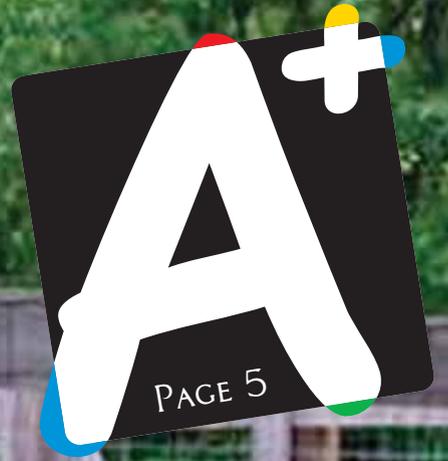


2018 VIRGINIA PRESS ASSOCIATION Award-Winning Newspaper

Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

Alexander Yusman, 13, of Herndon shows his herb garden service project at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter to Cynthia Sbrocco, the shelter's volunteer coordinator.



Herndon Boy Scout Helps Animal Shelter

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World-famous Musicians
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PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY YUSMAN

AUGUST 16-22, 2017

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

Students from Fairfax County's Rachel Carson Middle School, the winning team in the Earth Force 2016-17 environment competition, hold the \$5,000 financial gift that the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation awarded to support Earth Force's 2017-18 competition. Vince Meldrum (far left), president and CEO of Earth Force, poses with Hayley Snowden (second from left), a representative from Dominion Energy's Media Relations team, and the students' teacher (far right).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dominion Awards Grant to Earth Force

Earth Force, a nonprofit located in Clarendon, challenges students to develop innovative solutions to environmental problems received a \$5,000 environmental stewardship grant from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation. Funds will be allocated to support the "Caring for Our Watersheds" program and competition that will engage about 1,500 middle school students in Northern Virginia during the 2017-2018 academic year.

According to Vince Meldrum, president and CEO of Earth Force's operation, the students work in teams to design and implement projects that will impact the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed region. "Rachel Carson Middle School in Fairfax County, the

winner for the 2016-2017 academic year, wanted to reduce food waste and litter that often end up in the area's waterways," he said. "They launched a partnership with a local residential shelter to pick up extra food from the school, resulting in a \$1,000 prize to the school for this creative program." Other projects in the contest involved decreasing plastic bags and planting native grasses in wetlands.

See www.earthforce.org.

In April 2017, the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation awarded \$1.2 million through a competitive grant process to more than 100 schools, organizations and communities in 10 states served by Dominion Energy.

PROFILE

Patrick Miller of Herndon Performs with World-famous Musicians



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Patrick Miller

Patrick Miller, a violist from Herndon, is a Fellow this summer at the Tanglewood Music Center, the Boston Symphony Orchestra's summer academy for advanced musical study.

Every year, the Tanglewood Music Center selects more than 100 of the most prominent young musicians in the country to participate in a rigorous schedule of performances. Miller was chosen to be one of this year's Viola Fellows, following his recent graduation from the Indiana University Jacob School of Music. He is currently pursuing a master's degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music under the direction of Robert Vernon, the tenured viola principal of the Cleveland Orchestra.

This summer, Miller has performed in a Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra concert featuring world famous trumpet-player Håkan Hardenberger and

BSO principal trumpet player Thomas Rolfs playing music by Mark-Anthony Turnage.

In the next few weeks, Miller will perform as principal violist for Jean Sibelius's "The Bard," Op. 64 and Symphony No. 7 in C, Op. 105 with the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra. For the final Tanglewood Music Center Chamber Concert on Aug. 20, he will be playing first viola in Bach's Cantata No. 78 with Elaine Daiber (soprano), Kelly Newberry (mezzo-soprano), and Ryne Cherry (baritone), as well as Bach's "Jesu, der du meine Seele" with John Harbison (conductor) and Dominik Belavy (baritone). In free time, Miller enjoys playing golf casually and competitively.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHWEST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Northwest Federal Credit Union, headquartered in Herndon, donated more than \$12,000 to five community partners. Each received a donation of \$2,324. Representing their organizations are (from left): Peggy Brooks, Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation; Tiffany Lawrence, Appalachian Trail Conservancy; Fletcher Wells, Cornerstones; Carl Kikuchi-Audubon and Jason DiMambro, Arts Herndon; Jeff Bentley, Acting CEO/president NWFCU/chair of the foundation; Joe Talmadge, vice president Mortgage Lending, NWFCU; and Michelle Sandy, mortgage business development specialist, NWFCU.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION

Carl Kikuchi, President of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia located in Reston accepts Northwest Federal Credit Union's contribution check presented by Jeff Bentley, acting CEO/president of NWFCU while Michelle Sandy and Jeff Talmadge look on.

Northwest Federal Gives Back

Credit Union makes one of their largest donations to five community partners as part of 70th anniversary celebration.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

As part of their 70th-anniversary celebration, Northwest Federal Credit Union (NWFCU) presented one of their largest donations to five charitable organizations. On Friday, July 21, NWFCU held their Community Partner Check Presentation at their national headquarters located at 200 Spring St., Herndon. On behalf of 166 members who financed their new home loans through NWFCU between March and June 2017, NWFCU donated more than \$12,000 distributed among five community partners.

Each organization received a donation of \$2,324. Recipients included charitable organizations in Reston: Audubon Society of Northern Virginia and Cornerstones; Herndon: NWFCU Foundation and Arts Herndon; and Harpers Ferry, W.Va.: Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

During the check presentation, Jeff Bentley, Acting CEO/President of Northwest Federal Credit Union explained that as part of the organization's 70th-anniversary year, NWFCU wanted to give back to communities they served.

"Through our 70 Acts of We, NWFCU has been able to collect food and clothing for individuals in need, care supplies for animals in need, and donate funds for organizations such as Special Olympics and the Humane Society," Bentley said. "We want to make a positive impact on our community and those we serve, and we thank you



Fletcher Wells, vice president resource development of Cornerstones located in Reston accepts Northwest Federal Credit Union's contribution check presented by Jeff Bentley, acting CEO/president of NWFCU while Michelle Sandy and Jeff Talmadge look on.



Jason DiMambro, community outreach manager of Arts Herndon, accepts Northwest Federal Credit Union's contribution check presented by Jeff Bentley, acting CEO/president of NWFCU while Michelle Sandy and Jeff Talmadge look on.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION



Peggy Brooks, fundraising coordinator for Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation accepts Northwest Federal Credit Union's contribution check presented by Jeff Bentley, acting CEO/president of NWFCU while Michelle Sandy and Jeff Talmadge look on.

for the opportunity to do so through our partnership with you, our community partners."

Fletcher Wells, Vice President, Resource Development of Cornerstones, an organization that promotes self-sufficiency by providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services, said, "A large part of providing hope is housing to individuals and families... NWFCU's support represents a quarter of a year of housing for a family of four."

Carl Kikuchi, president of Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, stated, "We will put the funds to use protecting birds and wildlife in the Northern Virginia Region."

Peggy Brooks, fundraising coordinator for Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation explained the foundation combines all of NWFCU's charitable efforts under one umbrella. "Through innovative outreach programs, special events, and drives, we empower youth to achieve their goals," Brooks commented.

Jason DiMambro, community outreach manager of Arts Herndon, said, "Generosity and sponsorships like this make it possible for our art programs and scholarships to continue. Arts Herndon will continue to grow the arts in Herndon, thanks in part to relationships like this one."

Tiffany Lawrence, vice president of membership and development for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy shared her organization's thankfulness with NWFCU and reported the funds would be used "...to protect the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine."

To learn more about Northwest Federal's "Acts of We," visit www.nwfcu.org/70.

OPINION

On Events in Charlottesville

What some representatives had to say about hate, bigotry and the deaths and damage that resulted.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe:

"I convened an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss the next steps we, as a commonwealth, must take in order to begin the arduous process of healing our community and confronting the racism that stubbornly remains in our nation. The events of this weekend have only strengthened our resolve to combat hatred and bigotry, and I want Virginia to be a leader in the national conversation about how we move forward. I have directed my team to impanel a commission with representatives from community organizations, faith leaders, and law enforcement to make actionable recommendations for executive and legislative solutions to advance our mission of reconciliation, unity, and public safety."

Sharon Bulova, chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors:

"The tragedy that took place in Charlottesville does not represent who we are as Virginians. I am incredibly saddened by the hatred and bigotry that was displayed and my heart goes out to the family and friends of the three individuals who tragically lost their lives. We must all do our part to set the tone in our own communities by exemplifying values of acceptance and kindness. As it is often said, 'Be the change you want to see in the world.' That is where we all have incredible power and influence every day in our communities."

U.S. Sen. Mark Warner:

"Virginians mourn the life taken in this morning's events and reject this hateful violence in Charlottesville. We condemn the in-

tolerance behind it and those who would pass it off as a legitimate political movement. Those who traveled to Virginia to incite unrest don't understand the Virginia-born values that make our country great."

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine:

"Virginia has come so far in recent decades to put division behind us. ... It's sickening to see the displays of violence and bigotry that were brought to Charlottesville by white nationalists, which tragically led to injuries and at least one death today. This is not who we are. Charlottesville is a vibrant community that recognizes the deep scars from our past and has rejected hatred in favor of inclusion."

"The fact that people like David Duke cited the President to justify their views is a disturbing reminder that divisive rhetoric has sadly contributed to a climate where individuals who espouse hate feel emboldened. As they seek publicity through their hateful tactics, let's pull together — regardless of party, race or religion — to reject hatred in no uncertain terms and stand together."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly:

"We banished hate a long time ago in Virginia. We must condemn this bigotry and not turn a blind eye to racism."

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer:

"I join the great and passionate majority of Virginians who hold these values dear: abhorrence for racism and hatred, respect for law, and respect for one another. It is especially sad that this ugly incident occurred in the home of one of America's most treasured centers of

learning. The work of creating a more just and equal society will never end and we will re-dedicate ourselves to that in the days and weeks ahead."

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock:

"The Attorney General has done the right thing in opening a federal investigation that will have the full support of the Department of Justice. AG Sessions: 'The violence and deaths in Charlottesville strike at the heart of American law and justice. When such actions arise from racial bigotry and hatred, they betray our core values and cannot be tolerated.' 'The neo-Nazi march and the hate and racism on display in Charlottesville are vile, have no place in Virginia, and are denounced by Republicans and Democrats alike in our great Commonwealth.'"

Del. Marcus Simon:

"The scenes of white supremacist, racist neo-nazis marching proudly in Charlottesville along with heavily armed self-proclaimed militiamen chanting racist slogans and obscenely taunting counter-demonstrators are beyond disturbing. Virginia is better than this."

"Virginia's political leaders have the power to raise the level of discourse. To educate, inform, and enlighten with thoughtful discussion and debate. What's happened over the last 24 hours in Charlottesville is not happening in a vacuum and it's not an aberration. It's what happens when we demonize the other among us."

"What makes Virginia great is our growing diversity. Our openness to new and better ideas. Our willingness to accept everyone who comes here looking to build a better life, a stronger commonwealth and better world."

"We are better than the image that's being broadcast to the world today."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Price of Changing School Name

To the Editor:

As a former Fairfax County School Board member and a native of Fairfax County, I watched the name changing deliberations about JEB Stuart High School with interest. It appears since leaving the board the education of students and financing such education has taken second place to the social agendas of board members.

The frustration about this issue was the members refused to listen to the facts of history and preferred to make assumptions about the man himself, JEB Stuart, and assumptions about the community, the Civil War, the original naming of the school and of Virginia's state history. These School Board mem-

bers, most of whom are from other parts of the country, were compelled to listen to sound bites from two Hollywood personalities who knew little about the history of the school and JEB Stuart. They also listened to activists, one being George Albers, an appointee of Chairman Sharon Bulova's who currently sits on the Fairfax County Human Rights Committee and on the Executive Committee of the local NAACP chapter. He and two School Board members worked to bring in hundreds of community activists from outside the community and county to attend local community meetings on the re-naming of the school for purposes of protesting and agitation. These activists knew little about the history of Virginia and JEB Stuart.

In the end I have no doubt the system spent thousands of dollars and staff time on this issue, for that is what is done; but for what, to

appease a vocal group over the wishes of the impacted community? In 2011 Sandy Evans, the School Board member representing the Stuart Community who pushed for the name change, announced she had a most difficult time voting against a community's wishes and would not do such a thing. I remember this because she voted against a motion of mine that was very controversial which required a great deal of defined community input and was carefully analyzed as it related to fiscal responsibility. Years ago Ms. Evans lost on my motion and when all is said and done she may have lost again on her own issue. Her motion passed but the political capital she spent was high. She and other members of the School Board may have underestimated the importance of fair process and the power of history and truth; a very sad situation to be in as an

elected representative.

Elizabeth Bradsher
Fairfax Station

Only Congress Can Declare War

To the Editor:

President Trump's recent pronouncements of "fire and fury" and "locked and loaded" puts our country and allies at dire risk, and showcases his boundless lack of self-discipline and inability to de-escalate dangerous global situations. Like a schoolyard bully who wants to prove that "my toys are bigger than your toys," the President is goading an unstable North Korean tyrant who may do something that could change our world forever.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Fallon Forbush
Reporter
fforbush@connectionnewspapers.com

Mercia Hobson
Contributing Writer
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Reporter
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Editorial Assistant
herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



Solar Eclipse 2017 Local experts offer instruction in safe viewing.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Details

Some local science teachers went back to school recently for a lesson on the upcoming solar eclipse on Aug. 21 when a total solar eclipse cuts a path across the U.S. Instructors from Fairfax, Arlington, and other Northern Virginia counties attended a half-day workshop led by professor Harold Geller, Ph.D., of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at George Mason University.

During the event, which was sponsored by the Virginia Space Grant Consortium, teachers received ideas on teaching their students about the eclipse. “We tested the teachers’ knowledge,” said Geller. “They also worked in small groups to develop a lesson plan on the eclipse.”

Teachers also got a hands-on outdoor session on safe viewing of the sun and solar eclipse as well as a hands-on lesson on the moon’s phases. Geller said the lesson and safety precautions can be applicable to anyone with an interest in the event. “Everyone seems to know the date ... but many are not aware of the times,” said Geller. “They vary by location. In Washington, D.C. on 21 August 2017 the partial solar eclipse will begin at 1:18 p.m. The peak or maximum will be at 2:43 p.m. The partial solar eclipse will end here at 4:02 p.m.”

For more information, see <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/>.

For those who may be unaware of the specifics, Geller underscored the importance of understanding what a solar eclipse is. “Most simply, it’s the phenomena which occur when the moon gets in direct line of sight between the Earth and the sun,” he said. “In the D.C. metropolitan area, between 81 and 85-percent of the sun’s disk will be blocked by the moon.”

For those in the Washington, D.C. region who are wondering what will be visible, Geller said, “At the start of the eclipse, it will appear that a dark disk is blocking out the light from the sun. As we proceed to maximum, more and more of the sun’s disk will be blocked by the moon. Then, after the peak, less and less of the sun’s disk will be blocked by the moon.”

For those wishing to see the eclipse without leaving the Washington, D.C. region, “The best place to view the eclipse is in the path of totality, that is, wherever the shadow of the moon will totally block all the light from the sun,” said Geller. “Another very important factor is the weather. You should have a direct line of sight to the sun, no interfering clouds. So an open field, with no interference along the line of sight to

the sun between 1 and 4 p.m. in this area, would be best.”

Safety is a factor that Eric Bubar, Ph.D., associate professor of biology and physical sciences at Marymount University underscores.

“Never look directly at the sun, unless you can approved solar viewing glasses,” he said. “These might be hard to find at the moment. Most online vendors are sold out.”

For those considering using their sunglasses instead of eclipse glasses, Bubar offers a warning. “Your sunglasses are not suitable for viewing the sun,” he said. “No matter how dark, expensive or polarized they are, don’t use them. Polarization and UV blocking are great for decreasing the ambient brightness outside, but direct sunlight light can pierce right through and cause damage to your eyes. The only safe way to see the sun with your own eyes is through eclipse glasses or appropriate solar filters.”

“No one should ever look directly at the sun without proper protection,” added Geller. “Only special equipment should be used, whether looking directly at the sun or indirectly at the sun. Only a limited number of manufacturers’ products have been tested for safety. Make sure you are using one of these or that you use an indirect



PHOTO COURTESY OF HAROLD GELLER

George Mason professor Harold Geller led a workshop for science teachers that included an outdoor session on viewing the Sun and the upcoming solar eclipse safety.

method for observing the sun.”

Bubar recommends using the list of vendors certified by the American Astronomical Society. “Also, look at the glasses and make sure there are no holes or punctures in the viewing material,” he said. “Even a small crease or puncture can make them unsafe.”

Eclipse enthusiasts should not be fooled by glasses that appear similar to eclipse glasses that have been certified for safe viewing, says Bubar. “The material in solar filters can look a lot like aluminum foil but is completely different,” he said. “If you can’t find solar viewing glasses ... you can see it indirectly with a pinhole viewer.”

Instructions for using this method can be found by visiting: (<https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/projection>) for how to do this.

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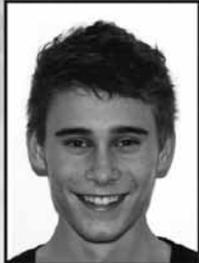
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Victoria from Australia, 17 yrs.
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CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Jazz in the City Exhibit. Various times at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Kristine Keller and Robert Gilbert paint with an interest in New York. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com for more.

NextStop Theatre. Various times through Aug. 20 at 269 Sunset Park Drive (Inside the Sunset Business Park on Spring Street), Herndon. "Rodgers & Hammerstein's A Grand Night for Singing" \$17.50-\$55. Call 866-811-4111 or visit www.nextstoptheatre.org.

Free Concerts. Through Aug. 26, 7:30-10 p.m. every Saturday night in the pavilion at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Call 703-912-4062 or visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts for more.

All-comers' Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun, low-key run that is safe and social. Call 703-689-0999 potomacriverrunning.com.

Over-40 Softball League. A Fairfax-based league is looking for enough players to form another team. Players must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders - played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. If interested, email skeduman@aol.com for more information.

THROUGH SEPT. 2

"Elements" Art Exhibit. Various times at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St. Featuring Andrew Black and Mercia Hobson - Mixed Media & Pottery. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 17

Art Crawl. 6-9 p.m. in downtown Herndon, in and around ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St. Musicians, live art demonstrations will be featured at the Art Crawl every Thursday evening. Call 703-956-9560 for more.

Summer Concerts. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Steven B. & Friends play jazz in concert. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/ for more.

FRIDAY/AUG. 18

Beach Party Barbeque. 5:45-8 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emeth, 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon. Join the Congregation Beth Emeth community and friends for beach games and Shabbat BBQ dinner, stay for family-friendly outdoor services at 7:15. Prospective members are our guests. \$14. Visit www.bethemeth.org/bbq for more.

Social Call + 7 Deadlies in Concert. 6:30-10:30 p.m. Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn St. Friday Night Live show with food, beer, and wine available, will be cancelled if it rains. Visit <http://www.herndonrocks.com/> for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Glow in the Dark Activity Night. 8-9:30 p.m. at Town Hall Square, 730 Elden St. Glow in the dark bowling. Email parksandrec@herndon-va.gov or call 703-787-7300 for more.

TUESDAY/AUG. 22

Design and Wine with the Artist. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St. Join local ceramic artist, Mercia Hobson. Visit www.artspaceherndon.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 23

Senior Movie Day. 10 a.m. at Reston Town Center, Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St. Reston Association presents a feature film. Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Email Ashleigh@reston.org, call 703-435-6530, or visit reston.org for more.

Children's Shows. 10 a.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. 123 Andres in concert. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/ for more.

Herndon Dulles Chamber 101. 8-9:30 p.m. at ArtSpace, 750 Center St., Herndon. Speakers include John Boylan, new president and CEO of the chamber and Vice Mayor Jennifer Baker will talk about the state of the town. Fran Rucker, director of business development will speak about involvement with the chamber and company brand. Email Fran@dulleschamber.org or call 571-323-5313 for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 24

Art Crawl. 6-9 p.m. in downtown Herndon, in and around ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St. Musicians, live art demonstrations will be featured at the Art Crawl every Thursday evening. Call 703-956-9560 for more.

Summer Concerts. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. The Difficult Run String Band in concert. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/ for more.

FRIDAY/AUG. 25

Junk Food in Concert. 6:30-10:30 p.m. Herndon Town Green, 777 Lynn St. Food, beer, and wine are

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

Legals

Legals

Legals



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**Route 7 Corridor Improvements Design-Build Project
Fairfax County, Virginia**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is seeking Statements of Qualification for the Route 7 Corridor Improvements Design-Build Project from qualified respondents with experience in the design and construction of highway facilities. The Project is located on Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) just west of the Route 7/Dulles Toll Road Interchange in Fairfax County, Virginia. The Project includes widening of about a 6.8 mile segment of Route 7 from four to six lanes between Jarrett Valley Drive and Reston Avenue. The purpose of the Project is to increase capacity, improve traffic operations and reduce congestion, improve community access at intersections and via frontage roads, and improve safety in corridor. Project improvements include: an additional eastbound and westbound lane; shared use paths on both sides of Route 7; replacement of the existing Route 7 bridge over Difficult Run; stream relocation; a new pedestrian tunnel under Route 7 accessing the Colvin Run Mill; a grade-separated intersection for eastbound Route 7 at Baron Cameron Avenue; asphalt overlay of existing pavements; new sound barriers; and installation of storm drain pipes and stormwater management facilities. The Design-Builder will also be responsible for coordinating the Route 7 Widening Project with the Washington Gas transmission line upgrade project within the Project limits.

Questions/clarifications regarding the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) should be submitted to John Daoulas, P.E. (John.Daoulas@vdot.virginia.gov).

Copies of the RFQ and additional submittal requirements can be found at <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/request-for-qualifications.asp>.

The Department assures compliance with Title VI requirements of non-discrimination in all activities pursuant to this advertisement.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

available, will be cancelled if it rains. Visit www.herndonrocks.com/ for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 26

Storytime Live. 10 a.m.-noon at Kiddie Academy of Reston, 12320 Pinecrest Road, Reston. Stories and a visit from Curious George. Visit www.kastorytime.com/ for more.

Reston Concerts on the Town. 7:30-10 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston Town Center. David Akers and the Soul Shakers. Free. Visit restontowncenter.com for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 31

Dollars and Sense Book Club. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Dollars and Sense Book Club will be discussing "Ponzi's Scheme: The True Story of a Financial Legend" by Mitchell Zuckoff. Free. Call 703-689-2700 for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 2

Lake Anne Jazz & Blues Festival. 1-9 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza (Waterfront) - 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Line up includes:

Jazz & Blues Festival Line Up:

- ♦ 1 p.m. Cheick Hamala Dibate
- ♦ 2 p.m. Sam Gunderson
- ♦ 3 p.m. John Lee & Michael Pavone
- ♦ 4 p.m. Integriti Reeves
- ♦ 5 p.m. Mykle Lyons - Sextet
- ♦ 6 p.m. Gigi MacLaughlin
- ♦ 7 p.m. Kriss Funn
- ♦ 8 p.m. Crush Funk Brass

Free. Visit www.lakeanneplaza.com for more.

MONDAY/SEPT. 4

Herndon Labor Day Festival. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Outdoor festival on Lynn St. Virginia wine tastings, craft beers, music, craft show, and food vendors.

\$20 wine and craft brew tastings, \$2 additional beer tastings or \$5 general admission. Email parksandrec@herndon-va.gov or call 703-787-7300 for more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 10

DogFest. noon-3 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. 4th annual Washington DC DogFest Walk 'n Roll with festivities, graduate speakers, dog demonstrations, music, food, and more. Celebrate the community of people and dogs that show the most advanced technology for transforming the lives of people with disabilities. Free. Proceeds benefit Canine Companions for Independence - Capital Chapter.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

President Trump plays fast and loose with nuclear talk, speaking as if it was his personal wild card that he keeps in his back pocket. The loss of millions of lives is an obvious outcome of a conflict between two nuclear powers. But also, given that the South Korean economy is the fourth largest in Asia and the 11th largest in the world, the destruction of South Korea in such a conflict could deal a devastating blow to the world's economy.

The President's seems unable to control his alarming rhetoric. I only hope that our Ambassador to the United Nations and our Cabinet members will employ maximum diplomatic efforts, and that the Congress — the co-equal branch of government — will be strong enough to remind the President that only they have the Constitutional power to declare war.

Barbara Glakas
Herndon

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg			

I Had a Dream



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Which apparently, according to my oncologist, is not unusual. In fact, he's had them, too. What I am referring to, in a general sense, are cancer dreams. The 'cancer dream' I had was my first. Actually, it was not so much a dream, with a beginning, middle and an end, as it was a fragment; a moment in subconscious time that provided (illuminated would be too strong a characterization) an opportunity to possibly see my future and prepare accordingly.

Before I share my dream, let me give you a bit of context relating to my cancer condition. I am nearly five months into my ninth year post diagnosis. I have stage IV non-small cell lung cancer, the terminal kind. Stage IV, if you don't know (and I certainly didn't know stage IV from stage left until my oncologist told me in late February 2009) means the tumors have metastasized (moved from its original location, which is rarely good) and are inoperable (which means surgery is not an option/recommended/reasonable). Ergo, the "13 month to two year" prognosis I was given and the associated 2 percent chance of survival beyond five years. To say then that cancer/my mortality is constantly on my mind is an understatement of epic proportions.

Given the unlikely still-living situation in which amazingly I find myself, I am regularly waiting for disappointing/discouraging health-related symptoms/news. With every five-week cycle of pre-chemotherapy lab work/24-hour urine collection and chemotherapy infusion, followed by quarterly CT Scans and semi annual brain and/or lower abdomen MRIs, I am at the mercy of results — which at this juncture rarely manifest themselves in any symptomatic/life-changing way. In short, I rarely know what the cancer is doing until my oncologist tells me. So far, mostly so good. As a result of this general lack of symptoms, I am always anticipating the day when I am not so lucky and wondering how it will happen/how I'll react when "the cancer," as "Forrest, Forrest Gump" said it, asserts its insidious hold. This was the dream fragment I had.

The only real symptom of my lung cancer/treatment shows up in my lab work: specifically my creatinine level, which measures kidney function. And kidney function, per conversations with my oncologist, is a major concern. The damage I've incurred already is irreparable and likely to get worse and a constant worry (I've recently had a "liquid biopsy" in an attempt to determine non-surgically the genetic mutation of my tumors which could possibly enable me to switch my chemotherapy to one which is not filtered through the kidneys). In the interim however, or until there is an "actionable" match, I am still preoccupied with this risk. The fear of dialysis/a kidney replacement weighs heavily on my mind.

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

Herndon Boy Scout Plants Herb Gardens at County Animal Shelter

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Alexander Yusman, 13, of Herndon has done something that will help feed small and orphaned animals in Fairfax County.

Yusman, a Scout with the Boy Scouts of America Troop 1257 of Oakton, built three herb gardens for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

"He actually built three raised beds and a small bench for someone to sit down there and pick the vegetables," said Cynthia Sbrocco, volunteer coordinator for the FCAS. "It is right next to our barn that houses some of the animals that are recipients."

It was an easy decision for Yusman to focus his service project to benefit the animal welfare community.

"I have three dogs and they're all rescues from shelters, so I really wanted to give back to shelters," Yusman said.

His family's three rescue dogs are: Disney, a black Labrador mixed-breed; Mocha, a brown labradoodle that he describes as a "moving blanket" because she is so fluffy; and Cannoli, a Jack Russel terrier mixed-breed that he describes as "very hyper and likes to run in circles."

The three herb gardens are 5-feet-by-2-feet and sit about one foot off the ground and contain lavender, dill, sage parsley cilantro and basil, according to Yusman.

Home Depot donated most of the dirt for the project and the wood was donated by a local fencing company that was replacing a neighbor's fence as part of the company's upcycling program, he said. All of the herbs were also donated.

Yusman was able to pre-cut the wood beforehand, so the installation only took one afternoon with the help of his Scouting friends on Sunday, May 21.

THE IDEA stemmed from a need the shelter advertised to visitors and volunteers.

"We have a refrigerator in the small animal room that we're always asking people to bring in fresh greens, and he actually came up with the idea of doing a garden for the greens," Sbrocco said. "The work was all done by Scouts and family members and volunteers who assisted him with the project."

Yusman also attributes his motivation to a little bit of brotherhood rivalry.

"When I joined Boy Scouts, I wanted to go through the ranks quickly," he said. "I picked the Fairfax County Animal Shelter specifically because of my brother," he added. "He actually did his project at the shelter also two years ago, so I felt like I should help them out too and carry it on."

Yusman, who is a Life Scout, and is working towards his Eagle Scout badge and rank, which is the highest achievement attainable



Scouts with the Boy Scouts of America Troop 1257 of Oakton helped Alexander Yusman, 13, of Herndon finish his service project at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter on Sunday, May 21.

in the BSA program. He began planning and working on the service project component required for the rank while he was in eighth grade at Rachel Carson Middle School in Herndon. His older brother, Benjamin Yusman, earned his Eagle Scout rank when he was a sophomore in high school in 2015.

"He kind of like set the bar for me and he is who I look up to Scouting-wise," he said.

But Alexander hopes to earn his rank while he is a freshman in high school.

Sbrocco spoke highly of the Yusman brothers and their contributions.

"They took care of all of the details and all of the organization, and we just get to sit back and reap the benefits of their work," Sbrocco said. "We've had other Eagle Scout projects come here and do something, but both boys have done outstanding work and it's for things that we really needed."

The latest Yusman family project will help feed the small animals at the shelter.

Helping the Fairfax County Animal Shelter

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter, located at West Ox Road in Fairfax, is the only publicly-funded municipal shelter in the county that accepts all animals in need, regardless of age, health or temperament, according to Cynthia Sbrocco, a volunteer coordinator for shelter. This includes dogs, cats and small companion animals. Any animal that is healthy or able to be rehabilitated is placed in an adoptive home, a foster home or with one of the shelter's rescue partner organizations.

Animals are never euthanized due to lack of space and there are no time limits for adoption. However, euthanizations do occur at the shelter with cats and dogs that are highly aggressive or have bitten people and are deemed a threat to public safety.

In 2014, the shelter received the Compassion Award from the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies for its work to reduce unnecessary euthanasia. The VFHS also awarded the shelter with its Advocacy Award this year for its contribution in

"It's mint and basil and dill that can be fed to Guinea pigs and rabbits and ferrets and they love it," Sbrocco said. "We're able to go down there and pick those things and then feed them to our small animals and not have to buy them."

Yusman and his family were able to feed some of the herbs to the Guinea pigs and the rabbits a week after the gardens were installed.

"It's just invaluable because it's a steady source of greens for our small animals," Sbrocco said. "Rather than people having to go buy them and go bad quickly, we're able to just go out all summer long and get fresh produce."

TIME IS TICKING on whether Yusman will meet his goal of besting his brother's timeline.

The beneficiary and leaders of Yusman's troop will decide if the project has met the

exposing the Dreamy Puppy pet shop in Chantilly for selling puppies to the public with serious health issues that were caused by inadequate care and irresponsible breeding. The shelter helped rescue 46 puppies from the company, which closed its Chantilly and Fredericksburg stores shortly after the seizure.

To volunteer at the FCAS, you must be 18 years or older and must pass a criminal background check. Volunteers are asked to give a minimum of six hours per month for a minimum of six months. Volunteers must be able to stand for extended lengths of time and lift 35 pounds unassisted. Volunteers interacting with animals also need to be comfortable handling and interacting with the animals independently.

❖ For information about the FCAS foster program, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/foster.htm.

❖ For more information about the FCAS volunteer program, email asdvolunteer@fairfaxcounty.gov.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMY YUSMAN



Alexander Yusman, 13, of Herndon, a Scout with the Boy Scouts of America Troop 1257 of Oakton, sits on a bench he made for his Eagle Scout service project at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter on Sunday, May 21.

standards of an Eagle Scout service project.

"I have to get all of the Eagle-required merit badges, which I have two more that I need to get before I can actually apply for the rank of Eagle," he said.

He needs to earn the Family Life merit badge, which requires Scouts to carry out a project that would benefit their family and a project that requires the participation of their family.

He also needs to earn the Personal Fitness merit badge, which requires Scouts to get a physical examination and dental examination by their health care practitioners; complete aerobic fitness, flexibility and muscular strength tests; learn about career opportunities in personal fitness; complete a body composition evaluation; and outline and complete a comprehensive 12-week physical fitness program. This badge is not required if the requirements go against the Scout's religious convictions.

"They're also the most time-consuming ones," Yusman said. "I'm hoping to complete them by October."

After this is done, the final decision is determined by a committee formed by parents and leaders of his troop, including his Scoutmaster and leaders from the troop's BSA district, who will question him during a panel interview.

"I have to answer questions that they ask and tell them why I deserve to be an Eagle Scout," he said. If he makes it this far, the recommendation then goes up the ranks of the national BSA to be approved.