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From left, South Lakes High School's Regional Scholastic Art Awards recipients Katia Pavlova, 16, Silver Key; Laela Huddleston, 17, Gold Key; James Bailey, 18, Gold Key; and Selin Boybeyi, 18, Gold and Silver Keys winner give their feedback on "Cold Hell," by student artist Huddleston during a break from art class.

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Reston children of all ages appear enthusiastic fishing during Reston Association's annual Kids' Trout Fishing Day 2019.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Catching Rainbows

Children reel in the trout at Snakeden Stream.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Reston Association hosted its annual Kids' Trout Fishing Day at Snakeden Stream off Soapstone Drive on Saturday morning March 23. Earlier in the week, Trout Unlimited stocked the cold-water stream with large adult rainbow trout, some measuring upwards of 17 inches to ensure favorable fishing for first-time anglers.

Bradley Wang, 6, of Reston arrived with brother Dan, 4, and his parents. Both boys were game for the adventure and willingly took the free rods out for a spin. Neither boy had ever fished before. "This is a free event, and the goal is to get children out in nature. Because of the high volunteer effort here, inexperienced anglers can learn how to fish. For many of the children, this is a first time experience to fishing," said William Peterson, Reston Association Watershed Management.

John Odenkirk of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, a partner group with Reston Association, agreed. "Our goal is to bring recreational fishing to the children in Reston. It's amazing the number of children that have shown up despite the weather," said Odenkirk.

Dylan Leygraaf, Regulatory Specialist at Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., waited near the stream. He explained how the recent stream restoration for Snakeden Branch reduced bank erosion, minimizing the down cutting of the streambed. "We built the stream bed back up to control the flow using boulders and soil mixes to reduce erosion and connect the stream to its flood plain," said Leygraaf.



PHOTO BY TOM LADENBURG

Nico Ladenburg, 13, of Reston holds up the 17 inch Rainbow Trout he caught during Reston Association's annual Kids' Trout Fishing Day 2019.

Trout Unlimited members helped measure and clean the day's catch. Nico Ladenburg, 13, of Reston brought one of the most significant catches of the day up to the cleaning table. The trout measured 17 inches. Asked how he caught such a large fish, Ladenburg said, "I've been fishing since I was four. I cast the bait about four feet upstream, and then slowly retrieve. My favorite bait is a trout magnet. I plan on cooking my trout with butter and a wedge of lemon all wrapped in aluminum foil."

A few moments later angler Julia Cartwright, 15, of Reston showed off her hefty catch of three trout. "I used a spinner with gold bait. It's a yellow pasty mass you roll up, and it has sparkles in it," she said. "The real secret is to get here early because as more people come, the fish get scared."

Snakeden Branch is a stream located near 2303 Soapstone



Bradley Wang 6, of Reston shivers in the cold but is prepared to catch his first Rainbow Trout during Reston Association's annual Kids' Trout Fishing Day 2019.



Julia Cartwright, 15, of Reston caught three rainbow trout within the first 30 minutes of Reston Association's annual Kids' Trout Fishing Day 2019.

Drive in Reston on public property. Teens and adults ages 16 & up must have a Virginia State Fishing License, Freshwater only, available online at www.dgif.state.va.us.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

From left, South Lakes High School's Regional Scholastic Art Awards recipients Katia Pavlova, 16, Silver Key; Laela Huddleston, 17, Gold Key; James Bailey, 18, Gold Key; and Selin Boybeyi, 18, Gold and Silver Key; winners give their feedback on "Cold Hell," by student artist Huddleston during a break from art class.

Reston Renowned Artists in the Making

SLHS scores big at the 2019 Regional Scholastic Art Awards.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

South Lakes High School (SLHS) students swept the Fairfax County Art Region's 2019 Regional Scholastic Art Awards securing 24 honors. Twenty students earned a total of twenty-four awards, eight Gold Key, ten Silver Key and six Honorable Mentions.

According to Fairfax County, middle school and high school students by the thousands submitted their drawings, paintings, prints, photographs, ceramics, sculptures, digital art, architecture, jewelry, fashion, film and animation, mixed media artworks, and portfolios to the Regional Scholastic Art Awards program sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. The website for the Scholastic Awards states the young artists were free to explore any topic. No work would be disqualified because of content. As for judging criteria, three areas dominated: originality, technical skill and the emergence of a personal voice or vision.

Out of the thousands of regional submissions, Gold Key, Silver Key and Honorable Mention awards were bestowed for outstanding works. SLHS student artists James Bailey, 18, and Laela Huddleston, 17, both of Reston earned Gold Keys at the Regional level.

"I'm very thankful to have received this award," said

Bailey who submitted a photograph titled, "Shrub."

Huddleston who submitted a photograph titled, "Cold Hell" said, "Being in the art program at South Lakes High School has pushed me as a photographer to view things differently and capture what may not come easily to the eye."

Katia Pavlova, 16, was the only regional SLHS winner in the sculpture category who earned a Silver Key. She created "Becoming."

"I love art because I have the freedom to express my feelings and emotions without any judgment," Pavlova said.

Selina Boybeyi, 18, also earned a Silver Key for her work, "Gold and Garbage" at the regional level. Boybeyi expressed her joy at being part of something special. "I feel content that my work was able to live in the moment, alongside masterpieces and shining lights." All regional Gold Key award-winning entries, such as "Self-Portrait" by SLHS artist Gabriella Baughman were submitted to the National Scholastic Art Awards competition. Baughman earned a coveted Silver National Award for her painting. She could not be reached for comment.

"We appreciate all the support of our amazing art teachers... We are incredibly proud of our Seahawk artists and all their amazing work," said Kimberly Retzer, Principal, South Lakes High School.

OPINION

Every Year Is Election Year; in 2019 Twice

Primary Election Day, June 11, will determine the outcome of many races in Fairfax County.

First, go to elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation and check that you are registered at your current address. Deadline to register to vote, or update an existing registration, is Monday, May 20, 2019.

On Tuesday, June 11, 2019, Primary Election Day for party candidates in Virginia, there will be an astonishing array of candidates on the ballot in Fairfax County. One reason is that many incumbents in local offices are retiring, and that causes a domino effect because incumbents in other offices will step down to run for something different. Change is coming. Voters must pay attention in the primary, so much will be determined.

On the ballot: Chairman of the Board of Supervisors; Sharon Bulova is retiring and there are four candidates in the Democratic primary. (We will miss Bulova, but that is a discussion for another day.)

EDITORIAL

All nine members of the Board of Supervisors are on the ballot, and in addition to Bulova, Cathy Hudgins, John Cook and Linda Smyth will be stepping down, and Jeff McKay will give up his seat as he is running for chairman. That is guaranteed change for five of nine seats, and more is possible.

All 12 members of Fairfax County School Board are on the ballot, three at-large and nine District members. Several school board mem-

bers will give up their seats to run for other offices. (4-year term)

All 40 seats in the Virginia Senate (4-year term) are on the ballot, nine in Fairfax County.

All 100 seats in the Virginia House of Delegates (2-year term) are on the ballot, 17 seats in Fairfax County.

There is a rare challenge to the Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney on the primary ballot. (4-year term)

Fairfax County Sheriff is also on the ballot. (4-year term)

Parties control information on primary candidates. See Fairfax County Republican Committee at <https://fairfaxgop.org/voter-toolkit/>; Fairfax County Democratic Committee at <https://fairfaxdemocrats.org/2019/01/14/candidates-running-for-office-in-2019/>.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Budget Equity

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

Increases in budget revenues as a result of federal tax changes and the ability to tax sales on goods purchased on the internet put Virginia in an unusual position to increase its budgeted funds mid-year of a biennial budget while at the same time providing many taxpayers with refunds.

As the fall elections approach the actions on the state budget will receive many different "spins." Certainly taxpayers like getting money refunded. At the same time they recognize when programs to meet needs are underfunded, they may over a period of time become even more underfunded. It is more than mathematics and accounting to approve a budget when revenues have increased—it is also very much an expression of values on the part of decision makers.

An example of values affecting budgetary decisions came during the Great Recession of 2008. State revenues dipped at the greatest rate in modern times just as many businesses faltered and failed. A great bail-out went to businesses from the federal government as did



Only now has the Virginia economy recovered such that the funding of education today is exceeding that of pre-2008 levels.

COMMENTARY

major funding to state government. The feds did not match the private losses, but they did provide relief for some greater cuts for programs like education. Only now has the Virginia economy recovered such that the funding of

education today is exceeding that of pre-2008 levels.

Beyond simply funding programs and services with more money next year than last year are the equity issues involved in distributing money across programs. My trip to Prince Edward County as I described in my column last week reminded me just how inequitable funding can be. There was no pretense of equity among black and white schools. The whites went to a brick school that was modern for its time; the black children went to school in a tar-paper shanty. With many federal court decisions we have gotten beyond the inequities of segregated services and programs, but inequities still exist.

The budget presented to the General Assem-

bly by Governor Ralph Northam represented the greatest attempt at resolving equity issues that I have seen. Funding for schools was increased but with those who had the greatest needs receiving the most money. Programs for students with special needs were enhanced as was funding for historically black institutions of higher education. The Governor found himself with a major problem pushing his agenda as he got himself in political hot water for his behavior many years ago. Whatever way that situation is resolved, it need not take attention from the basic problem of increasing equity among school divisions, mental health programs and criminal justice programs.

There is ample evidence gleaned from numerous studies that document inequities that exist in the state's budget. These facts will be manipulated among candidates this election season to gain advantage, but candidates need to acknowledge that inequities exist and must be dealt with fairly. I understand that most regions feel that they do not get a fair shake. There are metrics that can be used to find the inequities; once resolved the state will be stronger because of it.

which finds a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions."

In 1838 Abraham Lincoln counseled us that America will never be destroyed from the outside but if we lose our freedoms it will be because we destroyed ourselves. He said, "If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time or die by suicide."

Barbara Glakas
Herndon

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our Founders' Wisdom

To the Editor:

Our Democracy is being tested. Will we be strong enough to stand up to protect it? Our Founders advised us:

At the close of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 a lady asked Benjamin Franklin, "Well, Doctor, what have we got—a Republic or a Monarchy?" Franklin responded, "A Republic, if you can keep it."

George Washington, in his 1796

farewell address, warned us about the dangers of animosity between political parties, despotism and foreign influence. He said: "The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute

power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of public liberty. It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration.

It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, [and] foments occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption,

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NEWS

Reston to Celebrate Founder's Day, 55th Anniversary, April 6

Reston Historic Trust & Museum announced the celebration of the Founder's Day on Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 12 - 4 p.m. in memory of founder Robert E. Simon Jr. and the 55th anniversary of Reston with a full slate of family friendly activities at Lake Anne Plaza. Founder's Day will feature children's activities, including a moon bounce sponsored by Reston Association. Musical entertainment for all ages will be provided by local artists and schools throughout the day. Jeff Morgan will lead a Bob Simon Says game at multiple times of the day. Popcorn and cotton candy will be sold by Reston Association throughout the event. There will also be a guided public art tour around Lake Anne. Visitors are invited to attend an artist talk with Marco Rando, who will discuss his artwork and how Reston has impacted his creative journey. The talk will take place in the Jo Ann Rose Gallery Reston Community Center Lake Anne. Both ac-

tivities are sponsored by Public Art Reston. Stop by Reston Community Center Lake Anne and preserve your memories of Reston by participating in a workshop led by several of the authors of the book "Memoir Your Way" or recording your Reston memories with NPR's Storycorps program.

Two special exhibits will also be on display. At the Reston Historic Trust & Museum an exhibit will showcase the history of the sculpture "Untold Stories" affectionately called "Bronze Bob" located at Lake Anne Plaza and an exhibition by the League of Reston Artists will be on view in the Jo Ann Rose Gallery Reston Community Center Lake Anne.

A full schedule and activity descriptions will be provided closer to the event and will be available at www.restonmuseum.org/foundersday.

For more information, contact the Reston Historic Trust & Museum by phone at 703-709-7700 or by email at info@restonmuseum.org.

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NEWS

Aldrin Elementary Robotics Team Second in State Competition

Students from Reston's Aldrin Elementary School's robotics team competed March 1 in the 2019 Virginia State VEX robotics championship in Doswell, Va. The action-packed day engaged 18 teams of elementary students from schools across Virginia in the 2018-2019 VEX IQ Next Level Challenge. Aldrin's BuzzBots had three of their four robotics teams qualify to compete on several levels including individual and teamwork driving skills, robot design, and all-around excellence. All three teams qualified for the finals matches and one team was awarded the second place Teamwork Challenge award.

In VEX robotics, students design, build, and program their own customized robots to score as many points as possible. This season, teams score points by making their robot collect and stack hubs in building zones, remove bonus hubs that are elevated on a structure more than 15 inches high, and park or hang on an elevated horizontal bar. Robotics teaches the children skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, and communication.

Aldrin's Buzzbots has four teams, with students from third to sixth grade. The Buzzbots are: Anthony Starkov, Liam Hull, Alexander Abboud, Drew Hull, Youssef Bousaidi, Matthew Mudry, Daniel Murphy, Laurel Allison, and Alex Raye.

VEX Competitions make up the world's largest and fastest growing competitive robotics programs



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Drew Hull, 9, Youssef Bousaidi, 10, Liam Hull, 11, Matthew Mudry, 10, Daniel Murphy, 10, and Alexander Abboud, 11, all students at Aldrin Elementary School in Reston were awarded the Second Place Robot Skills Award which they received at the VEX Robotics State Championship for the state of Virginia held in Doswell.

for elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges around the world. More than 20,000 teams from 45 countries participate in greater than 1,500

VEX Robotics events worldwide. More information about VEX Robotics Competitions is available at RoboticsEducation.org or VEXRobotics.com.



Youssef Bousaidi and Drew Hull compete in the State Championship.



Matthew Mudry and Daniel Murphy compete with the robot they built and programmed.

BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Greater Reston Arts Center's (GRACE)
Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival returns for its 28th year May 17-19. Support the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival by signing-up to volunteer. Volunteer opportunities include Family Art Park, Artist Hospitality, Festival Ambassador, and more. All volunteers receive a 2019 Festival t-shirt, a Festival program with restaurant coupons, and water throughout the day. Credit for community service hours is available; middle school volunteers are welcome with a guardian. Visit restonarts.org/fineartsfestival/volunteer/ to register.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 27

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 941, Fairfax. The Park Authority Board is a 12-member board appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to set policy and establish strategic policy and direction for the Park Authority. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm or call 703-324-8662.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways Alternatives Public Meeting. 7 p.m. at Armstrong Elementary School, 11900 Lake Newport Road, Reston. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is inviting the public to attend a second round of public meetings on the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways Alternatives Analysis and Long Term Planning Study, and provide feedback to help further refine potential improvements to the corridor. The meetings will begin with a formal presentation at 7 p.m., followed by a question and answer period. Participants will then have the opportunity to provide feedback to the FCDOT study team. FCDOT will upload the meeting presentation to the study webpage by April 4 and invite feedback via an online survey. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/study/fairfax-county-parkway.

FRIDAY/MARCH 29

State of Children's Health Legislative Update Breakfast. 8:30-10 a.m. at Northern Virginia Community College - Medical Education Campus, Springfield. Join the MCCP Foundation to hear the latest on the state of healthcare for children locally, across Virginia, and at the Federal level. Meet with legislators, health professionals, business leaders, and community advocates to discuss current news and updates from experts in the field. \$25-\$35. Visit mccpfoundation.org/event/legislative-update-breakfast-march-29-2019/ to register.

Teen Depression: What Parents Need to Know. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Entrance 1, Room 100. This workshop presented by Dr. Kathryn DeLonga, PsyD, a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Director of the Mood Brain and Development Unit Psychological Treatment Program at the National Institute for Mental Health, will highlight the prevalence of major depressive disorder and how to identify depression in teenagers. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

Language Immersion Lottery Registration. Immersion lottery registration will close on March 29 for kindergarten. A SIS parent account is required to register. More information about Immersion programs and information meetings can be found at www.fcps.edu.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

Northern Virginia Housing Expo. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford St., Arlington. Dozens of exhibits and workshops will provide all the information needed to rent an apartment or purchase a first home at the 2019 Northern Virginia Housing Expo, a regional housing fair. Free. Visit www.novahousingexpo.org for more.

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Weight For It ... Wait ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't like interacting with artificial intelligence. Nor do I like interacting with artificially-intelligent emailers.

And I especially don't like when there's an attempt by these "a.i.s" to modify my behavior by suggesting a pre-programmed, presumptive course of action – or inaction on my part, based on some survey I may have completed or some list that I've recently been added to – without my consent, or most likely due to a purchase or service I likewise recently paid for.

To that end, which does not justify their means, today I received an email that goes above and beyond the "a.i.s" purview. And how this particular email came my way is "curious," as Spock from the original "Star Trek" might say.

On March 1, moments before my last infusion, I stepped on a scale which registered my "overweight," which along with taking my blood pressure, pulse and oxygen levels are part of the usual and customary vitals I provide each and every time I go for treatment. Other than my "overweight," my vitals are completely normal.

Treatment start-date to date, 10-plus years now, my "overweight" has never been a problem (truth be told, I'm hardly obese, just pleasingly plump), just a factor in determining how much medicine is dripped by my IV.

The oncologist and medical staff has seemed more concerned with a patient losing weight – which I rarely have. Although during the early days of six-plus hours of heavy-duty chemotherapy, I did lose weight and it was a concern and can portend a serious complication.

Fortunately for me, whatever weight I did lose did not portend anything other than I wasn't eating. Eventually, that lost weight – and more – was definitely found.

A few days later, I received an email from my health care provider; not my doctor, not a nurse and not personalized by any medical professional, but rather sent from some artificially-intelligent thing offering me information on varying diets and their respective benefits. At first I laughed at its location – in my inbox, and then I began to question its legitimacy and then I got mad at its presumptive intent.

Was this a coincidence? Was this merely a continuing outreach to the HMO's patients like its colon-rectal screening program, sent to patients of a certain age, seems to be? Or was it something more insidious like "Hal" nearly became in the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey"?

The nerve. The bypassing of protocols. The attempt to circumvent the human element. Is this what medicine has become?

Not calls or personalized messages from your doctor/medical staff but instead an electronic missive emailed with the cold, insensitive precision of Pentium chips?

Putting aside the obvious fact that I do need to lose weight, even though as my brother Richard says so often when he sees me: "The weight looks good on you," I am not doing so because a computer told me to.

In fact, I may not do so at all just to spite that computer, and by association, the system that exists/was put in place (presumably by some human) that believes that communicating with its members electronically is the wave of the future rather than the bane of my present. I cannot, I will not be a pawn in this game of clones where the same messages get sent to millions of semi unsuspecting patients by uncertified non-professionals as a matter of some coarse level of routine.

If you want me to change my behavior, or at least consider changing my behavior, you have to try a little harder than by sending pre-programmed message to patients who meet/exceed a certain threshold.

And how did my personal information actually get known anyway? Is there a system in place that automatically reviews patient's private histories by cross-referencing who had appointments and what the new details were? Was the scale and blood pressure machine in on it? If so, is my medical care becoming more automated and less individualized?

I realize I'm just a number but I didn't think they'd take it literally.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibition: IRL. Through April 23, Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Signature at Reston Town Center, 11850 Freedom Drive, Reston. IRL is a solo exhibition featuring work by painter and video artist Monica Stroik. Through a combination of video and paintings selected from her ongoing Cyber series, IRL (online shorthand for "in real life") investigates concepts of simultaneously being present and disconnected and how the natural world becomes entangled in digital lives. Free and open to the public. Visit restonarts.org for more.

Founder's Day Show at Lake Anne. Through April 29, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at the JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. The League of Reston Artists presents their annual Founder's Day exhibit in honor of the group's founder, Patricia MacIntyre. MacIntyre will judge the painted and mixed media entries that illustrate the theme of "Fine Lines." A reception will be held Sunday, April 7, 2-5 p.m. at the gallery. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Music and Video: IRL. 7 p.m. at The Signature at Reston Town Center, 11850 Freedom Drive, Reston. IRL is a solo exhibition featuring work by painter and video artist Monica Stroik. Stroik collaborates with her husband, musician and composer Doug Kallmeyer, and has mixed video for live musical performances at numerous venues. Exhibition runs through April 23, Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free and open to the public. Visit restonarts.org for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

Kids' Trout Fishing Derby. 8 a.m.-noon behind the Herndon Police Station, 397 Herndon Parkway at the Sugarland Run Trail Stream. The Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department will host the 16th Annual Kids' Trout Fishing Derby. The stream will be stocked with Rainbow Trout just for this event. Limited fishing poles and bait will be available for use. Trout Unlimited will be on site to help clean and store kids' catch. Teens and adults, age 16 and older, must have a valid Virginia State Fishing License if they wish to fish after the event. Pre-registration through Friday, March 29 until 4:45 p.m. is \$8 per child. Day of event registration, on site is \$12 per child (bring cash or check).



Diva Central Dress Giveaway.

Reston Community Center will host its annual Diva Central dress giveaway. This one-day event is the perfect shopping experience for any current Reston-area high school or middle school student who is in need of a dress, shoes, jewelry and other accessories. Everything is absolutely free. Limit one dress per person. Saturday, March 30, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at RCC Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. Contact LaTanja Jones, RCC Collaboration and Outreach Director, at 703-390-6158 or visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

Contact Tim Lander, Recreation Supervisor, Herndon Parks and Recreation Department, at 703-435-6800, ext. 2106 or Tim.Lander@herndon-va.gov.

K-12 STEM Symposium. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Nysmith School, 13625 EDS Drive, Herndon. The 2019 symposium, which was built around the theme of "The Power of Curiosity," will feature interactive exhibits like flight simulators and 3D printers, along with top science fair projects from more than 20 local students preparing for regional competition. The symposium is open to the public. Free, advance registration is required via the event website. Food and beverages will be available for purchase on-site. Call 703-533-4840 or visit stemsymposium.com.

NoVaTEEN Book Festival. 9:30 a.m. at Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. The NoVaTEEN Book Festival is back with a day full of panels, games, and signings with over 30 bestselling and emerging Young Adult authors. Learn more on the official festival website. The event is free and open to the public; tickets and a full schedule are available at novateenbookfestival.com.

MONDAYS STARTING APRIL 1

Program for Homeschoolers. 1-2:30 p.m. At E.C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Flock to Ellanor C. Lawrence Park for Homeschool Biology-Birds where students receive hands-on instruction in wild bird identification, migration, habitats and conservation through citizen science. Instructors use preserved species, and wild birds to illustrate the concepts. All lessons are

structured around the Virginia Standards of Learning. This program is geared for students ages 8-15. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

TUESDAY/APRIL 2

Baby Lapsit. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Enjoy nursery rhymes and songs while building early literacy skills for your child. Age Birth to 11 months with adult. Registration now open. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Tai Chi Fitness. 6:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Fun Tai Chi fitness class, led by local instructor Susan Shen. Adults, Teens. Registration open. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

SpanChats. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Ongoing Spanish conversation group. All levels from beginner to fluent are welcome. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 3

Surviving Disasters and Emergencies. 6-8 p.m. at Reston Lake House, 11450 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Leave this event with everything you need to know to keep your family safe. Discuss active shooter situations, pandemics, floods, blizzards, extreme weather, and disaster and evacuation planning. Presented by Kathleen Koch, Former CNN Correspondent and Founder of the Disaster Preparedness Nonprofit

"LeadersLink." Free and open to the public. Chef-prepared appetizers provided. Space is limited. RSVP to 703-834-9800 or email RSVP@talloaksal.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 4

Millennial's Book Club. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Title is To Be Announced. Check out a library copy or buy a copy to own. Adults from early 20s to early 30s. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Retirement Planning. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Retirement Planning Financial program with Nuria Gabitova of One Commonwealth Advisors. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAYS STARTING APRIL 4

Program for Homeschoolers. 2-3:30 p.m. At E.C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Take a page out of an old book and become a Homeschool Historian. Explore Fairfax County history with hands-on activities and games in this four-week course. Week 1: Textiles: Staying Warm and Cool. Week 2: Technology of food production for the Native Americans and Machens. Week 3: Life of a soldier. Week 4: Digging the Past. This program is appropriate for children ages 7-13. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 5-6

Genealogy Conference/Expo. Friday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-3:45 p.m. at Sheraton Reston Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Fairfax Genealogical Society's two-day spring conference and expo. Lectures, workshops, individual consultations, vendors with items/services of interest to family researchers. Topics include: Beginning and intermediate DNA; African American Research; Land Platting; Colonial Law and Religion; Southern Migration, and more. FxGS member, \$100; non-member, \$120. Details at www.fxgs.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Explore Lake Fairfax Park with a Naturalist. 10-11:30 a.m. at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Learn about the flora and fauna that give Lake Fairfax Park its character. Designed for participants 3-adult. \$8 per person. Dress for the weather. Call 703-471-5414 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax.

Otto the Auto. 11 a.m. at Reston

Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Otto the talking car engages children in fun and memorable traffic safety exercises. Age 3-6 with adult. Registration now open. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Founder's Day. Noon-4 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza. Join the Reston Historic Trust & Museum (RHT) as it celebrates Founder's Day. Remember founder Robert E. Simon Jr. and celebrate the 55th anniversary of Reston with a full slate of family-friendly activities at Lake Anne Plaza. Visit www.restonmuseum.org/foundersday or call 703-709-7700.

Life Lessons from Mt. Kilimanjaro. 1:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Local author Robert Perry will share the inspiring story of his trek to the highest peak in Africa. He will sign copies of his book "Taking the 12 Steps Up- and Down-Kilimanjaro." Adults, Teens. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Kwame Alexander & Randy Preston: Poetry and Performance. 4 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Reston Regional Library partners with Scrawl Books to welcome Newbery award-winning author Kwame Alexander and musician Randy Preston for a performance celebrating the paperback release of *Booked* and *The Crossover* as well as the release of Kwame's new picture book *The Undeclared*. Books will be available for purchase. Ages 6 and up. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

SUNDAY/APRIL 7

History of World War II. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Dr. Harry Butowsky of George Mason University presents Part 4 of his 6-part lecture series on World War II - *Wolf Pack: U-Boats in the Atlantic 1939-1944*. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

MONDAY/APRIL 8

Toddler Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join us for fun stories, songs and finger plays. Age 2 with adult. Registration now open. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

E-book Help. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. For those who need assistance downloading library e-books onto an electronic device. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

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