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inside



Democrats Face Off In June 10 Primary

NEWS, PAGE 16

Day of Remembrance

NEWS, PAGE 3

inside



McLean CONNECTION

Outdoor Concerts Spice Up Summer

NEWS, PAGE 3

Langley High student
Alex Mitchell performs a
variety of songs on his
electric violin at the
Palladium Civic Place
Green in McLean on
recent Saturday
afternoon.

OPINION, PAGE 10 ♦ FAITH, PAGE 22 ♦ SCHOOLS, PAGE 12 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 23 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 24

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/CONNECTION

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PHOTOS BY JULIA WINKLER/THE CONNECTION

From left: Senior Matthew McGuirk, sophomores Eva Graham and Marshall Masterson, and senior Tracy Jenkins of McLean HS perform "Amazing Grace" at the McLean Post 270 Memorial Day celebration.

VIEWPOINTS

What do you think is the best way for the community to commemorate those lost in America's wars?

— JULIA WINKLER



Marie Sweeney, World War II veteran

"I think it's a great idea for a community to come together. When I was young, we would always have gigantic parades in the little town and everybody went to the cemeteries and it was the biggest day of the year. There would be 5-6 thousand people coming back to visit the 13 cemeteries that were in this little town in Pennsylvania to remember not only the veterans but the families as well."



Ed Hicks, World War II veteran

"Community events should have a bigger turnout and [people should] show up at the events that are scheduled."



Michael Ingrisano, World War II veteran

"The more participation from the people here in the town of McLean, [the better]. It's honoring not just [our generation] but the people before us and the people after us."



Tom Lukas, veteran having served in Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, and Cuba

"People should decide for themselves [how to celebrate]. It's good to get together as a community, but individually, each one on their own. It's what keeps our country free."



Bob Rosenbaum - army veteran having served in the gap between the Korean and Vietnam wars

"It's really both [a personal and community holiday]. Hopefully the people can be a little less busy to take time out to reflect and honor those who either have served or are currently serving. Freedom is not free."

— JULIA WINKLER

Day of Remembrance, Recognition

Memorial Day ceremony honors sacrifice of generations.

The American Legion Post 270 of McLean held its annual Memorial Day Celebration at McLean High School on Monday. Garnering a greater turnout than ever before, the event drew together dozens of veterans and their families, as well as Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust and state Del. Jim Scott (D-53). Beginning with a performance by McLean High School bagpipers and ending with the laying of a wreath on Memorial Grove, the ceremony commemorated those lost in war throughout American history. Although attended principally by veterans, the ceremony also endeavored to educate those who may not necessarily understand the true meaning of the holiday.

"All of us who have served understand what's taking place but I think a lot of people don't," said Jay Edwards, commander of Post 270 who served in naval intelligence during the early Vietnam War era. "During World War II we had 16 million people serving. Every family had people involved. It's so much different now, so people don't really understand the significance of Memorial Day. They don't understand that over the years we've lost over a million men and women who served, but we all know that we've lost 4,000 in Iraq. Most people don't really know the sacrifices that the people we've lost re-



McLean Post 270 commander Jay Edwards introduces Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust to speak at Monday's Memorial Day celebration.

ally made; we only know it as a political thing right now." Others expressed a similar sentiment.

"I think we have a severe inability to remember our history, so thinking individually [on Memorial Day] is wonderful but I think it's important that we educate our people and remind them that freedom is not

free and every generation is going to have to step up and do their part," said John Bowman, a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War. The ceremony included the recitation of several poems, a moment of silence, the pledge of allegiance, and the national anthem.

Tyson's Authority Pondered

Proposed implementation authority seen as "keeper of vision."

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

A subcommittee of the Tysons Land Use Task Force proposed an "implementing authority be established ... to oversee, manage and implement the future development in Tysons Corner," and if Tysons gets the four Metro connections, the 100,000 residents and a work force of 200,000 it aspires to, it would be one of the most powerful political entities in Fairfax County.

As the Tysons Land Use Task Force nears completion of its proposal there is a growing sense that their plans may radically change not only Tysons Corner, but vastly alter the lives of thousands of people in the nearby communities.

One of the key subcommittees, assigned to form a plan to "implement" the steps the Task Force may propose, last week made the forming of an "authority" a center piece of its plan to "implement the future development in the Tysons Corner area in the adopted Tysons Corner plan in conjunction with and supplemental to, the Fairfax County process."

The proposal said that the authority would be the "Keeper of the Vision" and assure that the overarching goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan are

implemented."

The next page and a half described several duties that would appear to have been held by other county bodies — the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors — to name two.

FOR INSTANCE, the authority would work to "improve the competitiveness of Tysons" by shortening the time of planning and zoning review. "The current process is lengthy and costly and subjects development proposals to independent review by many different departments with sometimes differing and separate priorities."

The authority would "participate in the zoning process through design review," by stakeholders and hiring competent professionals to "insure that applications" meet the guidelines, the comprehensive plan and zoning requirements.

"While ultimate authority will continue to rest with the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors, the Authority's recommendations would be given deference as the most knowledgeable and consistent party of what the plan envisions and whether proposals for new developments meet the plan."

THE PROPOSAL saw the "authority" as

"You're not creating a government here, this organization will not take over."

— Wade Smith

being a "liaison" between public and private sectors and plans would be given "expedited processing" by the county staff, the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

Wade Smith, a member of the Task Force, pointed out that, "You're not creating a government here, this organization will not take over. It is a way for the stake holders to make sure the plans are implemented."

And the proposal will be debated in detail before it or any portion would be adopted. But the proposal underlies the tension that has marked the Tysons Task Force discussions from the beginning. The concept of the Task Force has been that the rail connection will allow people to enter and leave Tysons without a car and allow workers to get to Washington or Dulles without an automobile. When they talk of "urban design," it is a community with grid laid out streets, sidewalks and ability to walk to Metro, stores, restaurants, parks and theaters.

THE DENSITY LEVELS discussed at most meetings would allow for high rise apartments and offices, somewhat like Roslyn in Arlington, attracting thousands of workers as well as the wealthy and upscale families. The city could grow to 100,000 more residents, there are now some 18,500, and a giant workforce of 200,000 arriving and leaving daily. No community nearby can touch those population numbers. Most of them were developed as R-1 — that is one single family house per lot- or townhouse communities. Vienna has 14,873 residents, according to the 2006 estimate, McLean 39,003, Falls Church, 10,799 and Reston as 56,407.

Crime Prevention Program Recognized

The Criminal Justice Services Board of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services has, once again, approved and recognized Fairfax County as a Certified Crime Prevention Community. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors acknowledged the achievement with presentations made to Police Chief, Colonel David M. Rohrer and Master Police Officer Patrick Lucas, a crime prevention officer assigned to the McLean Police District.

The Certified Crime Prevention Community program was created in 1998 by a directive from the Governor's Commission for Community Safety. It was designed to promote community safety and to recognize policies and practices used by safe, low-crime communities. Fairfax County, along with 14 other jurisdictions in Virginia, is known for sending a strong message to the public that crime will not be tolerated in the county and that governing officials will take all reasonable efforts to eliminate it.

Specific exemplary Fairfax County Police Department programs highlighted by the



Police Chief, Col. David M. Rohrer and Master Police Officer Patrick Lucas of the McLean Police District receive recognition for the county's crime prevention program.

Criminal Justice Services Board include:

* Road DAWG (Don't Associate with Gangs) Summer Camp, a program designed to help young people enhance their healthy decision-making skills enabling them to resist the draw of gangs and drugs.

* ChildSafeNet's P'CASO (Protecting Children Against Sex Offenders) Program:

Fairfax County Police Department was the first law enforcement partner in their mission of protecting children from dangerous sexual predators both on the Internet, as well as in the community.

Localities that are certified to be Crime Prevention Communities must go through the certification process every three years.

WEEK IN MCLEAN

Trails Day Event At Scotts Run

On June 7, celebrating the National Trails Day, area residents will join together to lend local trails a helping hand at Scotts Run Nature Preserve, a 325-acre treasure in McLean. More than 150 volunteers, several different trail projects, kick-off remarks from government officials and a full day of camaraderie will mark National Trails Day 2008 at Scotts Run.

In the spirit of this year's theme, "Join us on the Trail," American Hiking Society, Fairfax County Park Authority and Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) have joined together to co-host the event.

Arrive between 7:30 and 8 a.m. for a convenient shuttle to the kick-off and welcome ceremony. Find details at AmericanHiking.org/NTD.aspx (click on Virginia on the map). All volunteers must register with REI by calling 703-379-9400 or e-mailing Mark Nelson at mnelson@rei.com. Questions can be directed to REI or American Hiking Society.

Boy Scouts Go to Malawi

Boy Scouts from BSA Troop 869 in McLean will travel to Malawi June 21 through July 5 to conduct two service projects in this Southeast African nation. For several months, eight Scouts and two adults have been preparing for this international trek, learning about Malawi and learning to work together to plan and organize this 15-day trek.

While in Malawi, the Scouts will work at Makwawa, the national Scout campsite where they will install a solar hot water heater and construct a brick shop building. In addition, the crew's tents and cook stoves will be donated to the Malawi Scouts at the conclusion of the trip. The McLean Scouts will also visit the Missionaries of Charity Orphanage in Kawale, a suburb of the capital, Lilongwe. There they will distribute supplies and spend time with the children of the orphanage. While in Malawi, the Scouts will serve as the Color Guard for the U.S. Embassy's July 4th Independence Day celebration and will be hosted by the ambassador and his family, former members of Troop 869.

Troop 869 is seeking donations from the McLean community for both these service projects. Cash donations may be made to "BSA Troop 869" and mailed to Troop 869 C/O Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Boulevard, McLean, VA 22012. Contact Scott Jenkins, assistant scout master at 703-506-4576.

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the McLean district of the Fairfax County police department through May 21.

LARCENIES

- Chain Bridge Road 1900 - Wallet stolen from business
- Claremont Drive 2400 - License plate stolen from vehicle
- Gallows Road 1900 - Wallet stolen from business
- International Drive 2000- Coffee maker stolen from business
- International Drive 2000 - Four purses stolen from business
- Lee Highway 8100 - Gasoline stolen from service station
- Merrilee Drive 2800 - Cell phone stolen from business
- Montauk Court 2900 - CD player and iPod stolen from vehicle

VEHICLE THEFTS

- Grayson Place 2100 - 2003 Toyota 4Runner reported stolen
- Hartland Road 2800 - 2007 Pontiac sedan reported stolen

Incidents reported by the Town of Vienna police department May 13 through May 19.

ARREST

300 block George St., S.W. 8:49 p.m. May 16. An officer on patrol encountered a 6-year old boy who said he could not find his mother. The officer took the boy home. The mother returned home around 10 p.m. and was subsequently charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. She is Barbarita Torres, 47, 307 George St., S.W., Vienna.

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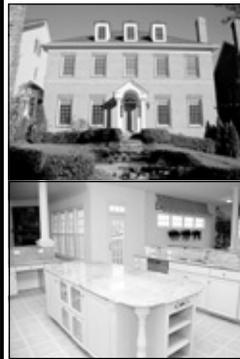
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Sowing Seeds in Afghanistan

McLean resident recognized for work in rebuilding Afghan Ministry of Agriculture.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

It's not often that a U.S. Department of Agriculture employee gets the chance to completely restructure another country's Ministry of Agriculture, but that was the opportunity that was given to McLean resident Scott Mexic three years ago. Earlier this month, he was among 60 USDA employees recognized by the department for their work on a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan. Unlike many of his fellow honorees, Mexic had not worked in the field on a hands-on project but instead had helped to restructure the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture.

"Usually, what you do is you add a new mark, a new piece, you augment something," he said. "Like an overall document that you edited and added a comma to." With the Afghan government in shambles, much more than a comma was needed.

Mexic got the job in part because the USDA deputy secretary, who was about to retire, invited him to come along on his last trip to Afghanistan and then fell deathly ill. While he was bedridden, he asked Mexic to fill in for him, attending six hours of meetings each day for a week. "At the end of the tour, I had developed a relationship with the [Afghan] minister of agriculture," he said.

When foreign donors and the International Monetary Fund required reforms to the country's Ministry of Agriculture, the U.S. sent a delegation to help make the changes, and Mexic was a natural choice to work with the minister.

THE IDEA was to focus less on low-value crops like wheat and corn and take advantage of the country's ability to produce crops like fine tree fruits and tomatoes, in order to raise the standard of living and cut back on the farming of poppies used to make narcotics. However, the Ministry of Agriculture that needed to make that change was bloated and inefficient.

"One of the things we lack in Afghanistan is a good, solid sense of how to do business," said Mexic. After every coup, people at the top level of government are killed, new people are added on all levels, and no one is fired, he said. "And the pay



McLean resident and USDA employee Scott Mexic poses with His Excellency Obaidullah Ramin, the Afghan minister of agriculture, irrigation and livestock, in the minister's office.

scale was ludicrous." With fringes, employees made anywhere from \$15 to \$110 per month, so everyone worked several jobs in order to make a reasonable salary. The minister suspected that about 25 percent of the names on his payroll were not those of actual, living people, but with payments being made in cash to employees without social security numbers, there was no way to verify the hunch.

No one knew how to use a computer, and the idea of scheduling an appointment was unheard-of, said Mexic. Instead, people waited in line for an audience with the minister. "Someone could sit there three days because if they left, they'd lose their place in line."

He had five months to turn the situation around.

"We developed a structure where all employees had to be subject to a competitive hiring process," he said. This included existing employees, so it immediately eliminated the "ghosts" from the payroll. Then, those who were retained had their salaries quadrupled, and

those who were cut kept their old salaries for life. Ultimately, the number of employees was cut in half, and 36 departments were consolidated into six.

Mexic also managed to change the ministry's demographics. When the minister asked him for an American secretary, because foreign secretaries are viewed as status symbols in Afghanistan, Mexic told

him he couldn't make that accommodation but would bring an American to train his secretaries. He then pushed to bring over an intelligent, skilled and hard-working 21-year-old woman. "I wanted to, in a subtle way, show them they've got to use all their workforce, not just the bearded men," he said. "The USDA went absolutely ballistic at first." They were concerned that she was too young but eventually agreed to a two-week trial, which was then extended.

Within months, young women had taken over the supporting staff.

MARK HOLT, who at the time was working with the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service to extend the Ministry of Agriculture's presence to Afghanistan's more local levels, said that was the only instance in which he saw Mexic push the boundaries of American judgment and Afghan social mores. He said Mexic's successes resulted from his organizational and personal skills, as well as his diligence. "He knew how to bite off pieces that they were able to work with," said Holt. "I guess he had that kind of organization-development skill."

He also said Mexic took the time to forge relationships with members of the ministry. "Scott was willing to sit with them and work with them and draw it out," said Holt. "You have to sit and drink the tea and eat the melons," he said. "It's part of the culture over there." Mexic also took time with his work. The ministry was open six days a week, and, while most of the workers went home at 4 p.m., said Holt, "The minister



Jennifer and Molly Vick, directors of the McLean School of Ballet & Jazz in front of the studio.

Arts Center Closes After 50 Years

After 50 years the McLean Arts Center and McLean School of Ballet & Jazz will close its doors for the last time on June 1. A local landmark, the McLean Arts Center has been a home for the arts in Northern Virginia for many years.

The Center itself, an old-fashioned white frame building, was built in 1927 by the parishioners of the McLean Baptist Church when McLean was a rural community. It has provided a special atmosphere for those involved in creative pursuits.

In 1959 Molly Vick, a dancer, choreographer and an established ballet teacher in the area, purchased the building for a community arts center. In its new home, she created the McLean School of Ballet along with the McLean School of Art. Many professional dancers and choreographers have emerged from the McLean School of Ballet over the years, under her creative inspiration and direction.

Since its inception, the McLean Arts Center has sponsored programs in every kind of movement including Karate, Aerobics, Polish Folk Dance, Yoga, Bulgarian Folk Dance, Tai Chi, Swing Dance, Pilates and Country/Western Dancing — all this in addition to the McLean School of Ballet & Jazz.

Other groups have found a friendly atmosphere in which to flourish at the McLean Arts Center. Local theatre groups, singing groups, and a progressive "home-school" have found support there as well. The McLean School of Art was part of the curriculum for 35 years.

John Bryans, a nationally known artist, established his studio and school in the ground floor space at the Center until his retirement in 1999. A new step into 21st century for the McLean Arts Center was to establish a school of music.

SEE CHALLENGE, PAGE 9

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to vienna/mclean/greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6428. Deadline is Friday.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 28

Music Program Panel Discussion, hosted by Fairfax County Association for the Gifted. Five panel members will provide information about music enrichment options for students during the school year and summertime. 7:30 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road. Contact Louise Epstein, FCAG president, at 703-917-7960 or lepstein@cox.net, or visit www.fcag.org.

The 2007-2008 McLean Community Center Governing Board will hold its last meeting at 7:30 p.m. Immediately after the outgoing board adjourns, the incoming 2008-2009 board will convene and elect officers for the coming year. All MCC Governing Board meetings are open to the public. Those who wish to speak during "Citizen Comment" at the beginning of the meeting are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the agenda. For more information, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

MONDAY/JUNE 2

Special Education Draft Regulations public hearing with the Virginia Department of Education to discuss the Board of Education's proposed revisions. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. Contact Susan Capuano Torda at SusanTCapuano@verizon.net.

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Teaching Children To Save

Chain Bridge Bank supports financial literacy.

BY SUSANNA TISA
THE CONNECTION

Despite advances made in childhood education, skills in managing personal financial affairs remain inadequate among young Americans as they leave high school, and prepare to go to college or enter the work force. According to the Jump\$tart Coalition's 2008 financial literacy survey, high school seniors correctly answered only 48.3 percent of questions on a basic test of financial concepts, down from 52.4 percent in 2006.

Fortunately, local bankers are taking time out of their schedules to do something about it right here in the community. Chain Bridge Bank, a full-service national bank headquartered in downtown McLean, recently participated in national Teach Children to Save Day, sponsored by the American Bankers Association.

VOLUNTEERS from the bank visited Franklin Sherman and Spring Hill Elementary Schools to teach youngsters some basic principles about money.

Bank President John Brough spent the day at Spring Hill Elementary, using Bunny Money and Hamster Worksheets to demonstrate how to spend and save wisely. "The children were responsive and were learning skills they need to make smart financial decisions," said Brough. "Communities and schools teach other life skills, such as driving a car, but we don't spend enough time teaching financial skills."

Roger Vanderhye, principal at Spring Hill, was pleased that Chain Bridge selected his school for this opportunity. "Financial literacy is a very important skill that children need to learn early, reinforce often and practice in adulthood," said Vanderhye.

John Vogt is a McLean resident and senior vice president of business development at Chain Bridge Bank.

He and colleague Jenni Wheat teamed up to teach classes at Franklin Sherman Elementary. "We seriously enjoyed the experience," said Vogt. "We can overcome financial illiteracy if we work together, share our expertise, and encourage more parents, schools and community leaders to focus on the problem."

School administrators are encouraged by new School Board initiatives to bring these real life experiences into classrooms. "The lessons by the bank provided an excellent opportunity for the students to hear and learn more about banking and financial literacy," said Vicki Duling, principal at Franklin Sherman.

OVER ONE MILLION students have



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHAIN BRIDGE BANK
Chain Bridge Bank President John Brough teaching third graders at Spring Hill Elementary.



Business Development team John Vogt and Jenni Wheat conduct a third grade class at Franklin Sherman Elementary.

been taught by bankers across the nation on Teach Children to Save Day since the program began a decade ago. The importance of having financially literate students is more important than ever because, according to the ABA Education Foundation, the direct buying power of children aged 4 to 12 was almost \$52 billion in 2006.

Students wrote letters to bank staff after the event, which expressed their thanks and shared what they had learned. Spring Hill teachers Katie O'Gorman and Nancy Kenefick gathered up comments from their third-graders, ranging from "you need to save money for emergencies" and "spend money carefully," to "you have to earn your money" and "buy what you need before you buy what you want."

John Brough

"Communities and schools teach other life skills, such as driving a car, but we don't spend enough time teaching financial skills."

COMMUNITY NOTES

Send community notes to the Connection at mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Music Program Panel discusses music programs in the area for elementary through high school students. Hosted by the Fairfax County Association for the Gifted, the program features five panel members providing options for beginning to advanced student musicians. The discussion will be held at **7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28** in the Luther Jackson Middle School auditorium. Admission is free and open to the general public. For more information, contact Louise Epstein at (703) 917-7960 or visit <http://www.fcag.org>.

The McLean branch of the **American Association of University Women** will collect used books on **Saturdays, May 31, June 21, July 12 and 26** for upcoming sales, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Suntrust Bank, 515 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Gently used books, CDs, tapes and software are accepted, children's books are especially needed. No records or textbooks are accepted. Call 703-448-9195 or visit www.mcleanaauw.org.

Community Yard Sale, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean; **Saturday, May 31, 9:00 a.m.-1 p.m.**; Rain or Shine; household items, jewelry, small appliances, children's toys, CDs, DVDs, tools, decorative items, art work, small furniture, books, and much more. For Info: 703.893.4588.

Return to the era of radio studio audiences with Maxine, LaVerne and Patsy Andrews as they present the **WWII Radio Hour** to benefit Angels of Mercy **Sunday, June 1** at 4 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean.

The concert is part of the Music4McLeanConcert Series presented by Make-A-Scene Music and Entertainment to benefit community organizations. Enjoy musical theater style performance of 1940s greatest tunes with sing-along and requests from the audience. Angels of Mercy serves wounded military and their families, visit www.supportourwounded.org. All ticket holders receive a special 20 percent discount for dinner at Three Pigs Barbeque, in Langley Shopping Center, on June 1 after the concert. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased with credit card or check in advance, or with cash or check at the door. For additional questions or advance purchases, contact Stacie Steinke: 703-485-5745, or stacie@musicalentertainmentdcmetro.com

Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber Annual Golf Tournament will be held at the International Country Club, 13200 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22033 on **Monday, June 2**. Contact the Chamber Office for details, 703-281-1333 or log on to www.vtrcc.org.

The McLean Community **Summer Garage Sale** will be indoors at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., **Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** Booth space is available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$45. No commercial or routine flea market vendors are allowed at this sale, only residents selling used excess household items. The deadline to register is Saturday, May 31; visit www.mcleancenter.org/special-events or call 703-790-0123.

Co-op Play Group for preschoolers and their parents and/or guardians, **Tuesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.** at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. The Center provides a free play space for parents and/or guardians and their preschool children to interact with other parents and children in the area. Children have an opportunity to play and gain some experience socializing with other children. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

PEOPLE

Challenge of Changes

FROM PAGE 6

was often there until 10 or 11 at night, and so Scott was there with him.”

“He’s really a devoted person to the Afghan cause,” said Mohammed Usman, who was the minister of agriculture’s chief of staff while Mexico was in Afghanistan, and who now lives in Springfield. “He did a lot of work. Unfortunately, his time was a little short.” Usman said Mexico had helped to transition the Ministry of Agriculture’s policies from those of a communist, top-down, state-run agriculture industry to a more market-oriented structure.

“He built, in a short period, a lot of friends,” said Usman. Measures of Mexico’s success include the fact that the framework he had laid still remained intact, said Holt, and that the foreign donations resumed quickly.

During his time in Afghanistan, Mexico also had a near miss with an improvised explosive device (IED). On the way back from his first trip outside of Kabul, about halfway through his stay, the armored car behind his was blown up. “Ironically, that was

supposed to be my car,” he said. Members of the caravan had intended to switch cars in order to talk with different people on the way back, but had decided to postpone the swap in order to finish their conversations.

The three men in the car that was blown up — a middle-aged general, an older senior agriculture advisor and a young translator — looked relatively unharmed after the explosion, he said. However, the force of the concussion caused most of the two older men’s teeth to crumble and fractured their bones. While the senior advisor suffered brain damage and probably will never be able to work again, the

young translator made a full recovery, said Mexico. The general is doing well after 16 months in Walter Reed Hospital.

In spite of his close call, said Mexico, “I would go back tomorrow if the opportunity occurs.” He said he had been seeking the chance to return.

“It’s probably the most wonderful experience I’ve had, and the most rewarding,” he said. “I’ve done a lot of exciting things, but this was the highlight of my career.”

“It’s probably the most wonderful experience I’ve had, and the most rewarding.”

— Scott Mexico

PHOTO GALLERY!

“Me and My Dad”

To honor dad on Father’s Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your dad and The Connection will publish them in our Father’s Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what’s going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

PhotoM@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The McLean Connection, “Me and My Dad Photo Gallery,” 7913 Westpark Dr. McLean, VA 22102

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don’t send us anything irreplaceable.

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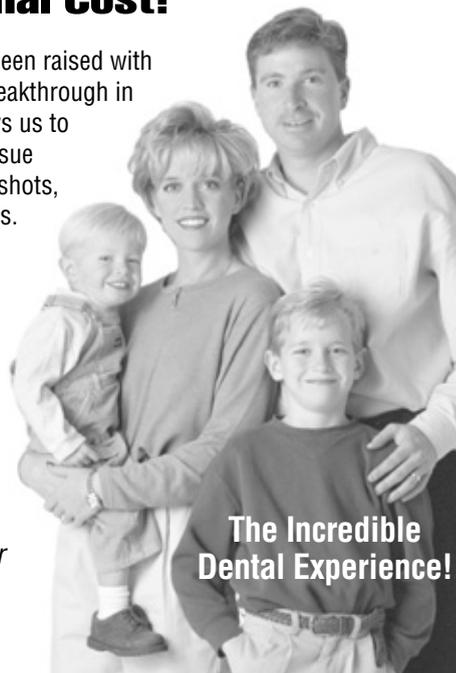
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OPINION

Silver Lining, Aptly Named

County should capitalize on rare opportunity to expand permanent affordable housing

When affordable housing advocates around the county — and around the nation — praised Gerry Connolly and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for dedicating one penny of the real estate tax to affordable housing, it was with the expectations of big accomplishments.

The one-penny fund has in fact accomplished a great deal, protecting more than a thousand units of affordable housing.

EDITORIALS Some people have been disappointed that the fund has not so far added much new affordable housing, with very few eligible families moved off of the long waiting list.

Some supervisors have responded that the fund was intended to preserve the affordable housing stock we currently have, not add to it. But with sizeable resources — more than \$20 million a year — we should expect a steady increase in the supply of long-term affordable housing.

Now comes the “silver lining.” It’s an opportunity to use the housing downturn and the increase in foreclosures to purchase more housing units at bargain prices and to assist those on a waiting list to become first time homebuyers.

The county should not make the mistake of defining this effort too narrowly.

With more than \$20 million a year, and a likelihood of two more years of increasing foreclosures, the “silver lining” could help many qualified families waiting to become first-time homebuyers and greatly increase the permanent stock of affordable housing. The one-penny fund can underwrite the purchase of scores — perhaps hundreds — of foreclosed condos and townhouses, turning them over to housing authorities and nonprofits to maintain as affordable housing permanently.

The language of the current proposals suggests that the county would purchase “up to 10” such homes. We’d rather see the county limit the amount that the one-penny fund spends on salaries and overhead, while it maximizes the number of families and individuals it can move into affordable housing.

This requires housing for families with children and efficiency apartments for individuals who are not homeless. It means buying housing that is in foreclosure and building some housing.

It requires courage and action, which Connolly and the Board of Supervisors have demonstrated. But they must be bold, and make their efforts really count.

As to those who say the county should not be in the business of buying private property, that’s a ridiculous argument. Were we to follow that theory, we would have no parks, no

protected open space. And almost no affordable housing.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM, 703-9170-6416

Call for Father’s Day Photos

Every year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grand children.

Father’s Day is Sunday, June 15, and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Father’s Day photos.

Send in photos as soon as possible, including names of everyone in the picture, the date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to include your town name and neighborhood.

We prefer digital photos, but we also accept prints. We will do our best to return hard copies of photos that include a self-addressed-stamped envelope for that purpose, but please do not send us any photos that cannot be replaced.

Send photos to The Connection, Father’s Day Photo Gallery, 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102. Or e-mail them to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com.

Print Editions Now Available on Web Site

A new feature on the Connection Web site, www.connectionnewspapers.com, allows readers to access pdf copies of the actual newspaper for each of our 18 weekly editions, plus our five monthly HomeLifeStyle sections.

This means you can download and read any or all of our papers each week on your computer. If one of your children has been featured in the paper, any relative or friend anywhere in the country can see the page exactly as it appeared in the newspaper.

All of our stories are available on line in their usual format, but this new feature allows you to see the exact pages as we print them each week, including covers, individual pages, display ads and classified ads.

Just go to www.connectionnewspapers.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tree-cutting: Preview of Things To Come

To the Editor:

I’m sorry but it is hard to believe that VDOT did not rush to clear the land across from Cooper Middle School for a staging area for HOT Lane construction before local citizens or public officials could do anything about it [“Tree-Cutting Alarms Neighbors,” May 14-20]. For those who haven’t driven by there suffice it to say it’s a jarring sight to see hundreds of trees gouged out of the ground. That drastic action sets the tone for things to come and is in keeping with how this boondoggle came about in the first place.

I remember reading about the proposal years ago and thinking that the idea was so ridiculous and unworkable that no public official would go for it. Silly me. The next thing I know an agreement was signed to build it and now construction has begun.

Supervisors John Foust and Gerry Connolly and state lawmakers were right to step in and promise monitoring of the project but more is required. It should be stopped before more abominations like that done to the land across from Cooper take place and our public officials should step up to the plate.

There are so many reasons why. As has been reported by those able to pry information from VDOT and Fluor/Transurban, the project requires demolishing and rebuilding

overpasses along the route. The full meaning of this will become clear when the Beltway turns into a parking lot and homeowners along the way are treated to years of construction mayhem and noise pollution on behalf of a private company that won’t tell us much about how they plan to run the enterprise, how much they will charge, or prove that it will benefit us.

ONE INNOVATION will apparently see some homeowners being asked to help pay for sound barriers along the widened beltway. We have learned that a promised use of the HOT Lanes by public transit will probably not be feasible until 2020 and even that will be minimal. We have also learned traffic going from the HOT lanes

into Maryland will merge with the rest of the beltway traffic at Rt. 193 just before the American Legion Bridge. To avoid a back up at the merge point, traffic volume will apparently be regulated by raising the price for using the HOT lane. Does this sound like something that will reduce traffic woes? I guess it’s acceptable if everyone suffers.

The prices for the HOT lanes will be posted and presumably drivers will have a few moments to ponder whether to get on or not. Won’t this slow traffic down? Won’t it slow down when the HOT lane is suddenly closed when traffic on it goes below 45 mph? Accessing the lanes will require a transponder to collect tolls different from EZ Pass. This could also require drivers to

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 21

THE CONNECTION

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HEALTH

Health notes are for support groups, exercise classes, blood drives and similar events open to the public at no or minimal cost. Send information to vienna/mclean/greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6440. Deadline is Friday.

The monthly peer support group for **survivors of clergy abuse** and others affected by the abuse will meet **Wednesday, May 28** at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the Tysons-Pimmit Hills Regional Library, 7684 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. This group is co-sponsored by Voice of the Faithful-Northern Virginia affiliate and meets on the last Wednesday of every month. Free, confidential, no registration required. Contact Ellen Radday at 703-538-6128.

Northern Virginia Epilepsy Group, a support group for teens and adults meets **every Wednesday** 7-8 p.m. at Falls Church High School, Entrance 1, Room 100, 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church. Free. Sponsored by the Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia, for additional information, call Dana at 703-425-6660.

Balance and Beyond. Persons with Parkinson's Disease who can walk unassisted are invited to join a balance class that meets weekly on **Wednesdays** at 1:15 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E. The classes are sanctioned by the Parkinson Foundation for the National Capital Area (PFNCA) and are led by a certified instructor of the American Senior Fitness Association. Call Cheryl Bartholomew at 703-281-1560. To register, call 703-255-6360 and specify the "Balance and Beyond" class.

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SCHOOLS



McLean High Wins Cappie Nominations

Congratulations to the cast and crew of McLean High School's production of the play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," which received multiple Cappies nominations. The Nominees include: Julia Katz, Rising Critic; Michael Robinson, Cameo Actor; Effe Rosenzweig, Comic Actress in a Play; Calvin Battle, Featured Actor in a Play; and Johnny Day, Lead Actor in a Play. Cappies awards will be held Sunday, June 8 at The Kennedy Center.



GRECO Day at Chesterbrook Elem.

A fun-filled day highlighted the learning experience of more than 70 third-graders at Chesterbrook Elementary's annual GRECO day on April 29. "GRECO" stands for Greece, Egypt, China and Other ancient cultures. Students, faculty and parents immersed themselves in these ancient cultures by dressing in costumes of these ancient cultures, and participating in activities that focused on an aspect of a certain culture, and activities and games that children of that ancient culture actually played. The students rotated through various stations including making Chinese dragons and playing ancient Chinese games, making Egyptian jewelry collars and mosaic frames, and a simulated archeology dig where the students will unearth "artifacts" such as beads, broken (paper mache) pottery and coins. There was also a tomb crawl and outdoor "Olympic" games patterned in the Greek tradition.



Langley School Holds Cricket Match

Fifth-graders at The Langley School in McLean participated in the school's 10th annual cricket match on May 21. First organized by Fifth-Grade Teacher Mark Loach, who was born and raised in England, this much-anticipated day of cricket not only teaches students the finer points of the game, but also provides them with valuable life lessons in sportsmanship, honesty, and respect for other cultures. Wearing traditional white clothing, students divided into Oxford and Cambridge teams to play first and second innings throughout the day. For the past few weeks, they spent their lunch breaks and part of their P.E. classes learning the complex cricket terminology, rules, and techniques. A morning "elevenses" refreshment break, noon luncheon featuring foods from cricket-playing nations, and afternoon cream tea capped off the day and completed the typical cricket experience.

Serene Is Presidential Scholar

Stephen Serene, senior at The Potomac School, was selected as a 2008 Presidential Scholar, one of 139 outstanding U.S. high school seniors so honored.

The 139 Presidential Scholars include one young man and one young woman from each state and the District of Columbia, as well as students chosen at-large and 20 Arts Scholars.

Stephen's accomplishments and talents span the academic, arts and athletics spectrum. He is an accomplished cellist, performing with the American Youth Philharmonic, where he is co-principal cellist, and the Youth Fellowship Program of the National Symphony. At Potomac he has performed with the strings group, chorus, Madrigals, and the Upper School musical.

Stephen has enjoyed success in track, cross country and indoor track, running his personal best 800m with a time of 1:57 at the Penn Relays April 25-26.

Stephen heads to MIT in the fall and thinks he may want to write a science column that would help inform public policy. Before he leaves he has a telescope to build for his senior project and he will play his cello at the National Symphony's Summer Music Institute.



Stephen Serene

SCHOOLS

Kelly Wroblewski of McLean High School was named a Gold Award winner in the national Scholastic Art Awards competition sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. She won a Gold Medal for her work, "Numerous Solutions."

Elizabeth Kalis of Cooper Middle School was named a Gold Award winner in the national Scholastic Art Awards competition sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. She won a Gold award for her work, "Prisoner."

Sarah Ross was honored as McLean High's Student Journalist of the Year by the Virginia High School League in recognition of outstanding efforts in the classroom and through scholastic publications.

Brittany R. Oxley of Great Falls and Katelyn R. Hill of McLean are Coastal Carolina University students who earned dean's list status for the fall 2007 semester. To qualify for the Dean's List, freshmen must earn a 3.25 GPA and upperclassmen must earn a 3.5 GPA.

Eric B. Caine of McLean, son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Caine, received highest honors for the fall semester at Phillips Exeter Academy, where he is a sophomore.



(Pictured): Megan Guberman and her mom Heidi Appel.

Figuring on 50!

Family Math Night for Grades K-3 was held on Wednesday, May 14 at Churchill Road Elementary in McLean. It was very well-attended by kids and parents all excited to play some fun math games. There were more than 15 different games and activities organized around the theme of Churchill Road's 50th Anniversary by math lead teacher, Cheryl Bamdad. Table assistants included many CRS teachers, two Girl Scouts, two eighth-graders and the sixth-grade Girl Power Club, showing the CRS community that girls, as well as boys, are great at math and have fun doing it.

Brownies Donate Cookies to Share

As area-wide Girl Scout cookie sales recently came to an end, Brownie Troop #6271 donated 61 boxes of cookies to McLean's local charity Share Inc. The cookies were collected from the troop's "gift of caring" sales, which provided customers the opportunity to buy cookies for a troop's chosen charity. Troop #6271 selected Share as their charity recipient because they hold meetings at McLean Baptist Church where Share operates its food, clothing and household items distribution. The brownies visited the space and learned about the need for food and other items right here in our community. Share, Inc. opens its doors to needy individuals and families of McLean, Great Falls, Pimmit Hills and surrounding areas every Wednesday and Saturday morning.



Troop Members of Brownie Troop #6271. (Left to right): Samantha Prestidge, Manahal Mann, Zoe Triebitz, Laura Jane Simpson, Ellie Shultz, Talia Barber, Megan Grohowski, Cayla Regas, Grace Keenan, Sara-Elise Toman, Lauren Grohowski, Kendall Robertson, Abby Covington, Emily Chewning, Lauren Herzberg, Samantha Yap, Maria Kendig, Julianna Ellison, and Emma Gamble.



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MUSIC

Outdoor Concerts Spice Up Summer

Palladium Civic Place Green in McLean offers variety of performances this summer.

BY REBECCA BAIRD-REMBMA
THE CONNECTION

Throughout the McLean, Great Falls and Vienna area, the outdoor summer concerts season is in a full bloom.

"You can sit outside, have a picnic, eat cheese and drink wine."

— Richard Beltson

This summer, McLean has two venues which host free outdoor concerts: McLean Central Park and the Palladium Civic Place Green. Although it has only existed since 2006, the Civic Place Green is committed to 25 events a year, entertaining the community with events for both children (a clown) and adults (a string quartet). Richard Beltson, one of the organizers of the concerts at the Civic Place Green, says the concerts benefit the community because "they give people a place to take their kids, be entertained. You can sit outside, have a picnic, eat cheese and drink wine." The Palladium Civic Place Green will host these free, outdoor concerts nearly every Saturday of the summer from 6 to 8 p.m.

The bands playing at the Civic Place Green this summer include a mix of music: Marshall Maley, Project Natale, The Seekers, and No Better Off. The concerts at McLean Central Park occur Sundays at 4 p.m., and the entertainers range



As part of the Vienna Summer on the Town Green performance series, the James Madison High School Jazz Ensemble performed on May 17 for area residents.

from Ocean Orchestra (celtic/rock) to Roni Stoneman (bluegrass).

In Great Falls, the Great Falls Village Centre will present Summer Concerts on the Green, Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. Located at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road, the Village Centre offers nine different concerts this summer, from the beginning of June through the end of July.

In Vienna, the concerts on the Town Green, which began in May, will continue through July and August and will include an array of musical genres, from a capella to acoustic rock to folk. "It [the Town Green] provides free entertainment for the people of Vienna ... It's local entertainment, it's convenient, easy, and free," said Cathy Salgado, director of the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department.

Bands playing in the upcoming weeks include Marshall Artz (acoustic rock and blues), Dagmar and the Seductones (roots rock), Skyline Vocal Band (a capella), the Kingsley Winter Band (original rock and roll), and Jimmy & Moondi (folk). Concerts on the Town Green take place Friday and Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. They are free and open to all ages.

Area Summer Concerts 2008

FRIDAY/MAY 30 Orlando Phillips – Vienna Town Green – 6:30 p.m.	FRIDAY/JUNE 27 Splinters – Vienna Town Green – 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY/MAY 31 No Better Off – Palladium Civic Place Green – 6 p.m.	SATURDAY/JUNE 28 Marshall Maley – Palladium Civic Place Green – 6 p.m.
SUNDAY/JUNE 1 Marshall Artz – Vienna Town Green – 6:30 p.m. Diamond Alley – Great Falls Village Centre – 6 p.m.	SUNDAY/JUNE 29 Jimmy & Moondi – Vienna Town Green – 6:30 p.m. Daryl Davis – Great Falls Village Centre – 6 p.m. The Grandsons – McLean Central Park – 4 p.m.
FRIDAY/JUNE 6 Bill Emerson and the Sweet Dixie Band – Vienna Town Green – 6:30 p.m.	SATURDAY/JULY 6 Judo Chop – Great Falls Village Centre – 6 p.m. Ocean Orchestra – McLean Central Park – 4 p.m.
SATURDAY/JUNE 7 The Seekers – Palladium Civic Place Green – 6 p.m.	SATURDAY/JULY 12 Martinez and Guthrie – Palladium Civic Place Green – 6 p.m.
SUNDAY/JUNE 8 Dagmar & the Seductones – Vienna Town Green – 6:30 p.m. Difficult Run Jazz Band – Great Falls Village Centre – 6 p.m.	SUNDAY/JULY 13 Wil Gravatt – Great Falls Village Centre – 6 p.m. Difficult Run Jazz Band – McLean Central Park – 4 p.m.
FRIDAY/JUNE 13 Annapolis Bluegrass – Vienna Town Green – 6:30 p.m.	SATURDAY/JULY 19 Project Natale – Palladium Civic Place Green – 6 p.m.
SATURDAY/JUNE 14 The Folsom Prisoners – Palladium Civic Place Green – 6 p.m.	SUNDAY/JULY 20 Jenny Boyle – Great Falls Village Centre – 6 p.m. U.S. Navy Commodores – McLean Central Park – 4 p.m.
SUNDAY/JUNE 15 Skyline Vocal Band – Vienna Town Green – 6:30 p.m. Hamburger James – Great Falls Village Centre – 6 p.m.	SUNDAY/JULY 27 Starshine Theater: A Celebration of Children – Great Falls Village Centre – 6 p.m. Roni Stoneman – McLean Central Park – 4 p.m.
FRIDAY/JUNE 20 Nitehawks – Vienna Town Green – 6:30 p.m.	SATURDAY/AUGUST 2 The Seekers – Palladium Civic Place Green – 6 p.m.
SATURDAY/JUNE 21 Dulcie Taylor – Palladium Civic Place Green – 6 p.m.	SATURDAY/AUGUST 9 No Better Off – Palladium Civic Place Green – 6 p.m.
SUNDAY/JUNE 22 Kingsley Winter Band – Vienna Town Green – 6:30 p.m.	



Alex Mitchell and Rockett perform for friends, family and community members at the Palladium Civic Place Green in McLean. Rockett comprises members of the Langley High School orchestra. Members performing in McLean included: Owen Masters, Katt Newlon, Hannah Thomas-Hollands, Nate Park and Dan Small.

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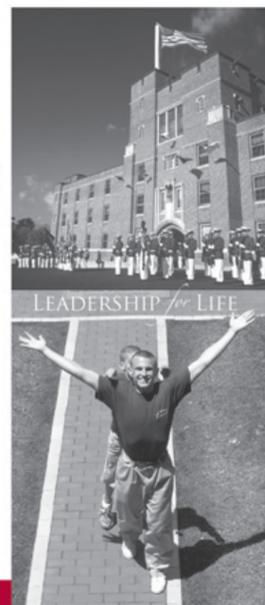
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Democrats Face Off in Primary

Candidates disagree on health care, electability at debate.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Ashburn resident Joy Maloney is definitely going to vote for the Democrat running against U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) in the general election next fall. But she is not sure who to support between the two candidates in the upcoming Democratic Party primary June 10.

"I am undecided," said Maloney after a debate between Democratic candidates Judy Feder and Mike Turner at Northern Virginia Community College's Loudoun County campus May 22.

Maloney, who wore a black "Obama" T-shirt to the debate, is familiar with both Democrats. She volunteered on Feder's 2006 congressional campaign and has worked with Turner on the Loudoun County Democratic Committee.

"If a Democrat is going to win, this is the year to do it."

— **Rosemarie Pelletier,**
Northern Virginia
Community College
political scientist

For Maloney, the most important quality in a Democratic candidate is that "they can beat

Frank Wolf."

She finds Turner more appealing "on paper" but knows that Feder has the ability to raise as much money as the incumbent does. Feder had raised \$903,850 to Turner's \$82,193 as of March 31.

"It is going to be a tough decision," said Maloney.

Feder and Turner have each claimed to be more "elect-able" during the primary campaign.

In 2006, Feder, the former head of Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute, lost to Wolf by 16 percentage points in the general election. During last week's debate, Turner, a retired Air Force colonel, said Democratic voters "could expect the same outcome" if they picked her as the party nominee again.

In response, Feder said she laid the groundwork during her 2006 campaign to win in 2008. She also touted her fund-raising abilities.

"I am the only candidate that has the resources to give Wolf a tough race," she said.

FEDER AND TURNER generally agree on issues. Both candidates op-



Congressional candidates Judy Feder and Mike Turner face each other in the Democratic primary June 10.

No Republican Debate Before Primary

Though they have made some side-by-side appearances, U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) and his Republican opponent Vern McKinley are unlikely to debate before their party primary June 10.

"He is not doing any debates," wrote Dan Scandling, a member of Wolf's congressional staff, in an email.

McKinley said there have been four efforts to get the congressman to debate his Republican opponent — including invitations from Loudoun County high school students and the Politics Hour with Kojo Nnamdi on 88.5 FM, the public radio station.

Loudoun County's Northern Virginia Community College campus and Sterling Foundation, Inc. also invited Wolf to par-

take in a debate similar to the one held between the Democratic primary candidates last week. Participation would have required Wolf to meet with some of the college's political science students for a pre-debate interview earlier in the spring.

"The congressman wouldn't agree to debate. ... I don't know why he wouldn't. Maybe he doesn't have time," said Rosemarie Pelletier, the political science professor who extended the invitation to Wolf.

According to the McKinley campaign, former U.S. Rep. Joseph Fisher (D-10) made himself available for several debates against Wolf, his challenger, in the 1970s. McKinley wishes Wolf would give his intra-party challenger the same opportunity.

pose a federal ban on gay marriage and favor developing alternative energy options. Both support withdrawing troops from Iraq and had concerns about the use of private government contractors in combat areas.

"You don't contract out military responsibilities. We need a responsible government that knows how and when to contract," said Feder.

The two also had similar criticisms for President George W. Bush's administration. The federal government mishandled its response to Hurricane Katrina because those in trouble were "the wrong color and from the wrong socio-economic background," said Turner, who previously worked for the American Red Cross.

Feder and Turner also shared in their complaints about Wolf, who they said had been ineffectual as a congressman.

"Frank Wolf ran rail to Dulles in 1980 and we are still waiting," said Feder.

THE CANDIDATES' biggest disagreement is over health care coverage.

Feder and Turner said the federal government needed to find a way to provide health

care for all Americans. But they had different approaches to achieving universal coverage.

Feder worked on expanding health insurance coverage in U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration. She said she wanted to use both a government-sponsored plan as well as private insurance companies to extend health care coverage to every American. Her plan would prohibit the discrimination against those with pre-existing conditions, she said.

"What people pay would be based on what they can afford," she said.

Turner said it is not practical to propose a comprehensive health insurance plan that included private insurance plans.

"It is impossible to do. Choice will cripple any universal health care proposal," he said.

The candidates also emphasized different solutions to the region's transportation woes. Feder said she would fight for the rail extension to Dulles International Airport as a member of Congress.

"We need to make it clear that we are part

Candidates View: Rising Oil Prices

The four candidates running for the U.S. Congress in Virginia's 10th district share their thoughts on what should be done about rising oil prices.

Democrats Judy Feder and Mike Turner face each other in a primary June 10. Vern McKinley and U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) square off in the Republican primary the same day. Voters may only vote in one of the two elections.

FEDER said the problem of high oil prices is both an immediate and long-term concern.

"We are not drilling our way out of this one," she said.

The candidate supports forming a federal watchdog group to oversee and prevent the speculative buying of oil, which she said is artificially driving up the cost of gas. Feder also said the U.S. government has to get rid of tax loopholes for oil companies.

She added that U.S. citizens need to learn how to conserve energy.

"We have got to use less," said Feder.

McKINLEY said the U.S. government should not try to control the price of oil. The development of alternative energy sources should also be left up to the world financial market and not subsidized by the federal government.

"[Corn] ethanol is a complete distortion of markets and reality," said McKinley.

The Republican supports opening up restricted territories in the United States, such as those in Alaska, for oil exploration and drilling. He wants to reassess the use of the federal gas tax and said that all responsibility for transportation — and possibly the taxing authority that supports those projects — should ultimately be shifted to the local government.

"I don't think we get our money's worth for all the [federal] transportation money we spend," he said.

TURNER said he would like to offer financial incentives to both residents and companies that conserve energy.

"It is time for Americans to alter their behavior," he said, adding that he would also look at a viable "windfall profits tax structure" — which would charge oil companies who have seen an increase the amount of money they are making.

Turner supports putting some money aside into "transitional fund" to help industries like trucking and airlines — which are more reliant on oil for survival — shift to greener operations.

The Democrat said the country must also focus on developing a robust green sector.

"This is a serious national security threat," said Turner.

WOLF said he had been supportive of several efforts to conserve energy over the years, including tax credits that may motivate individuals to act in a "green" manner.

"It is long overdue and it should have been done earlier," said Wolf, who drives a hybrid car.

Wolf said offering more mass transit options — like the extension of rail service to

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Dir.: Greenway W to exit 7, L on Ashburn Village Blvd., L at stop sign on Old Ryan Rd, R on Croson Rd. 1st R on Quail Pond, L on Crested Quail to 22020 on L.



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ON THE MENU

Velocity Five Sports Restaurant and Bar at 8111 Lee Highway in Falls Church offers American menu, featuring steaks, burgers and seafood, as well as 50 large flat screen HDTVs showing your favorite sporting event. Velocity features a live DJ and dancing nightly; Happy Hour Food Specials Monday through Friday, 5-7 p.m. and Sunday Brunch, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m..

Velocity also offers a dinner special every Thursday night – lobster: Flown in fresh from Maine, lobster serving is topped with crab meat imperial, priced at \$17.95.

Exclusive Father's Day Whisky tasting with 20% savings on Cole Haan purchases; complimentary engravings of all unopened bottles of Johnnie Walker Blue Label at Cole Haan; Tysons Galleria, **Thursday May 29, 7-9 p.m.** RSVP: 703-506-2115.

Wine Tasting featuring "summer lites" wine pairings from the Curious Grape of Arlington, Va, Thursday, May 29, 7-9 p.m. Located at Teq Corner, 1616 Anderson Road, McLean. Free parking available. Tickets are \$40 each and include eight food and wine pairings. To purchase tickets visit www.our-daily-bread.org. For more information, contact Our Daily Bread, 703-273-8829; info@odbfairfax.org.

McLean Family Barbecue. Third annual event to kick off summer. Games, moon bounce, rides, children's musicians Mr. Knick-Knack and Oh Susannah. Food and beverages available for purchase. **Saturday, May 31, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.** \$8 for children, adults admitted free. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Family Dinner and Movie Night will be held **Friday, June 6, 5:30 p.m.** at **Epiphany United Methodist Church**, 1014 Country Club Drive NE, Vienna. The evening includes a spaghetti dinner, silent auction and a family movie. All are welcome. Proceeds to benefit the Challenge Fund. For more information, call the church at 703-938-3494.

Weekly lunch and lead Tip Group meetings with the Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce to network, share leads and mingle, Tuesday and Thursday, 12:15-1:30 p.m. at Morton's, The Steakhouse, 8075 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, 703-883-0800. For information, call Harvey Silverman at 703-319-8806. To RSVP for the Tuesday group, call Harvey Silverman at 703-319-8806; to RSVP for the Thursday group call Christa Walker at 703-766-2300.



Great Falls Summer Concerts on The Green Open Sunday

This upcoming Sunday, June 1, 6-8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre kicks off what promises to be "one of the biggest concert seasons ever:" Diamond Alley, a Washington D.C.'s 5-piece Dance/Rock and Variety Group opens the traditional Summer Concerts on the Green series. This year – two additional concerts have been added so the program,

Sundays 6-8 p.m., so the concerts run until the end of July. The upcoming concerts in June include Difficult Run Jazz Band, June 8; Hamburger James, June 15; Tom Principato – King of Blues, June 22, and Daryl Davis – Hits of the 1950s, June 29. Check the Great Falls Connection calendar page for concerts' schedule.

CALENDAR

Send announcements to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6428. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 28

Ben Folds at Wolf Trap: a leading pop-music pianist returns to Filene Center for a high-energy performance, 8 p.m., tickets \$38 in-house, \$28 lawn. For tickets call 1 (877) WOLFTRAP; or online at www.wolftrap.org.

Jammin' Juniors. Children's musician Patricia Shih performs 12:30-1:30 p.m. in a free concert for ages 2-5 in McLean Central Park, at Route 123 and Old Dominion Drive. Visit www.mcleancenter.org/alden/jamminjuniors.asp.

Cartoon Johnny CD release, Euphonism. A cappella. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Call 703-255-1566 or visit www.jamminjava.com.

Nature's Crafts. Children 3-5 create crafts inspired by nature and explore the world around them. 1:45-2:30 p.m. Afternoon activities include nature hikes, meeting and observing live animals, plus songs and themed crafts. Wear sturdy shoes and clothes that can get dirty. \$7 per child, prepaid reservations required. 1:45-2:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park Nature Center, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Call 703-759-9018.

Nesting Birds. It's a busy time for birds. Find out why and then go on a naturalist-led forest walk to look for birds. Age 2-5 with adult. 10:30 a.m. at the Dolley Madison Community Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean, 703-356-0770.

Preschool Sing-Along! Sing songs with Miss Belle. Age 1-5 with adult. No registration is required. 10:30 a.m. at the Great Falls library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call 703-757-8560.

Chinese Conversation Group meets for practicing speaking the language, 7:45-8:45 p.m., Wednesdays at the group study room of the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Call 571-225-7697.

THURSDAY/MAY 29

Riverdance at Wolf Trap, Thursday, May 29 –

Sunday, June 1, 8 p.m. with matinee 2 p.m. performances on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets range from \$70 to \$20. The internationally celebrated fusion of Irish dance, song and music returns to the Filene Center stage for its eighth consecutive year. For tickets call 1 (877) WOLFTRAP; or online at www.wolftrap.org.

Book Signing. Children's author D.J. MacHale signs Raven Rise, the ninth in the Pendragon series. 6:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Tysons Corner, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Call 703-506-2937.

Catie Curtis, Edie Carey. Acoustic. \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Call 703-255-1566 or visit www.jamminjava.com.

Lunch Bunnies. Bring a snack and enjoy stories and songs. Age 1-5 with adult. 11 a.m. at the Patrick Henry Community Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna, 703-938-0405.

Book Discussion Group. James Tiptree, Jr. by Julie Phillips. Adults. No registration is required. 1 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Community Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna, 703-938-0405.

FRIDAY/MAY 30

Book Signing. Michael Covel discusses his latest release, The Complete TurtleTrader, a look at an investing story and tactics for investors. 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Tysons Corner, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Call 703-506-2937.

Riverdance at Wolf Trap, 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$70 to \$20. For tickets call 1 (877) WOLFTRAP; or online at www.wolftrap.org.

Mr. Knick-Knack performs every Friday, 11-11:45 a.m. in the Kids Play Area, level 3, AMC Theatres Wing at Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Call 703-847-7300 or visit www.shoptysons.com.

Orlando Phillips, Caribbean. 6:30 p.m. Summer on the Town Green is a free performance series. Bring chairs or blankets for seating. No alcoholic beverages are allowed. Pets should be left at home. Call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

Pokemon League. Learn and play, for ages 5-18. No registration required. 3 p.m. at Patrick Henry Community Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna, 703-938-0405.

SATURDAY/MAY 31

Great Falls Studios presents the Second Annual Spring Art Festival, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Colvin Run Historic Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Artwork created by Great Falls artists includes watercolor, oil, and acrylic paintings, pottery, photography, calligraphy, jewelry, classical drawings, and arts quilts. The River Bend Jazz Quartet performs 1:30-3:15 p.m. Admission is free. Call Linda Jones 703-442-9251 for more information.

Riverdance at Wolf Trap, 8 p.m. with matinee performance at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$70 to \$20. For tickets call 1 (877) WOLFTRAP; or

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19



Red and Black Vessel with Stamp, by Deborah McDysan, one of the artists participating in the Great Falls Studios' Second Annual Spring Festival, Saturday and Sunday, May 31-June 1.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18

online at www.wolftrap.org.

Happy Birthday to Two! Celebrating Bernstein and Bolcom recital. 8 p.m. at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna, 877-WOLFTRAP. Tickets are \$38.

McLean Family Barbecue. Third annual event to kick off summer. Games, moon bounce, rides, children's musicians Mr. Knick-Knack and Oh Susannah. Food and beverages available for purchase. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$8 for children, adults admitted free. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Community Yard Sale, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean; 9:00 a.m.-1 p.m.; Rain or Shine; household items, jewelry, small appliances, children's toys, CDs, DVDs, tools, decorative items, art work, small furniture, books, and much more. For Info: 703.893.4588.

30th Annual Yard Sale at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road in Vienna, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Household items (clothing, toys, garden tools). Space available: \$20. Call 703-759-3509.

Charity Flea Market and Bake Sale. Proceeds of the sales go toward sending 15 "missionaries" to Chichicastenango, Guatemala in July to build houses for widows and provide assistance to children in orphanages. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Rd., (703) 356-7200, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Encaustic Slide Lecture, Demonstration. Learn about the history and contemporary use of the encaustic technique and experience a demonstration by Reni Gower, VCU painting professor and curator of the current exhibition at McLean Project for the Arts, The Divas and Iron Chefs of Encaustic. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the MPA gallery at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. \$10 per person, reservations required. Call 703-790-1953 or info@mpaart.org.

Art exhibit. Thomas Xenakis returns to the TaBois-Bonhomme Galerie d'Art at the Regency at McLean, 1800 Old Meadow Road, Suite 113, **Friday, May 31**, with a series of works entitled, **Heavens**. The exhibition continues until July 5, and there will be an Opening Reception on June 6th from 7 - 11 p.m.

Riverbend River Festival. Children's activities, fishing contests, kayaking, water safety demos and more at the second annual festival. \$5 per person, children under 3 free. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Call 703-759-9018.

Sophie, the Performing Dog. Sophie, a cairn terrier, performs a show full of tricks. All ages. 10:30 a.m. at the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, 703-790-8088.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. Cosponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. Adults. No registration is required. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, 703-790-8088.

McLean Symphony. Featuring orchestra blockbusters: An American in Paris, George Gershwin; Variations on America, Charles Ives; Harlem, Edward "Duke" Ellington; Violin Concerto, Op. 14, Samuel Barber. Tickets \$25/\$20 seniors/\$12 youth (18 and under). 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center. Tickets are on sale now! To purchase tickets,

stop by the Alden Theatre Box Office, or charge by phone (703-573-SEAT) or online through Ticketmaster. For more information, call the Box Office at 703-790-9223, TTY: 711.

An Evening with The Nighthawks. Blues/roots rock. \$20. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Call 703-255-1566 or visit www.jamminjava.com.

Season Finale: American Treasures Featuring Orchestral Blockbusters. \$25, \$20 seniors, \$12 youth under 18. 7:30 p.m. at the Alden Theatre at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside



Mr. Knick Knack plays every Friday at Tysons Corner Center, 11-11:45 a.m. and the second Friday every month at Wren & Divine in McLean.

Ave., McLean. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

No Better Off. Local group playing acoustic roots music, blending in folk, rock, bluegrass, blues and country. 6-8 p.m. Free. Outdoors at the Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. 703-288-9505.

SUNDAY/JUNE 1

Great Falls Studios presents the Second Annual Spring Art Festival, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Colvin Run Historic Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Artwork created by Great Falls artists includes watercolor, oil, and acrylic paintings, pottery, photography, calligraphy, jewelry, classical drawings, and arts quilts. Admission is free. Call Linda Jones 703-442-9251 for more information.

Summer Concerts on The Green. Diamond Alley, a 5-piece Washington, D.C. Dance/Rock and Variety band performs a mix of contemporary and classic hits. Great Falls Village Centre, 6-8 p.m. Free.

Marshall Artz perform acoustic rock and blues at the Vienna Town Green, corner of Maple Avenue (Rte. 123) and Mill Street, at 6:30 p.m. Free. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. Call 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

Riverdance at Wolf Trap, 8 p.m. with matinee performance at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$70 to \$20. For tickets call 1 (877) WOLFTRAP; or online at www.wolftrap.org.

Early Summer Tour of the Potomac Valley Native Plants

at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 2 p.m. Cost: Free. Details: See this remarkable native plant collection change with the seasons and learn about the life histories of the plants. Meet at the Visitor Center. No reservations required. Contact: 703-255-3631, meadowlark@nvrpa.org

An Evening with Dan Bern. Acoustic rock. Show 8 p.m., tickets \$20. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Born 2 Dance Studio, a Vienna-based international dance school offering dance classes from around the globe, holds its first annual "Awaken The Dancer Within" show at Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermentown Road, Fairfax, 5:30-8 p.m. The show will feature dance performances by both adult and youth dance students, as well as various faculty dance companies, including Furia Flamenca (Flamenco,) X-Faction (Hip Hop,) Dhoonya Dance (Indian Bollywood,) Arrive-to-Defy (Break Dance,) as well as Born 2 Dance Studio's own dance company—Born 2 Dance Troupe (Belly Dance & Persian Dance.) Tickets, priced at \$20 for advance purchases or \$25 at the door, can be purchased online at www.born2dancestudents.com/events.html or by calling 703-242-6090.

WWII Radio Hour featuring Maxine, LaVerne and Patsy Andrews with musical theater-style performances of 1940s music with sing-alongs and audience requests. Benefits Angels of Mercy organization that serves wounded military and their families. 4 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. All ticket holders receive a special 20 percent discount for dinner at Three Pigs Barbeque, in Langley Shopping Center after the concert. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased with credit card or check in advance, or with cash or check at the door. For additional questions or advance purchases, contact Stacie Steinke: 703-485-5745, or stacie@musicalentertainmentdcmetro.com.

MONDAY/JUNE 2

Golf Tournament with the Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber at the International Country Club, 13200 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy., Fairfax. Contact the Chamber Office for details, at 703-281-1333 or info@vtrcc.org, or visit www.vtrcc.org.

Keaton Simons, Will Dailey, The War, Josh Hoge. Show 7 p.m., tickets \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com

Jeremy Enigk (of Sunny Day Real Estate), Damien Jurado. Indie rock. Show 8:30 p.m., tickets \$18. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com

THURSDAY/JUNE 5

The Role of the Media in the 2008 Presidential Election: Beth Frerking, Senior Editor, Politico and Politico.com, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Embassy Suites Hotel/Tyson's Corner - Chancellor Room, 8517 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Sponsored by Independent Public Relations Alliance. This program is open to the public, you can register at info@ipralliance.com. The cost of the program (with lunch) is \$25 in advance (before Friday, May 30); \$30 at the door (cash only). The buffet luncheon includes a beverage and gratuity. Contact: info@ipralliance.com

Natalia Zukerman, Meg Hutchinson. SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

OFTC Fiiyyaah Ball!



Friday **June 6**, from **7-10 p.m.** OFTC will welcome rising 7th-graders to their first Friday Night Dance, the Fiiyyaah Ball! Drinks, food and entertainment will be provided.

Admission to this event is free.

The Old Firehouse Teen Center is a satellite location of the McLean Community Center.



For more information, contact:

1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean VA 22101
703-448-8336 (TEEN) www.mcleancenter.org

3rd Annual McLean Family BBQ

Saturday, May 31 • 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

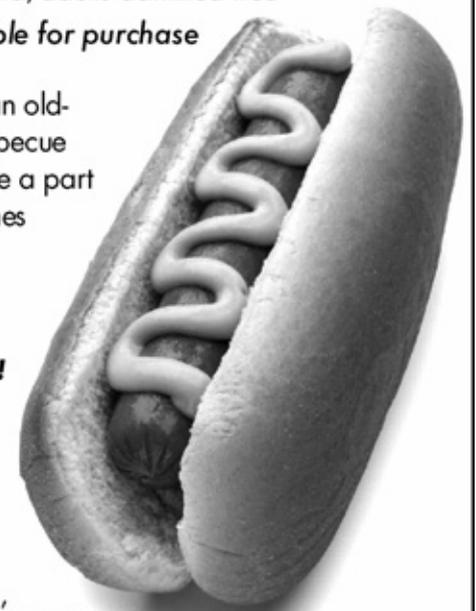
\$8 per child; adults admitted free

Food will be available for purchase

There's nothing like an old-fashioned family barbecue to kick off summer! Be a part of the fun, food, games and entertainment.

Performances by:

- Mr. Knick Knack!
- Reptiles Alive
- Oh Susannah!



For more information, call **703-448-8336**, TTY: 711.



McLean Community Center 703-790-0123, TTY 711
1254 Ingleside Avenue, McLean VA 22101
Sign up for E-mail Updates: www.mcleancenter.org

McLean Community Summer Garage Sale

Saturday, June 7 • 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Indoors at the McLean Community Center

Activity No. 2002.180

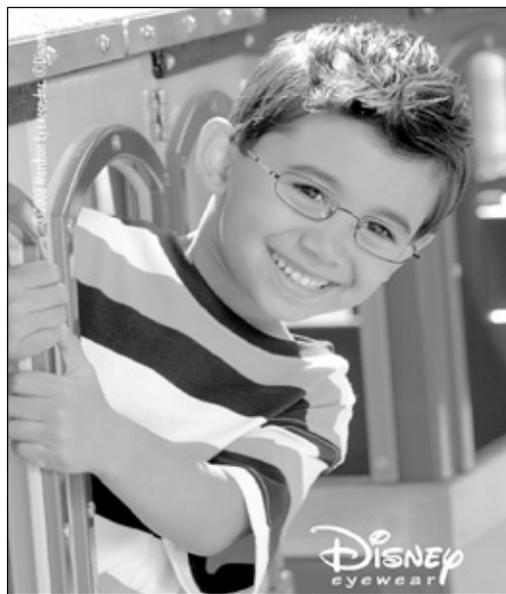


Rent a booth space to sell your items!

Spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$45. Only individuals selling used excess household items allowed. Spaces go quickly, so please register early to get the best choices! Call 703-790-0123 TTY: 711



A McLean Community Center Event
1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean VA 22101
Sign up for E-mail Updates: www.mcleancenter.org



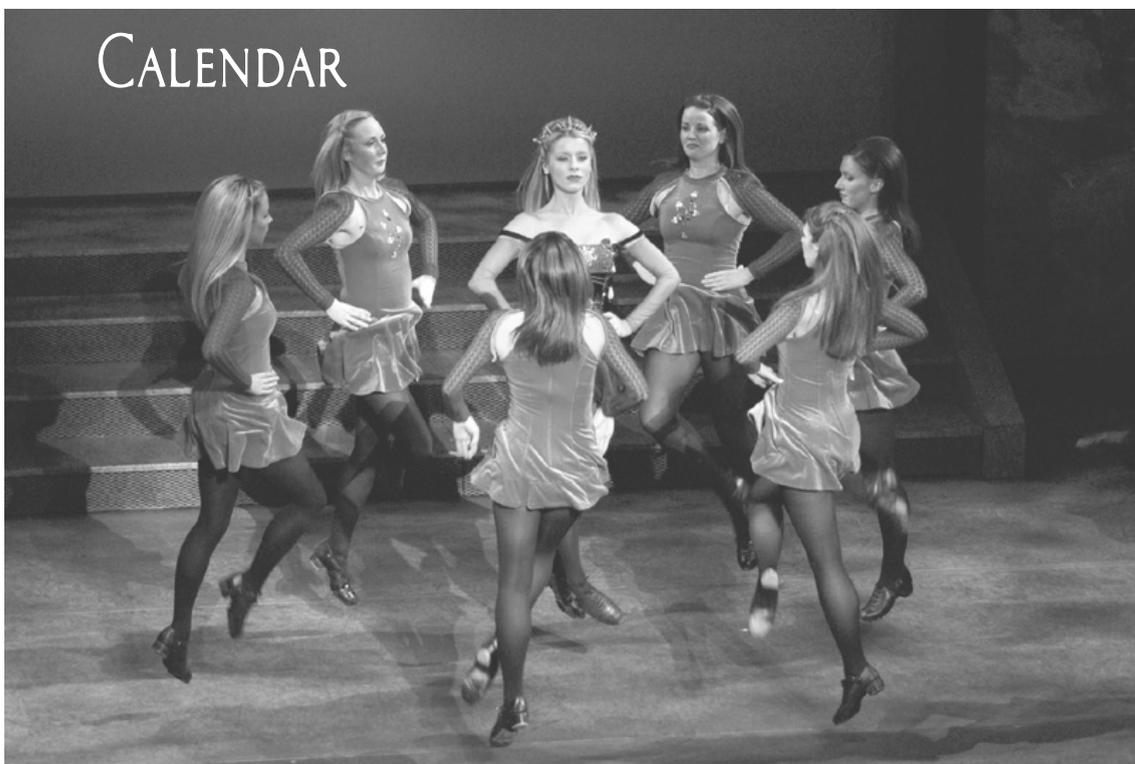
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CALENDAR



FROM PAGE 19

Acoustic. Show 8 p.m., tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or

FRIDAY/JUNE 6

Bill Emerson and the Sweet Dixie Band perform at the Vienna Town Green, corner of Maple Avenue (Rte. 123) and Mill Street, at 6:30 p.m. Free. Bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. Call 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

Organ Recital with James David Christie, the first American recipient of the International Organ Competition. 8 p.m. at St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Free-will offering. Call 703-356-0670 or www.musicinmclean.org.

Classic 60s Rock. Show 6 p.m., tickets \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com

The Laser Beam Team, Black Irish, Bo Jankans, T.A.M.U., Thad Reid, Deuce Ya Hynest. Hip-hop. Show 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Poco. 8 p.m. at the Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna, 877-WOLFTRAP. Tickets are \$40/in-house, \$25/lawn.

SATURDAY/JUNE 7

Potomac Falls Music holds 4th biannual Student Concert at 2 p.m. at the Grange Hall, 9818 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls. With more than 100 students of all ages from the Potomac Falls, Ashburn, Reston, McLean and Great Falls areas, the student concerts are a real show of local talent. Free – open to the public.

Third Annual Laytham Paintout. Competing artists will paint in oils, acrylics, pastels, and watercolors from 5 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St. The public is invited to attend to see the artists at work; the paintings will be available for purchase two weeks later. Call Jack Warden at (703) 437-9681 for more information.

The Seekers. A "classic rock" cover band. 6 to 8 p.m. at Palladium Civic Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Call (703) 288-9505.

Morning at the Movies charity event to help fund the monthly melanoma support group by the Life with Cancer organization. This year's presentation includes a screening of the animated film "Kung Fu Panda"

at 9 a.m., with a morning snack bar offering bagels, donuts, coffee and juice available at 8:15 a.m. when the doors open. At the Lee Highway Multiplex, 8223 Lee Hwy., Merrifield. Hosted by the Ashley Fister Cole Foundation, visit www.ashleyfistercofoundation.org or www.lifewithcancer.org.

Introduction to Beekeeping at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost: Free. Details: Join beekeeper Mary Ellen Kirkpatrick in the Visitor Center to learn about honeybees, their basic biology, what they eat and why, and the importance of bees in pollination. Hear about beekeeping equipment and the woodenware that make up a hive. Get a close look at the honey bees in each of their life stages in the observation colony during this free drop-in program. Contact: 703-255-3631, meadowlark@nvrpa.org

Used Book Sale. A special collection by the Friends of the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. 703-790-8088.

Art to the Rescue! Pet adoption, animal art, book signing, and shopping – all to benefit the animals helped by Friends of Homeless Animals. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at The Artful Gift Shop at 145B Church St. NW in Vienna. All are welcome! Please visit www.artfulgiftshop.com or call 703.242.1220 for more details.

Classic 60s Rock. Show 6 p.m., tickets \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com

The Ron Holloway Group. Jazz, blues, funk. Show 7 p.m., tickets \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

moe, Rusted Root. 6 p.m. at the Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna, 877-WOLFTRAP Tickets are \$32/in-house, \$28/lawn.

Dreaming of Eden, The Common Threat, Celebrity Gunfight. Rock. Show 10 p.m., tickets \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

The Fairfax Saxophone Quartet holds a benefit performance at Oakton Church of the Brethren at 4 p.m. The program, "FSQ on Broadway," will include the music of Irving Berlin, Leonard Bernstein, George M. Cohan, George Gershwin and Cole Porter and feature guest artist Amy LaCivita on piano. No tickets or reservations are required. Donations will be accepted for NOVACO (Northern Virginia

Coalition), which provides housing and other services to homeless victims of domestic abuse. This concert is part of Oakton Church of the Brethren's concert series celebrating the 300th anniversary of the denomination. The church is located at 10025 Courthouse Road in Vienna. Call 703-281-4411 or go to www.oaktonbrethren.org.

Book discussion and signing. World renown children's author Phillip Pullman discusses and signs his newest release, *Once Upon A Time In the North* and best selling classic, *The Golden Compass*. Recently more widely known for the movie adaptation of *The Golden Compass*, Pullman has written more than 18 books, including the award-winning trilogy, *His Dark Materials*. Adults and children welcome. 2 p.m. **Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 7851 Tysons Corner Center, 703-506-2937**

Summer Concerts on The Green. Difficult Run Jazz Band. Great Falls Village Centre, 6-8 p.m. Free.

Dagmar and the Seductones, roots rock. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., 703-255-6360

Christopher Williams, Chuck E. Costa. Acoustic folk. Show 7 p.m., tickets \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

MONDAY, 9 JUNE

Sue Walls Carousel Puppets present Spring Fling. 2 p.m., Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., 703-255-6360

TUESDAY, 10 JUNE

Just Surrender, The Morning Light, Every Avenue, You Me and Everyone We Know. Rock. Show 6:30 p.m., tickets \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY /JUNE 11

WD Miller Band headlines at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E., Vienna. Call 703-255-1566 or visit www.jamminjava.com
Louisiana Swamp Romp: The Wild Magnolias, Pine Leaf Boys, Balfa Toujours, Nathan & The Zydeco Cha Chas. 2 p.m. at the Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna, 877-WOLFTRAP. Tickets are \$25.
Trisha Yearwood. 8 p.m. at the Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna, 877-WOLFTRAP. Tickets are \$40/in-house, \$22/lawn.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

take their hands off the wheel to make any adjustments that are necessary.

Then there's the revenue, the majority of which will go to a private company. Virginia taxpayers will share in the revenue but we're not allowed to know exactly how much or when. The information is proprietary and not subject to the Freedom of Information Act. That pays for the road but what about the impact on the public. We've already seen the Balls Hill Road debacle. Yes, traffic can be bad on the beltway but will construction of privately owned HOT lanes compensate us for the years of traffic chaos and construction? Is there a cost/benefit analysis of all this? And does anyone think the project will be completed on time? Does the Springfield interchange ring a bell? And we're still paying more than \$400 million of the expected construction bill.

MANY MAY REMEMBER the project in Maryland that widened I-270. I remember it because I sat daily in bumper-to-bumper traffic trying to get from my home in Great Falls to my workplace in Rockville. After thousands sat in

traffic with me here for years can anyone see an equal amount of improvement? Traffic still backs up to Tysons and beyond just about every night. Add to that hundreds of cars coming off the HOT lane and you can guess the result.

Then there's the secrecy surrounding the negotiation of terms for the project. What do opponents of the no-bid agreement for construction of the rail to Dulles think of this? We don't know the terms of favorable federal loans that Fluor/Transurban is getting, we don't know how toll revenue will be collected and we don't know how infractions will be treated.

This project should have been stopped a long time ago but many of our public officials are skilled at keeping projects under the radar until it's too late for anything other than a lawsuit. If that's what it takes fine.

At the very least VDOT should be required to put the home telephone numbers of everyone involved in approving this mess on signs posted along the construction route. That way when I'm driving on the beltway to my mother's house in North Springfield I'll have a sympathetic some-

one to talk to. Then I'll ask my mother to call them.

Arthur Kingdom III
Great Falls

Redefining 'Character'

To the Editor,

Let me see if I understand the value of moral character in our society. Dr. Martin Luther King suggested that people should be judged by the content of their character. Apparently Congress views an assessment of this essential life skill an important component of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Yet, the Fairfax County School Board, is seeking other ways to measure the success of students, instead of moral character, because the results didn't coincide with the dream of some activist groups. Maybe it's time to change the definition of "moral character" to match a characteristic behavior every student can achieve. Gold stars for everyone!

Gene Phillip
Great Falls

Tireless Champion

To the Editor:

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf deserves to be re-elected to serve us in Congress and that is why I am voting for him on the June 10 Republican Primary.

Congressman Wolf has been a tireless champion for Northern Virginia's transportation needs in Congress. As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, he has been instrumental in numerous local transportation improvement projects. From bringing mass transit out the Dulles corridor to improving I-66 and the Beltway, Congressman Wolf has gotten real results that benefit us all.

Besides his work on helping relieve local gridlock, Congressman

Wolf has been a champion in Congress on improving our nation's competitiveness. I work for a high-tech company and know our growing need for employees skilled in math and science. Congressman Wolf worked to significantly increase funding for K-12 math and science education programs. He authored legislation to provide interest-free college loans to math, engineering, and science majors. These are exactly the kind of actions our country needs for us to be competitive in the global economy.

Congressman Wolf is a man of principle and action. Please join me in voting to re-elect Congressman Wolf on the June 10 Republican Primary.

Todd House
Falls Church

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor, The Connection
7913 Westpark Drive ♦ McLean, Va. 22102
Call: 703-917-6444. ♦ By fax: 703-917-0991.
By e-mail: info@connectionnewspapers.com

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FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to mclean @connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

The **Institute of Catholic Culture** presents several upcoming programs at **Saint John the Beloved Catholic Church**, 6420 Linway Terrace, McLean. For more information, call 703-504-8733. **Thursdays, May 29 and June 5, 7:30 p.m.:** Byzantium, from Glory to Schism with Dr. William Marshner. **Tuesdays, June 10 and 17, 7:30 p.m.:** Friendship, the Art of Happiness with Dr. John Cuddeback.

Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road in McLean, is holding a Charity Flea Market and Bake Sale on **Saturday, May 31, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.** The church is raising money to send 15 "missionaries" to Chichicastenango, Guatemala from July 20-27 to build houses for widows and provide assistance to the children in orphanages. The proceeds collected from the flea market and bake sale will go directly toward this adult mission trip.

Churches Connected for Community Care will be hosting the first annual **Family Wellness and Spiritual Revival Forum** on **Saturday, July 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** The forum will address such issues as Spiritual Wellness, Physical Wellness, Economic Wellness, Wholeness of Life Family Ministry, Spiritual Revival for the Soul, and Pillars of Christian Life. Vendors will be present to discuss and distribute literature on the topics. **Oakton High School auditorium**, 2900 Sutton Rd. To register call (703)

The **Baha'i community of McLean** holds a weekly fireside, a meeting of discussion, devotion and fellowship, at 7500 Box Elder Court in McLean, beginning at 8 p.m. **every Friday.** The fireside is an opportunity to learn about the Baha'i faith and why Baha'is find hope in a seemingly hopeless world. Call 703-556-3400.

English classes. McLean Baptist Church is offering free conversational English classes on **Mondays.** Classes include beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Advanced electives are Literature, U.S. Government, World Religions, and current events. There is no cost for the class or registration, however students must buy their own books. Classes begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at noon. New student registration begins at 9 a.m., until Oct. 30. McLean Baptist Church is located at 1367 Chain Bridge Road. Call 703-356-8080 or visit www.mcleanbaptist.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, located at 1830 Kirby Road in McLean, invites all to come for the **Third Sunday Service** every month at 10:15 a.m. This service allows the children to play active roles during the service, particularly in the music and as greeters and ushers. In addition to the Third Sunday Service, traditional services take place every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. Nursery is available at the 10:15 a.m. service. Call the church office at 703-356-7533 with questions.

Excellent Living, a radio ministry for women of all ages and stages, will sponsor a program for women **Saturday, June 7, 10 a.m.-noon** in Community Room C at McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Tysons Corner. Cheryl Martin, the host of Excellent Living, will speak on "A Woman of Distinction" during this time of encouragement and fellowship. The event is free, but contributions are welcome. Contact tanya@excellentlyliving.org or 703-615-6588.

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Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic... 703-979-5580
St. Ann Catholic Church... 703-528-6276
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See Ad at Left

Church of Christ

Arlington Church of Christ... 703-528-0535

Church of God-Anderson, Indiana

Church of God... 703-671-6726

Churches-Episcopal

St. Andrew Episcopal Church... 703-522-1600
St. George Episcopal Church... 703-525-8286
St. Johns Episcopal Church... 703-671-6834
St. Mary Episcopal Church... 703-527-6800
St. Michael's Episcopal Church... 703-241-2474
St. Paul Episcopal Church... 703-820-2625
St. Peter's Episcopal Church... 703-536-6606
Trinity Episcopal Church... 703-920-7077

Churches Lutheran(ELCA)

Advent Lutheran Church... 703-521-7010
Faith Lutheran Church... 703-525-9283
German Lutheran Church... 703-276-8952
Resurrection Lutheran Church... 703-532-5991

Churches Lutheran(Missouri, Synod)

Our Savior Lutheran Church... 703-892-4846

Churches-Nazarene

Arlington First Church of the Nazarene... 703-525-2516

Church-Brethren

Church of The Brethren... 703-524-4100

Churches-Baptist

Arlington Baptist Church... 703-979-7344
Cherrydale Baptist Church... 703-525-8210
First Baptist of Ballston... 703-525-7824
Mt. Zion Baptist Church... 703-979-7411

Churches-Baptist-Free Will

Bloss Memorial Free Will Baptist Church... 703-527-7040

Churches-Presbyterian

Arlington Presbyterian Church... 703-920-5660
Church of Covenant... 703-524-4115
Clarendon Presbyterian Church... 703-527-9513
Little Falls Presbyterian Church... 703-538-5230
Trinity Presbyterian Church... 703-536-5600
Westminster Presbyterian... 703-549-4766

Presbyterian Church in America Churches

Christ Church of Arlington... 703-527-0420

Churches-Unitarian Universalist

Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
703-892-2565

Churches-United Methodist

Calvary United Methodist... 703-892-5185
Community United Methodist... 703-527-1085
Clarendon United Methodist... 703-527-8574
Cherrydale United Methodist... 703-527-2621
Mt. Olivet United Methodist... 703-527-3934
Trinity United Methodist... 703-356-3312
Walker Chapel United Methodist... 703-538-5200

Churches-United Church of Christ

Bethel United Church of Christ... 703-528-0937
Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ... 703-538-4886

Synagogues-Conservative

Congregation Eitz Hayim... 703-979-4466

Synagogues-Orthodox

Fort Myer Minyan... 703-863-4520
Chabad Luvavitch of Alexandria-Arlington
... 703-370-2774

Synagogue-Reconstructionist

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State Champions

Panthers garner girls' lacrosse title.

On May 17, The Potomac School Panthers' girls lacrosse team defeated the Cape Henry Dolphins, 18-11, to capture the Virginia Independent Schools Div. II state championship. The title game contest took place at the University of Richmond.

Potomac School opened the tournament with a strong win over Nansemond Suffolk Academy, 18-6, on May 14. Two days later, the Lady Panthers faced the Covenant School (Charlottesville) in the semifinals. The Panthers won that game, 21-9, with 12 different players attributing to the tally. Ryan O'Shea, a junior, led the pack with eight goals and one assist. The Panthers dominated draw control with 19 and ground balls with 23.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

That round of four win, which took place on the Richmond campus, put Potomac School into the finals against Cape Henry. It marked the third year in a row in which the Panthers have faced the Dolphins for the state championship. Potomac won in 2006, 13-8, and Cape Henry won last year, 15-13.

Last week's finals contest was a highly emotional game for both teams. The Panthers came out strong with junior Izzi Conner scoring first.

The two rivals traded goals for the rest of the first half, making it 7-5 Potomac at the half.

Opening the second half was a beautiful draw control by Panther freshman Charlotte Morris that led to an assist to junior

Catherine Kahl.

Potomac School eventually built a 9-5 lead before the Dolphins stormed back to tie the score at 9-9 with 20 minutes to go.

But then the Panthers took over for good. They dominated draw control. Meanwhile, junior goalie Caroline Schmidt and the Panthers' defense held Cape Henry scoreless over the next 15 minutes.

With a few key subs and fresh legs from junior Elyse Marriott and Morris (4 goals and 1 assist), the Panthers rallied together. The second half charge was led by senior Claire Donegan, who had seven goals and two assists for the day. The Panthers tallied nine goals in that 20 minutes to the Dolphins' two, ending the game at 18-11. The Panthers never trailed the entire game.

For Potomac School, the entire tournament was a team effort. The Panthers had 68 ground balls, 31 forced turnovers, and 50 draw controls. In the three state playoff game wins, the Lady Panthers outscored their opponents, 57 to 26, with 17 different players scoring and assisting.

Sophomore Maddy Fabiani and O'Shea led the team in draw controls. Senior captains Donegan and Emily Sesno both led the team to victory through ground balls, transition and strong team defense. Donegan ended the tournament with 21 points (13 goals and 8 assists), O'Shea had 18 points (15 goals and 2 assists) and Kahl had 11 points (9 goals and 2 assists).

First year goalie Schmidt had a 50 percent save percentage and helped lead the team to victory, as well as the defensive unit, made up of Donegan, Sesno, Fabiani, junior Phillips Mitchell, junior Lydia Hires, sophomore Hanna Rocks and freshman Jessica Parker.

The Lady Panthers are graduating two seniors and have eight rising seniors. The team hopes to carry the momentum of the state championship into 2009.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Marshall High boys' soccer team finished with an impressive 9-5-3 record this spring. The Statesmen, coached by Ricardo Silva, earned a region playoff berth by defeating Woodson in a first round Liberty District tournament game. Marshall lost to Jefferson in the district semis, then lost to Lake Braddock, 2-0, in a first round region playoff affair on May 20.

The McLean Premier Soccer program, within McLean Youth Soccer, will hold tryouts for two WAGS teams as follows: Friday, June 6, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at Capital One South; Monday, June 9, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at Springhill Elementary Lower No. 2; Friday, June 13, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at Capital One South. For more information about MPS and directions to the fields, go to www.mcleansoccer.org.

Please wear a white shirt, bring water, wear shin guards, and come early. For more information, call John Guidi at 703-585-4353 or go to guidij@saic.com.

The rising U10G McLean Spirit, ranked No. 5 in Virginia, invites athletic, competitive girls born between Aug. 1, 1998 and July 31, 1999 to their tryouts. Come learn soccer in an exciting, fun, competitive environment. The MYS girls soccer program is ranked No. 1 in Virginia. For more information, contact Coach Stephanie Donaldson at 703 868-0325.

Registration is now open for McLean Youth Soccer's Premier Soccer Academy Summer Camp for youngsters ages 5 to 16. Players from MYS and other clubs are invited to register for weekly sessions offered June 16 through Aug. 15 at Lewinsville Park in McLean. For more information, go to: www.mcleansoccer.org Questions: please email admin@mcleansoccer.org or call the MYS office (703) 506-8068.

Goalkeeping training available with University of Michigan Club Soccer goalkeeper and former four-year varsity starting goalkeeper at Langley High School. Flexible schedule and reasonable rates. For more information, email Kathleen at kccllem@umich.edu or call 703-585-8557.

Fairfax Adult softball will continue its support of the Special Olympics by participating in a golf tournament on Monday,

June 9 at the Heritage Hunt Golf Club in Gainesville Va. All proceeds from the tournament will go to Fairfax County Special Olympics.

All donations will be greatly appreciated. For those who have any questions or would like to make a contribution, call Tom Chakeres at 703-502-8108.

The Herndon Braves summer collegiate team will sponsor a baseball camp

at Herndon High School for four weeks this summer beginning June 23 for girls and boys ages 7 to 14. Each camp will last four days and run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with an option for early drop-off and/or late pick-up. Camp cost is \$150 if paid before June 1. Instructors include Braves coaching staff, Herndon High coach Al McCulloch and collegiate players from the Braves. Go to herndonbraves.com to register or call 703-973-4444 for more information.

The Northern Virginia Football Officials Association (NVFOA) is seeking new members for its 2008 training class who can become on-field game officials and electronic clock operators for games at the youth, middle school, and high school levels throughout the Metropolitan area. NVFOA is the sole supplier of football officials to all high schools in the Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Loudoun, and Fauquier. It also supplies officials to numerous private schools in Northern Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. For those who have the time to commit, NVFOA has the resources to teach and develop football officials. NVFOA seeks men and women who have reached the age of 18 and who have a desire to be a part of the most exciting and popular scholastic game in America. Information and application forms are available at www.NVFOA.com, or by contacting commissioner Dennis Hall by phone at 540-837-1316 or by email at commissioner@nvfoa.com.



PHOTO COURTESY/MCLEAN HIGH ROWING

The McLean High women's junior four boat competed at the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Championships a few weeks ago on the Occoquan at Sandy Run Regional Park.

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PHOTO BY ROBERT MERHAUT

Nearly 150 mothers and daughters celebrated Mother's Day at Tysons Corner Center on May 8, by assembling more than 600 wellness bags for Life with Cancer's patients. This Step Out Step Up event was part of a nationwide effort where Tysons Corner Center joined 64 sister shopping centers across the country and created more than 30,000 wellness bags for women cancer patients.

Mothers, Daughters Help

Tysons Corner Center launched its partnership with the national non profit Step Up Women's Network — a membership organization dedicated to strengthening community resources for women and girls.

The Center kicked off this partnership with its first "Step Out Step Up" event, where nearly 100 local women helped assemble 600 wellness bags for Life with Cancer. These bags included a range of fash-

ion, beauty and other feel-good items from Lucy, The Picture People, Modern Day Spa, Crystal Light, Ibema, Ann Taylor and Marmi at Tysons Corner Center — each with a handwritten, inspirational note from the woman who assembled the bag.

It was all part of a one-day effort by Tysons Corner Center and 64 sister shopping centers throughout the country to create more than 30,000 wellness bags for women facing the challenges of cancer.

Disagreeing over Health Care

FROM PAGE 16

of the Washington region," she said. Turner focused on other ideas — like providing incentives for businesses and federal government to have employees work in shifts, 24 hours per day and seven days per week. He also said the region needed to convince businesses to locate in outer suburbs, instead of closer to Washington.

Turner also suggested that the government offer an incentive for people willing to purchase a global position system, which would help them choose the most efficient

driving routes.

THE 2008 ELECTION offers Democrats the best opportunity to defeat Wolf, said Rosemarie Pelletier, a political science professor at Northern Virginia Community College. Former Gov. Mark Warner, the Democratic candidate for Virginia's open U.S. Senate seat, will be a strong anchor for others running on the ticket, she said.

"If a Democrat is going to win, this is the year to do it. If they can't do it now, I am not sure when, how and if they could do it," said Pelletier.

Candidates Express Views

FROM PAGE 16

Dulles International Airport — will help keep gas prices lower. He said the federal government also needs to investigate wind power, solar power and burning coal cleanly.

"We need research with regard to clean coal technology. We are the Saudi Arabia of coal," said Wolf.

The United States needs to look at open-

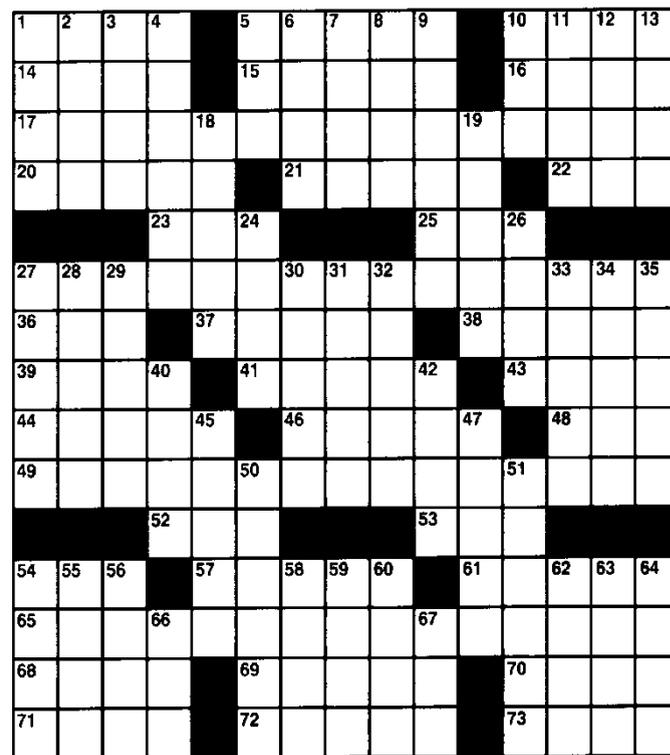
ing up domestic sources of oil for drilling, albeit in a more environmentally friendly way, according to Wolf. The congressman said China and other countries are already looking into drilling for oil off the shore of Cuba, an oil reserve that extends to Florida's coast.

"I think you have to look at the domestic energy sources that you have," said Wolf.

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0310-6



Puzzle by Wesley R. Johnson

ACROSS

- 1 Center of an old-fashioned roast
- 5 Old Jewish scholars
- 10 Kid
- 14 Fully fit
- 15 Coin being replaced by the euro
- 16 Got down
- 17 What boxer #1 did
- 20 Got up
- 21 More wily
- 22 Political grp. since 1854
- 23 Umbrella part
- 25 Launch of 1986
- 27 What boxer #2 was
- 36 Slice of history
- 37 "— so right!"
- 38 "Li'l" guy
- 39 Othello's betrayer
- 41 Dishonest sort
- 43 Actor Morales
- 44 Bloodhound's guide
- 46 "A Garden of Earthly Delights" author
- 48 Pipe joint
- 49 What boxer #2 then had to do
- 52 Late Cabinet Secretary Brown
- 53 White House souvenir
- 54 Draft org.
- 57 Schiller's "— Joy"
- 61 Swindler's name, possibly
- 65 What the boxers and fans now do
- 68 "What a shame!"
- 69 Certain fur
- 70 Say — (deny)
- 71 "— No Angels" (Bogart flick)
- 72 Studio stock
- 73 "Go ahead!"

DOWN

- 10 Boxer's move
- 11 Designer Cassini
- 12 Forage holder
- 13 Start of a Web site address
- 18 Uplift
- 19 Writer Jong
- 24 Ringside responses
- 26 Boxer's wear
- 27 Franklin, religiously
- 28 Spinachlike plant
- 29 It's made at fights
- 30 Like some sentences
- 31 Trick's alternative
- 32 Moor
- 33 Remove stitches from
- 34 Football Hall-of-Famer Greasy —
- 35 Bird's sound
- 40 — about (near)
- 42 Hoard
- 45 — a kind (pair)
- 47 Recipe direction
- 50 Protected from the elements
- 51 Back from flying
- 54 "Pygmalion" dramatist
- 55 Only
- 56 Practice in the ring
- 58 Art Deco name
- 59 London's — Gallery
- 60 Hurler Hershiser
- 62 Classic Langston Hughes poem
- 63 Play opener
- 64 Whisky amount
- 66 Opp. of WNW
- 67 E.M.T. destinations

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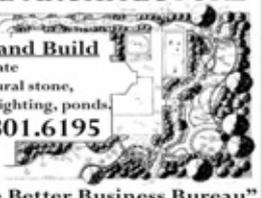
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An optimist is a guy that has never had much experience.
- Don Marquis.

Makes Sense To Me



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As the price of oil goes up, up, up, my ability to maintain my "normal" lifestyle (what there is of it) goes down, down, down. The collateral damage to the international, national, local and extremely local (meaning my house) economies caused by oil's continuing price escalation continues to cascade onto a multiplicity of other goods and services. Aside from all the obvious energy-related industries and products, the price of food, more so even than merely the transporting of it to market, is being felt up and down the food chain; from seeding and planting to growing to harvesting to packaging; the pressure, the pain is more than simply at the pump. And ultimately all this discomfort will be passed along to the consumer as reflected in many of the products available for sale at your local supermarket.

What are we consumers to do? Do we pay more to eat less? Or do we try, somehow, to eat more while paying less? I have chosen the latter. Who wouldn't prefer to pay less while eating more? I definitely do and so too does a co-worker of mine. And how do I know this? I know this because I was asked to do something — with her — that hurts no one, yet could help the two of us and the families we consumer advocate for, really significantly. The question asked of me was if I'd be interested in exchanging — with one another — our unused manufacturer's coupons ("Red Plum," "Smart Source," "Walassis," "PG," etc.) typically inserted into the Sunday newspapers.

As many of you know, presumably, there are dollars — and some cents — in them th'ar editions. And those dollars can be well spent, especially if they (the coupons) are for products (and to a much lesser degree, services) that one would be buying anyway, and multiples of, if you had the cash flow and/or the storage to accommodate the overflow. And since these manufacturer's coupons are usable only once, having seconds and thirds in hand could allow a consumer to buy in a more modest bulk than they might otherwise buy; without adversely affecting the family's budget disproportionately, shall we say, to all the other demands on those very same dollars.

Given the fact that such "couponing" has always been a consuming passion of mine, I was delighted to receive the offer, and flattered as well. So delighted in fact, that I neglected to tell my co-worker that I will have two complete sets of these same Sunday coupons to hand over as I already have a similar arrangement with my mother. (She really can't be bothered clipping coupons anymore. I clip them for her, however, and use them for either one of us, as the case may be. Subsequently — and quite coincidentally — I later learned that my co-worker likewise has already been exchanging coupons with her mother, too.)

And so it appears, that at the end of the day (or night) the two of us will have tripled/quadrupled our cache of coupons. All of which means that the two of us will be spending significantly less money on food/household products/pet supplies, etc., this summer/fall than we would have otherwise, thereby enabling our respective families to have a bit of extra money. And who couldn't benefit from a bit of extra money? (Other than Exxon/Mobil, Shell, Chevron, Gulf, BP, etc., that is.)

Moreover, given the recession/non recession-type lack of growth that our national/local economy is experiencing it would seem to be extremely prudent and practical planning to maintain a similar lack of growth as concerns our own personal costs of living and so our coupon exchange has begun.

If the Federal Government's supply and demand, laissez-faire-type attitude with respect to the price of a barrel of crude oil persists, then I have limited other options, practically speaking, other than to coupon exchange. Nor can I worry about whether these ends will justify the means. I only know it's a means to an end.

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

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