How Red Is the 10th District?

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Heaven and Earth Akido Hosts Fundraiser

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Herndon High To Produce ‘Robin Hood’

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

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

THURSDAY/FEB. 20
Women’s Club of Greater Reston Meeting. 10 a.m. Lake Anne Community Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. This meeting will be about shade gardening, container gardening and deer resistant plants. Free. www.restonnewcomers.org.

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

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26
American Red Cross Blood Drive. 4-8 p.m. St. Thomas A Becket Rcc, 1421 Wiehle Ave, Reston.

ONGOING
Fairfax County’s Meals on Wheels urgently needs drivers in the Annandale, Franconia/Kingstowne, Reston, Mount Vernon and McLean areas. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

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

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

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

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

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

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

By Ethan McLeod
The Connection

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

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

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

— Del. Kenneth Plum (D-36)

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

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

Rust also was chief patron of HB 754, providing school officials with increased flexibility for expunging arrest convictions for up to a year of expulsion.

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

— Del. Kenneth Plum (D-36)

Rust noted the language in the Senate budget, a difference in bipartisan cooperation between houses that Plum also noted.

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

This YEAR’S SESSION will conclude Thursday, March 8. To stay updated or track specific legislation, visit http://lis.virginia.gov/lis.htm.
How Red Is the 10th District?

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

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

U.S. Rep. Frank R. Wolf’s announcement in December that he would not seek reelection to an 18th term in Congress came as a surprise to both Republicans and Democrats. Wolf’s retirement notice instantly set off a feeding frenzy among politicians maneuvering to gain the Northern Virginia Congressional seat.

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

Democrat John Foust, a Fairfax County Supervisor from McLean, announced he would challenge the incumbent a week before Wolf’s retirement news. Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34), a McLean attorney and Wolf’s former senior aide, emerged as the one to watch when she announced her candidacy in January. Like Foust, Comstock is a formidable fundraiser and she quickly received the endorsement of many party officials, including presidential hopeful Mitt Romney, for whom she worked in the 2012 campaign.

DEMOCRATIC STRATEGISTS considered Foust to be one of Wolf’s most challenging opponents in years, and Foust quickly racked up a slew of endorsements from more than 50 former and current elected officials, including Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam and U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8). Moran later announced he would not seek reelection. Foust’s momentum had a rainmaking impact on donors. In late January, Foust reported raising more than $217,000, with nearly that amount — $210,000 — reported as cash on hand.

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

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

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

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

ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE, speculation about who would enter the race ran the gamut from the obvious to the absurd. Tareq Salahi, a write-in candidate for last year’s governor’s race, remains in the race. A vintner and television personality, Salahi gained national attention when he and his ex-wife crashed a White House state dinner in 2009. When announcing her candidacy, Comstock said: “I have a demonstrated record of winning important legislative victories for Northern Virginians as well as winning hard fought, principled elections.”

10th District: Still Solid Red or Swing Seat?

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

But that was 2011.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wolf won the 2012 race with 58 percent of the vote against Democrat Kreutz Cabral (59 percent) and Independent J. Kevin Chisholm (3 percent).

Who is Running?

REPUBLICAN DECLARED CANDIDATES
- Barbara Comstock, State Delegate, 34th District
- Richard Bolger, Fairfax attorney
- John Foust, Fairfax County Supervisor, Dranesville district
- Sam Kubba, Leesburg architect
- David Wroblewski, Iraq War veteran
- Kristin Cabral (39 percent) and Independent J. Kevin Chisholm (3 percent).

Who Will Parties Select Nominees?

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

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

Source: Ballotpedia
Battle for the 10th District

Comstock’s mainstream GOP platform includes “repealing and replacing Obamacare,” as well as promoting policies for a healthier economy and “fighting to protect our national security and dedicated military.”

“I will be a tireless advocate for one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in the Commonwealth and I will demand and work hard for common sense results,” she said in a news release. “I am running for Congress because I believe my strong record as a common sense conservative leader is what is needed in Congress. I know how to effectively fight for Northern Virginia’s hard working taxpayers having first learned from Congressman Wolf, working in his congressional office.”

Comstock is currently facing seven declared candidates for her party’s nomination, including a challenge from Virginia Del. Bob Marshall, who entered the crowded Republican primary field last week.

In a news release announcing his candidacy, Marshall, who has represented parts of Prince William and Loudoun counties in the General Assembly for more than 20 years, vowed to vote no to any tax increases, and said he would “be on the front lines to defund and dismantle Obamacare.”

Marshall also said in his announcement that he would oppose “the creation or maintenance of a police surveillance state to spy on us,” and oppose the “executive assault” on congressional powers. He told reporters he believes his candidacy will appeal to the conservative party activists.

Earlier this month another Republican, Rob Wasinger of Fairfax Station, announced his candidacy, citing 20 years of experience of working for prominent conservative lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Potential candidates have until March 27 to file the necessary paperwork for a run.

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*Savings based on contracts written between 2/1 - 2/29/14. This is a limited time offer subject to change and may be withdrawn at the discretion of Van Metre Homes without prior notice and may not be used in conjunction with any other discount. Prices subject to change without notice. Certain restrictions apply. For more details, see Sales Manager 2/27/14.
Fundamental Freedom To Choose To Marry

Virginia is historically slow in extending rights.

I n 1967, Virginia was one of 16 states that banned interracial marriage and had criminal penalties for violators. Mildred Jeter, an African-American woman, and Richard Loving, a white man, married in 1958, were convicted and banished from living in Virginia for 25 years to avoid serving a one-year prison sentence. On June 12, 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Loving v. Virginia, overturned the convictions of Mildred and Richard Loving, declaring the ban on interracial marriage unconstitutional.

Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote the opinion:

“Marriage is one of the ‘basic civil rights of man,’ fundamental to our very existence and survival. To deny this fundamental freedom to marry on the ground that the people of a State may disapprove is to write in a little more narrowly defined than American society, to be sure, but marriage is a right inherent in the personal dignity of the individual, and cannot be infringed by the State.”

Less than 50 years ago, it was still illegal in Virginia, punishable by prison time, for a white person to marry someone of another race. Judge Arenda Wright Allen last week on Valentine’s Day, ruled that Virginia’s ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. In the opening of her order, Allen quotes Mildred Loving in a statement she made in 2007 on the 40th anniversary of Loving v. Virginia:

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

Supporting Mental Health
To the Editor:
The editorial by Mary Kimm (‘On Mental Health,’ Connection, Feb. 12-18, 2014), referencing reporting by Michael Pope, makes an incorrect assertion that our services to people with mental illness in Fairfax County have been “dramatically cut back.”

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

Here are the numbers (total number of individuals served by the CSB, which includes those with mental illness and/or substance use disorders, intellectual disability, and infants and toddlers with developmental delays):
FY 2013: 20,988
FY 2012: 20,446
FY 2011: 20,058

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

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

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

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

Grocery shoppers and social visitors needed for older adults in Annandale, Falls Church and McLean. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Pachina has two lovable dogs that need adoption.

Kayla’s cat needs a loving home.

Adopt one of our lovable cats or dogs.

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Donate money or supplies for the Shelter.

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STARS OVER DULLES GALA
Saturday, March 15, 2014
5:30PM – 11:30PM
Westfields Marriott
14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly, Virginia 20151
The evening includes a cocktail reception, four-course dinner, awards program, silent auction, and music by Terry Lee Ryan. Black tie optional.

 Featuring the Capitol Steps

Individual Ticket: $195 Gold Table Sponsor: $2,000 Other sponsorships available: www.StarsOverDulles.org

An elegant, star-studded evening honoring and supporting veterans, and Wounded Warriors. 
Honorary Co-chair
Flame Rogers, President & CEO, UNO of Metropolitan Washington/Armed Forces

Guest Emcee
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Paddle Auctioneer
Delegation Ken Plan

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Volunteer
your time or services.

Donate
money or supplies for the Shelter.
Herndon High To Produce ‘Robin Hood’

Children’s show also fundraiser for HHS Drama Boosters.

By Ryan Dunn

The Herndon High School drama department and its artistic directors are bringing ‘Robin Hood’ to life on the stage, said senior Zoe Dilllard, Herndon High’s company’s stage manager. The one challenge has been missing several rehearsal days due to recent winter weather movements. “Missing a week has been hard, but the cast is incredible, and willing to do anything to bring this show to life,” said Dilllard. “This will definitely be a show worthwhile to see. I am proud of this production.”

Sophomore Natalie Burns will be playing Robin Hood. “I was excited because I really like archery,” said Burns. “I love the archery, the sword fighting, the horse riding.”

The show will run on February 21, 23, 28 and March 1 at 7:30 p.m. and February 22 at 10 a.m. Tickets cost $5. To learn more, visit www.herndonhigh.org.

Calendar

TUESDAY, FEB. 18
CLASSICAL CONCERT: 8 p.m., Music in the Country Clubhouse, 750 Center Street, Herndon. The Herndon Village Band performs. $5. To learn more, visit www.herndonvillageband.com.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19
Art ExploreMore, 10 a.m., 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. The Reston Community Center Hunters Woods presents Art ExploreMore. $3. To learn more, call 703-476-4500.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21
6TH ANNUAL DIGITAL STORYTELLER SHOWCASE, 8 p.m., CenterStage at Reston Community Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. The Reston Community Center presents the Sixth Annual Digital Storyteller Showcase, a collection of two-minute performances created by people who are eager to share their story. $15. To learn more, call 703-476-4500.

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

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

By Ryan Dunn

High school step team coach and captain Bushrod went on to become a team captain. “We get to host the show and we reveal our new uniforms,” said Bushrod. “One of the best step teams in the Washington D.C. area will be competing for cash prizes.”

Upon graduation from Herndon High in 2003, Bushrod went on to earn his bachelor’s degree in Business Management at Hampton University, and graduated in 2004. While at Hampton, he was a member of the James River Step Team, and choreographed a routine for the Gamma Theta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Stepping in a partnership dance performance in which the participatingunchant is being hosted.

The Herndon High School Step Team rehearses for February 19-25, 2014 marks the Step Team’s 20th year at Herndon High.

By Ryan Dunn

Herndon High Prepares For StompFest

Mark’s Steampunk 20th year at school.

The Herndon High School Step Team, a Boy Scout acknowledgment, offers you freedom to get out and about.


Fridays from 6-8 p.m., at The Centerstage, 3000 Town Center Dr., Herndon. Admission is $10 and the doors open at 7:30 p.m., for this $5 interactive screening of the Wizard of Oz. Young actors and dancers from the Herndon High school Step Team rehearses for February 19-25, 2014 marks the Step Team’s 20th year at Herndon High.

Meet about 80 of the brightest street dancers as they perform. http://southlakeschorus.org/special-events/

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SUNDAY, FEB. 22
www.SingStrong.org.


FRIDAY/MARCH 1
Singing: “It is so much fun,” said Hughes. “The story… I enjoy the other members of the cast as well. We all get along and we all have classical elements of the Robin Hood story… I enjoy the other members of the cast as well.”

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SUNDAY/MARCH 2
www.restoncommunitycenter.com

Herndon High School Step Team captain Hannah Vaughan, Step Team coach and captain Bushrod, and captain Sumayya Sulaiman.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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SUNDAY/MARCH 2
www.restoncommunitycenter.com

Herndon High School Step Team captain Hannah Vaughan, Step Team coach and captain Bushrod, and captain Sumayya Sulaiman.
Launch Pad for Young Adults?

By Joan R. Brady
The Connection

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

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

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

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

In Fairfax County, foster kids can choose to stay in foster care until they are 21, rather than aging out at 18. The extra years of services come with requirements that are designed to prepare kids to stay in the system, and even those who made it through until 21 did not gain the skills needed to be successful.

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

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

Mentors and other adults tried to support Tyrell, both emotionally and materially by paying his phone bill and providing him with leads on jobs. He never followed through on the job leads. Like the social workers before them, these well-meaning adults, myself included, became frustrated. For an adult who was raised with caring parents, it was mind-boggling. How could he not make one single phone call to help himself? Why didn’t he see that he had to change his life? This was a kid who we believed in, why couldn’t he believe in himself?

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

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

The non-profit that Kyria Henry founded with her parents, paws4people.org, has a mission to enhance the lives of those living with serious illnesses or disabilities.
ties by utilizing highly trained assistance dogs for children, veterans and civilians. The bulk of the dog training is done in prisons by inmates. I have seen firsthand the magic that happens when you bring together dogs and people with emotional and physical needs. Many lives have been forever changed by paws4people.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tyrell, selfie with Joan Brady

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

Grapplers Earn Spotlight Experience at Region Tournament

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

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— Langley senior Jacob Adams

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

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

Final show for Herndon fundraising event.

By Ryan Dunn

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

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

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

Earlier that afternoon volunteers decorated the gymnasium for the event. Couples mixed and danced while the Hubcaps played favorite music and melodies of the 1950s and 1960s. “Our group cannot do it any more,” said Mogenson. “If we don’t run successful fundraisers we cannot serve our community… the community center began lowering their costs to keep the event going, but it has been harder and harder to pull it off functionally. We just can’t do it as a fundraiser anymore.”

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

The Rotary Club of Herndon Scholarship Fund also awards a scholarship to a graduating senior from Herndon High School or a resident of Herndon who attends another school or is home schooled. Applicants are considered based on good citizenship, extracurricular activities, employment or special skills outside of school, academic record, and financial need. “It had been a great event,” said Curt Rose, a resident of Reston and member of the Herndon Rotary Club. Owner of Aspen Jewelry Designs at Centreville Road in Herndon, Rose brought his children to the evening show. “It has just gotten to point where we needed to manage our fundraisers more,” said Rose.

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

Until Further Notice

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not to state the obvious (which I readily admit I do), but to be given a terminal diagnosis: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, along with a rather disappointing prognosis: “13 months to 2 years.” It’s a challenging set of extremely unexpected (given my immediate family’s medical history) circumstances. I don’t want to say that I live under a dark cloud – because I don’t like the negative implication or reaction it conjures, but I definitely feel as if I have a metaphorical sword of Damocles hanging over my head; which I only refer to as an ‘out-of-context’ Three Stooges reference wherein a non-Stooge was invisibly standing under a pie which Moe had thrown to the ceiling and there it stank, hanging precariously over the character’s head. Now I still don’t know the proper historical context of the sword of Damocles, I only know the Three Stooges version, but there was some imminent danger involved (not death, mind you), but rather a falling pie which ultimately landed flush on the character as she looked up to make further inquiries.

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

Ergo, the title of this column: “Until Further Notice.” Whenever I’m asked by those in my family, the community, the media and the world to comment on my medical situation/diagnosis (as I’m clearly speaking, ignoring certain facts as they were speaking), I feel pressure every day; self-assessing myself and still feel as if the news will come externally. As much as I’m doing internally, I haven’t turned a corner until my oncologist advises me that I’ve been diagnosed, I don’t suppose I’ll know what turns I’ve taken until my oncologist advises me what my relative ‘cancer-free’ days may or may not matter yet. And of course, I can never forget the pie. The great Satchel Page joked to not look back because you never know who’s chasing you. And though I’m certainly mindful of death and what’s chasing me (figuratively speaking), ignoring certain facts as they were presented to me by my oncologist is much easier said than done. When I first learned about my medical situation/diagnosis, it certainly sounded like a death sentence; now, five years later, it has evolved into more of a life sentence. And though I really didn’t think I’d ever make parole, it is life nonetheless, and though there are some days when it’s not very pretty, these are days I didn’t anticipate having. And so far, there’s been no pie or sword to dimish them – all things considered.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection Newspapers.

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Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection Newspapers.
In the Ninth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada
In and for Douglas County

LAURA JEAN BEARCE
Plaintiff,

vs

THE STATE OF NEVADA

Defendant,

THE STATE OF NEVADA SENDS GREETINGS TO THE

Ninth Judicial District Court, PO Box 218, Minden, NV 89423

Ted Thran, Clerk of Court

Dated this 13th day of January, 2014.

You are hereby SUMMONED and required to serve upon

LAURA JEAN BEARCE whose address is 1314 10TH

Street, W. Apt 2, Williston, ND 58801, a true copy of the Summons

and Complaint, made return hereof to me or my attorney, aforesaid,

within 20 days after service of this Summons upon you, and required to serve upon

YOU, within 20 days after service of this Summons upon you,

an ANSWER to the Complaint which is herewith served upon

you, within 20 days after service of this Summons upon you,

exclusive of the day of service. In addition, you must file with the

Clark of this Court, whose address is shown below, a formal

written answer to the Complaint, along with the appropriate

filing fees, in accordance with the rules of the Court. If you fail

to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the

relief demanded in the Complaint. This action is brought in

to cover a judgment dissolving the contract of marriage existing

between you and the Plaintiff.

The filing fees, if any, must be paid in accordance with the rules of

this Court.

The Plaintiff certifies that this document does not contain the social

security number of any person.

The filer certifies that this document does not contain the social

security number of any person.

If you fail to answer, judgment by default may be entered against

you, within 20 days after service of this Summons upon you,

for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

In accordance with the rules of the Court, if you do not

file an Answer to the Complaint, judgment may be entered

against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

You may consult with an attorney of your own choosing. If you fail to

consult with an attorney of your own choosing, judgment may be

entered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

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We Met Our Jeans Day Challenge
We Turned $5 Into $60,000!

Thank you to these businesses, organizations and individuals in our community for their contributions to Jeans Day and for their commitment to ending homelessness in Fairfax County and Falls Church. The $60,000 raised will make a difference for the more than 3,000 children, women and men facing homelessness and the threat of severe temperatures and hunger today in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. The awareness raised by Jeans Day will help in the continued efforts to end homelessness in our community by 2018.

Our Jeans Day 2013 goal was to partner with our Fairfax-Falls Church community and raise $25,000 to meet the Philip L. Graham Fund Challenge for a $25,000 match and together we did it.

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