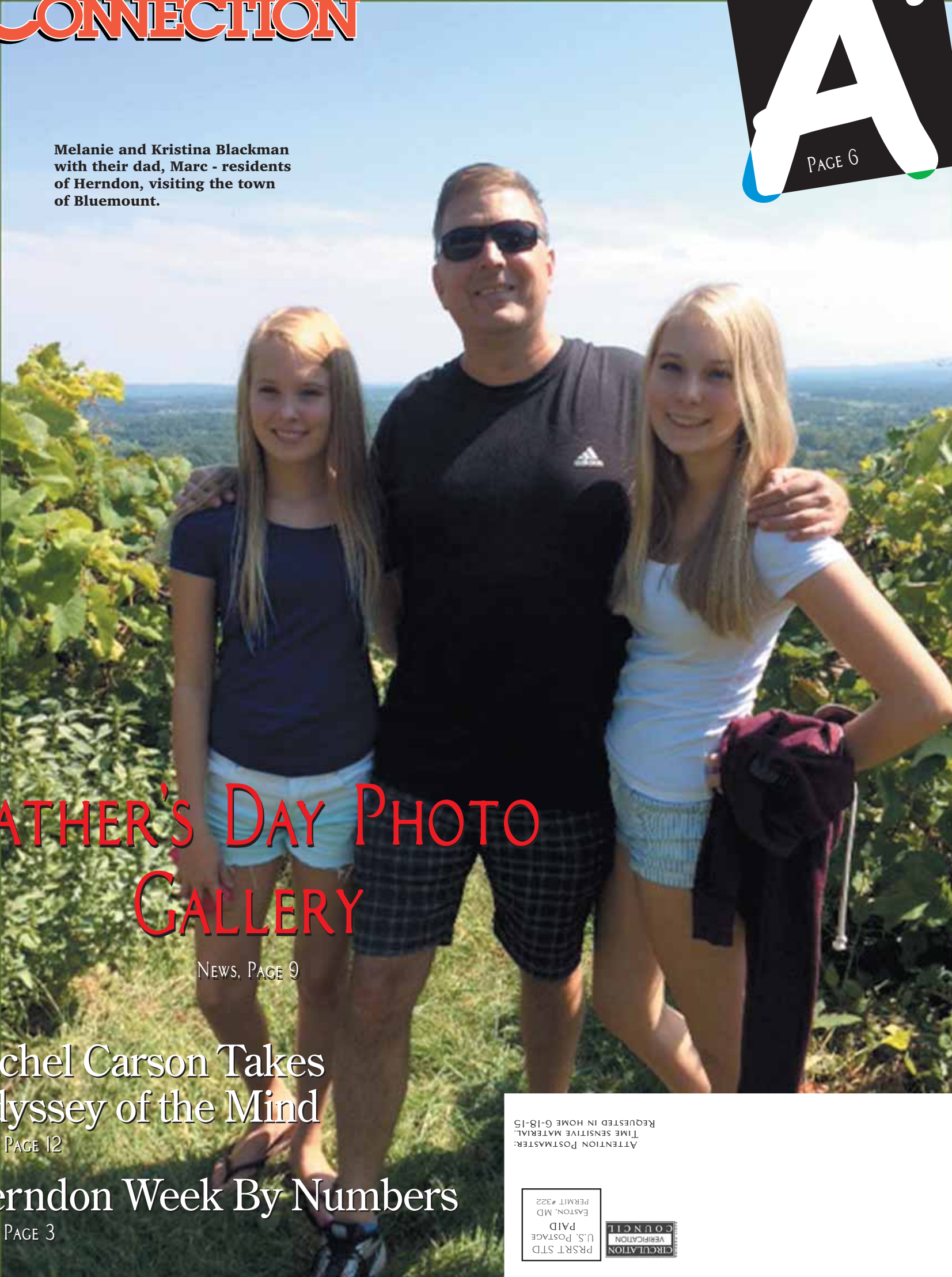


Melanie and Kristina Blackman
with their dad, Marc - residents
of Herndon, visiting the town
of Bluemount.



FATHER'S DAY PHOTO GALLERY

NEWS, PAGE 9

Rachel Carson Takes Odyssey of the Mind

NEWS, PAGE 12

Herndon Week By Numbers

NEWS, PAGE 3

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Herndon Week By Numbers

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

2035

Herndon's 2035 Vision Strategic Plan is on the agenda for Town Council's July meeting. "In the year 2035, Herndon is an innovative town where history and heritage are respected and where people and their involvement matter. Herndon's inclusiveness and sense of community foster empowerment in each resident," reads a draft of the plan to be discussed at the Town Council's next work session on June 30.

879

Jeff Toven and Jon Gibson will have a sign in their front yard on Elden Street, alerting residents that they earned Herndon's special distinction of "creating and maintaining a beautiful yard that serves as a model to neighbors and citizens."

The Cultivating Community Initiative gives the award for beautiful front yards three times a year. Winners and the person that nominates them will receive gift certificates from Meadows Farms.

Nomination forms can be found at the Municipal Center, Community Center and the Herndon Fortnightly Library.

See www.herndon-va.gov.

13

People successfully completed the 19th session of the Herndon Citizens Police Academy and for working in partnership with the Herndon Police to improve the quality of life in the Herndon community. At the Council meeting Tuesday, May 26, the Herndon Town Council and Herndon Police Department honored Naila Alam, Bashir Aziz, Antonio Rodolfo Caceres, Nyla S.



The June 2015 Yard of the Month winner at 879 Elden Street, home of Jeff Toven and Jon Gibson.

Khalil, Fred Kibler, Ray Reiad Nazzal, Matthew Noordhoff, Peter Prescott, Nickolas Ramsay, Melwin Quadros, Stephen Vickers, Viki Wellershaus and Edward Ziemba.

10

The Herndon Senior Center enjoys its 10th Anniversary. The 13,000 square foot community based senior center was dedicated on May 12, 2005.

\$65,335.70

Delinquent accounts that have remained

dormant for more than three years, including miscellaneous receivable accounts, utility accounts receivables and returned checks, which "appear to have little chance of successful collection." The Council approved the authorization to remove the charges from Town accounting records, not the hope that they will someday be paid.

500%

With a new change to the Town's water leak policy ordinance made at the May 19 Town Council hearing, Town staff can address problems with a high water bill that

exceeds 500 percent above normal water usage. "Once invoked, "the credit shall equal one half of the excessive charges above normal water usage," according to staff reports. Herndon can only offer the credit once during a five-year period.

5

Town Council approved the idea of establishing an Economic Development Advisory Committee, possibly five members, and staff will finalize ideas for options for the number of members, term lengths, payment and requirements for the committee.

20

Manuel A. Capsalis served as Herndon's Deputy Town Attorney more than 20 years. The Town Council honored Capsalis, who will become a Fairfax County General District Court Judge, at its Council hearing at the beginning of May.

372

People signed up last fall for Solarize Nova, a grassroots, community-based outreach initiative sponsored by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) and the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) for community members to learn more about solar power options for their homes and facilitate the installation and financing of their own project. Through bulk purchasing and free solar site assessments, Solarize NOVA reduces cost of solar installations.

6/30/16

Councilmember Sheila A. Olem was appointed as the Town of Herndon's "Principal" member to the Dulles Area Transportation Association Board of Directors through June 30, 2016.

Gratitude Expressed Two Ways

Pablo E. Hollstein "brought some thing special to the Town," said Lisa Gilleran, director of community development.

Hollstein, who is scheduled to retire on July 1, 2015, has worked with the Department of Community Development since 2008 and started employment with Herndon with the Office of Neighborhood Resources on Oct. 23, 2000.

The Herndon Town Council recognized Hollstein Tuesday night, June 2.

"His unfailing and ever-present diplomacy, dedication, professionalism and concern for every member of the community. That showed every day."

Gilleran described his efforts from helping run first time buyer classes and home maintenance classes to working with neighborhoods on updating archi-



Pablo E. Hollstein will retire in July.

tectural guidelines; from helping homeowners with contracts to finding funding sources, even Cornerstone, to help "those who didn't have the resources," said

Gilleran.

Hollstein holds a master's degree in architecture from Catholic University.

"He not only knows the design and theory

of architecture, he knows the nuts and bolts of construction as well," said Gilleran. "And over the past 14 years, he's shared that with our community in so many ways."

Resident Barbara Glakas said she's known Hollstein for many years. "He is always there with a smile. He's quiet, humble, friendly and professional," she said. "It's a huge loss for the town."

Hollstein expressed gratitude to the Town Tuesday night.

"It has been a great honor to have served the Town of Herndon for the last 14 years. I have been able to help homeowners improve their homes and their quality of life. It has been a privilege to be able to contribute to the betterment of the community," he said. "My sincere thanks."

— KEN MOORE

Political Prospects for Medicaid Expansion

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

Virginia voters in areas with contested primaries went to the polls last week to select their candidates for the Nov. 3 general election when all seats in the General Assembly are up for election as are many local offices. Primary elections attract mostly party faithfuls in small numbers and are not clear barometers of the mood of voters generally on issues. Some of the results in General Assembly primaries merit attention.

In the Republican dominated Shenandoah Valley, senior Senator Emmett Hanger who was one of the three Republicans in the General Assembly who supported Medicaid expansion had two more conservative challengers who made Medicaid expansion an is-

sue in the primary with both of them opposing expansion. Hanger won easily. In Hampton Roads, the lone Democratic incumbent who opposed Medicaid expansion lost to his primary challenger who supported it. Before jumping to the conclusion that Medicaid expansion has suddenly become popular in the Commonwealth, there is the primary involving the Speaker of the House of Delegates. The Speaker was reported as campaigning in part on his being able to keep Virginia from expanding Medicaid. Of course, his Tea Party opponent opposed Medicaid and suggested that the Speaker's opposition had not been strong enough. After campaigning hard and out-spending his challenger, the Speaker won easily.

Across the state a senate incum-



bent and a delegate incumbent, both Republican who opposed Medicaid expansion, beat their challengers who also opposed Medicaid expansion. The election results do not give a clear indication of the outcome of what will be a critically important issue for the 2016 General Assembly session. The Governor remains committed to Medicaid expansion, but his having any chance of success is dependent upon the outcome of the Senate races.

In the November state senate races there will be several key contests. At a 21-19 advantage for Republicans, Democrats need to pick up at least one seat to give Democratic Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam the opportunity to break ties. The seats being vacated by the two other moderate Republicans who supported Medicaid

expansion offer hope for Democrats, but Democrats need also to hang onto the seat vacated with the retirement of Democratic State Senator Chuck Colgan. The only Democratic state senator in western Virginia is in a three-way race.

If elections were based purely on facts, Medicaid expansion would be a sure winner. The White House Council of Economic Advisors issued a report recently that said expansion would reach an additional 179,000 Virginia residents with lifesaving care. The report also said Virginia will miss out on \$1.24 billion in federal funding in 2016 by not expanding Medicaid. That is billions of Virginia taxpayer dollars that could come back to the Commonwealth, freeing up state funds for crucial under-funded programs. Go to the polls this November, and in the meantime let friends and families know the importance of Medicaid expansion and that their votes will matter in making it happen.

Herndon High Freshman Chosen for All-National Honors Band

BY SALLY TONER

How Dee, Minnie! Herndon High School will be sending one of its own to the Grand Ole Opry.

James Adams, a freshman percussionist in the Herndon High School Wind Ensemble, has been chosen for the All-National Honors Concert Band, sponsored by the National Association for Music Educators. He will perform at the historic venue in Nashville, Tenn. on Oct. 28.

"James has been preparing for this experience his entire life. He has taken advantage of every musical opportunity that has come his way. He's got an incredible track record of hard work, service, and leadership," said director Kathleen Jacoby.

Adams was one of 150 instrumentalists chosen from a field of 2.5 million students nationwide. Auditions were open to all-state band participants and involved the submission of recordings and recommendations. Adams expressed great enthusiasm about participating in an ensemble with such high caliber musicians.

"I'm really looking forward to meeting different all-state level musicians from around the country and performing with them. The conductors are all really good and nationally known, so I hope to learn a lot from them," Adams said.

He was also appreciative of the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

James Adams, a freshman percussionist in the Herndon High School Wind Ensemble, has been chosen for the All-National Honors Concert Band.

support he received from his band director during the application process.

"Ms. Jacoby so kindly wrote a letter of recommendation supporting me. Her letter was very crucial in the process and helped the Honor Band staff to know more about me."

Adams will spend three days in Nashville before performing for a select group of music teachers from across the nation. He pointed out that, as in All-State Band, the ensemble will have two days to rehearse together, playing music they have not previously performed. "I hope to contribute all my skills as a percussionist to the group and help them sound as good as possible. I also want to represent my percussion section, my town, and my state well."

The concert on Wednesday afternoon at the Grand Ole Opry will also include a jazz ensemble of 20 students and a vocal choir of approximately 350.

Adams is the first Herndon High School student to be chosen for this honor in the school's history, and his director Jacoby expressed great pride in his accomplishment, and his attitude.

"We couldn't ask for a nicer or more humble member of the Herndon band program. He's going to bring back a wealth of knowledge from this experience, and I'm excited about what ideas he'll have for our program when he returns."

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WEEK IN HERNDON

Accidental Herndon High Rise Building Fire Causes Major Damage

Units responded to a commercial high rise building fire Tuesday, June 9, at approximately 7:45 p.m., in the Herndon area of Fairfax County. The building is located at 13820 Sunrise Valley Drive.

Firefighters encountered heavy smoke coming from the lower level of the ten-story building upon arrival. Upon further investigation, firefighters found fire in the first floor "battery room." Additionally, an outside transformer caught fire near the building.

The Incident Commander sounded a second alarm bringing more than 60 firefighters to the scene. Firefighters ensured all occupants had evacuated the building.

There were approximately 50 employees in the building when the fire broke out. Firefighters were able to contain the fire to the room of origin and transformer with no fire extension to other parts of the building. There were no injuries.

The automatic fire alarm did activate; however, a security officer called 911 after

hearing an explosion. One sprinkler head did activate helping to keep the fire contained.

Damage is estimated at \$2 million.

According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. An electrical event in the control module to the uninterruptible power supply caused the fire.

Attic Fan Causes Herndon House Fire

Units responded to a house fire, Saturday, June 13, at approximately 7:30 a.m., in the Herndon area of Fairfax County. The single-family home is located at 3021 Jeannie Anna Court.

Firefighters encountered smoke and fire coming from the attic of the two-story home upon arrival. Firefighters conducted an aggressive fire attack and quickly extinguished the fire.

The occupants smelled smoke and escaped unharmed. Smoke alarms did not activate within the home. Two occupants have been displaced. Red Cross support was offered but declined by the occupants. There were no injuries.

Damage is estimated at \$17,000.

According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. An overheated attic fan caused the fire.

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A variety of summer camp activities are offered at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Culmore Character Club in Fairfax County. 3D printing will be a new activity this summer.

YouthQuest Runs ThinkLink

Experts say 3D printing can open a world of imagination and critical thinking.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Adonis Gonzales had always wanted to become a master electrician, but when he was asked to leave high school at 16 because of a poor attendance record, his prospects looked bleak. He enrolled in Freestate Challenge Academy, a tuition-free program that offers 16- to 18-year-old high school dropouts an opportunity to earn a GED and learn a trade. A 3D printing technology class that Gonzales took through the program proved to be eye-opening. “When I first went into the class, I saw the computers and printer and thought that it was going to be too hard,” said Gonzales. “But then the instructor said that if we could imagine something, then we can create it. The first thing I made was a heart with my daughter’s name on it.” The class was part of an initiative called 3D ThinkLink, a program designed to teach critical thinking and problem solving skills through 3D design and printing. The class was run by YouthQuest, a Chantilly-based nonprofit that provides at-risk youth with educational scholarships to pursue their college or vocational aspirations.

Linda Mann, Ph.D., one of the

organization’s founders, believes young children can benefit from ThinkLink because the lessons and life skills learned extend beyond technology. The class will be offered as part of a camp this summer at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Culmore Character Club in Fairfax County. “I discovered that we could use 3D printing to teach critical thinking and problem solving to the kids we served,” said Mann. “Many of the kids hadn’t learned to think critically or to problem solve. They’d learned that failure was a way of life, but with 3D printing, they learn that failure isn’t the end, it’s the beginning.”

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB staffers agree, saying ThinkLink will inspire students. “It will be an excellent opportunity for the youth here, who sometimes are in difficult living situations, to see that if they work hard

“With 3D printing, they learn that failure isn’t the end, it’s the beginning.”

— Linda Mann, Ph.D., YouthQuest

and put in effort, they can have a bright future,” said Chris Roberts, science, technology, education and math (STEM) regional director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington. “I think the students will be excited. It will be inspirational and have activities that will lead them to think more about what they can do in their future and what the future will bring.”

“It will reinforce their existing

Details

To learn about the Culmore Boys & Girls Club summer camps, visit www.bgcgw.org/culmore.

Give

The group hopes to raise \$8,000 to publish an introductory 3D design and printing curriculum for students of all ages. The campaign will end on July 1 at noon. To donate, visit www.youthquestfoundation.org.

STEM skills, but we hope it will boost their self-confidence,” said Wonhee Kang, D.Min., senior director, Fairfax County Region, Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington. “They can imagine something and then see their idea turn into reality. That will really give their self-confidence a boost.” Gonzales said troubleshooting was an unexpected skill he acquired during the class. “They showed us that you can create anything that comes to your mind,” he said. “If one of us had a problem, then we brainstormed as a group on how to do it differently.” Learning to solve problems like that, work through difficulties and simply dream, are basic but foreign concepts to many disadvantaged children. Mann hopes that changes this summer.

“It is important for them to see that they can make a difference in the real world,” said Mann. “They could be brilliant scientists or teachers or whatever they want to be,” she said. “For people who have succeeded, it’s important to give back. That’s what keeps our community. It’s important to make a difference with the skills and talents that we have.”

Ideas for Summer Learning

Experts offer suggestions for avoiding summer brain drain.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

While summer is opportunity for fun, it can also be a breeding ground for stagnation. In fact, the National Summer Learning Association reports children can experience learning loss when they are not engaged in educational activities while on school break. From summer reading programs at local libraries to nature walks in the woods, local educators offer ideas for combining enriching experiences and warm weather fun. “Most local libraries have a reading program that offers kids incentives for reading books during the summer,” said Peggy Woodstock, a Bethesda, Md., based reading specialist. “They add an element of competition which can offer a boost to many kids.” Think of the natural world as an interactive classroom as well. “Hiking and camping are great ways to get kids excited about science and nature,” said Amy Adams, director, Aspiring Scientists Summer Internship Program at George Mason University in Fairfax. “There are some local parks that have nature programs and guided walks.” Adams recommends Eleanor Lawrence Park in Chantilly and Great Falls Park in McLean. “Allow children to explore, but it’s always nice to give guidance as well,” said Adams. “For example, ‘Let’s go on this hike and look for evidence that an animal was present,’ and then kids get involved trying determine which animal it was.”

Trading video games for blue foam blocks at the National Building Museum’s “Work, Play, Build” exhibit is another option. It’s a hands-on, interactive space that offers children an opportunity to see the work of architects and engineers. The National Zoo and the Natural History Museum in Washington, D.C., the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland and the Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly are also good choices for children. In addition, the Potomac Overlook



Activities such as building “driveways” in the sand can encourage learning at home during summer months.

Nature Center in Arlington is “great for teaching kids about birds, turtles and birds of prey,” said Adams. “Farms or petting zoos are also great for teaching kids about

and provide duct tape and paints. Kids can build castles [and] space ships,” she added. For more inspiration, Multop recommends a blog by Alexandria-based educator Peggy Ashbrook: <http://families.naeyc.org/blog/124>.

“She has lots of activities on it that encourage learning about science in a fun way,” said Multop. “What’s really important for kids is to inquire and for parents not to give them the answer, but help them find the answers.”

There is plenty of inspiration to be had at home as well, says Gail Multop, who teaches early childhood development at Northern Virginia Community College. “You can build things at home with your kids,” she said. “Experiments with water are great. Use funnels and buckets of water and experiment with how water flows.” Multop shares ideas for learning on her blog, “The Arts and Early Childhood Education.”

For building projects at home, “parents should save cardboard, paper towel rolls, shoeboxes, etc.

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

ONGOING

THROUGH SUNDAY/JUNE 21

A Man for All Seasons. NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. This powerful drama about one man's struggle between his conscience and his king. Tickets: \$28.

THROUGH SUNDAY/JUNE 28

HestiaMa'at Exhibit. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. In Hestia Ma'at artists Milagros Pongo from Paraguay/Peru, Alex Garcia from the Dominican Republic, Celso Trufel, from the Dominican Republic, and Vicky Benitez, from Uruguay/Paraguay present a bold exhibit of art and photography resonating with the artists' spirit of inner peace and faith in life.

THROUGH FRIDAY/AUG. 28

Herndon Friday Night Live. 6:30 p.m. 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. Listen to great music on Friday nights during the summer. herndonrocks.com/schedule.php.

THURSDAY/JUNE 18

Jr. Farmer Family Fun. 4 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. This family program goes behind the scenes to help the farmers at Frying Pan Farm Park. Come help with farm chores such as milking the cows, feeding the animals, and shelling corn.

SATURDAY/JUNE 20

Family Fun Entertainment Series: Pinot & Augustine Show. 10 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Reston Town Square Park. Performed by the incomparable Mark Jaster and Sabrina Mandell. Fun, knock-about comedy and classic physical mime antics. Augustine is the star. Pinot is trying to steal the show. Hilarity ensues as these two mute fools try to prove who is who with gentle humor and playful interaction. Free. restoncommunitycenter.com.

Fishing with Fathers. 10:30 a.m. - Noon. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. All ages. Take Dad fishing to celebrate Father's Day. Join us at Lake Audubon to learn fish facts, fishing basics and practice casting. We'll provide rods and bait. Those 16 and older wishing to fish will need a fishing license available online at www.dgif.state.va.us. Fee: \$7/person RA members, \$9/person Non-members. naturecenter@reston.org. 703-476-9689.

SUNDAY/JUNE 21

Herndon Garden Tour. 12-4 p.m. 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. The tour features elegant gardens at Herndon homes. The tour is self-guided; suggested tour route and directions are provided. Tickets available in advance or the day of the tour. 703-435-6800 x2222. herndon-va.gov. Tickets:\$10-\$15.

MONDAY/JUNE 22

Terrific Twos. 11 a.m. Herndon Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Jump and jive through story time with rhythmic books, songs and movement activities.

TUESDAY/JUNE 23

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon Concert. 7:15 p.m. Amphora Diner Deluxe, 1151 Elden Street, Herndon. National touring artists Pat Wictor, Joe Jencks and Greg Greenway will perform as Brother Sun at The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon. Fusing folk, Americana, blues and pop, as well as a cappella singing, Brother Sun is an explosion of musical diversity. Tickets: DAHurdSr@cs.com or at the door \$13 members, \$14 non-members.

Dinosaur Babies. 10:30 a.m. Herndon Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Stop in and enjoy a musical puppet show.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 24

Young Science Explorers. 11 a.m. Herndon Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Story time with naturalist Ken Rosenthal from The Walker Nature Center (STEAM). <http://>

Taste of Reston Returns June 19-21

The Taste of Reston, produced by the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, is the largest outdoor food festival in the area and was voted 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 "Northern Virginia's Best Food Festival" by Virginia Living magazine. Join the fun starting June 19-21 at Reston Town Center for a weekend of restaurants and community vendors, live entertainment on three stages, a carnival, the Family Fun Zone and a Wine 'n Dine area. This weekend's schedule: Friday, June 19, 3-11 p.m.; Saturday, June 20, noon-11 p.m. Sunday, June 21, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., carnival only. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. For tickets and more information, visit <http://www.restontaste.com/>.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/he/.

WEDNESDAYS/JUNE 24-AUG. 19

Frying Pan Farm Arts in the Parks. 10-11 a.m. Frying Pan Farm Park Amphitheater, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Entertain children, teach them the importance of protecting our natural resources, introduce them to live entertainment in an informal kid-friendly atmosphere, and forge a connection between kids and parks. Call 703-437-9101.

THURSDAY/JUNE 25

International Songwriters Collective U.S. Tour 2015. 7:30 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. International Songwriters Lily Kiara (Holland), Floatstone (Belgium), and Jimmy Robinson (USA) make Herndon a stop on their 2015 U.S. Tour. Tickets \$15.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 26-JULY 5

World Police & Fire Games Athletes' Village. Thousands of athletes from 70 countries will converge in Fairfax County for 10 days of competitions. Entertainment and activities will be hosted by Reston Town Center during the games. Fairfax2015.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 26

Frying Pan Fridays. 6:30 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Delve into a different piece of your favorite Farm Park on a stress-free adventure including hands-on activities and short hikes.

SATURDAY/JUNE 27

Towne Square Singers Spring Show. 7:30 p.m. Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Come join the Towne Square Singers at their next concert, "Poetry in Motion," to not only experience choral music, but to hear an array of poems written by great masters. Call 703-787-7300 to purchase tickets.

MONDAY/JUNE 29

Lego Club. 2 p.m. 768 Center Street, Herndon. Stop in and practice engineering and problem solving skills with LEGO bricks. Age 6-12.

TUESDAY/JUNE 30

Sheep Dog Detectives. 2:30 p.m. 768 Center Street, Herndon. Watch Kaydee Puppet's show, Dudley Dog and friends, who solve crimes in a fun and fast-paced show.

SPORTS



By JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

Led by head coach Bo Amato, center, the Langley boys' soccer team won the first state championship in program history on June 13, beating Madison 2-0 in the 6A state final at Robinson Secondary School.

Langley Boys' Soccer Wins First State Championship

Head Coach Amato earns 100th win at Langley.

By JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Following Saturday's 6A state championship match, Langley boys' soccer coach Bo Amato referenced the saying "players win and coaches lose."

If the saying is true, then a conversation Amato had with the Saxons prior to the state tournament could be considered a coach asking his players for a favor.

"I hate to break it to you boys, but I looked at my record after regionals," Amato said to a Langley team on the verge of history. "I'm 98-27-12 [at Langley] and I want to win my 100th with you, not some rinky-dink game next year that means nothing."

When it came time to step on the field for the state tournament at Robinson Secondary School, Langley not only rewarded Amato with a career milestone, the Saxons left their mark on school history.

After defeating James River 3-0 in Friday's 6A state semifinals, Langley beat Madison 2-0 in the state final on Saturday, June 13, giving the Saxons their first state championship and Amato his 100th win in eight years with the program.

FACING THE WARHAWKS for a fourth time this season, the Saxons took a 1-0 lead when sophomore striker Jacob Labovitz netted a goal in the 34th minute. Junior Cameron Basco added an insurance goal from roughly 45 yards out in the 77th minute, giving Langley its fourth win of the year over Madison.

Labovitz, a club soccer player who made an effort to play for his high school, finished the season with 26 goals.

"Langley's never won a state championship and I wanted to help them get it," he said. "I wanted the school to have it, [and for people to] always be able to look at the front of the building [and] look at the state championship."

After the match, when players were receiving their individual awards, Amato play-

fully pretended to bow toward Labovitz.

"I don't like singling people out because it's a team sport," Amato said, "but before the season even started ... he told [his club team] he wanted to play [for Langley High School]. ... He wanted to win and I've never in my life at this school had an underclassman so aggressively contact me about wanting to win."

Labovitz praised Amato, who has also won a private school state title with St. Stephen's & St. Agnes and a club championship with Annandale United FC.

"He's a great guy," Labovitz said. "He keeps me going. He's always positive with me, never gets down on me [and] makes me a better player."

Langley senior midfielder and captain Daniel Levetown shared Labovitz' admiration for Amato.

"He's a great coach and he's really pushed me to become the player I am today," Levetown said. "Without him, we wouldn't have been here. There's no way."

SATURDAY'S WIN bumped Langley's final record to 20-1-1. The Saxons beat Fairfax 1-0 on May 21 to win the Conference 6 championship, and defeated Madison 2-1 on June 5 to capture the program's first 6A North region title.

Langley beat Madison 2-0 during the regular season on April 21 and 2-1 in the conference tournament semifinals on May 19. In the region final, the Warhawks jumped out to a 1-0 lead before the Saxons came back to win — something Amato said aided Langley in pulling off the seemingly tough task of beating a team for a fourth time.

"It's good that we went down a goal in the regional final," Amato said. "In the first half, we were so poor. They didn't react to anything I said, so at halftime we had a little talk. If we had rolled them over in the regionals, they would have beat us tonight."

Langley senior goalkeeper and captain Cole Stinger finished with seven saves in Saturday's state final.

"High school soccer is so much fun," said Stinger, who will play for the University of Delaware. "You get to play with your friends, represent your school, have all the fans that we had come out. It's awesome."

FATHER'S DAY PHOTO GALLERY



Nationals baseball game with Lauren, 9, and Dad, of Reston.



Melanie and Kristina Blackman with their dad, Marc - residents of Herndon, visiting town of Bluemount.



Thomas 11, Megan 15, Joseph 5, Kelly 18, and Mike Carney spending the day at Epcot waiting for the New Year's Eve fireworks.



Loren Sadlack of Herndon, with his daughters, Sadie and Cora, enjoying some custard at Viva Vienna.



Alex and Ray Capece, of Reston, attending a Washington Nationals game.



Mike Calsetta, of Oak Hill, with his two boys, Justin and Zach.



Flynn Rairdon, of Reston, with his dad, Stephen, on the way to a HOYB baseball game.



David Erickson of Eagan, Minn., spending an afternoon ice skating with his granddaughter, Sadie Sadlack of Herndon.

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NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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No Joke, But Funny Nonetheless



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I ever want to use my having cancer as an excuse, but you have to admit, it's a doozy. And it's probably the best thing about the diagnosis/prognosis. However, it's not as if there are a number of other advantages to the disease. Nevertheless, having such a readily-available, go-to, slam dunk of an excuse is not exactly like a "Get-out-of-jail" card made desirable in the original Monopoly board game, but let's be realistic: us cancer patients need/deserve all the help we can get. And just like a little compassion goes a long way toward fluffing our pillow, so too does having a beyond-reproach excuse occasionally simplify a muddled state of affairs, personally and professionally. It's an equal opportunity "excuser."

And "muddled;" morning, noon or night; conscious, subconscious and probably even unconscious, is how this cancer patient, as most others I would bet, live their lives. Whether you want to or not, it is impossible - with a capital "I," to not view your new cancer-diagnosed life/life expectancy through the prism of your diagnosis. Not that that prism has to make you a prisoner of your prognosis (or alliteration), but to think it's not going to change your perspective, your priorities and your decision-making is to not accept your new reality. And accepting that new reality doesn't mean compromising your principals or giving in or giving up or even yielding the floor. It simply means that you're able to move on. Resistance is not futile. Cancer is not "The Borg." Moreover, assimilating this terrible fact into your head and heart and not obsessing about it opens up your life to more potentially fulfilling and rewarding experiences that might actually enable you to survive and maybe even thrive. Otherwise, as the doctor in Miles City, Montana Territory (at the time) said to Augustus McCray in part IV of "Lonesome Dove" after Gus refused to let him amputate his remaining infected leg - which would ultimately lead to his death: "I assure you, sir, the alternative is gloomy." But Gus wasn't gloomy. He was thoughtful and self-effacing. He explained his refusal for not allowing a second amputation: "I like to kick a pig every once in a while. How would I do that?"

Well, as much as possible, even though I have been diagnosed with a "terminal" form of cancer: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, I am not going to be a negative Nellie or a dismal Jimmy. I'm going to try and remain an upbeat Kenny. Certainly I'm not thrilled about my circumstances and I do have my moments when I'm not great company. Still, making fun of an incredibly heavy burden is the only way I know how to lighten the load. And lightening the load is my path of least resistance. It's not futile at all. It's who I am. It's what I do. Now if the cancer will just continue to cooperate, we can all live forward and have a few laughs.

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



PHOTO BY CAMILLE KIDWELL/THE CONNECTION

A photo of Team One with their third place trophy and pin towel. Featuring coaches Emily Marko, Olivia Peterkin and Julia Estrada. Team members, from left: Ryan Jones, Ethan Waple, Wen Ip, Charlotte Peterkin, Charlotte Cai, Maya Nakhre and Noah Ginsburg



PHOTO BY BRANDON GINSBURG

Team One: Featured from left, Ethan Waple, Ryan Jones, Noah Ginsburg, Maya Nakhre, Charlotte Peterkin, Wen Ip and Charlotte Cai

Rachel Carson Takes Odyssey of the Mind

Two teams from Rachel Carson Middle School compete in the World's Competition of Odyssey of the Mind.

BY CAMILLE KIDWELL
THE CONNECTION

Between school, sports and activities, there is often little time for students to express themselves or to use their minds in innovative ways. To combat this are programs like Odyssey of the Mind, described by participant Charlotte Peterkin as a “creative competition, where participants receive a scenario and problem to solve, often through a skit. You try to be out of the box and steer away from the norm.” Two teams from Rachel Carson Middle School participated at the World Competition this past year, one team placing third overall, and the other fourteenth.

Team One, led by coaches Emily Marko, Olivia Peterkin and Julie Estrada won third place in the world competition. Some of the members have been on this team together since the third grade, and have been working every year to improve upon their performance.

As eighth graders, this team worked to solve a videogame edition of Pandora's box. “We had to have three evils, and a gaming character had to defeat all of them. At the end, we had to release hope. So we said that the biggest evil was disease, so we did a science theme.

The scientist defeated misfortune, greed and monotony. In the end our ‘hope’ was soap,” described team member Ethan Waple. Coach Marko added, “They took this problem so far out of the box.” Their success led them to the World Competition, with over 800 international teams compet-

ing at Michigan State for five days. The team received bronze medals and when reflecting described the moment as “surreal.”

THIS TEAM was not the only group from Rachel Carson to achieve success in this competition. Embarking on two different projects, the second group led by Coach Kothari and manager Mrs. Huckabee, competed in the Structure category, creating a balsa wood structure for the theme: “Lose your Marbles.”

“We had to dislodge the marbles from our structure, so we created a technical pulley system. We had five scenes for each marble, and the main character would lose each one because of stress,” said member Isabela Huckabee. Simultaneously, while performing this skit, other members of the team would be placing weights on their balsa wood structure, symbolizing the “pressure” the main character was under. This structure was able to hold 884 pounds. Their success took them to World's where they won 14th place overall and fifth place for their skit. “Overall, it was definitely worth it!” said member Prabha Girish. Additionally, member Neil Kothari even won the “Omar Award.”

When asked “Why Odyssey of the Mind,” coaches and students could not have had more praises for the program. “Being my tenth year with OM, I can see how it is a great way to infuse creativity into a student's life and allow them an outlet to be themselves.

It makes kids see problems and look at materials in a different way.

They can take everything they learn and apply it to the real world,” said Coach Estrada. Additionally, the many laughs, inside jokes and text messaging groups within teams suggests the friendships this program helps kids create.

SUMMARIZED by Coach Marko of Team One, “The best part is the bond that they've formed. They will have friendships together that will last a lifetime. They all do different things; we have athletes, kids in drama, art music, and yet they all come together. It's amazing.”



PHOTO BY MARISA JONES

Team One's skit, “Nightmare on Beaker Street.”



Some of Team Two's members before a competition.

PHOTOS BY
MADELINE HUCKABEE

Team Two, from left: Vinay Mummareddy, Isabela Huckabee, Gloria Wang, Riya Jaih, Prabha Girish, John Castro and Neil Kothari

