospital.com.
The Water Mine outdoor pool at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston has been a big attraction since it opened in 1997. Expansion of the pool is expected to begin once the pool closes in September.

Reston Water Mine Pool to Expand

Lake Fairfax pool facility to be expanded, construction begins September.

By Ryan Dunn
The Connection

More than one million people have visited the Water Mine since it opened to the public in the summer of 1997. With a lazy river and water slides, the outdoor pool has been a great attraction for families and visitors, but size and capacity limitations have increased the waiting times for patrons. The pool is operated by Fairfax County Park Authority, which also operates the Lake Fairfax Park.

On Saturday, July 12, there was a groundbreaking ceremony for the beginning of construction of the Water Mine. The water park received a $5 million dollar project to substantially increase the size of the Lake Fairfax facility. The expansion will include a 3,000 square foot tot spray pad with spray features, a 5,300 square foot active spray pad with spray features, a slide tower with three flume water slides and an interactive play structure. Other project elements include a 1,000 square foot restroom and mechanical building, improvements to the pool deck, relocation of shade structures, new shade structures and related utility and site work.

The Water Mine’s Attractions are designed for elementary-aged children, yet there is something there for everyone. Children can careen off covered wagons, float on rafts and dash through showers tipped from water-filled ore carts. The deepest point in the pool is only 4 feet deep.

Over the past 17 years the park has grown in popularity. “Through the expansion, more of our patrons will be able to enjoy the facility at a time,” said Ninette Heiligh, admissions manager at the Water Mine. At times visitors have had to wait in line as much as two hours before they could enter the water park. Friday through Sunday are the busiest times to visit the Water Mine. People capacity is currently set at 755, but once expansion construction at the pool is complete, capacity will be up to nearly 1,300.

“Today we celebrate much needed growth that will provide more diverse amusements for visitors, generate additional revenue, and increase the water park’s capacity,” said Fairfax County Park Authority Board Chairman William G. Bouie. “This is an improvement on our original dream made possible by reinvesting, expanding, and making this water park a more exciting place for all people to enjoy.”

Planning for the expansion began in earnest when the Park Authority Board approved the agency’s first Financial Sustainability Plan in December 2011. In November 2012 with the voter approved 2012 Park Bond available, the Park Authority Board included $5 million dollars for the expansion. “The expansion is aimed at accomplishing two things: adding capacity and broadening our market appeal,” said Bouie. “We estimate a significant improvement on revenue and customer service.”

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) praised Lake Fairfax Park for the broad appeal it offers to visitors. Lake Fairfax offers campground, picnic areas, playground, trails and a skatepark which are open year-round. “The expansion here is just the next logical step,” said Hudgins. “Our staff is excited about this growth opportunity,” said Brian Laws, Park Services Operations Manager. “We welcome the chance to serve more customers and to provide a better experience for those who come to the Water Mine. It is really all about having fun and of course, about doing it safely.”

The project is scheduled to be completed in the late summer of 2015. Construction at the Water Mine is expected to begin Sept. 2, the day after the Water Mine closes for the year. Construction supplies will begin arriving in Reston in August.

The Water Mine is located in Lake Fairfax Park at 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive in Reston. For more information about the Water Mine, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/watermine.

Wolfe Elected President of Principals’ Association

Shane Wolfe, principal of Aldrin Elementary since 2012, has been elected president of the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals (VAESP) for the 2014-15 year. Wolfe served on the VAESP board of directors for the past six years, and served as an at-large member and president-elect before being elected president. Wolfe has also served as president of the Fairfax Association of Elementary School Principals (FAESP) in 2011-12. He received the Virginia School Bell Award in 2011 from VAESP for outstanding contributions to his school and school system, and also received FCPS’ Bruce Oliver Leadership Award for his involvement in school-business partnerships. Wolfe served as principal at Bailey’s Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences from 2010-12; previously, he was principal at Armstrong Elementary from 2001-10. He has completed graduate and post-graduate work at the University of Virginia. He is the seventh FCPS principal to be elected VAESP president since 1978. Contact Shane Wolfe at 703-904-3800 or swolfe@fcps.edu.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) welcomed members of the public to participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Water Mine pool at Lake Fairfax Park.

By Ryan Dunn
The Connection

Shane Wolfe, principal of Aldrin Elementary

Faith Notes

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7:30-10 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. $12, 202-986-2257 or www.meditation-dc.org.

Adult Sunday school will be held 9-30 a.m. Sundays at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.
Serving for Heroes

Tennis tournaments benefiting wounded warriors to be held in Reston.

Reston will be the site for two upcoming tennis tournaments to benefit some of America’s bravest heroes.

The 2nd Annual Serving for Heroes Charity Open will be hosted at the Lake Newport Tennis Facility in Reston on July 19-20 to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project, an organization committed to raising awareness and serving America’s wounded service members. Last year’s inaugural tournament raised over $3,400 and won the 2013 USTA Military Tennis Award. This year’s USTA-sanctioned tournament, sponsored by Chartis Consulting Corporation, will feature men’s and women’s singles and doubles along with mixed doubles draws. Registration can be completed at http://tennislink.usta.com/Tournaments/Tournament.aspx?T=151796 by July. For more information, contact the tournament director, Wilson Paine, at Wilson.Paine@gmail.com.

The 3rd Annual Rally for a Cause tennis tournament dates are set for Sept. 20-21 at Reston’s Lake Newport tennis courts. The charity event will feature brackets for 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0 and above players, competing in men’s and women’s doubles and singles matches. The $30 entry fee guarantees each player two matches with awards, raffle prizes and participation t-shirts. It is through the generosity of our presenting sponsor, Dr. Hani Thariani, and donations from local businesses that make this tournament possible. Entry is open to all tennis players, regardless of USTA membership. All proceeds go to the charity organization of each participant’s choice: USTA Serves Foundation/Wounded Warriors Program Curriculum, supporting rehabilitation through tennis for wounded, ill and injured military service members and veterans or Cornerstones/Laurel Learning Center, providing comprehensive family services and developmental childcare programs. Last year’s event raised $3,100 for charity organizations. Registration opens Aug. 1. For more information or to sign up, email rally4acause@restontennis.org or visit www.restontennis.org.

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**Congratulations to all of the Outstanding Principals listed below.**

They have been rated highest by our memberships in those schools

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:**
- Bonnie Glazewski (Oak View)
- Jesse Kraft (Providence)
- Michael Macrina (Island Creek)
- Suzanne Montgomery (Laurel Hill)
- Lindsay Trout (Terraset)

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:**
- Penny Gros (Glasco)

**HIGH SCHOOLS:**
- Teresa Johnson (Chantilly)
- Nardos King (Mt. Vernon)
- Michael Yohe (Falls Church)
- Jeff Yost (Woodson)

**Thanks you to all of our members who returned the survey**
Opinion

Save a Little, Help Others Prepare for School

Virginia’s tax holiday on school supplies is a good reminder to donate supplies and dollars for children who need help arriving at school prepared.

Help Save Our Books

To the Editor:

Last November the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to cancel the Beta Plan for the county library system; however, Library Operations has continued to pursue the Beta Plan. At the Library Board of Trustees meeting July 9, 2014, Michael Cutrone, the Hunter Mill Representative to the Library Board, requested that current procedures for discarding low demand books be changed. Low demand items are books that have not been checked out for 24 months. Low demand books are now transferred to Technical Operations, and large numbers in very good condition are being discarded. Michael Cutrone asked that a new policy be instituted that the discard of low demand books be stopped. The Director of Library Operations stated that it was his decision to make and he was opposed to changing current procedures.

Many neighboring library systems keep their books on the shelves for five years before they are considered for weeding. Even then, I am told by librarians in other library systems, they are very reluctant to let go of nonfiction works. Nonfiction is the heart of any library’s collection. Our children need nonfiction for their school papers. Information from the Internet is often incorrect and incomplete.

We have lost thousands of nonfiction books in good condition since February 2014. Especially vulnerable are large art books which are often only used in the library and not checked out because of their size and weight. Since the Library Board is reluctant to direct operational procedures is there anything library patrons can do to protect the collection and culturally significant books?

Yes, there is. Patrons can check out books. Once books are checked out, they are protected for two years. Two years from now we will have a new Library Director and hopefully the new one will value the library as a place of learning and literacy. You can check out 50 books. Check out art, poetry, philosophy, science, history, biography, ethnic cookbooks. And don’t forget the children’s nonfiction. It’s the only way we have now to protect our collection. Think of it as a civic and patriotic duty.

Help save our books.

Kathy Kaplan
Reston
**Letters to the Editor**

**Silver Line: At What Cost?**

To the Editor:

As a transit commuter living in Reston, I appreciated the honesty in the opinion piece by Ken Plum, “Silver Line No Silver Bullet” [Reston Connection, July 2-8, 2014]. Still, among all the positive notes about the benefits of the Silver Line, I continue to see public officials ignoring the huge increase in costs for daily transit riders in Reston (not just drivers on the Toll Road).

I commute from Reston on a Fairfax Connector bus to West Falls Church, where I transfer to metro to my job at Farragut West. With the recent metro fare increase, I pay $5.10 each way ($3.85 metro + $1.25 bus transfer) for a total of $10.20 per day. Based on the posted new Silver Line fares (http://silverlinemetro.com), I will soon have to pay the max metro fare of $5.90 + $1.25 bus transfer for a total of $7.15 each way, or $14.30 per day. This is a 40 percent increase in costs, and I still have to transfer from bus to rail! I used to park free at the Wiehle Ave park-and-ride, but if I now park at the metro station, I have to add $4.85 per day to the metro fare, resulting in a cost of $16.65 per day — a more than 60 percent increase in daily costs!

These are huge increases. For someone who commutes every day to Arlington/DC, this is well over $1,000 per year in added costs — and the irony is that rail times are no faster than the current bus/rail service, since the Fairfax Connector buses use the airport access road.

I’ve seen discussion about supporting affordable housing in Reston, but where are the voices of our politicians for affordable transit options? With the Silver Line, the bus ride to metro in Reston will be a very short trip — why not reduce the bus fares to encourage use and mitigate these much larger rail fares? Why not change the metro fare structure so that price rises per station rather than per mile, so the one stop between Tysons and Reston doesn’t break our budgets? Metro will do wonders for redeveloping Tysons and Reston, and commuters from DC/Arlington to Tysons will be the big winners, along with land owners near the stations. But for Reston residents who have to pay $1,000+ extra per year to get to work, this is a very high price to pay.

Michael Grant
   Reston

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**Deer Hunting Contradicts Reston’s Values**

To the Editor:

It seems ironic that the RA approved bow hunting of deer less than a 1/2 mile away from Reston’s prized multi-million dollar Nature Center (“Bow Hunting to Help Deer Management,” Reston Connection, July 2-8, 2014). The mission of the Nature Center is “to provide good environmental stewardship.” Does that not include stewardship to the inhabitants of our environment? Bow hunting can result in a slow painful death. Why choose that when humane alternatives exist?

Suburban Whitetail Management, a professional hunting organization, presented a compelling case to the RA board. However, they have their own agenda: hunting. Has a deer count been conducted in Reston by an impartial party? If there is indeed a population problem, why not follow Fairfax City’s forward-thinking lead and implement a sterilization program? Hunting has been shown to be an ineffective way to reduce deer population because the deer compensate in the following years through multiple births. Sterilization eliminates this possibility.

Deer are also blamed for the loss of our forest understory. On my daily walks through the Reston woods, I see plenty of oak saplings but most of them are being choked by invasive plants. Why not implement a summer job program where the sole job is to remove invasive species? It would help our

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*See LETTERS. Page 11*
Hawaii Spirit at Lake Anne Plaza

Fifth annual Ukulele Festival held Saturday

By Reena Singh
The Connection

Video eased on a Saturday, July 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Lake Anne Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston.

The festival was created from a desire to share the music of Bob Granger, who now lives in Rockville. He learned to play the ukulele at a very young age and has been playing for over 50 years.

The festival was held on the same day as the Lake Anne Ukulele Festival, which takes place every year on the same day and is sponsored by the Lake Anne Partnership.

Reena Singh is a staff writer for The Connection.

Kim and Mary Osaki from Rockville during their set at the Lake Anne Ukulele Festival Saturday.

Lake Fairfax's inaugural family-friendly Pirate Fest will be held Saturday, July 26.

The fest will feature music, dance, and activities for all ages.

Reena Singh is a staff writer for The Connection.

Kathy and Merv from Rockville during their set at the Lake Anne Ukulele Festival Saturday.

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Local experts offer budget tips to keep students out of debt.

By Marilyn Campbell

As the summer wanes, many recent high school graduates are preparing to head to college. For those who are living away from home for the first time, this means newfound independence. But that freedom brings responsibility — especially when it comes to money.

From student loans to credit cards, the financial maze can be filled with debt-traps and money pitfalls. A recent financial literacy assessment of 15-year-old students by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development shows that one in six lacks basic financial literacy skills.

That leaves approximately three years for them to learn about money management before leaving home. And that education is key: financial education is the best way to develop sound money management skills, say financial advisors.

Taking a financial education class is an option. The Northern Virginia Urban League offers a financial literacy workshop series with Fairfax County Human Services and Fairfax County Homeownership & Relocation Services.

“College students can learn everything from understanding a (credit) score and avoiding credit traps to banking and money management,” said Vicky King of the Northern Virginia Urban League. “College is not the time to live the lifestyle of your dreams,” said Rachel Powell of the Northern Virginia Council for Economic Education at George Mason University’s Center for Economic Education in Fairfax. “College courses, room, board, books are all costly. You can expect to be poor in college, and if you use the many resources your college makes available to you in exchange for all the fees you are required to pay, you can expect to be fed, safe and reasonably comfortable.”

THE FIRST STEP in financial literacy for college students is taking a personal money inventory. “Know before you go how much money you’ll have available from your income or allowance,” said Powell. “Will your folks be making regular contributions to your survival or are you on your own?”

Make a budget that includes all expenditures, including luxuries like frozen yogurt or coffee or movie tickets. Put some money aside for emergencies; even $5 per week will add up over time.

Online tools can help college students organize their finances and track their spending and savings patterns. Alexandria-based financial planner Mark Friese recommends mint.com, which categorizes spending and savings habits and provides tools that high-school students can use to plan budgeting.

“Many people, especially teens and young adults, are surprised when they look at their entire spending picture because they haven’t … had to make the money they spend,” said Friese. “They just don’t know the value of a dollar until they are lining their own wallets with their own money. So the big picture tools that highlight spending and savings habits are helpful.”

Know the difference between needs and wants: “Don’t buy what you don’t need,” said Powell. “Cold medicine — yes. The latest movie on DVD — no.”

Open a checking and savings account at a bank located close to campus, one that offers products and services for students, advises Powell. “Don’t accept accounts that require minimum balances or charge fees,” she said. “Shop around for the right bank.”

Find a way to establish or build savings, especially if you plan to work during college. “Pay yourself first,” said Friese. “When you have a job, take a set portion of it and save it for your future self. If the job offers a retirement plan such as a 401(k), take advantage of it. A 401(k) provides the significant benefit of saving before taxes are taken out.”

AVOID USING CREDIT CARDS for immediate gratification and focus on building a high credit score for the future, said Friese. “That score, that number, will be more important and reap greater rewards than any grade or SAT score ever was or could be,” he said. “If you build and maintain a good credit score, you will be rewarded time and time again with preferred lending rates.”

When it comes to financial aid, take time to do research, and don’t underestimate the availability of college scholarships. Friese points to a study from scholarship.com, which shows that billions of dollars in scholarship funds go unawarded every year. “Take advantage of the opportunities out there,” he said. “Don’t assume that scholarships are only for top scholars or athletes because many scholarships start with GPA requirements of 2.5 or less. Start looking as early as sophomore or junior year and apply as soon as you qualify.”

“Saving as much as possible from summer jobs … can help with at least some of the expenses,” said Powell. “Loans are available for all the expenses you cannot pay for through gifts, grants and scholarships. Be aware that money borrowed must be repaid and the interest [accrued] is the cost of the rental of those funds.”

In fact, the Department of Education reports that 10 percent of U.S. college graduates default on student loans so only borrow money as a last resort. Investigate federal loans first.

“Loans such as the Stafford loan can be far more cost effective than higher-priced private loans,” said Friese. College students should also estimate how much they will be able to afford to repay after graduation, said Powell. “Make sure that your target labor market is willing to compensate you with income commensurate with the cost of your education.”

On June 13, Forest Edge Elementary School’s Drama Club put on a production of Disney’s Peter Pan Jr. This was the story narrated by Tinkerbell about Wendy Darling who, together with her brother Michael and John, is whisked away to Never Land. Their adventure introduces them to the Fairies, Lost Boys, Pirates, Mermaids, Indians and even the infamous Captain Hook.

The cast and stage crew consisted of 64 students from grades 4 through 6. Lead roles were performed by Zoey Birman (Peter Pan), Danielle Yakubisn (Wendy), Camille Denny (Tinkerbell), Louisa Margaret Mattozzi (Captain Hook), Sebastian Byrum (John), Lucas Abousseleman (Michael), Frankie Delmolino (Tiger Lily), Madison Witt (Smee), Alexis Jeffries (the Chief), Gustavo Vega (Mr. Darling), Jordan Sweeney (Mrs. Darling), Cid Vita (Nana), and Cameron Howard (the Crocodile).

The Musical was directed and produced by FCPS teachers Sara Birkhead, Mary Ella Mohyla, and Kate Fellin. Assistant Direction by Brianna Miles and Choreography by Chloeissia Kirwan.
Legislators in the earliest days of the Republic were mostly of the planter class; women, blacks and non-landowners could not vote or hold office. The best time to get away from the plantation and the crops was in the wintertime. That probably started the custom that continues to today whereby the General Assembly holds its regular session in the winter beginning on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January. In simpler times and up until 1971 the state law-making body only met every other year, in the even-numbered years. The current schedule has the House of Delegates and the State Senate meeting for 60 calendar days in the even-numbered years and 30 days, most often extended to 45 days, in the odd-numbered years. Passage of the biennium budget passed in the even-numbered years is the justification for the more than two weeks additional time. Special sessions are not that unusual, although they seldom extend for more than one or two weeks. Virginia government is organized around legislative sessions. Study committees meet to consider the need for legislation in areas where more time is needed for analysis beyond that available in the regular session. An important study committee this year will consider the need for additional health care reform beyond that passed in the last session. The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) provides legislative oversight with legislative members and a professional staff and conducts some of the most in-depth studies. In 1997 it introduced the legislation to establish the Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) and served as its original chair. JCOTS conducts studies, with private-sector and academic technical advisory committee members assisting it, in its mission to study and advise in the development of sound technology and science policy in the Commonwealth.

The summertime provides more opportunities to meet with constituents locally and to learn their needs. The General Assembly is referred to as a part-time legislature although I spend more than full-time as a member. My retirement status provides me time to work year-round at a job I really enjoy and am honored to have. Although it is summer, still feel free to call on me whenever you think I can be of assistance to you. Email me at kenplum@aol.com.

Legislative work does get done in the interim between legislative sessions. Study committees meet to consider the need for legislation in areas where more time is needed for analysis beyond that available in the regular session. An important study committee this year will consider the need for additional health care reform beyond that passed in the last session. The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) provides legislative oversight with legislative members and a professional staff and conducts some of the most in-depth studies. In 1997 it introduced the legislation to establish the Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) and served as its original chair. JCOTS conducts studies, with private-sector and academic technical advisory committee members assisting it, in its mission to study and advise in the development of sound technology and science policy in the Commonwealth. From Page 7

pansion of hunts to Reston common grounds. I hope Restonians will attend the Sept. 25 board meeting to learn more about what is being considered. If you have an opinion, write to your board members (see www.Reston.org). Many of us moved to Reston for nature and the wildlife. A decision to expand hunting would, in our view, contradict Reston’s values.

Pam Corbett
Reston

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by Friday.

Kacey Hirsfield, a senior at South Lakes High School, was one of 59 Virginia students awarded scholarships through the Comcast Foundation’s annual Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program. The program, one of the Foundation’s signature community investment initiatives, recognizes students’ leadership skills, academic achievement and commitment to community service. Comcast, joined by Attorney General of Virginia Mark Herring, recognized the students at a special event held Thursday, May 22, at the State Capitol.

Five Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students have received national awards for their writing from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Three of the students received Gold Medals, the highest form of recognition.

Aline Delinh of Oakton High School received the American Voices Medal, the equivalent of the best of show award, for her poetry, “Accent Marks, Exorcism, Model Minority, Second-generation.”

National winners include: 
- Melissa Halbrook of Woodson High School, Gold Medal for humor, “Kim Jung-Un’s New Clothes.”
- Jean Jeon of Herndon High School, Silver Medal for novel writing, “Strain.”
- Sara Warrington of TJHSST, Silver Medal for Journalism, “Overcoming Intolerance.”

Letters to the Editor

Reston’s civic and community organizations will be celebrating anniversaries all year. Check out all the fun in store for the community at www.restoncelebrates.org.

For interactive details be sure to add your organization’s anniversary-based content to www.restoncelebrates.org.
Jensen to Play Point Guard for Mary Washington

**Q and A: South Lakes basketball standout helped Seahawks win Conference 6 championship.**

As a junior, Caitlin Jensen helped the South Lakes girls’ basketball team reach the 2013 state tournament, providing a signature moment when she knocked down a game-winning, buzzer-beating jumper against a talented Mount Vernon team in the second round of the Northern Region tournament.

As a senior captain, Jensen was part of a Seahawks team that finished 23-4 and captured the 2014 Conference 6 championship. She participated in the 10th Suburban Classic all-star game on March 23, knocking down four 3-pointers en route to a game-high 22 points.

Now, the recent South Lakes graduate is taking classes at the University of Mary Washington and will play point guard for the women’s basketball team in the winter. Jensen recently participated in a Q and A via email with The Connection.

*Connection: What is your major?*

**Jensen:** My major is going to be in business with hopefully a double minor in social justice and biology.

*Connection: What position will you play?*

**Jensen:** I play point guard.

*Connection: At what age did you start playing basketball? When did you realize playing college basketball was a possibility for you?*

**Jensen:** I started playing basketball ever since I could remember. I would always go outside with my dad or grandpa and make them step up more, but it has only made me grow as a player.

*Connection: What are you most looking forward to about the transition from high school to college?*

**Jensen:** I am definitely looking forward to the freedom and the complete access to gyms and weight rooms instead of having to wait for gym space to open up or calling my coach so that she would open the gym. I am also excited about being away from home so that I can grow and start to learn how to really balance my schedule.

*Connection: Who is your favorite music artist? Why?*

**Jensen:** My favorite music artist would have to be almost anything country, like Carrie Underwood or Florida Georgia Line. Country is just something I can listen to on long road trips and it can be very relaxing.

*Connection: What is your favorite movie? Why?*

**Jensen:** My favorite movie is “Bridesmaids” or “Pitch Perfect.” Both movies were basically team movies where we would always quote them or watch them together, not to mention they are both hilarious.

*Connection: What is your favorite food?*

**Jensen:** Chipotle. I eat it all the time and never hear the end of it!

*Connection: What is your favorite hobby outside of basketball?*

**Jensen:** I actually love working. It’s nice to hang out with friends and go exploring, but working has given me a very satisfying feeling and working in a very friendly and open environment makes it even better.

*Connection: What location is the farthest you have traveled from the Washington, D.C. metro area?*

**Jensen:** The farthest I have ever been would probably be when my family took a trip to Sicily and Naples.

*Connection: Did you follow the World Cup? If so, for which team(s) did you cheer?*

**Jensen:** I follow the World Cup very closely and since the beginning I have wanted Germany to win!

“It was fun seeing the kids gear up to swim against swimmers who have previously just been a name on the top times list,” said Lisa Fritz, Lake Audubon manager.

The competitive nature of the meet stayed positive as swimmers stayed in the pool to shake hands and parents applauded good effort on both sides. “At the end of the relays, the whole crowd applauded both A teams for what was a really exciting race and then kept cheering as the last kid finished—really summed up the feeling of the whole meet,” said Mike Collins, Lake Newport parent.

“What I love about RSTA and this meet in particular was the obvious support for all swimmers,” said Blake Kohn, Lake Newport parent. “At the end of the relays, and an extremely competitive meet, the round of applause was the loudest I’ve ever heard. Everyone was proud of all the kids on both teams.”

**Glade’s Maya Berry races to a third-place finish in the girls’ 9-10 25-meter butterfly.**

**Sportsmanship Rules Duel in the Pool**

Good sportsmanship was the order of the day as RSTA’s two undefeated teams went head to head in last Saturday’s meet. As evenly matched as they were, the lead went back and forth and the outcome wasn’t determined until the very end when Lake Audubon emerged victorious over Lake Newport, 594-582.

“The great part about a meet like today is that everyone can make a direct impact to the outcome,” said Keith Jacobson, Lake Newport parent. “This is not a league where only the A level swimmers count; even the new kids swimming in C have as much of a direct impact as year-round A swimmers!” Swimmers from both teams prepared for what they knew would be a meet that could go either way.

“It was fun seeing the kids gear up to swim against swimmers I would have to say that I wish I had followed the World Cup very closely and since the beginning I have wanted Germany to win!”

— Jon Roefman
Kickoff Held For Fairfax 2015 Games

Police and firefighters conduct demonstrations at Reston Town Center.

Sections of Market Street were closed the afternoon of Sunday, July 13 at Reston Town Center for an introduction of the Fairfax 2015 World Police & Fire Games. The World Police & Fire Games (WPFG) Sports Extravaganza offered live demonstrations including Honor Guard, Muster Carts, Police Motors, and Martial Arts. The demonstrations are part of the 2015 WPFG competitions, which will be hosted by Fairfax County and throughout the National Capital Region.

The World Police & Fire Games is one of the largest multi-sport, multi-venue events in the world. It draws more than 12,000 athletes from police, fire and other public safety agencies representing 70 countries competing in 1,600 medal events across 61 sports. Hosted by Fairfax County and held throughout the National Capital Region from June 26 to July 5, 2015, the games strive to inspire, celebrate and honor public safety officials.

On Sunday, master of ceremonies Kevin Shafter introduced activities including a kid’s zone with junior ultimate fire fighter course. Fire engines, police and sheriff cruisers were available for children to explore. The Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office was onsite, making child ID cards. Health and fitness groups came to display fitness routines at the Reston Town Center Pavilion. One fitness group was from the Reston YMCA. “The YMCA is excited to support the 2015 world games,” said Joseph Crawford, an Executive Director of the YMCA and resident of Reston. Performing live music during the afternoon was the Northern Virginia Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band (NVFESPB).

Held biennially, the games will be held in Fairfax County in 2015, Montreal in 2017 and Chengdu, China in 2019. The August 2013 WPFG games in Belfast, Northern Ireland welcomed 7,000 competitors from 67 countries. “It is a great opportunity to showcase all of the professions and Fairfax County itself,” said Fairfax County Fire Chief Richard Bowers, Jr. Fire Chief Bowers, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Supervisor Cathy Hudgings, and U.S. Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-11) had the opportunity to welcome everyone and gave remarks on the Fairfax 2015 games. At the end of the presentation the name of the Fairfax 2015 games mascot was announced as Captain Courage.

“It is huge,” said Barry Biggar, President of Visit Fairfax. “The games will be a great time to see the caliber of competitors, and to not have to pay for tickets for it is extraordinary.” Opening ceremonies for the Fairfax 2015 games will be at the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium in Washington, D.C. on June 26, 2015. Closing ceremonies will be at Wolf Trap Park in Vienna. The Athlete’s Village will be at the Reston Town Center, with many of the events taking place at George Mason University.

“It was no surprise the games were able to come to Fairfax,” said Bill Knight, President and CEO of the Fairfax 2015 World Police & Fire Games. Knight was appointed to this position in November of 2012. Previous to this appointment, Knight operated a consulting practice in Atlanta, Ga. Knight served as Vice President of Venue Operations for World Cup USA in 1994, and as the General Manager for all venues and events in Athens, Ga. for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games.

In planning for the event, Knight has taken into account the use of the Metro’s Silver Line. “The Silver Line will be a tremendous boost for the community,” said Knight. Some of the athletics competitions will take place in Arlington, Loudoun and Prince William counties. “It is an enormous event,” said Knight. “We need 4,000 volunteers and ultimately those volunteers will be the number one resource in holding these games.”

The games are expected to bring between $50 and $80 million in economic impact to the area. Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe welcomed the games to Fairfax County, “It will bring economic opportunity for us at both Reston and the Dulles corridor. … It will put Fairfax County on the map in ways it has not been before.” For more information about the Fairfax 2015 games, visit Fairfax2015.com.
By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I’d rather be called. I’ve been extremely fortunate so far, neutral, at best, it was positive; something seen for the first time because previously there was too much of other unhealthy stuff in the way for it to be seen at all. Less clutter, if you’ll allow a lay person’s description to suffice. And as all my oncologist knows, this growth may have been there all along and is not the least bit a cause for concern, quite the opposite in fact. But we don’t know enough yet, so he decided not to wait three months. Heck, this growth could even be smaller than it was originally (affected by the Alimta also) and smaller even on this next scan. But we won’t know definitively, we’ll only know comparatively – between late May and early August.

To say I’m looking forward to the results would be a bit overstated. Curious, I’ll allow. Moreover, I don’t want to express any real confidence about my prospects, because so much of what cancer does it will do, regardless of what I think or hope or pray. But two things/symptoms my oncologist advised me to e-mail him about: pain in the area of the “new” growth and/or a persistent cough, neither of which I’ve experienced in the slightest. Now he didn’t give me a timeline as to when I might feel something, but six weeks out, I haven’t felt a thing. (I know I’ve been extremely fortunate so far, diagnosis-to-date. And I’d like to think wishfully, naively that my luck will continue to be exceptional. Although, I realize I may be beginning to bump up against some shorter odds here, having survived five-plus years already (only 16 percent of stage IV NSCLC survivors live beyond five years). Nonetheless, I’m thrilled to be an five-plus years already (only 16 percent of...
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What, Where, When
2014 Art Member Exhibition, July 17 – Aug. 24.
Opening Reception: July 17, 6 – 8 p.m.
Gallery Hours Tuesday – Saturday: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Free and Open to the public.
Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market Street, Suite 103.
info@restonarts.org

Greater Reston Arts Center is presenting the first of what will become a biennial exhibition highlighting the talents of the area artist members. Selected by distinguished curator, educator, and artist, Helen Frederick, founder of Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center and Professor of Art at George Mason University, the exhibition features 28 artists treating a range of themes and working in a variety of media including painting, photography, sculpture and site-specific installation.

An opening reception is scheduled for Thursday, July 17, from 6 – 8 p.m.; all are welcome to attend. GRACE is located in Reston Town Center and is accessible by public transportation. For directions and further information, visit www.restonarts.org. A full-color exhibition catalog will be available at the gallery.

Featured artists include: John Adams, Lina Alattar, Ann Barbieri, Nancy Bass, Brenda Bellfield, Julia Bloom, Jessica Chong Kang, Catherine Day, Julia Drzlikiewicz, Dorothy Fall, Jo Fleming, Susan Hostetler, Robert Hoysted, Jessica Kallista, Melanie Kehoss, Elizabeth Kendall, Brian Kirk, George Kocher, Mary Ellen Moege, Michele Montalbano, Craig Moran, Connie Slack, Paul Steinkeoenig, Nasir Thamir, Anna Watson, Ann Williams and Fred Zafran.

To have community events listed in the Connect- tion, send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com by the Friday prior to the following week’s paper.

ESL “Speak and Write” for Intermediate Students. 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Adults. 703-689-2700.

MONDAY/JULY 21
ESL for Intermediate Students. 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Conventional group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

TUESDAY/JULY 22
ESL for Beginners. 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Conventional group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

THURSDAY/JULY 24
ESL for Advanced Students. 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Conventional group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

ESL Pronunciation and Speaking for Intermediate Students. 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Conventional group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

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FRIDAY/JULY 18
ESL for Beginners. 10 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Conventional group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

LET’S TALK - ESL for Intermediate Students.
11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Conventional group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

ESL for Intermediate Students. 3 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Conventional group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

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ESL for Intermediate Students. 4:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Conventional group. Adults. 703-689-2700.

TUESDAY/JULY 22
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School Board Decreases Suspension Time

Student Rights and Responsibilities revised.

By Janelle Germanos
The Connection

Starting this fall, suspensions for certain student offenses in Fairfax County will decrease, thanks to a revision of the school system’s Student Rights and Responsibilities.

The school board voted unanimously at the end of June to change the discipline handbook, which will now focus on in-school suspensions to preserve time in school. Offenses that come with mandatory punishments are decreased under the updated handbook.

Sully District School Board member Kathy Smith said at the meeting that the focus remains to have safe schools, but to ensure that children are kept in school so they can continue to receive their education.

“The changes to the SR&R were made to better align with best practices, to reduce suspensions, and to include changes that have been made to the Code of Virginia,” said School Board Chairman Ilryong Moon in a press release. “The adopted changes emphasize the School Board’s desire to keep students in class by promoting alternative forms of discipline and reducing the length of suspension for certain offenses. However, serious infractions will still be dealt with in a manner that protects students and staff.”

The Student Rights and Responsibilities provides a guideline of rules for students of Fairfax County Schools and the consequences for breaking those rules. Students are required to sign it each year.

CHANGES ALSO INCLUDE adjustments to a marijuana-related punishment. First-time use of marijuana that does not take place on school grounds or during a school-sponsored activity will be extended expedited review, meaning disciplinary actions other than expulsion may be used.

A motion was also approved that requires the collection of data on cases involving first-time possession and use of marijuana cases each semester. Principals are also given more independence in assigning disciplinary decisions.

Superintendent Karen Garza said at the meeting that disproportionality in school suspensions will continue to be examined.

“Are we there yet with the Student Rights and Responsibilities? No. I think we have to keep working on it and keep making it better,” Garza said.

Under the updated handbook, the suspension time for many punishments is decreased from 10 to five days.

“We wanted to reduce the number of days students miss school due to disciplinary infractions. We need to hold students accountable, but can we do that in a way that still supports our educational mission, and I think we’ve made progress there,” Garza said.

A requirement that required a 10-day suspension with a referral to the Division Superintendent has also been eliminated.

“Everything we know at the national level of research is, when you pull children out of their school building, when you pull them even out of the classroom, they fall further and further behind,” said Braddock District School Board member Megan McLaughlin. “When we look at the things that we as a system can try to control and improve upon for student achievement, it’s important that we recognize that this is why getting our discipline practice right is so important, because this is how we will help improve student achievement and narrow the achievement gap.”

FAIRFAX COUNTY’S ADOPTION of the new Student Rights and Responsibilities will be a model for the rest of Virginia, said Ted Velkoff, member at large.

“School boards are going to be looking at ways to respond positively to students without doing zero tolerance,” he said.

Electronic cigarettes and hookah pens were also added to be classified as tobacco products under the updated handbook.

A motion was also approved that requires data to be collected regarding in-school and out-of-school suspension, as well as the number of those students not suspended, out of the total number of referrals to the superintendent for discipline infractions, to be reported each semester.