

# McLean CONNECTION Theater Under Stars

NEWS, PAGE 14

The evil Queen Gulinda, played by Sophia Leon-Raney of Bethesda, faints in the arms of the Eunuchs Luke Duffy and Sawyer Flint in the Traveling Players' performance last Friday at Madeira School in McLean.

## McLean High Pursues Dreams

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## Keeping Rail On Track

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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

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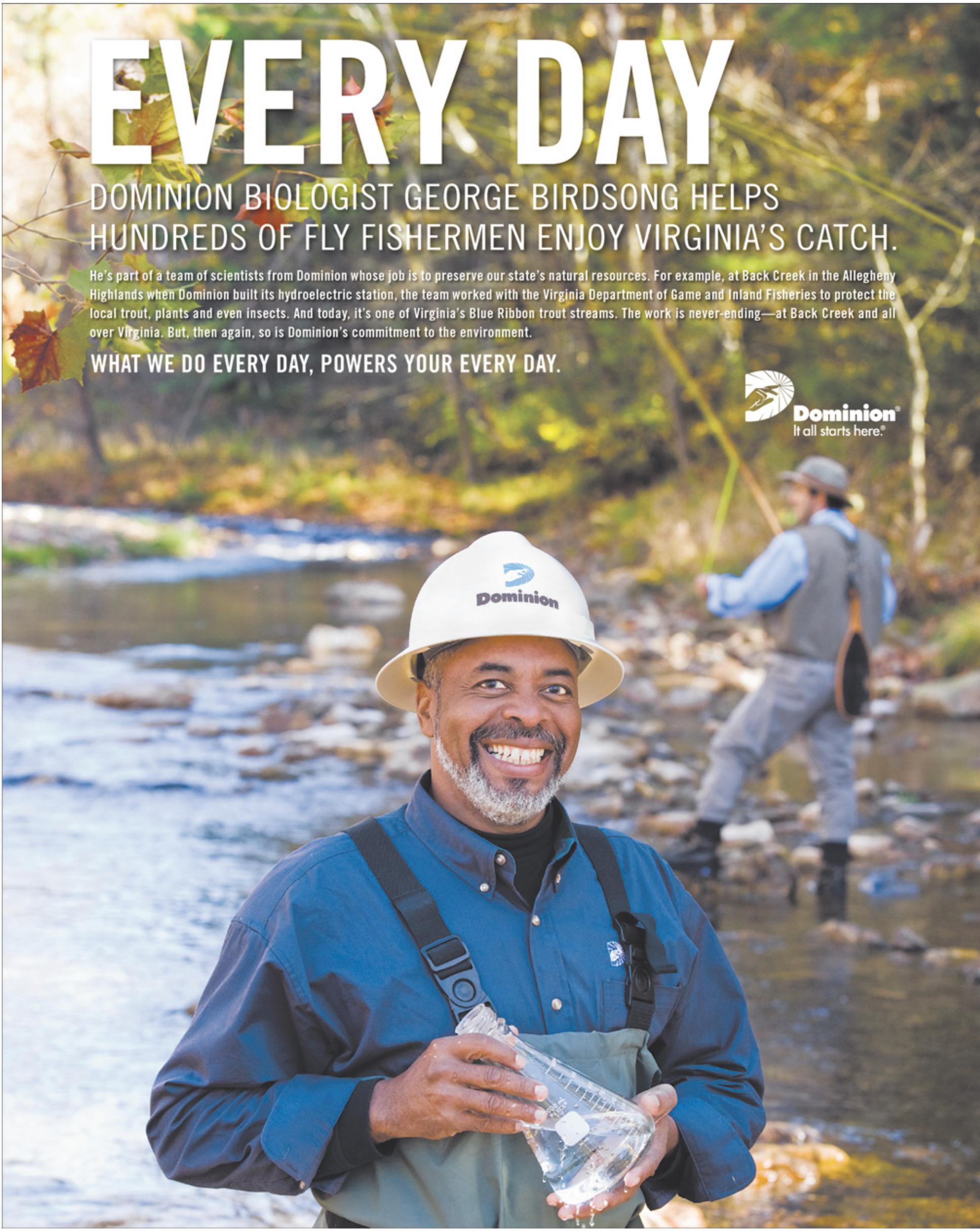


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RENDERING COURTESY OF WASHINGTON AIRPORTS TASK FORCE

The future Tysons West metro station, at the corner of Route 7 with Spring Hill Road.



**Matthew J. Ragone,**  
Principal,  
Langley High  
School

BACK-TO-  
SCHOOL Q&A

## Langley High Aims Higher

**'One of the best years' poses challenge, inspiration.**

**M**atthew J. Ragone, who became Langley High School principal in May this year, replacing the retiring Bill Clendaniel, emphasizes maintaining the school's academic excellence as the greatest challenge in the new school year.

**Q: What do you consider the single most important news for your school community in anticipation of the new school year?**

**A:** Langley High School, in terms of academic achievements, had one of the best years in its history last year (07-08). How we will top that success will be the single most important challenge of the coming school year.

**Q: Any new academic programs, initiatives?**

**A:** We do not have any new programs or initiatives in the coming year. It is very important for the new principal to see the current system in action before working with the faculty to examine what works, what needs refining, and what, if any, programs need to be dumped or established.

**Q: Changes in personnel?**

**A:** We have a new Assistant Principal, Jessica Statz from Lee High School. She replaces Rob Sanders who was promoted to be the South County Associate Principal. Most other changes, due to retirements or people moving, have been typical of past years. A few new faculty for next year.

**Q: Number of students?**

**A:** We will have about 2,100 students for the 08-09 school year. Though, that number changes daily during summer registrations. A little higher than last year, but not by much.

**Q: Important days in the fall school calendar?**

**A:** Homecoming is the week of Oct. 14-18. The football game vs. South Lakes is on Oct. 17.

# Keeping Rail on Track

**Rail to Dulles advocates redouble efforts to ensure federal funding.**

BY MIRZA KURSPAHC  
THE CONNECTION

**W**ith the construction contract renegotiated at the end of July, Rail to Dulles advocates are preparing to submit the paperwork requesting full funding of \$900 million from the federal government for the extension's completion. They are calling on continued advocacy from area's political and business leaders, to ensure the federal funds are granted.

"Nothing in our democracy is accomplished without a strategic vision that is able to capture broad support," said Norman Mineta, a former U.S. Secretary of Transportation, addressing area leaders and rail advocates at a luncheon that focused on the future of the Dulles Corridor on Wednesday, Aug. 6.

James Bennett, president and CEO of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), said the renegotiated contract



PHOTO BY MIRZA KURSPAHC/THE CONNECTION

**U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) discusses the future of Dulles Corridor at Wednesday's luncheon dedicated to the topic.**

with Dulles Transit Partners, coupled with the federal approval for the project to move into final design, were all positive indicators. The construction of the extension is now planned to start next March. However,

Bennett said, it is not a certainty that the federal government will release all of the \$900 million for the project. Bennett called for continued advocacy to get the money.

"We haven't secured it yet," said Leo Schefer, president of the Washington Airports Task Force. "And it is fairly fragile," he said. "If we have people who want to rock the boat, we'll have to work even harder."

**THE RENEGOTIATED** contract with Dulles Transit Partners schedules the construction of Phase I, to Wiehle Avenue in Reston, from March 2009 to July 2013 at the cost of \$1.6 billion. The new contract, said Bennett, provides certainty for the schedule of the project's construction, as well as its cost.

Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), an outspoken critic of the initial contract with Dulles Transit Partners, said he has not had a chance to review the renegotiated contract. However, he said, fundamental concerns exist, including the lack of bidding on the project and some open-ended issues, including costs for sub-contracting. "I suspect I will continue to have these concerns," said Foust. He said the contract seems to be "the best deal we

SEE RAIL, PAGE 13

# Classroom Communities

McLean resident, principal bring Responsive Classroom to Fairfax County.

BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

When Judi Hershman saw online that there was federal money available to train teachers in the Responsive Classroom teaching approach, she didn't dawdle. The McLean resident called the researcher at the University of Virginia who had won a three-year, \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education and asked if Fairfax County could be the subject of her study. She was told that the county had been eyed for the project but that the team had settled on the Chicago school system.

That was around the middle of last year. Right now, teachers at 13 Fairfax County schools are receiving Responsive Classroom training through the federal grant for the second year in a row. Teachers at 11 other schools will soon receive training as well.

After talking to UVA, Hershman, a former president of the Longfellow Middle School PTA and cofounder of the Safe Community Coalition, went to Kent Gardens Elementary School principal Robyn Hooker. A number of Fairfax County schools were using Responsive Classroom techniques to varying degrees, and Kent Gardens was among those at the forefront.

"Nobody really knew anything about this program being offered by UVA," said Hershman.

**THE OFFER** was to train the third-, fourth- and fifth-grade teachers at 13 elementary schools and observe their classrooms, as well as the same grade levels at 11 other schools, said Sara Rimm-Kaufman, the researcher and associate professor of education at UVA who is heading the project. The 11 "comparison" schools will receive training later. About \$1 million will be spent on training alone.

Rimm-Kaufman said she had wanted to work with Fairfax County because it was a "very smooth-running district" with "a high degree of professionalism" and a commitment to its school environment. "I've collaborated with a number of other districts and I'll take Fairfax any day," she said.

As an education and psychology researcher, she said, she was interested in studying Responsive Classroom because it was an approach that sought to integrate social and academic progress, rather than sacrificing one for the other. The methodology was created by a group of teachers in the 1980s. Rimm-Kaufman had led a "less rigorous" study on the approach in 2001 and turned up results that were compelling enough that she wanted to do more in-



From left: Kent Gardens Elementary teachers Laura Allen, Camille Galanes-O'Neill and Stacey David have been using Responsive Classroom techniques in their classes.

## Online

To learn more about the Responsive Classroom approach, visit [www.responsiveclassroom.org](http://www.responsiveclassroom.org).

depth testing.

"I think it holds a lot of promise for teachers," she said. "The teachers feel very empowered. That's what our data say."

The children are also empowered. They help make the class rules, she said, and they have a say over what they'll do during the day. She offered as an example a history lesson in which students might have a choice of which historical character they wanted to study and whether they wanted to do it by writing a letter, drawing a picture or writing a paper. Each child would choose his or her activity, and after the lesson, they would discuss their work.

**EACH DAY** begins with a morning meeting that includes input from every student, through a greeting, a sharing time, games and other activities, and a rundown on the day ahead. Rimm-Kaufman said the meeting is designed to be fun but orderly, "and it brings out a really nice side of all the children."

Also, she said, "The discipline is very proactive and really strives to create a caring environment." For example, she said, if one student tore up another's paper, the student would have to recount what he or she had done and what it meant to the classmate whose paper was destroyed. "And how are we going to mend this paper, and how are we going to mend this person's feelings?" said Rimm-Kaufman. "The scale is really tailored to the problem itself."

Training includes a week-long intensive session followed by coaching and another session the following year, she said, noting, "It's really hard to change the way teachers behave."

Hershman and Hooker, both enthusiasts of the program, approached Deputy Super-

intendent Richard Moniuszko, who then began courting UVA. When the university's deal with Chicago fell through, Fairfax County was positioned to become the test case.

"Responsive Classroom is an excellent program," said Moniuszko. "It is one that's aligned with what we want to do as a school system." He noted that one of the three basic goals set by the School Board was the development of "essential life skills." And here was a program that combined such behavioral skills with academics.

**THE REASON** more teachers hadn't been trained, said Moniuszko, was that training was costly. "So it's really a win-win for us and for UVA."

Third-grade teachers received training through the grant last summer, while fourth-grade teachers are currently in training and the fifth-grade teachers will follow next year.

Hooker said a few Kent Gardens teachers had been trained before the study began. Currently, she said, about 10 or 12 of the school's 80 teachers have been through the intensive course, largely due to monetary support from the PTA, and they all have had some exposure to Responsive Classroom techniques and put them into practice.

She said she, too, had been impressed by the fact that a program of behavioral routines appeared to be able to boost math skills. "It's just a good practical approach," she said. "It's almost like a basketball player. It's great to have defensive skills, but you have to have offensive skills too."

This year, Kent Gardens intends to host in-services for parents on Responsive Classroom, said Hooker.

"I've been using it for three years and it just makes such an incredible difference in my classroom," said Kent Gardens fifth-grade teacher Laura Allen, who has been

## Major Delays Along Parkway

From Aug. 8-11, Aug. 15-18, and Aug. 22-23, drivers may find one lane of the George Washington Memorial Parkway closed from Fridays at 7 p.m. through Mondays at 5 a.m. due to repaving of the asphalt surfaces of the inbound and outbound ramps at the interchange for the Central Intelligence Agency in Fairfax County. No construction work will be done during rush hours, and one lane in each direction will remain open at all times. Electronic message boards and construction signs will remain in place to alert drivers of expected lane closures.

The planned completion date for all work is Aug. 23. However, weather delays may require adjustments to the schedule. Every effort is being made to minimize traffic delays and accomplish the work in a timely manner.

## Open Session On MCC Budget

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center (MCC) is inviting residents of Dranesville Small Tax District 1A to a Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole, an open work session on the Center's FY 2010 budget.

The work session will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 3, at the Center, which is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue. Residents who wish to speak at the work session are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to have their names placed on the speakers' list.

MCC is supported by a real estate tax paid by Dranesville district residents. Board committees have been working to develop recommendations to finance Center programs and events for FY 2010, which begins July 1, 2009 and ends June 30, 2010. These recommendations will be presented to the full board and interested citizens at the meeting that will be chaired by the board's Finance Committee.

Details of the proposed budget will be available for inspection at the center and on the center's Web site, [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org), beginning on Monday, Aug. 25.

A public hearing on the FY 2010 budget and the regular monthly meeting of the Governing Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 24. For more information, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

## Children's Center Receives Grants

The Falls Church-McLean Children's Center received three grants to benefit its low-income pre-school students. The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation awarded \$30,000; the Freddie Mac Foundation awarded \$25,000 and the Fairfax County Consolidated Community Funding Pool committed \$30,000 a year for the next two years.

SEE GUIDED, PAGE 12

NEWS

# Date Set for Task Force Report

Chair will lay out group's overall vision for the future of Tysons Corner.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

After three years of meetings, the Tysons Land Use Task Force is attempting to distill its vision of the future of Fairfax County's leading business district into a 10-page summary document by Sept. 22.

Task Force chairman Clark Tyler will make a presentation to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on the group's broad outlook of Tysons Corner redevelopment next month. Fairfax County chairman Gerry Connolly (D) had grown impatient with the Task Force, stating, in July, that three years was enough time to come up with some conclusions for Tyson's redesign.

The Task Force has been expected to generate a plan — with boundaries and regulations — for Tysons' redevelopment that should determine how each land parcel should and could be used in the

**State Sen. George Barker (D-39) and chair Clark Tyler lead the Tysons Land Use Task Force.**

future. Several Tysons Corner area landowners, including some of Connolly's major political contributors, are frustrated at the pace of the group's progress.

If the Task Force fails to produce a plan soon, some community members fear Tysons landowners will move ahead with development projects they can build by right, instead of opting for the more transit and pedestrian-friendly plan coming from the Task Force.

"There are a lot of landowners that are ready to do something."

SEE TASK FORCE, PAGE 7

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## PEOPLE

# Writer of Happy Endings

Barbara Brooks Wallace shares stories about her life and her books.

BY CORINNA PAN  
THE CONNECTION

She wears man shirts, watches “American Idol” and “Seinfeld” reruns, and makes people laugh. And she is famous, too.

Recently featured in a July UCLA Alumni Newsletter, Barbara Brooks Wallace is an accomplished children’s writer, currently living in Vinson Hall in McLean.

Having been compared to the Harry Potter series author J.K. Rowling, she is the author of “Peppermints in the Parlor,” a children’s book. She has won multiple awards — including two Mystery Writers’ Edgar Awards — for her writing, and her books have come alive in different media forms: a recording by Angela Lansbury, a television special, a musical performance on stage, and an e-book.

**“I won’t write a book that doesn’t have a happy ending. I love humor.”**

— Barbara Brooks Wallace

**BORN IN CHINA** to a Russian mother and an American father, Wallace did not have a typical American childhood. “Bobbie,” as Brooks Wallace likes to be called, and her older sister grew up with amahs — Chinese caretakers — and spent summers in Beidaihe, a Chinese resort. After attending a British American school in China, Wallace enrolled at Pomona College for one year before transferring to UCLA, graduating with a major in international relations.

Wallace says that she regrets her major, having chosen it “because I figured I’d go overseas and have adventures and write about them,” and wishes that she had started writing earlier. She recalls at Pomona, a professor had once recommended that she venture into writing, telling her that her writings were “the quality of The New Yorker.”

“But as I’ve told everybody ... if I had gone that route, I wouldn’t be here talking to you today. ... You know how life takes these

### BUSINESS PEOPLE

To have business notes listed, send to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mclean@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**Pam Long** has joined the LeapFrog Solutions, Inc. (LFS), a full-service strategic marketing communications firm, as Account Director. In her position, she will serve as a senior project manager lending her more than 20 years of marketing experience to the agency’s growing roster of government, technology and professional service firm clients.

“As our growth continues I am confident that Pam’s experience will play a vital role in ensuring we provide the most targeted marketing strategies and tactics based on sound knowledge of our client’s



Barbara Brooks Wallace’s books reflect her experiences and the places she has lived.

turns? I probably would’ve been someplace else.”

It was not until her son Jimmy was in kindergarten, that her sister reminded her about what her

professor had said to her about writing. Living in California at the time, Wallace started a creative writing course at Santa Monica College and then was taken in as a private student by a professor there.

“I was in my 30s when I started writing which is why I’m so old,” jokes Wallace.

Her love of the English language is obvious during the interview. “I sometimes think I should have become an editor because I love words,” she said. “You know, it’s something you’re born with. I can just see when it’s said wrong.”

**HER BOOKS** reflect the different places and experiences Wallace has lived in and through, her first children’s story — which was never published — having been inspired by her time in China.

Although she calls her first children’s story “dreadful,” she says, “It got me hooked on the idea of writing for children, and then I did never want to do anything else. That’s how I started.”

She says that Sugar Hill Hall in her novel

business goals and objectives,” said LFS President and CEO Lisa Martin. Long’s background includes project management and creative development for several worldwide corporations including TMP Worldwide and Phoenix Creative Group. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Advertising from Radford University.

**Paula Birth** has been named Director of communications and media practice for Acumen Solutions, a business and technology consulting firm. Birth is responsible for market expansion within the cable industry. Birth has more than twenty years of experience in telecommunications and media companies. Most recently, she was director of sales operations for

“Peppermints in the Parlor” was inspired by a guest house in San Francisco. “Inside is what you call decayed elegance,” she said. “It was a boarding house for young people.”

Some of her other books like “Claudia” were inspired by her son and his young playmates’ childhood experiences. Her Victorian mysteries were mainly inspired by Charles Dickens, one of her favorite authors.

Wallace has a deep admiration for her mother, describing her mother’s story as “more fascinating” than her own. Wallace’s mother was born in Russia to poor parents, but eventually made her way into the an acclaimed medical school in China to become a nurse.

A self-described “chatty Cathy,” Wallace is a young-hearted spirit, with a great sense of humor. She says, “I won’t write a book that doesn’t have a happy ending. I love humor.”

At Vinson Hall, she continues to write and has even started a small writing group called WordWeavers. In addition to being a writer, she enjoys being a grandmother to two granddaughters.

Many of her books are available online at Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Pat Carson, a former Alpha Phi sorority sister at UCLA of Wallace, says about her close friend, “She’s a very exceptional person in many ways. And I’m very proud of her.”

Comcast Business Services where she was responsible for all sales infrastructures and operations across five regions in the eastern division. Prior to Comcast, Birth held a variety positions, including at Mediacom Communications of New York, Charter Communications, PenTeleData and C-TEC Corporation. Birth also founded P-Squared Solutions, LLC, a professional consulting firm specializing in business development, sales, marketing, integration, management, and data communications. Birth received her bachelor of science in business administration from Alameda University in Idaho. She serves on an executive committee of the Cable Telecommunications Association for Marketing and is a member of Society of Cable and Telephony Engineers and Women in Cable.



PHOTO BY TOM NASH/CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Del. Margi Margi Vanderhye (D-34<sup>th</sup>) standing in front of the Virginia Capitol in Richmond.

## Vanderhye Honored

Del. Margi Vanderhye (D-34) has been named a “Legislative Hero” by the Virginia League of Conservation Voters in the 9th Edition of the Legislative Conservation Scorecard, earning a score of 100 percent. The publication rates individual legislators on a series of important conservation votes cast during the 2008 General Assembly session

“I’m honored to be recognized by the League,” said Vanderhye. “Environmental issues are crucial to the quality of life for my constituents in McLean, Great Falls, Herndon, and Vienna.”

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters commended forty other Virginia legislators with 100 percent scores, writing in the scorecard, “these legislators deserve a special show of support for their hard work, integrity, and dedication to environmental concerns.”

“Extra credit” was also issued to legislators who patroned conservation-friendly bills that VALCV supported. Delegate Vanderhye sponsored the House version of the greenhouse gas reporting bill and also got bills passed to extend the Virginia Sales Tax Holiday to include water saving appliances and to require utility companies to inform their customers about purchasing electric power from renewable energy sources.

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters serves as the nonpartisan political action arm of the state’s conservation community. VALCV works throughout the session to inform the legislators and the public about legislation affecting the environment.

“The Virginia League of Conservation Voters is committed to providing an accountability tool for environmentally concerned voters in the form of an annual Legislative Conservation Scorecard,” said Lisa Guthrie, Executive Director of the Virginia League. “Citizens care more about how their legislators vote on important conservation bills than whether they have a partisan R or D behind their names.”

## Who’s Who

Find out more at [www.valvc.org](http://www.valvc.org)  
Other area legislators who were rated 100 percent by the Virginia League of Conservation voters include: Del. Ken Plum (D-36) Del. Steve Shannon (D-35) and Del. Jim Scott (D-53).

CONTRIBUTED

NEWS

# Task Force To Report On Sept. 22

FROM PAGE 5

There is whole pile of pent up interest," said Stuart Mendelson, former Dranesville supervisor and Task Force member.

**MOST** of the Task Force agreed with Tyler and Mendelson. All 26 of the group's members attending its Aug. 11 meeting voted to move forward with the report to the supervisors in September.

The Task Force expects to present a short summary of the group's work and conclusions as well as Tysons Corner's "area wide plan text," which should govern approximately what density and uses would be allowed in the business center.

"It is very important that we have area wide plan text," said Tyler.

The Task Force also intends to incorporate a George Mason University study on transit and infrastructure needed to sustain Tysons' growth – which will come out in September – into the supervisors' report, said Tyler.

A draft of the Task Force's summary report does not give any specific numbers on the density that would be permitted in the new urban center. The most detail provided is a statement about the number of Tysons' jobs increasing from "110,000 today to as much as 200,000 at the end of the 30-year planning horizon."

In another statement, a draft of the report states that, "this needs to be balanced by building housing for up to 100,000 residents compared to 17,000 today."

Tyler said a new "review and drafting" committee of the Task Force – chaired by Sen. George Barker (D-39) — would tackle planned development of Tysons Corner after the Sept. 22 presentation. This committee may also determine where certain concentrations – such as an entertainment and arts area – would be placed in the new urban center.

Even without much detail yet, Alexander said he is pleased the Task Force is moving forward with a report. He said it has been difficult for the public to respond to proposals discussed by the Task Force since the group had not made many definitive decisions about what to recommend.

"Those [increased density proposals] scare me ... But it is hard to respond until they get a report out there," said Alexander.



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## Watch for Motorcycles (and Bikes and Peds)

More people are walking, bicycling and biking; let's be careful out there.

There are so many good reasons to get out of your car. Gas costs a fortune. Traffic is nearly unbearable. The weather is beautiful. Bicycling and walking are good exercise. Driving less reduces pollution and is better for the environment.

Particularly as gas prices soar, many people are turning to their two-wheeled friends, be it bicycle or motorcycle, for lower cost transportation.

Motorcycle sales have spiked, quadrupling in recent years with more than a million motorcycles sold in 2006.

But bicyclists and motorcycle riders are vulnerable on the roads. Motorcycles are sometimes hard to see in traffic, and drivers of larger

vehicles must be on the lookout.

Since June, there have been at least eight motorcycle fatalities in the Washington area. Last weekend, a 26-year-old Centreville man was killed when he lost control of the 2001 Honda motorcycle he was riding, according to police reports.

In 2007 there were 2,601 motorcycle crashes which resulted in 126 deaths and 2,284 injuries in Virginia.

For motorcycle riders, the keys to survival are wearing an approved helmet and protec-

tive clothing, taking safety courses, practicing in a controlled setting and riding defensively.

For drivers of larger vehicles, allow a motorcyclist plenty of room, including the full width of a lane, and more following distance. A motorcycle can stop faster than a car. And motorcyclists may need to react quickly to road and traffic conditions such as potholes, gravel, wet or slippery surfaces, pavement seams, railroad crossings, and grooved pavement — road conditions which are minor annoyances to cars pose major hazards to motorcyclists.

EDITORIAL

### Justin Spring, Bronze Medal

Justin Spring, 24 and a graduate of Lake Braddock, helped lift the U.S. men's gymnastic team to an Olympic bronze medal on Monday night (Virginia time) in Beijing.

Spring had exceptional performances on the high bar and parallel bars.

His triple somersault for his dismount from the high bar brought elation to his teammates. NBC changed plans to televise the team competition as it became clear that the U.S. expectedly had a shot at a medal. But here at the Connection, we think any local

that makes the Olympic team is worth watching, with or without being in contention for winning a medal.

In early July, when he was named to the team Spring spoke with Connection reporter Eric Gilmore:

"The only way I can explain it is that I love my life right now," Justin Spring said. "It's been a dream come true."

We'd guess that's all the more true today, and that many, many local people can share in his success.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Need Further Analysis

To the Editor:

Your editorial ["Seeking More Diversity at TJ," Connection, July 31-Aug. 6, 2008] demonstrates a lack of understanding of the key difference between TJ and the base high schools.

All Fairfax County high schools offer advanced (AP or IB) math and science classes. All Fairfax County high schools provide students with opportunities to participate in science fairs. However, only TJ offers a multitude of post-AP math and science classes and related co-curricular activities for students who want to go far beyond the normal high school math and science programs.

It makes no sense to reserve seats at TJ for students whose needs can be met at their local high schools just because they live in certain neighborhoods or belong to certain racial groups. Under the admissions process proposed in the editorial, more students who would take advantage of unusually advanced TJ math and science options would be denied that opportunity because they are from "overrepresented" groups.

As a long-time TJ parent and volunteer, I have seen first-hand how TJ students who excel in math are far more likely to take advantage of TJ's most advanced offerings in math and science. TJ students with weaker math skills often seek out the easiest ways to satisfy TJ's math and science requirements, and gravitate towards activities available in all high schools, such as the yearbook, student paper, student government, and sports.

The Connection's editorial assumes that students who enjoy science in elementary school will become "leaders in math or science" even if they don't have good test scores. There is no proof for that assumption. In fact, research suggests the opposite is true.

Before Fairfax County revamps the TJ admissions process yet again in search of diversity, Fairfax County should gather, analyze and publish data — including middle and high school math test scores — regarding TJ graduates who majored in math, science or engineering, versus TJ graduates who majored in non-STEM subjects such as journalism, business, or history. The results of that analysis should be more important than the percentage of TJ students from "underrepresented" groups.

Louise Epstein  
McLean

#### Stealing Symbols Of Free Speech

To the Editor:

Apparently there are people in our community who do not believe in one of the most precious freedoms citizens of the United States of America enjoy: freedom of political expression; a right that millions of people around the world do not enjoy. I gave my neighbor an Obama yard sign, this week it was stolen. Not only did the thief impinge on my neighbor's First Amendment right to free speech, he stole my neighbors' property. And, because I purchased the yard sign I am out of pocket the amount it cost me. Nevertheless, I will purchase a new

sign to replace the one stolen. That is how passionately I feel about our right to freedom of political expression. Luckily, every purchase of a yard sign benefits the Obama campaign — the more yard signs are stolen and then replaced by supporters, the more funds go to the Obama campaign. I am extremely disappointed that this happened in my community. Some of my neighbors have McCain yard signs. I would never dream of going onto their property and stealing these yard signs.

Cecilia Kalish  
McLean

#### 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:

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McLean, Va. 22102  
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## BACK TO SCHOOL Q&A

# McLean High Pursues Dreams

Opening theme 'Mission Possible: Make Dreams Real.'

**M**cLean High School Principal Deborah Jackson, discussing the challenges for a new school year, stresses the school's dedication to "high levels of achievement" and a new focus on "9th grade transition model."



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

**Q: What do you consider the single most important news for your school community in anticipation of the new school year?**

**A:** On Sept. 2, 2008, approximately 1,788 students will enter McLean High School with a myriad of needs and achievements. This year's opening theme, "Mission Possible: Make Dreams Real", is based on the premise that

**Deborah Jackson, McLean High School Principal, says the school aims to raise achievement levels for all its students.**

is informative and anxiety-free, our school has scheduled Thursday, Aug. 28 for our First Annual Freshmen Fling. During this event, 9th graders will become familiar with the campus; meet with their assigned trained upperclassman mentor, counselors and staff; purchase highlander spirit gear; sign-up for club and activities; and receive class schedules. The freshmen will also participate in several get-to-know-your-school activities; and attend the first home football game (McLean vs. Annandale). The freshmen fling is one of the two orientations designed to give freshmen a jump start on their freshman year. Participation in both of these events will assist in easing the start of their high school career. Parents are also invited to attend a parent meeting hosted by the principal; dine with other new families catered by Outback Steak House; and then, attend the game with students.

### Good News on Orchestra

Principal Deborah Jackson said she just received good news about several McLean High orchestra students.

"The National Symphony Orchestra Summer Institute, a four-week international festival of orchestral and chamber music for young musicians, with students from many different states and three foreign countries, this summer had four McLean students in their midst: Nick Smith, a rising senior, Lauren Hunt and Anna Odell, who graduated a year ago, and Sarah Dickson, a graduate this past June. This is a testament to the quality programs at McLean and to the work done with the McLean High School Orchestra under the direction of veteran teacher Gretta Sandberg," said Jackson.

The school district will be focused on a number of goals for the 2008-2009 school year. Paramount among these will be the division's continued emphasis on the new strategic goals and school plan. This year, all Cluster 1 schools — to which McLean belongs

— will be asked to specify a goal related to increasing articulation among K-12 mathematics teachers. Fortunately, MHS has a strong track record in the area of math articulation with its feeder schools. Additionally, we will be further challenged to continue to improve the achievement levels of all students attending the school. Last year, students were very successful on SOL and other standardized tests, as well as in performing and fine arts achievements. I am very appreciative of the strength of the instructional staff and I am looking forward to the continued tradition of excellence.

Student success on standardized tests is critical to their opportunities in the classroom and accessibility to greater academic opportunities. McLean's strength is quality teaching staff. Their prescriptive/planning skills, teaching, and assessment strategies will assist in determining the level of success that students achieve. Instruction at McLean is skillfully planned to create connections with life experiences and concepts tailored to

the students' individual learning styles. Instruction at the school will continue to be provided in nurturing and caring environment.

**Q: Any new academic programs, initiatives?**

**A:** Consistent with Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) focus on client-centered education, McLean will continue to concentrate on providing a challenging academic environment, while raising achievement levels for all students. Our focus this year is to implement a 9th grade transition model designed to assist students in making the dramatic change from middle school to high school. According to the research, there are three main areas that need to be addressed when working with rising 9th graders: social and emotional development, skill (academic) development and time and organizational management; and peer and adult relationships. Success in high school is ultimately determined by a strong first year.

In an effort to ensure our 9th graders' transition to high school

neth George, Photography/Computer Graphics; Summer Holdren, PE; John Horan, English; Emily Holdren, Math; Steven Moll, Math, Cara Mosley, Tech Ed.; Cullen Massenburg, Dance; Nick Nicolaides, Chemistry; Michael Noyes, Security; Jim Patrick, Social Studies/PE; Thomas Prutch, Physics; Kim Richardson, Chemistry; Amy Taylor, English; Karen Vanevenhoven, Math, and Patty McNeill, Counselor.

**Q: Number of students?**

**A:** In 2008-09 school year, we will open our doors to 1,788 students.

**Q: Important days in the fall school calendar?**

**A:** Aug. 25 - First Day for Teachers; Aug. 28 - Spring Fling - Rising 9th Graders; Sept. 2 - School opens for all students; Sept. 25 - Back to School Night; Oct. 13 - Columbus Day (Schools Closed); Nov. 3 and 4 - Student Holidays (Schools Closed); Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving Holiday (2 Hour Early Release on the Nov. 26 - Schools Closed).

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**Smokey Robinson will appear on August 14 at 8 p.m. at the Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts.**

Send announcements to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mclean@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

**THURSDAY/AUGUST 14**

**Summer Stories and Sprinklers.** 1:30 p.m. Listen to stories then take a run through the sprinklers at Vienna's original one-room library, Freeman House, 131 Church Street, Vienna. Free. Call 703-255-6360.

**Olympic Games.** Travel to China, test your skills and take home a medal. Age 6-12. 2:30 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean, Tel: 703-356-0770.

**Stories Under the Stars Bedtime Program.** Come in your jammies and enjoy some of our favorite bedtime stories. All ages. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl, Oakton, 703-242-4020.

**Jammin Java Summer Camp Rock Shows.** Free summer camp rock show: be amazed at what campers can produce in just two weeks of learning and rehearsing. These bands will compete in the Summer Camp Battle of the Bands at the end of the summer. 1 p.m. at 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com) or call 703-255-1566.

**An Evening with the Greencards.** Americana/bluegrass. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Tickets \$15. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Forever Young in Irish Gaelic.** Using uilleann pipes, fiddle, bodhran, guitar and a variety of Irish whistles, Sior-Og performs classical dance tunes such as jigs, reels, slip jigs and hornpipes. Free. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Nottoway Park, 9601 Couthouse Road, Vienna.

**Smokey Robinson.** 8 p.m. \$42 in house, \$25 lawn. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).



Skirmish line at last year's encampment.



Children learning to play hoops at last year's encampment.

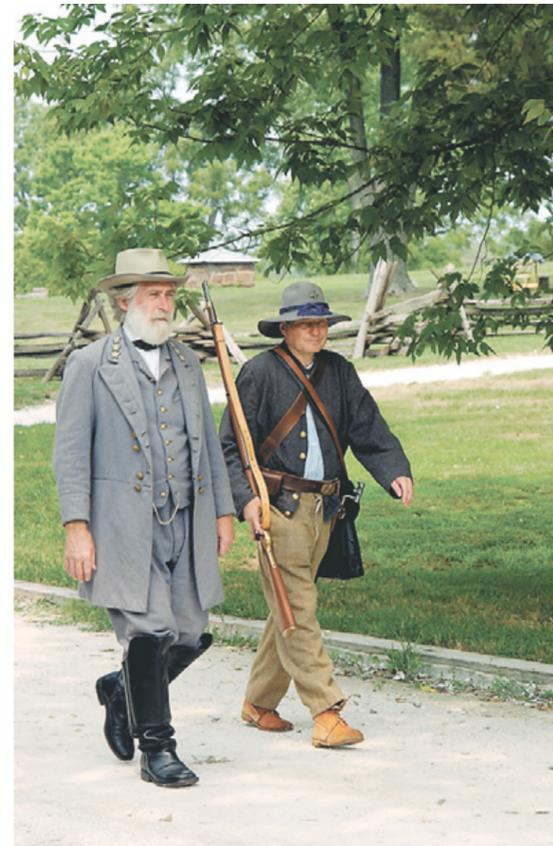
# Civil War Encampment at Sully Historic Site

**S**ully Historic Site will host a Civil War Weekend Encampment on Aug. 16-17. Skirmishes both days will illustrate military tactics of the period. Costumed interpreters will demonstrate the work of the army, including drill practice and rifle firing, while visitors can

fall in as recruits and learn marching maneuvers. Civilian reenactors will portray the experiences of Northern Virginia residents during the early years of the Civil War. Play historic games and enjoy music on the lawn performed by Evergreen Shade. On Saturday, see a parade of 19th century fashion

and learn what is needed to be a reenactor. Visitors can take a guided tour of the first and second floors of the 1794 home of Richard Bland Lee, Northern Virginia's first congressman and uncle of Robert E. Lee, and view rarely seen 19th century artifacts from the Fairfax County collections.

**A reenactor portraying General Robert E. Lee at Sully's 2007 encampment.**



**FRIDAY/AUGUST 15**

**Pokemon League.** Learn and play! Age 5-18. No registration is required. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, Tel: 703-938-0405.

**Game On.** Runescape, DDR, Wii, pizza and soda at the library. Age 10-18. 6 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, Tel: 703-938-0405.

**Richard Strauss's Ariadne auf Naxos.** A lighthearted look into the themes of art versus realism, and the capriciousness of love. "Barns at Wolf Trap. 8 p.m. In German with English superlatives. Tickets \$28 to \$68.

**Mystic Warriors: Andean music in the Bolivian/Peruvian traditions.** 6:30 p.m. Free. Concerts on the Green, at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Call to register, 703-255-6360.

**G. Love and Special Sauce.** 7 p.m. \$34 in house, \$30 lawn. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**SATURDAY/AUGUST 16**

**Meadowlark Gardens Daylily Sale.** Free. A large selection of both named and unnamed varieties will be available for purchase, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., to support the gardens by raising funds and sharing the bounty of the more than 500 beautiful daylily varieties. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Call 703-255-3631.

**Stanley Clarke, Marcus Miller and Victor Wooten.** 8 p.m. \$40 in house, \$22 lawn. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Civil War Weekend Encampment at Sully Historic Site.** August 16 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sunday, August 17 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Skirmishes both days illustrate military tactics of the period. Costumed interpreters demonstrate the work of the army, including drill practice and rifle firing. Fall in as a recruit and learn marching maneuvers. Civilian reenactors portray the experiences of Northern Virginia residents during the early years of the Civil War. Play historic games and enjoy music on the lawn performed by Evergreen Shade. On Saturday, see a parade

of 19th century fashions and learn what is needed to be a reenactor. \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children, including a guided tour of the first and second floors of the 1794 home of Richard Bland Lee, Northern Virginia's first congressman and uncle of Robert E. Lee. On view will be rarely seen 19th century artifacts from the Fairfax County collections. Last house tour begins at 4 p.m. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way in Chantilly, located on Route 28, one quarter mile north of Route 50. Call 703-437-1794.

**Tobacco Harvest: Participatory Event.** 1-4 p.m., the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. All summer the colonial farmer carefully tended his tobacco crop, which was used to pay rent and to purchase goods not produced on the farm. Help the farmer harvest and clean the leaves and watch how the stems are cut and split. Help gather the cut plants and hang them on tobacco sticks to cure. \$3 adults, \$2 children and senior citizens; complimentary admission with farm membership. Weather permitting; call 703-903-9330 day of event. Visit the expanded Gatehouse Shop, featuring educational materials and gifts. Call 703-442-7557 or visit [www.1771.org](http://www.1771.org).

**SUNDAY/AUG. 17**

**Learn Woodcarving at Colvin Run Mill,** from noon to 4 p.m. The wood carvers will lend their tools and expertise to teach the basic techniques of this art. Appropriate for ages 6 to 96. Lessons are free. There is a nominal charge for wood blanks. For information, call 703-759-2771. Colvin Run Mill Historic Site is located at 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls just off Route 7. For more information about the site, visit: [www.fairfaxcounty/parks/crm](http://www.fairfaxcounty/parks/crm).

**Richard Strauss's Ariadne auf Naxos.** A lighthearted look into the themes of art versus realism, and the capriciousness of love. Barns at Wolf Trap. 2 p.m. In German with English superlatives. Tickets \$28 to \$68.

**Redstone Rock.** 6:30 p.m. Free. Concerts on the Green, at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Call to register, 703-255-6360.

**The Beach Boys.** 2 p.m. \$38 in house, \$25 lawn. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Civil War Weekend Encampment at Sully**

**Historic Site,** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Skirmishes illustrate military tactics of the period. Costumed interpreters demonstrate the work of the army, including drill practice and rifle firing. Fall in as a recruit and learn marching maneuvers. Civilian reenactors portray the experiences of Northern Virginia residents during the early years of the Civil War. Play historic games and enjoy music on the lawn performed by Evergreen Shade. \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children, including a guided tour of the first and second floors of the 1794 home of Richard Bland Lee, Northern Virginia's first congressman and uncle of Robert E. Lee. On view will be rarely seen 19th century artifacts from the Fairfax County collections. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way in Chantilly, located on Route 28, one quarter mile north of Route 50. Call 703-437-1794.

**MONDAY/AUGUST 18**

**Stamping Sensation.** Stop by and decorate placemats, bookmarks and greeting cards using rubber stamps. Age 8-12. 2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, Tel: 703-938-0405.

**The Backstreet Boys.** \$45 in house, \$25 lawn. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

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

**Lighters and Matches** are Tools for Grownups Only! A puppet show presented by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Participants will each receive a helmet, activity book, and parent brochure. Age 3-7 with adult. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library. 703-757-8560.

**Bedtime Stories.** Stories to end the day. All ages. 7 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean, Tel: 703-356-0770.

**TUESDAY/AUGUST 19**

**Richard Strauss's Ariadne auf Naxos.** A lighthearted look into the themes of art versus realism, and the capriciousness of love. Barns at Wolf Trap. 8 p.m. In German with English superlatives. Tickets \$28 to \$68.

**Bernstein: A Celebration! Boston Pops**

**Esplanade Orchestra.** 8 p.m. Tickets from \$20 to \$55. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Matinee with Mommy.** Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy a movie matinee every Tuesday in July and August. Call for titles. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Oakton Library. Age 3-5 with adult. 11:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl, Oakton, 703-242-4020.

**Stories Under the Stars Bedtime Program.** Come in your jammies and enjoy some of our favorite bedtime stories. All ages. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl, Oakton, 703-242-4020.

**WEDNESDAY/AUG. 20**

**Miss Belle's Sing-Along.** Enjoy old favorites and original songs. Age 1-5 with adult. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, Tel: 703-938-0405.

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**Teddy Bear Picnic.** Bring your lunch and listen to Peter McCarty's One-Man Band. 12 noon. All ages. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean, Tel: 703-356-0770.

**Book Discussion Group.** Call for the book title. Adults. No registration is required. 7:15 p.m. Dolley Madison

Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean, Tel: 703-356-0770.

**Lunchtime with Miss Belle.** Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy songs and dance with Miss Belle. Birth-5 with adult. 12 noon. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl, Oakton, 703-242-4020.

**Book Discussion Group.** The Sea by John Banville. Adults. No registration is required. 7:15 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl, Oakton, 703-242-4020.

**Kenny Rogers and the Oak Ridge Boys.** 7:30 p.m. \$40 in house, \$25 lawn. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**THURSDAY/AUGUST 21**

**Chris Isaak.** 8 p.m. \$40 in house, \$22 lawn. The Filene Center, Wolftrap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

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# Guided to Discover

FROM PAGE 4

through the intensive training. "It makes every child feel that they belong and they can contribute."

This sense of belonging helps the children perform better, said kindergarten teacher Camille Galanes-O'Neill.

The transformation of classroom to community begins, like the day, with the morning meeting. All the school's teachers have started their days with the meeting for the last two years.

Galanes-O'Neill said her kindergarteners enter the classroom without apprehension because they know how they'll spend the first half-hour of their day. During the meeting, they find out about the rest of the day. The children, she said, enjoy the meetings. "If you don't do a morning meeting, they ask you, 'Can we at least do a quick one?'"

Allen said she was impressed that Responsive Classroom authors had also come up with meeting activities that could hold the interest of children in the upper elementary grades.

Discipline begins with the children helping to come up with the class rules, said Allen. "They own them and they're their rules."

As for enforcement, said fourth-grade teacher Stacey David, "Discipline is based on the idea of logical consequences. You're not saying, 'You lost 10 minutes of recess.' You're saying, 'You broke it. Fix it.'" She pointed out that this approach bore more resemblance to the real world.

For problem students, getting in trouble can often cease to be a big deal under normal enforcement, said Galanes-O'Neill. But making students right their wrongs forces them to take full responsibility for their actions every time.

"It shows the rules are there for a reason, not just so we can say, 'Don't do that,'" said David.

As for academics, a "guided discovery" activity gives students a chance to manipulate classroom items, said Allen. "I start off with globes," she said, explaining that each group would get a globe and perhaps use it to make up a quiz for other groups. "It's a way to introduce classroom tools."

And children enjoy lessons more when they get to choose their subjects and activities, said David.

Galanes-O'Neill emphasized that the children are choosing from a list of options. "You don't just ask a child, 'What do you want for din

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Upcoming Community Events:	Service Times:
<p><b>August 16</b> Young at Heart Fun Day 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Come join us for food, fun and games for young and old!</p> <p><b>September 13</b> Spaghetti Dinner / Talent Show 6:00 p.m. The Arlington Youth Group will be hosting a spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Suggested Donation: \$5 per plate</p>	<p><b>Sunday:</b> Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Wednesday:</b> Bible Study 7:30 p.m.</p>

# FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mclean@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**English classes for adults** sponsored by ESL and Immigrant Ministries will be offered in 17 locations in Northern Virginia. Childcare is available at some locations. Registration begins September 2, 2008. A \$20 processing fee is requested. Scholarships are available. Check [www.eslim.org](http://www.eslim.org) for class locations and schedules or call 703-841-0292 and leave a message. Calls will be returned in English, Spanish, Korean, or Vietnamese.

**Guest Speaker Bob Sorge at Christian Assembly**, 8200 Bell Lane, Vienna, on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. Sorge served for thirteen years as senior pastor of Zion Fellowship in

Canadaigua, N.Y., and now bases his writing and traveling ministry in Kansas City MO. Among his works are: *Secrets of the Secret Place*, *Exploring Worship*, *The Fire of Delayed Answers* and *Pain, Perplexity, and Promotion*.

**Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation** invites new and prospective members to its **Annual Open House Ice Cream Social** on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 2-4 p.m. in the Social Hall. Enjoy an ice cream sundae, meet and speak with Rabbi Robert A. Nosanchuk, Cantor Irena Altshul, Religious School Director Moshe Ben-Lev, Preschool Director Fran Gibbs, Temple Administrator Fay Weiss, and other temple leaders. Take a tour of the temple and learn about the programs offered. 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston. Call 703-437-7733 or visit [www.nvhcreston.org](http://www.nvhcreston.org).

**Homecoming & Anniversary Celebration.** Shiloh Baptist Church celebrates 135 years of ministry. Sunday, Sept. 14: 11 a.m. - Homecoming Worship Service; 3:30 p.m. - Anniversary Worship Service, Guest Preacher Rev. Todd A. Brown, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Chesterbrook. Dr. Robert F. Cheeks, Jr., Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church, 8310 Turning Leaf Lane, McLean. 703-893-8982. [www.sbcmclean.org](http://www.sbcmclean.org)

**Vajrayogini Buddhist Center** offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy Mondays 7-8:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax at 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, \$10 per class. Call 202-331-2122 or visit [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.org).

**Vienna Assembly of God** has ministry to children on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Center N and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E. Children's Church on Sundays is also available. 703-938-7736 or visit [www.ViennaAG.com](http://www.ViennaAG.com).

**Vienna Christian Healing Rooms:** a place to receive healing. Every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane, a team of Christians is available to pray for anyone requesting prayer. The rooms are open to the public without charge. For more information call 703-698-9779 or visit [www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com](http://www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com).

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 are from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. New student registration begins at 9 a.m., until Oct. 30. McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road. Call 703-356-8080 or visit [www.mcleanbaptist.org](http://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.

A **Centering Prayer Group** meets Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. The group will also hear portions from "A Centered Life," an audio tape series by Basil Pennington. E-mail Martha Thomas at [mmthomas211@hotmail.com](mailto:mmthomas211@hotmail.com) or call the church at 703-759-3509.

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Many open house listings are not made available until days before the open house. For Up-to-Date listings on Sunday open houses, please check our website at [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com) every Saturday night.

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call

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## Rail Links Present and Future

FROM PAGE XX

can get" and that "we'll just have to be extremely vigilant" in its execution.

Foust also expressed disappointment that a tunnel option for Tysons Corner is not being at least evaluated as an alternative. "I still am very concerned about the fact we'll be elevating it through Tysons," he said of the project. "All over the world they are putting these systems under urban centers."

Bennett could not provide an exact date for the completion of Phase II, through Dulles Airport and out to Ashburn, of the rail extension. He said the probable date is in 2016 or 2017. He said the cost estimates for the completion of the project have not changed. "We're still holding on to those original cost estimates," he said.

Foust said he would like to have a definite date, but is not concerned that one is not provided yet. He said much more detail about Phase II is needed before a construction schedule could be set. However, what does concern him is that the special tax district that would help pay for that part of the extension has not been established yet. Also, he said, if construction costs have escalated for Phase I of the project, then there should not be an assumption that Phase II costs will remain unchanged. "I don't know if that is realistic," said Foust.

**THOSE GATHERED** at Wednesday's luncheon listened as Mineta compared the Dulles Corridor and surrounding area of the future, to the past and present. Some 30 years ago, he said, Dulles Corridor consisted of four lanes, all of them leading to the airport, and Route 28 was a two-lane country road.

The two corridors comprised 4 percent of the Washington region's economy. "Reston was still an interesting experiment," said Mineta, and Tysons Corner was a shopping center attached to a parking lot.

Today, said Mineta, the two corridors account for 25 percent of the region's economy. Introducing the rail system to the Dulles Corridor, he said, would link its present and future companies, universities and research facilities with resources and markets worldwide.

"Transit and highway improvements can offer people the mobility and freedoms" by offering a choice.

Without a transit system in the corridor, Mineta said, its residents and employees would not be served well. The current highway system was established to meet 20<sup>th</sup> century needs. "Today's transportation systems are, quite frankly, failing the American people," said Mineta, adding that Dulles Corridor is at the cutting edge of the change that is required to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century needs.

"Without a doubt, transportation is key to generating and enabling economic growth," said Mineta. "Transportation is thus the key to both our economic success as well as our quality of life."

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) said he believes he will live to take his grandchildren to Dulles Airport on the rail line. "It will be a renaissance in this region," he said of the extension project. "This will be important for economic development, jobs, quality of life, moms and dads who will get up and take that train to D.C., Tysons" and other communities on the rail line. Wolf said Rail to Dulles would prove that the Washington area is one of the best places in the world to live and do business.

# Franklin Sherman Expands

Phase 1 of renovation project near completion.

**V**icki P. Duling, Ph.D., Franklin Sherman Elementary School Principal, discusses the upcoming school year 2008-01009.

**Q: What do you consider the single most important news for your school community in anticipation of the new school year?**

**A:** Phase 1 of our \$13.5 million dollar renovation project will be completed, providing the school with a new media center, new front office addition and seven new grade level classrooms for grades K-3. The FCPS design and construction department and the general contractor Dustin Construction have worked diligently to provide our school with a much needed renovation. The team will continue the work completing the next three phases of the project by the fall of 2009. Our wonderfully supportive PTA will begin work on our school courtyard where we hope to create an outdoor learning classroom and other educational opportunities tied to the curriculum.

**Q: Any new academic programs, initiatives?**

**A:** FSES will be continuing to implement plans and research based instructional strategies to



A rendering of the renovated Franklin Sherman Elementary School as seen from the Brawner Street.



Vicki P. Duling

meet the school board goals that outline academic achievement, essential life skills and responsibility to the community. We will continue to provide challenging academic opportunities for students who need accelerated levels in math and language arts. Our FLES program (Foreign Language in Elementary Schools) will include instruction in Spanish for grades one, two and three. Our FLES teacher will also be integrating Spanish instruction for the upper grade students through co-teaching in music, art and physical education classes. We hope to strengthen and expand our students' knowledge of recycling and reducing their carbon footprint.

We welcome opportunities to work with our new business partner, Chain Bridge Bank, supporting and helping to teach our students financial information and promoting saving money. These are terrific ties with our science and economic curricula.

**Q: Changes in personnel?**

**A:** We welcome a new assistant principal, Eileen Connor. Ms. Connor has nine years of experience in the classroom and joins us from Sleepy Hollow Elementary School. We will welcome some additional new faces in the roles of librarian, special education teacher, classroom teacher, counselor and front office assistant to our staff filling five openings from veteran staff members that have retired.

**Q: Number of students?**

**A:** We anticipate approximately 390 students.

**Q: Important days in the fall school calendar?**

**A:** Back to School nights for parents of preschool-2nd grade students is Monday, Sept. 8 and for 3-6 grade students Tuesday, Sept. 9. Our first PTA sponsored activity is the traditional ice cream social on Sunday, Sept. 14 from 2-4 p.m. on the grounds of the school. Our first PTA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

# Theater Under Stars

Traveling Players conclude summer of work and fun.

**T**his past Friday, Aug. 8, some of the area's talented young actors of the Great Falls-based Traveling Players Ensemble took the stage at the Maderia School in McLean, to conclude their long summer of hard work and fun.

These boys and girls range from fifth graders to high school students. The day camp for small troupe actors, and is taught by professional actors and directors. The actors get the opportunity to experience performing in outdoor amphitheatres.

"The goal of the camp is to bring classical theater to the great outdoors", said Jeanne Harrison, the camp director.

Friday the troupe put on three performances. Carlo Gozzi's "Blue Monster," and Moliere's "Doctor in Spite of Himself," were performed by the middle school performers. "As You Like It," by Shakespeare, was put on by the high school students.

The productions drew a crowd of about 100. Following the middle school shows, there was a picnic dinner for the cast and their families to share. Afterwards the high school students took the stage. The actors showed energy and passion in what they were doing.

To conclude the evening, the crowd gathered around a campfire down by the Potomac River, to celebrate their four weeks of hard work. The actors appreciated getting to spend the night with their friends and family. "Every Thursday we camp out, teaching the



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CONNECTION

**Founder and artistic director Jeanne Harrison welcomes everyone to the first performance of the afternoon on Friday.**

campers outdoor skills. It's really special bringing together theater and the outdoors. We really put the camping back into camp", said Harrison.

The average camper will come back for four consecutive summers, because of the experiences they enjoy. For Katie Goldberg, a graduate of the Washington International School in D.C., this was her sixth summer at Traveling Players Ensemble. "I loved the camp, it was the greatest summer experience that I ever had", said Goldberg

"The bonds that these kids form here are incredible, most of the campers will grow up and still stay in touch with their camp friends", said Jen Schwartz, a camp counselor.

— HAYLEY MILON

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The festival featured area Asian restaurants, which offered off-the-menu specialties to the visitors.



PHOTOS BY MIRZA KURSPAHIC/THE CONNECTION

## Asian Culture Displayed

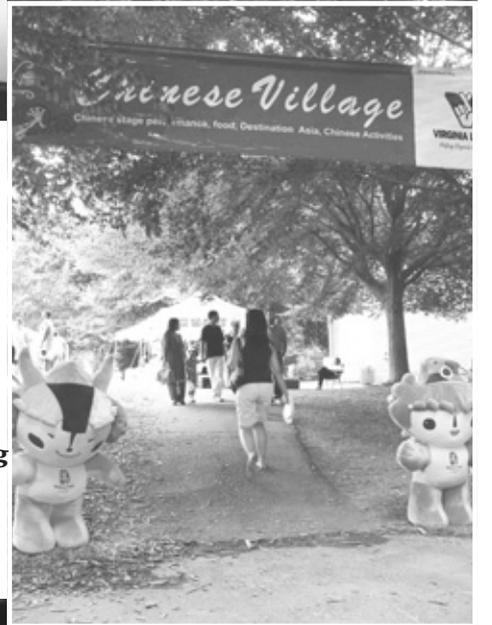
Tens of thousands of visitors flocked to Lake Newport in Reston for the Fifth Annual Asian Festival on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 9 and 10. The two-day festival featured cultural performances, including dancing, music and martial arts, and fea-

tured cuisine and traditional dress. The Thai Tennis Organization in America organized the event that also offered activities for children, including a Council for the Arts of Herndon tent where the children drew and colored dragons.

— MIRZA KURSPAHIC

A crowd gathered to watch a cultural dance from Myanmar, formerly Burma, at the Asian Festival as Springfield resident Myatt Tazar Lynn performed the Water Dance.

The festival highlighted China this year and Beijing Olympics mascots greeted visitors at the entrance to the Chinese Village.



Davisson Han, a student at the O-Mei Wushu school in Fairfax, performs a routine at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Asian Festival. Two of the school's members are scheduled to compete on Aug. 24 at the Beijing Olympics.



Audrey Huie, also from the Wushu school in Fairfax, performs her routine. Eight of the school's junior team members are preparing for a competition in Bali.

# SPORTS

## SUMMER SPORTS ROUNDUP

**L**ocal swimming sensation **Kate Ziegler** of Great Falls was scheduled to swim in the preliminary races of the women's 800-free event this Thursday at the Olympic Games in Beijing. Her hopes will be to qualify for Friday night's finals (U.S. time).

Ziegler, a Bishop O'Connell High graduate who is participating in her first Olympic Games, experienced a downer earlier this week when she did not qualify for the finals in the 400-free event.

Ziegler, age 20 and a student at George Mason University, holds several world record marks in the 1,500-free event. The 1,500, however, is not an Olympic swimming event.

In the 400-free event, Ziegler needed to finish among the top eight to advance to the finals. But she was unable to do so in Sunday's preliminaries. However, she still has the opportunity to put together a strong showing in the upcoming 800-free event.

**Below** are the results from a recent **Highlands Whomping Turtles** swim meet. Note that two new team records were set by Charlie Putnam and Lina Zimmerman.

Event 1: 8-under 25-meters, Clayton Kiyonaga placed eighth.

Event 6: 11-12 girls 50-free, Claire Collins placed 11<sup>th</sup>.

Event 9: 15-18 boys 50-free, Brian Murphy placed 11<sup>th</sup>.

Event 9: 15-18 boys 50-free, Conor Evans scratched.

Event 11: 8-under boys 25-back, Diego Cruzado placed eighth.

Event 19: 15-18 boys 50-back, Charlie Putnam placed third. (Charlie set a new team record with a mark of 28.31. The old mark was 28:45).

Event 23: 9-10 boys 50-breast, Patrick Dolan, 1st alternate.

Event 22: Girls 25-breaststroke, Eleanor Doolittle, 2nd alternate placed 12<sup>th</sup>.

Event 26: 11-12 girls 50-breaststroke, Claire Collins placed third.

Event 28: 13-14 girls 50-breaststroke, Lina Zimmerman placed 10<sup>th</sup>. (Lina set a new team record of 37:79. The old record was 38:00 back in 1976).

Event 29: 15-18 boys 50-breast, Stephen Richards placed first.

Event 31: 8-under boys 25-fly, Diego Cruzado, first alternate.

Event 31: 8-under boys 25-fly, Clayton Kiyonaga placed 14<sup>th</sup>.

Event 35: 11-12 boys 50-fly, Avand Lakmazaheri placed 10<sup>th</sup>.

Event 38: 13-14 girls 50-fly, Lina Zimmerman placed ninth.

Event 39: 15-18 boys 50-fly, Conor Evans, scratched.



PHOTO COURTESY/MCLEAN COBRAS

**The McLean Cobras were finalists in the MidAtlantic States Championship of Baseball Players of America in Bowie, Md. on the weekend of July 19 and 20. The Cobras are a U-14 independent travel team. Their next tournament will be the AAU National Championships in Orlando, Fl. Team members are Nick Baker, Ben Blumenthal, Jack Conroy, Mark D'Ernes, Joe Kotapish, Coleman Luwis, Robby Maffei, Dominick Manuel, Patrick Morris, Kyle McCauley, Matt McDonald, Hunter Oke, Spencer Shabshab, Will Shanahan, Joe Shirey, Quincy Smith and Bryant White. The team batboy is Brian Maffei. The Cobras are coached by assistant Shane Mills and head coach Jimmy Strayhorne.**

Event 47: 15-18 boys 100-IM, Charlie Putnam, placed fourth.

Event 47: 15-18 boys 100-IM, Stephen Richards placed third.

**Langley Club** sent nine swimmers to All-Stars: Emily Wallach (8-under free), Isaac Peress (9-10 free and back), Nathan Johnson (9-10 back and breast), Katie Robinson (11-12 back), Nathan Robinson (11-12 IM), Nicole Johnson (13-14 breast), Meghan Overend (15-18 free and fly), Tracy DeMocker (15-18 breast) and Jamie Sexton (15-18 breast). Nathan Johnson placed third in back, Nicole Johnson placed third in breast and Peress placed fourth in back. Nicole Johnson broke the 13-14 breast-stroke record with a time of 36.56.

**The Highlands** dive team ended its season by beating Parliament, 42 to 30, at Parliament on July 22. The Whomping Turtles, coached by Stephanie Sutton, with assistant coaches Abby Neuberger and Cameron Hancock, finished with a record of 5-0.

Evelyn Gray and Maggie finished first and second in Freshman Girls, and Michael Pope was second in Freshman Boys. Katelyn Bond, Madeline Neuberger, and Hallie Pope swept the Junior Girls division, and Johnny Bowman and Scott Calendar finished first and third in Junior Boys. Cameron Hancock and Rebecca McGovern finished first and third in Intermediate Girls, as did Scott Sawicki and Timmy Jenkins in Intermediate Boys. Abby Neuberger placed third in Senior Girls, and Ian Clark was second in Senior Boys.

At the Division III Championship meet on July 27, Highlands' Evelyn Gray placed

second and Maggie McDonough placed sixth in Freshman Girls. Michael Pope finished second, Reed Bond was eighth, and David Craighead was 11th in Freshman Boys. In Juniors, Katelyn Bond was second and Madeline Neuberger finished 11th for the girls. Johnny Bowman was third and Scott Sawicki was sixth for the boys. Cameron Hancock won first place, Abby Neuberger was fourth, and Lauren Tangney was fifth in Intermediate Girls.

Evelyn Gray, Michael Pope, Katelyn Bond, and Cameron Hancock qualified to compete in the 2008 All-Star meet at Dunn Loring on August 3. Johnny Bowman was an All-Star alternate.

**Fall 2008 Registration for McLean Youth Soccer** is open on the league website at [www.mcleansoccer.org](http://www.mcleansoccer.org) for all families. MYS offers various programs for children ages four through 18, including House/Recreation, Travel and McLean Premier Soccer Travel, U5 for Pre-K players, and TOP Soccer for children with special needs. The season will begin Sept. 8 and extend through mid-November. Contact the MYS Administrator at [admin@mcleansoccer.org](mailto:admin@mcleansoccer.org) for more information, or call the MYS Office at 703-506-8068.

**The RiverBend StingRays** proved they were a force to be reckoned with during the Dominion Country Club League All-Star Meet. Fifty-four RiverBend swimmers were selected as All-Star nominees or alternates, and a whopping 40 medals were earned at the final meet on Sunday at Westwood, including six first place golds,

six second place silvers and eight bronze medals. Jessica Hawken broke two 15-18 Girls League Records in free and fly. First place finishers included Ryan Windus, Max Trautwein, Erin Fredrick, Carter Bennett and Jessica Hawken. Other finalists were Will Koeppen, Luke Bennett, Chloe Bennett, Luke Peele, Jake Trautwein, Helena Burns, Micaela Grassi, Jack Peele, Conor Wesolowski, Sabrina Slavin, Andrew Kvasnicka, Amanda Maruca, Olivia Justus, Patrick Duff, Cassidy Wolfe and Blaine Appleby.

Also participating in All-Stars for RiverBend were: Delaney Bond, Emma Grassi, Natalie Peele, Caroline Maruca, Dylan Appleby, Emmy Carlton, Charlotte Bell, Mary Pelson, Dylan Murphy, Erin Klein, Grace McGarry, Hedieh Yazdani, Kelly Rogers, Anna Youngkin, Claire O'Connor, Armor Okeson, Gunnar Okeson, Mark Sullivan, Pearce Bloom, Sean Klein, John Sullivan, Kyle Morin, Connor Smith, Robert Fredrick, Grant Youngkin, Cole Forrer and Jon-Jon Merrill.

**Team Notes:** The RiverBend StingRay 15-18 Girls Relay Team set two league records this season at the Relay Carnival, lowering the mark in the 200-Free Relay to 1:58.70 and in the 200-Medley Relay to 2:11.08. Pictured, left to right, are assistant coach Cindy Weir, head coach Matt Campet and relay team members Jessica Hawken, Blaine Appleby, Jessica Spiegel and Cassidy Wolfe.

**At their final** regular season meet, the RiverBend StingRays defeated Hidden Creek, 395-114. RiverBend took home 36 individual first place ribbons with several StingRays winning multiple events.

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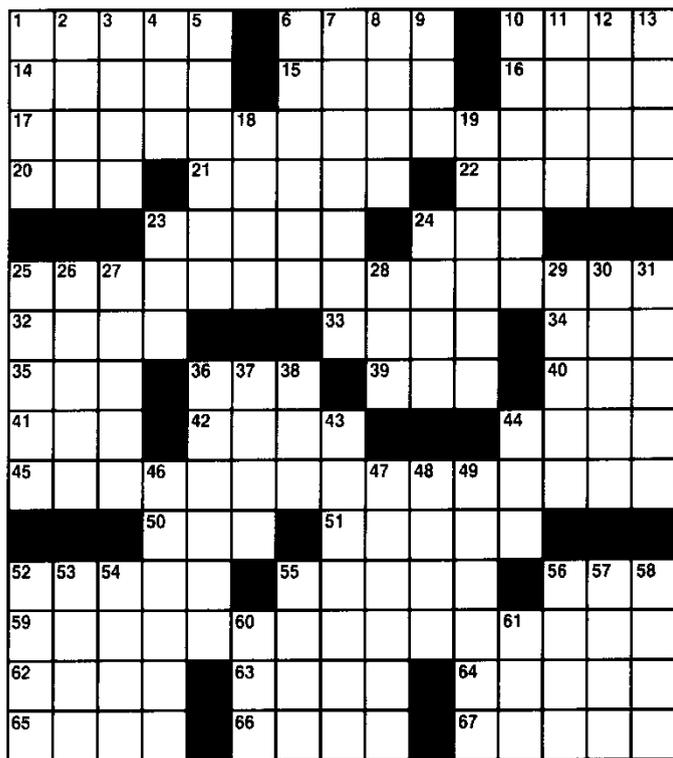


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# NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

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Puzzle by Nathaniel Weiss

## ACROSS

- 1 Ayatollahs' predecessors
- 6 Gunslinger's command
- 10 "Oh, my!"
- 14 Hooded snake
- 15 Othello's false friend
- 16 "I'm \_\_\_ you!"
- 17 Start of a quip
- 20 Summer shirt, informally
- 21 Mallards' homes
- 22 Metric volume
- 23 Place for a 45
- 24 Clinch, as a deal
- 25 Part 2 of the quip
- 32 Son of Venus
- 33 Stiff denial
- 34 Old polit. cause
- 35 Dosage unit
- 36 Caribbean music
- 39 Ovine utterance
- 40 A major, maybe
- 41 Hydrocarbon suffix
- 42 Paris recreation area
- 44 Lucy's partner
- 45 Part 3 of the quip
- 50 Entanglement

## DOWN

- 51 Encumbrances
- 52 One who grins and bears it
- 55 Greek S
- 56 Biol., e.g.
- 59 End of the quip
- 62 Novelist Waugh
- 63 Tallow source
- 64 Words before sight and mind
- 65 Entanglement
- 66 Stumbles
- 67 Query before "Here goes!"
- 1 "Out!"
- 2 Balderdash
- 3 Strong of body and mind
- 4 Charlemagne's realm: Abbr.
- 5 Early Greek lyric poet
- 6 1934 quintuplet
- 7 Forcefully stuff, as a throat
- 8 Turkish generals
- 9 Took the trophy
- 10 Chin beard
- 11 \_\_\_ and for all
- 12 Move
- 13 Place for a run
- 18 Warner Bros. creation
- 19 Resort island off Naples
- 23 Word in a price
- 24 Whit
- 25 "The Terminator" woman
- 26 Yemeni's neighbor
- 27 E-mail need
- 28 Play \_\_\_ with (damage)
- 29 Belgian composer Guillaume
- 30 Newspapers, with "the"

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

L	E	S	S	A	R	T	S	C	A	V	E	R		
A	L	O	T	M	E	A	T	O	L	I	V	E		
M	A	L	I	P	U	R	E	S	O	N	I	A		
B	L	O	N	D	E	B	O	M	B	S	H	E	L	
				T	I	R	E	L	E	A				
B	O	W	T	E	N	S	P	O	T	S	R	S		
A	V	A	S	T	N	C	O	A	L	I	T			
Y	E	L	L	O	S	S	U	B	M	A	R	I	N	E
O	N	L	Y	O	R	B	T	E	N	S	E			
U	S	A	S	K	I	S	U	I	T	G	E	L		
				A	P	E		P	R	I	M			
G	O	L	D	E	N	D	E	L	I	C	I	O	U	S
A	B	I	D	E	E	R	A	S	S	I	R	E		
L	O	V	E	D	S	I	N	E	E	L	S	E		
L	E	E	R	Y	K	E	D	S	R	Y	A	N		

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Be the first person to fax in the correct crossword puzzle answers each week, and we'll put your name here! Fax the completed puzzle with your name and the puzzle number to the Crossword Puzzle Desk, fax #703-917-0998!

The winner of puzzle #0322-6 is:

**Marilynne Jost**

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# A Friend, Indeed



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Sometimes it takes visits from old friends to show you that who you thought you were, you actually are. The kinds of friends who were there for you — and with you — at the beginning. The kinds of friends who know where you came from and now, in person, and after years of multiple long distance phone calls, can see where you've gone. The kinds of friends whose opinions you respect, whose loyalty you admire and whose friendship you cherish. It's when these kinds of friends speak that you should listen. And listen I did in late June when my oldest, and best friend from High School (Newton South High School, Class of '76, Newton, Ma.), Cary and his wife, Mindy, flew into Reagan National for a two-day visit, our first face to face since February 2002, (2'02'02) the date of their youngest son, Jordon's, Bar Mitzvah, and the reason for our last trip to Boston/Needham.

Though Cary and I didn't attend any of the same schools before high school, soon after we met in 10th grade, we became instant friends. And over these last 35 years, our friendship has evolved and matured and sustained itself through our respective marriages and no divorces, deaths of family and friends, occasional disease (nothing too serious, though, thank God!), the birth of their three sons, the purchase of our first homes and many other highs and lows and successes and failures too numerous and typical to mention. Through it all, we've always been a phone call away. But due to Cary and Mindy's initiative this year (their "summer tour," as they called it), "a phone call away" was not going to suffice. And so airline reservations and hotel accommodations were made on a mutually convenient weekend for the Sneider's return trip to Washington, D.C., their first since the '90s, while attending what was then, a semi-annual Candy Show (Cary's in the candy business), held that year in the old Convention Center. And though I had been in Boston many times previously to visit (three High School reunions, two Boston Celtic basketball games, three Sneider Bar Mitzvahs), we had never just had a normal-type weekend without some kind of event dominating.

This visit, however, during the second to last weekend in June, was not dominated by anything. It was simply about two old friends, and their wives, hanging out; no agenda, no schedule, no timetable, no nothing — just time together. And believe me, it was time well spent. And though the weekend (Friday afternoon and evening) got off to a bumpy start with Cary experiencing some air travel-related nausea that had him indisposed through dinner, the rest of the weekend saw two friends reconnect, in person, and gave us an opportunity to tell our tales and walk our respective walks and find out if who we think we are is still someone with whom, after all these years and life's experiences, the other would find amusing, agreeable, acceptable and stimulating quite frankly, and we did (in my opinion, anyway; his too, he's just not in print to confirm it). In short, it was like old times, 35 years later, in the blink of an eye, and nothing had changed. Best friends then, best friends now. What a weekend!

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

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