

Favola Faces Interfaith Pleas

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'MAPP'ing Public Health

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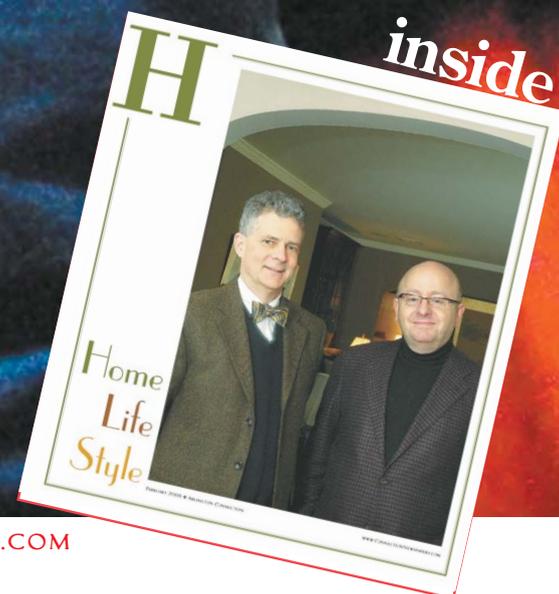
Streak (And Zone) Busters

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Jordan LaBella
rehearses his
role as Tony in
H-B Woodlawn's
performance of
"West Side
Story," Feb. 5-7.

'West Side' At Woodlawn

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PHOTO BY DAVID SCHULTZ/THE CONNECTION

Hundreds packed Lomax AME Zion Church for an event encouraging the county to save social services programs.

Favola Faces Interfaith Group

Board Chair agrees to fund dental, ESL programs, not cut affordable housing.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Despite declining revenues that are forcing officials to consider budget cuts for the first time in years, County Board Chair Barbara Favola (D) said this weekend that she would not support scaling back Arlington's affordable housing programs.

Favola also promised to increase funding for a local free dental clinic as well as for English as a Second Language programs and said that she would work to

expedite the construction a new affordable housing complex in South Arlington.

She made these commitments at a rally organized by Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement, or VOICE, a group that seeks to organize the area's religious community for political action. Hundreds of people representing nearly a dozen Arlington houses of worship packed the chapel at Lomax AME Zion Church to encourage Favola and other board members to take social services programs off of the county's chopping block.

"We do not want to erode the services that

support families," Favola said. "We will do our very best to exercise fairness and compassion in our budget."

FAVOLA, ALONG with her County Board colleague Jay Fiset (D), was called up to the pulpit at Lomax to answer yes-or-no questions about their budget priorities in front of a standing-room-only crowd. Before the board members were called to answer the questions, several speeches were given about the vital importance of county programs.

Kristine Gabster spoke about the prohibitive cost of dental care. She had an emergency root canal in March of last year but has been unable to afford a crown to cover it. Gabster said that an

SEE FAVOLA, PAGE 14

'MAPP'ing Public Health

Drinking, STD rates high among county teens, study finds.

Arlington County teenagers are engaging in risky behavior such as binge drinking and unprotected sex at alarming rates, according to a recently released public health study.

The study — known as Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships, or MAPP — found that 28 percent of Arlington 10th and 12th graders engage in binge drinking. "It is well above the national average [and] it is going up every year," Debby Taylor, a member of the committee that produced the M A P P study, said.

The study also found that more than half of Arlington

10th and 12th graders are sexually active but, among this group, only two thirds are using condoms. In addition, the rate of new AIDS cases in Arlington is more than double the rate for the rest of Northern Virginia and, from 2002 to 2007, the county's rate of syphilis increased by more than 200 percent.

"I was appalled by the data," MAPP committee member Elizabeth Miller said. "Especially the sexually transmitted disease numbers, [they] really knocked my socks off. I thought they were horrible."

The MAPP study was an 18-month endeavor that gathered nearly 60 groups and individuals to compile a comprehensive look at the state of public health in Arlington. "This is so Arlington," County Manager Ron Carlee said. "It's quintessentially what we are about in Arlington."

The Virginia Department of Health is requiring all jurisdictions across the state to complete a MAPP study. Arlington is the first to have completed its study.

The MAPP committee focused on three areas in which Arlington needs to improve its public health services: prevention of chronic diseases such as obesity and lung disease; stopping the spread of communicable diseases such as STDs and the flu; and increasing access to health care.

County health officials said that they are working on developing recommendations on ways to act on the MAPP study for both the County Board and the School Board. County Board Chair Barbara Favola (D) has embraced the MAPP study and has made it a part of her agenda for her 2009 chair

SEE HEALTH STUDY, PAGE 13

More

To find out more about the findings of the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership study, visit the Arlington County Web site at www.arlingtonva.us.

Killing Was in Self-Defense, Accused Says

Steroids may have been involved in killing.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Willie Donaldson, an Arlington resident and ex-Marine, stands accused of murder after engaging in a sexual liaison last month that went wrong.

Donaldson is charged with the Dec. 8 killing of Matthew Hicks, a 32-year old man

from Sterling. Police say Hicks and his girlfriend came to Donaldson's house in the Arlington Ridge neighborhood after Donaldson responded to a posting the couple had placed on the online classified ad Web site Craigslist.

According to court records, Hicks and his girlfriend were hired to perform an "erotic service." The ad has since been removed from the Web site.

Donaldson's lawyers are arguing that the killing was committed in self-defense. In a booking photo that was taken shortly after he was arrested, Donaldson is shown with

a sling across his shoulder, heavy bruising on his face and dried blood on his chin. "The evidence is going to show that it was self-defense," Jason Rucker, Donaldson's lead attorney, said. "Without question."

The Arlington Commonwealth's Attorney's office refused to comment on the details of this case.

Donaldson's lawyers have also requested that Hicks's bloodstream be tested for the presence of steroids such as human growth hormone, synthetic testosterone and, according to court records, "the Clear [and]

SEE SLAYING, PAGE 13

'West Side Story' At Woodlawn

H-B Woodlawn students rehearse for their upcoming performance of "West Side Story" on Thursday, Feb. 5; Friday, Feb. 6, and Saturday, Feb. 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the H-B Woodlawn High School auditorium. The show was cast in November and rehearsals have been ongoing since Dec. 1.

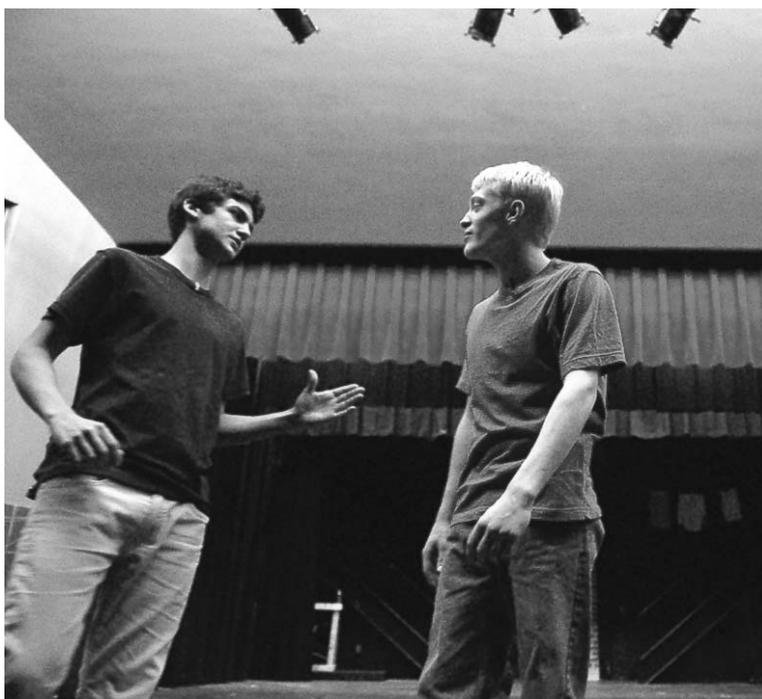
The show stars Jordan LaBella and Samantha Taggart in the lead roles of Tony and Maria. Steven Sloan plays Bernardo, the leader of the Sharks, and James Sheats plays Riff, the leader of the Jets. The Shark Chino is played by Jack Crawford-Brown and the Jet Action is played by Emerson Sieverts. Olivia Myers is in the role of Anita, Bernardo's girl.



Directed by Bill Podolski (left), the production features over 50 students in the orchestra and cast.



Paula De Francis and Miranda Webster



Jordan LaBella (Tony) talks with James Sheats (Riff).

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
CONNECTION



Violinist Tyson Price.



Emerson Sieverts (Action) and Jack Crawford-Brown (Chino).

LOCAL POLITICS

Candidate Field In 47th Race Swells

The list of candidates vying to succeed Del. **Al Eisenberg** (D) in Arlington's 47th district just got a little longer. Former Capitol Hill staffer **Alan Howze** is the latest to have joined what is quickly becoming an all-out political scrum.

That brings the number of candidates competing in the June 9 Democratic primary to five. Environmental blogger **Miles Grant**, Community Services Board chairman **Patrick Hope**, 23-year-old political operative **Adam**

Parkhomenko and veteran Latino activist **Andres Tobar** have already officially announced their candidacies.

Howze got his start in politics as a staffer for U.S. Rep. Rick Boucher (D-9), who represents southwest Virginia. He also worked in the office of former Gov. Mark Warner (D), who is now a U.S. senator.

In an interview, Howze said his focus would be protecting "the social safety net in the midst of this crisis. ... Virginia needs to be doing everything it can to protect and create jobs." Howze is a resident of the Overlee Knolls neighborhood. This is his first attempt to win elected office.

Howze might not be the last candidate to

enter the race, however. **Alfonso Lopez**, a local Democratic political activist, has been seriously considering a candidacy for months. But to enter the race, he would have to leave his job as the top lobbyist for Virginia on Capitol Hill and would also have to move into the 47th district. "Right now ... I'm focused on working with the Governor on the economic stimulus package," he said in an interview. "It's a decision my wife and I have to make."

Ashton Heights Civic Association president **Ted Bilich** has also indicated that he is thinking about entering the race. Bilich, a lawyer and 20-year Arlington resident, is the husband of **Teresa Martinez**, who in 2003

ran for the House of Delegates in the 49th district, a race in which Tobar also competed. Del. **Adam Ebbin** ultimately won.

Mike McCarthy, a 25-year-old trial lawyer who graduated from George Mason University School of Law last year, was scheduled to formally announce his candidacy at this week's meeting of the Arlington Democratic Party. But just a few days before the meeting, McCarthy told the Connection that he is reconsidering. "I've decided to give it a few more weeks of thought and preparation before I make a decision one way or another," he wrote in an email.

— DAVID SCHULTZ

CRIME

The following reports come from the Arlington police department. For the most up-to-date crime reports, visit www.Co.Arlington.Va.Us/police and click on daily crime report.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY, 4100 block of N. Pershing Drive. On Jan. 22 at 9:30 p.m., a woman was walking from a grocery store when an unknown male approached her. He displayed a firearm and demanded her bag and money. The victim struggled with him and yelled for help. Three bystanders ran to help, and the suspect fled on foot. The suspect was an African American male in his early 20's, tall, with a thin build. He was wearing a black coat, gray hooded sweatshirt, and black jeans. The suspect had dreadlocks and was clean shaven.

ATTEMPTED ARMED ROBBERY, 2100 block of N. Patrick Henry Drive. On Jan. 23 at 11 p.m., a man was walking when he was approached by three unknown suspects. The suspects assaulted the victim and displayed a handgun. The suspects did not take anything from the victim. The suspects were white Hispanic male teenagers. They were all wearing white long sleeve shirts and blue jeans.

ASSAULT ON POLICE, 1500 block of Columbia Pike. On Jan. 22 at 4:45 p.m., a police officer was assaulted while speaking to a disorderly subject. A male, 33, of Arlington, was charged with assault on a law enforcement officer, possession of stolen property, and curse and abuse. He was held without bond.

LATE ROBBERY, 1500 block of Wilson Blvd. On Jan. 22 a reported a robbery that occurred on Jan. 18 at 3

SEE CRIME. PAGE 13

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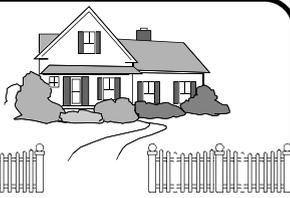
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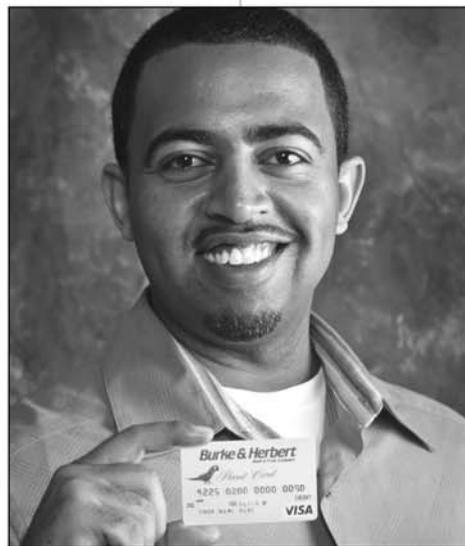
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It's a long way home to Ethiopia from Alexandria, Virginia where Tsegaye Tadesse works. He emigrated from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at age ten with an aunt and uncle, leaving his father, mother and sisters behind. Tsegaye grew up in America and began working. Soon he was able to send a portion of his earnings home to his family. His youngest sister was excited to receive money from her older brother to help purchase extras.

But wiring the money was expensive and inconvenient. He and two of his sisters (who also emigrated from Ethiopia) used to take turns sending the money wires but no one enjoyed the task. "Each of us always tried to get out of going to wire the money and get the others to do it," he says, laughing.

Retrieving the money was a hassle, too. "Every time I sent money my father had to travel to the wire company, wait in line and show I.D.," he recalls. "It was expensive and inconvenient but we didn't know how else to do it."



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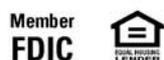
Best of all, no more trips to wire money and Tsegaye is enjoying all the money he has saved in wire fees. "Burke & Herbert is a great bank with friendly people. It's amazing to know this little yellow card from Burke & Herbert has helped make my family's life easier all the way back in Ethiopia!"

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Photo by Jenny Rulley

Compromising on Housing Bill

For the last two years, state Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple (D-31) has proposed a fund that would be used for the creation of housing in urban and rural areas of the state. And each time, fiscal conservatives in the Senate Finance Committee shot her proposal down.

This year, she is proposing that 10 percent of the state's year-end budget balance go

into the fund. Because Virginia is legally required to balance its budget, there is always a balance at the end of the fiscal year. "There are years when that would be very small," Whipple said. "For example, ... last year there was a \$10 million balance. There are years when it is much higher. It would be a variable amount of money."

— DAVID SCHULTZ



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(Snow Date: Thursday, February 19)

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Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 5-9 p.m.

(Snow Date: Wednesday, February 18)

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Review the proposed project plans depicting the major design features and the Categorical Exclusion documentation, prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 14685 Avion Parkway, Chantilly VA, 20151 or VDOT's Megaprojects Office, 6363 Walker Lane, Suite 500, Alexandria VA, 22310 and at 86 Deacon Road, Fredericksburg, VA, 22405. Property impacts and relocation assistance policies, and tentative construction schedules are available for your review at these locations and will be available at the public hearing. You may also call toll free 1-877-395-95VA or visit our Web site at www.vamegaprojects.com.

Give your written or verbal comments at the hearing or submit them by February 21, 2009 to Ronaldo T. Nicholson, P.E., Regional Transportation Program Director, 6363 Walker Lane, Suite 500, Alexandria, VA, 22310. You may also e-mail your comments to: Meeting_Comments@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "I-95/395 HOV/Bus/HOT Lanes" in the subject heading.

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C507, B624, B629, B632, B633, B634, B680, B682

NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Gov. Tim Kaine (D) speaks with Career Center instructor JC Perry during his visit to the Arlington school.

Career Center Expands Offerings

School officials seek to erase perception gap between academic and technical instruction.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Noelle Crosby, a junior at Yorktown High School, came upon her love for engineering naturally. Her father is an engineer and she has always delighted in disassembling things to see how they work.

Yorktown senior Kevin Corvucci's passion for cars came a little differently. He enrolled in an automotive technology class because, he said, "My parents were tired of me taking apart their car and not being able to put it back together."

Both Crosby and Corvucci are bright, high-achieving students who will attend a four-year university after graduation. But both are taking classes at Arlington's Career Center, once thought to be the domain of students whose college prospects were dim.

The students are enrolled in a new program at the Career Center called the Governor's Career and Technical Academy. Funded with a \$500,000 grant from the National Governor's Association, the academy offers Career Center students the opportunity to receive college credit through a dual enrollment agreement with the Northern Virginia Community College.

"It's great that we're getting dual enrollment," Crosby said, "So we can continue our studies in college."

STUDENTS ENROLLED in the Governor's Career and Technical Academy take classes at the Career Center in the morning and then return to their home

schools in the afternoon.

The students can pursue any one of five pathways: Engineering, Audio/Visual Technology, Health Sciences, Information Technology and Equipment Maintenance. They also have the opportunity graduate from high school after four years with a technical credential in their chosen field to supplement their diploma.

However, Arlington Public Schools officials said that, in their efforts to enhance the Career Center's offerings, they have had to fight against the perception that career and technical education is inferior to the academic instruction that students receive at their home schools.

Career Center representatives are constantly going to middle schools to talk to parents and students about the benefits of technical education, schools officials said.

"The division between academic and technical is a false division and is not helpful to students," Career Center instructor David Welsh said.

Last week, Gov. Tim Kaine (D), along with a group from the National Governor's Association, toured the Career Center and spoke with several of its students. Kaine spoke about his time as the principal of a technical academy in South America and said that other countries have embraced technical education while the U.S. has mostly spurned it. "We

need to come back to it in a major way," he said.

"Having you all here and having the Governor come is huge," School Board member Libby Garvey told the group from the National Governor's Association.

For Corvucci, taking automotive technology classes at the Career Center has been an eye-opening experience. "I came in and thought I'd just be having fun," he said. "But I realized there's a lot of math involved."

Schools officials are hoping that this kind of integrated education — combining traditional academics with vocation-oriented instruction — will prepare Arlington's students for the careers of the 21st century.

BULLETIN BOARD

Know of something missing from our community calendar? E-mail it to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with any questions. Photos are welcome. For more volunteer opportunities, classes, announcements visit www.arlingtonconnection.com and click on Community.

ONGOING ITEMS

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington is holding a Valentine's event. Participants in "Have a Heart" can make a donation and have a card with original artwork sent to a loved one with the message that a gift to Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance program has been made in their honor. **Deadline is Feb. 6.** To participate 703-841-3838 or e-mail sodwyer@ccda.net.

All Arlington County administrative offices, public libraries and nature centers **will be closed Monday, Feb. 16**, in observance of the Presidents Day holiday. County offices and courts will resume normal schedules on Tuesday, February 17. Visit www.arlingtonva.us and search keyword "holiday."

Arlington residents who need help with repairs on their house, can contact *RPJ Housing*, a local non-profit agency funded by Arlington County. Teams of volunteers do all the work free with skills ranging from novice to professional. These community members repair floors, ceilings, walls, doors and roofs; install grab bars, railings and smoke detectors; address minor plumbing and electrical repairs; build ramps, paint and attend to yard work. Priority is given to seniors, persons with disabili-

ties and families with children. To obtain an application, simply call RPJ Housing at 703-528-5606 ext. 11 or visit <http://rpjhousing.org/programs.html>

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 4

Money Talk. 7 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Women can take on their finances. \$20 includes textbook. 703-228-6417.

SATURDAY/FEB. 7

Open House. 9 a.m.-noon at The Jefferson, 900 N. Taylor St. The Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute will hold an open house. Refreshments provided. Visit www.arlingtonlri.org or 703-841-0647.

SUNDAY/FEB. 8

Support Group. 3 p.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. For parents, families and friends of lesbians, gays and transgenders. Free. Visit www.pflagdc.org or 703-615-3834.
Kidsave Orientation. 1:30-3 p.m., at Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Learn about helping orphans from Colombia this summer. RSVP to djmdesenne@aol.com. See www.kidsave.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 9

Women's Health for Mind and Body. 7 p.m. at Nottingham Elementary School Library, 5900 Little Falls Road. Learn about heart disease. Free. 703-785-5938.

TUESDAY/FEB. 10

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 13

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PEOPLE

'A Blessing in Disguise'

Casualty of financial crisis starts new career as musician.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

The audience at the recent Nero concert didn't look like the average rock show crowd. Business suits and Blackberries abounded, and many looked like they hadn't been to a concert involving loud electric guitars in years. Many had just come from work at Merrill Lynch in Vienna to see their friend and former colleague, Nero, perform in front of an audience for the first time in support of his new album, "9."

At one time, Nero worked with these people. By day, he was a mortgage broker at a large financial firm. By night, he was in the studio, working with session musicians and laying down vocal tracks.

And then the economy collapsed. Very suddenly, working in the mortgage business for a large financial firm very was a liability.

Late last year, Nero lost his job at Merrill Lynch. His manager was distraught when he delivered the news. "[But] I said 'Don't worry, I'll be just fine,'" Nero recalled. "I know exactly what I'm doing.' ... It was almost like a blessing in disguise."

NERO WAS BORN in Bangladesh as Faisal Hasan. His family left the country in the early '80s after his father, a businessman, refused to cooperate with the military dictatorship. They settled in South Florida, where Nero grew up, went to school and started a career.

In 1997, Nero's father died and his mother moved to Northern Virginia to start a new life. This had a major impact on his life.

He had been singing since he was five years old and had attended an arts college in Miami to study musical theater. But after the death of his father, Nero began to write his own songs.

In 2001, Nero took a job with Merrill Lynch in Northern Virginia to be closer to his family. The job paid well and it allowed him to purchase time at a recording studio to pursue his dream. "Art is my gift," he said, "And that's what I want to give."

Get Involved

To find out more information on Arts For Understanding visit its Web site at www.artsforunderstanding.org.



PHOTO COURTESY FAISAL HASAN

Nero — a.k.a Faisal Hasan — performs with guitarist Bruce Middle.

To craft the sound he wanted, Nero opened a phone book and cold-called more than a dozen professional musicians, eventually settling on a group of around five to work with him on the album. They spent nearly four years in and out of a Fredericksburg, Va. recording studio, crafting and refining Nero's debut. "It's a lot of

work," Nero said, "And it shows."

The resulting album, "9," is introspective and spiritual. Nero's lyrics reflect the soul-searching he underwent after the death of his father, with references to a "bleeding heart" and being trapped in a "golden cage." Musically, the songs on "9" run the gamut

SEE TURNUNG, PAGE 8



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PEOPLE

Turning to Music after Layoff

FROM PAGE 8

of genres, from South Asian qawwali to jazz/funk fusion to Fleetwood Mac-style rock.

“He’s a very positive person and he is not one who’s going to suck his finger and say ‘Poor me.’”

— Virginia O’Neill, Arlington-based attorney

have any access to this.”

“It’s using music to bridge the gap,” he added. “This is the best way I know to bridge the gap.”

As Nero says, the organization is currently in its “larval” stage and has yet to begin fundraising. But he has already lined up logistical support from many of his former clients and colleagues.

Sterling resident Charlie Nardiello is a former co-worker of Nero’s. He now serves on Arts For Understanding’s board of directors. “[Nero] told me about it over lunch one day,” Nardiello recalls. “This was kind of his dream, what he wanted to do with his life. He was at a crossroads.”

Virginia O’Neill is an Arlington-based attorney whose daughter is a friend of Nero’s. She provides legal support to Arts For Understanding. “He’s very enthusiastic about what he wants to do,” she said. “He’s a very positive person and he is not one who’s going to suck his finger and say ‘Poor me.’ He’ll say ‘How can I rework this?’ I think that’s one of his strengths.”

Theresa Jewell of Fairfax Station is also helping the nascent organization. “I’m proud of him,” she said. “I think [being laid off] was definitely a blessing in disguise.”

NERO SEES his pursuit of a career in music as a way to honor his late father, who had always encouraged him to follow his dreams. His pseudonym, Nero, was chosen because it was his father’s middle name.

He recently found another job with Bank of America but, this time around, he has a different perspective. “Everybody has to have something to pay the bills,” Jewell said. “I see his career in the financial industry as just paying the bills.”

“Music was always there,” he said. “I always had it going alongside my day job. Now it feels like this is my only focus. I should have done this a long time ago.”

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Signature Storms The Barricades

First local production of *Les Misérables* opens in Shirlington.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE CONNECTION

Eric Schaeffer has directed big musicals before, from "Big" itself to such mega-projects as "The Witches of Eastwick" and "Sweeney Todd." Now he's the first local director to tackle Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg's "Les Misérables," the musical that began the trend toward what became known as "mega musicals." Millions have seen the original production with its revolving turntable of a stage in large theaters in London, Broadway and around the world, but it is a new experience to see it in Signature's 280-seat black-box theater in Shirlington.

Schaeffer doesn't have a revolving floor, he has a platform that flies up to the ceiling, leaving an irregularly shaped stage with audience seating on three sides and a huge wall of shattered windows on the fourth side screening off an orchestra of 14. That orchestra is conducted by long-time Signature music director Jon Kalbfleisch who has been the associate conductor for "Les Misérables" both on Broadway and on tour.

The cast is huge. Twenty-eight actors —

only five fewer than the cast required for the recent revival on Broadway.

The script is the same, which is to say that, since the musical is sung through with hardly any spoken dialogue at all, the story, score and structure all remain the same. But Schaeffer puts his own stamp on the piece through staging and his selection of which visual elements to emphasize. His vision is a much darker "Les Mis" than fans of the show are used to seeing.

The one big change is the mode of suicide chosen by the police detective whose world collapses when he discovers that the fugitive Jean Valjean, who he has been pursuing over the 18-year span of the story, isn't the personification of evil he thought he was. I won't give away the secret of the new suicide effect, but it certainly isn't the eye-filling extravaganza that the original show staged with Inspector Javert leaping from one of Paris' bridges into the swollen River Seine.

The central character, Valjean, is Signature newcomer Greg Stone, whose stage presence is not strong enough to carry the part as he gestures rather mechanically and his voice only handles the range required of the part by slipping into its falsetto range at strange moments. Another Signature newcomer, Tom Zenon, plays the inspector with menacing intensity and sings the contrapuntal duets of the first act and the soaring solo "Stars" exceedingly well, but he falters on his final "Soliloquy."

It is with the Signature regulars and the women in the cast that the production is at its best. Tracy Lynn Olivera is the first to impress with her work as the ill-fated Fantine singing "I Dreamed a Dream." It is with the casting of Felicia Curry as the love-struck Eponine that Schaeffer gets the most impressive single moment of the show. Her solo scene singing "On My Own" has more musical and dramatic intensity than any one of the big chorus numbers including the iconic "One Day More" on the barricades of freedom.

Sherri L. Edelen teams with Christopher Bloch as the conniving innkeeper and his

wife. They quite effectively re-envision the pair without changing a word of their songs together. They do have the one obvious departure from the original script with a single line of dialogue in the scene that takes place in the sewers beneath the streets of Paris, and it is a good one.

"Les Mis" has always been a show of high-lights and there are many in this production including Chris Sizemore's delivery of "Red and Black" and Andrew Call's solo "Empty Chairs at Empty Tables."

Then, too, there are the requisite youngsters who impress and charm. At the performance we reviewed, Rachel Boyd all but wrapped the audience around her little finger as Young Cosette when she sang her solo "Castle on a Cloud" and AJ Breivik handled the challenges of being the youngster Gravoche who proves that "Little People" have some bite.

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland as well as Broadway, and edits Potomac Stages, (www.PotomacStages.com). He can be reached at Brad@PotomacStages.com.



Greg Stone as Jean Valjean, Prisoner 24601.



The company on the barricade in Signature Theatre's new production of "Les Misérables."

Where and When:

"Les Misérables" plays through Feb. 22 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. in Shirlington. Performances are Tuesday – Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Thursday – Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 7 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$65 - \$87. Call 703-820-9771 or 703-573-7328 or visit www.signature-theatre.org.

Accolades for Signature

Everyone in the audience last spring, when Signature Theatre presented theater legends Chita Rivera and George Hearn in "The Visit," the last collaboration of John Kander and Fred Ebb, knew that this was something special — even by the standards of Signature where special things happen all the time. The production was given praise from all sides, even from critics from around the nation who convened for their annual meeting here during the show's run. Now "Time Magazine" has ratified that judgment by picking the production as number four on its list of the top 10 plays and musicals of 2008. It was the only production on the list from outside of New York City.

Les Miz, Writ Small

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

Earlier this year, "Les Misérables" became the longest running musical in Broadway history. According to the show's Web site, over 54 million people in 38 countries and 21 languages have seen "Les Misérables" since it debuted more than 20 years ago.

The long-running musical is an epic tale of revenge and mercy set in post-revolutionary France that features kinetic acting and non-stop singing. Now, "Les Misérables" is being transposed onto a small, intimate setting at Arlington's Signature Theater.

Signature is staging the musical in a 280-seat black box theater. "We're known for reinventing the Broadway musical," Signature artistic director Eric Schaeffer said in a statement. "We're taking a great work like ["Les Misérables"] and reimagining it for our stage and our audience. It's an epic show to be seen in [an] intimate setting."

In Signature's version of "Les Misérables," the audience is practically on top of the more than two-dozen actors who play the show's legendary parts.

Even from the seats furthest away from the stage, one can see the sweat on the bodies of the prisoners as they toil under the evil Inspector Javert (played by Tom Zemon). When Marius (Andrew Call), the

love-struck student revolutionary, is wounded in battle, the audience can see blood gurgling from his mouth. And when Greg Stone's Jean Valjean, after being released from prison after 19 years, asks himself "Who am I?" the audience can see tears on his face.

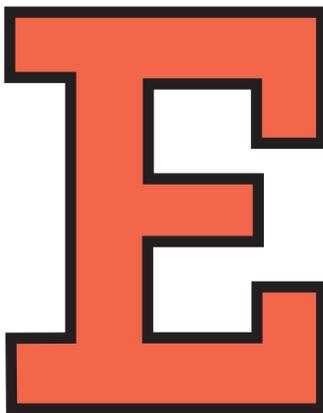
"You feel like you're in the show," said Cora Mak, a recent audience member. "We see the facial expressions. ... We feel the stomping."

The set design for Signature's "Les Misérables" is almost a character in and of itself. The intimate stage feels as though it is constantly moving, with set pieces being wheeled out on pulleys and characters entering from every direction.

Costuming is also an important aspect of the show. Signature opted to depart from the 19th century-style garb of the original production for a more abstract interpretation. Zemon, clad entirely in black leather with knee-high boots and a five-o'clock shadow, could double as the swarthy lead singer of a heavy metal band.

Lucy Bowen McCauley, the artistic director of a local dance troupe, had never seen "Les Misérables" before attending a performance at Signature. Coming from a performing arts background, she had a great appreciation for the challenges of performing a show like this on such a small stage.

"I loved the staging," McCauley said. "I thought it worked really well."



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Know of something missing from our community entertainment Calendar? E-mail announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with any questions. Photos are welcome.

ART LISTING:

Students from Kenmore Middle School are exhibiting their artwork at The Phillips Collection Art Gallery in Washington, D.C. The student artwork included in the exhibit was inspired by The Phillips Collection's current exhibition, "Christo and Jeanne Claude: Over the River, a Work in Progress." The community celebration is open to the public and the student exhibit can be viewed **through March 8**. Call 703-228-6004.

ONGOING:

T/Arlington's David M. Brown Planetarium, 1426 N. Quincy Street, presents "**Hubble Vision**" **through Sunday, Feb. 22**. Enjoy a multimedia show featuring the best and most exciting Hubble images. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for senior citizens & children 12 and younger. For more information, call the Planetarium office at 703-228-6070.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 4

Recycling Coordinator. 7:30 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Join this program. Free. RSVP, 703-228-6427.

Meeting. 7 p.m. at Moby's House of Kabob Restaurant, 300 N.

Washington Blvd. in Clarendon. The Arlington Green Party will meet. Free. E-mail jreeder123@msn.com.

Bird Walk. 9:30 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Adults can go on an informal walk in search of birds. Free. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Gemstone Club-Amethyst. 2:30 p.m. or 4:15 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 7-11 can learn about this stone and take one home. \$5/child. Reservations required, 703-228-3403.

THURSDAY/FEB. 5

Author Event. 7 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Annette Gordon-Reed will discuss her work "The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family." Free.

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Ages 18-35 months can learn about nature through songs, crafts,

and more. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

Endangered in Virginia. 7:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Adults can learn about plants and animals struggling to survive in Virginia. Free. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

FRIDAY/FEB. 6

Opening Reception. 6:30-8:30 p.m. see "East Meets West" at Century 21 Redwood Realty, 1711 Wilson Blvd. Art by Arlington Artists Alliance. Free. Visit www.arlingtonartistsalliance.com.

Murder Mystery. 7:30 p.m. at Mount Olivet UMC, 1500 N. Glebe Road. Watch "The Real Inspector Hound" with all proceeds going to youth mission trips. \$12/adult; \$6/child. Visit www.mtolivet-umc.org for tickets.

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Ages 18-35 months can learn about nature through songs, crafts, and more. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

Storytime Classics. 4:15 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 3-8 can learn about Old Mother West Wind. Free. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

SATURDAY/FEB. 7

Workshop. 7 p.m., Arlington Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Office of the City of Reims present "Crossing Glances: Regards Croises Arlington & Reims: Sister Cities" at Ellipse Arts Center, 4350 N. Fairfax Drive. Photographs by John Babineau of Arlington and Cecile Bethlehem of Reims, France. Free. Visit www.arlingtonarts.org for more.

Murder Mystery. 6 p.m. at Mount Olivet UMC, 1500 N. Glebe Road. Watch "The Real Inspector Hound" with all proceeds going to youth mission trips. \$12/adult; \$6/child. Visit www.mtolivet-umc.org.

Workshop. 2 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Noah Williams will lead an art workshop. 703-228-6321 to register.

Growing Up a Bird. 10 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 4-6 can learn about life with flowers. \$2/child. Register, 703-228-3403.

Icy Invertebrates. 11 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 8-12 can learn about insects that can survive in winter. Free. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Slithering Serpents. 3 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families with children ages 5 and up can learn about these animals and meet some up close. \$2/child. Register, 703-228-6535.

Flying Squirrel Lore and More. 5:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families can watch these animals glide in for dinner. \$4/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

SUNDAY/FEB. 8

Murder Mystery. 7:30 p.m. at Mount Olivet UMC, 1500 N. Glebe Road. Watch "The Real Inspector Hound" with all proceeds going to youth mission trips. \$12/adult; \$6/child. Visit www.mtolivet-umc.org for tickets.

Author Event. 3 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Daniel Mark Epstein will discuss his work "The Lincolns: Portrait of a Marriage." Free.

Playful Puppets. 11 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs road. Children ages 5-9 can create puppets and put them in a show. \$2/child. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Seed-sational Cards. 2:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families with children ages 10 and up can learn how to make cards. \$5/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Nature for Beginners: Top Ten Stars. 3 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Adults can learn about the top ten stars. Free. 703-228-3403.

Flying Squirrel Lore and More. 5:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families can watch these animals glide in for dinner. \$4/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Learn about Birds of Prey. 2 p.m. at Potomac Overlook Regional Park at Marcy Road. Adults and children 6 and older. Free, but reservations required. 703-528-5406.

Music Performance. 4 p.m. at Rock Spring Congregational Church, 5010 Little Falls Road. The IBIS Chamber Music Society presents "The Russians." Free, donations accepted. Visit www.ibischambermusic.org or 703-527-3960.

TUESDAY/FEB. 10

Birding Trip. 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at Lubber Run Center, 300 N. Park Drive. Adults can go to Point Lookout State Park for a birding excursion. \$25/person. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 11

Movie Watch. 7 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Watch "Killer of Sheep." Free.

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Ages 18-35 months can learn about nature through songs, crafts. \$3/child. Register, 703-228-3403.

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Jury Finds Foltz Guilty

Sentenced to life in prison.

David Lee Foltz was found guilty of abduction last week in Arlington County Circuit Court. He was given an automatic sentence of life in prison without parole.

Foltz was charged in an incident that occurred on Feb. 6 last year in which a woman was sexually assaulted on the side of a road near Foltz's Falls Church home.

Fairfax County Police Officers testified in court that they witnessed Foltz commit the assault. The officers had been following him for several hours because they believed he was responsible for a series of sexual assaults that had been occurring in the Springfield, Annandale, Falls Church and Alexandria areas.

Foltz's sentence was automatic because of a Virginia law that requires anyone convicted of two separate violent sexual offenses to be given life in prison. Foltz had previously served 17 years in jail after con-

fessing to a 1986 rape.

According to Foltz's defense attorney, Christopher Leibig, the jury deliberated for less than 90 minutes before returning with a verdict. "It was a very uphill battle," Leibig said, because the jury was made aware of Foltz's prior rape conviction. However, Leibig said, the jury was not made aware that Foltz would be given a mandatory life sentence if convicted.

"The jury got to know about the prior rape conviction and ... they did not know about the mandatory life sentence," he said. "It should be all or nothing on that."

Based on this line of argument, Leibig said he would be appealing the Foltz case in the Virginia Court of Appeals. Leibig said he would also argue that Fairfax County Police violated Foltz's constitutional rights by placing a GPS device on his vehicle without obtaining a warrant.

Frances O'Brien, the prosecutor in the case, did not respond to requests for comment on this story.

— DAVID SCHULTZ

Steroids Could Be Factor in Slaying

FROM PAGE 3

the Cream," substances that were allegedly used by several Major League Baseball players.

Rucker would not comment on what information prompted the attorneys to request a steroid test. But he did say they did not request testing for any other types of drugs.

HICKS'S murder in the early morning hours of Dec. 8 shocked the normally quiet Arlington Ridge neighborhood. Donaldson had been renting the house on the 2100 block of Arlington Ridge Boulevard in which the murder occurred. His neighbors said that he was not well known in the community.

According to court records, Donaldson works at a contracting firm based out of Crystal City that works with the military on information technology.

Representatives from the Commonwealth's Attorney's office would not say what role Hicks's girlfriend played in the incident. But Arlington Police spokesperson Crystal Nosal said Hicks's girlfriend did not witness the shooting.

DONALDSON'S case went before an Arlington

General District Court judge on Friday, Jan. 23 for a preliminary hearing. At the hearing, Donaldson's lawyers played a recording of the 911 call that Donaldson made shortly after the killing occurred.

Thomas Kelley, the presiding judge in the hearing, dismissed the case because, according to Rucker, the prosecutors had not met their burden of proof. The following Monday, Jan. 26, Commonwealth's Attorneys requested and received a grand jury indictment against Donaldson.

Rucker said that it is uncommon but not unheard of for a Commonwealth's Attorney to request an indictment after a case is dismissed in General District Court. "The prosecutor can always go and ask a grand jury to return an indictment," he said.

Donaldson is being charged with one count of second-degree murder and one count of using a firearm while committing murder. According to court records, Donaldson was issued a concealed handgun permit in 2006. His permit was revoked earlier this month as a result of the murder charge.

Donaldson has been released from custody after paying a \$53,000 bond.

"The evidence is going to show it was self-defense ... without question."

— Defense attorney Jason Rucker

Risky Teen Behavior Cited

FROM PAGE 3
manship.

But Reuben Varghese, Arlington County health director, said that the problems outlined in the MAPP study won't be solved

overnight. "These are issues that will always be with us," he said. "There is no low-hanging fruit."

— DAVID SCHULTZ

CRIME REPORT

FROM PAGE 5

a.m. The victim was assaulted and robbed by a subject known to him.

ATTEMPT MALICIOUS WOUNDING- ARREST, 900 block of N. McKinley St. On Jan. 26 at 6 p.m., a woman was driving when she noticed a

vehicle following her. The other vehicle struck the victim's car several times, and then continued following her. A female, 38, of Arlington, was arrested for driving under the influence of drugs, and malicious wounding. She was held without bond.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

Rotary Club Discussion. Noon at Holiday Inn in Rosslyn. Ivana Smucker will discuss Serbia. Free. 703-533-9478.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 11

Money Talk. 7 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Women can take on their finances. \$20 includes textbook. 703-228-6417.

Information Session. 7 p.m. at Marymount's Ballston Center, 1000 N. Glebe Road. Graduate Business Programs information session. Free. Registration required, 703-284-5902.

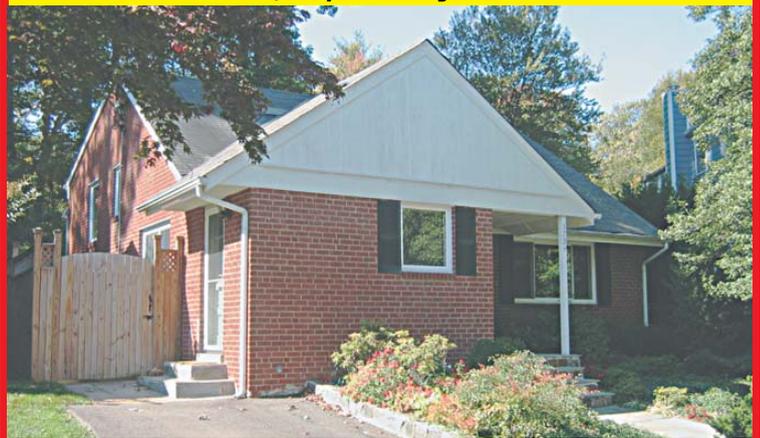
SUNDAY/FEB. 15

Support Group. 1 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 5533 N. 16th St. NAMI-Arlington sponsored group. Free. 703-862-9588.

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22213

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22207

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 3724 N Vermont St | \$749,900 | Sun 1-4pm | Dave Lloyd | Weichert | 703-593-3204 |
| 2344 Taylor St N | \$1,100,000 | Sun 1-4pm | Lisa Koch | Weichert | 703-527-3300 |
| 2316 Buchanan St N | \$639,000 | Sun 1-4pm | Kathleen Cox | Long & Foster | 703-284-9332 |
| 1810 Kenmore St N | \$1,679,555 | Sun 1-4pm | Stephen DeFalco | SWD Realty | 703-243-5121 |
| 2420 N Lincoln St | \$739,900 | Sun 1-4pm | Kevin Love | Re/Max Allegiance | 703-807-1986 |
| 6014 28th St N | \$1,489,999 | Sat/Sun 1-4pm | Michelle Sagatov | Fall Properties | 703-402-9361 |

22206

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 2729 Walter Reed Dr S #A | \$296,500 | Sun 1-4pm | Albert Heidmann | Coldwell Banker | 703-518-8314 |
| 2633 Walter Reed Dr S #C | \$373,500 | Sun 1-4pm | Albert Heidmann | Coldwell Banker | 703-518-8314 |
| 4638 S. 28th Rd | \$250,000 | Sun 1-4pm | Gayle Fleming | Keller Williams | 703-625-1358 |
| 4122 36th St S | \$464,999 | Sun 1-4pm | Paul Greenfield | Long & Foster | 703-928-0228 |

22205

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 2207 Greenbrier St N | \$1,595,000 | Sat/Sun 1-4pm | Florann Audia | Long & Foster | 703-402-9127 |
| 2223 Greenbrier St N | \$1,495,000 | Sat/Sat 1-4pm | Margaret Earnest | Long & Foster | 703-966-1999 |
| 2243 Greenbrier St N | \$1,249,000 | Sun 1-4pm | Florann Audia | Long & Foster | 703-402-9127 |

22204

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| 2226 Quincy St | \$375,000 | Sun 1-4pm | Liz Schell | Long & Foster | 703-284-9383 |
| 1400 S Barton St #424 | \$345,000 | Sun 1-4pm | Nick Kuhn | McEneaney | 703-671-5225 |

22203

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 4808 Fairfax Dr #1 | \$533,000 | Sun 1-4pm | Adam Beslove | A La Carte Realty | 703-929-7909 |
| 428 N Nelson St | \$930,000 | Sun 1-4pm | Colin Middleton | Long & Foster | 703-201-8712 |
| 617 Buchanan St N | \$564,900 | Sun 1-4pm | Ken Gehris | Housepad.com | 866-534-3726 |
| 731 22nd St S | \$1,079,000 | Sun 1-4pm | Steven Wright | Weichert | 720-989-5283 |

22202

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1325 23rd St S | \$1,200,000 | Sun 1-4pm | Sean Satkus | Long & Foster | 703-731-8086 |
| 1200 26th St S | \$1,075,000 | Sun 1-4pm | Sean Satkus | Long & Foster | 703-731-8086 |

22201

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 2001 15th St N #1505 | \$1,247,500 | Sun 1-4pm | Keri O'Sullivan | Re/Max Allegiance | 703-522-1940 |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|

For an Open House Listing Form, call Deb Funk at 703-518-4631 or e-mail debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Monday at 3 p.m.

Favola Makes Budget Commitments

FROM PAGE 3

extra \$25,000 for the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic would be enough to hire another full-time dentist there. "One small contribution from you will make a big difference to people like me," she told Favola and Fisette.

Yared Lakew spoke about the need for scholarships so immigrants to the county can learn English. "Scholarships are absolutely mandatory for a man living by himself who wants to pursue his dream," Lakew, who immigrated to Arlington from Ethiopia two years ago, said.

Karen Archer is an Arlington Public Schools employee who is looking to buy a house in Arlington to be closer to her ailing mother. But she has been unable to find a property that is both affordable and spacious enough for her family. "Are families welcome here?" she asked. "Are the people who work and serve here good enough to live here?"

BOTH FAVOLA and Fisette agreed to nearly all of VOICE's requests. They said they would increase the amount of English scholarships and would allocate \$25,000 to the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic. They also promised not to cut funding for affordable housing and to expand so-called "safety



Father Gerry Creedon of St. Charles Borromeo Church spoke of the need to maintain social services in grim economic times.

net" housing.

One area where the two board members hedged was on the funding of Macedonia Baptist Church's new affordable housing

complex. The South Arlington church is looking to erect an apartment complex that will feature below-market-rate rents on land it owns in South Arlington. But the project

needs more funding from the county to be realized and VOICE wants the board to address this issue this month.

Favola said that this would not be possible because more negotiating needs to be done. But she said she would work towards putting it on the board's agenda in March and promised that the project would come to fruition before the end of the year.

The rally ended with a speech from Macedonia's pastor, the Rev. Leonard Hamlin. He called the organization of Arlington's religious community "uniquely wonderful" and led the energetic crowd at Lomax's balmy, unseasonably warm chapel in chants of "Yes we will! Yes we will!"

ALL FIVE County Board members were slated to attend the rally. But, due to a state law that regulates County Board meetings, Chris Zimmerman (D), Mary Hynes (D) and Walter Tejada (D) were forced to back out at the last minute.

State law requires that, whenever more than two board members gather to discuss county business, the meeting must be publicized at least three days in advance. Because the County Board office failed to get the notice out in time, the other three board members were legally prohibited from attending the event.

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OPINION

Importance of College Options

Northern Virginia Community College will have a growing and critical role in coming decade.

Here in Northern Virginia, residents, businesses and government all recognize the importance of quality public schools. Great schools benefit everyone, not just families with children in school.

In Fairfax County, the public schools absorb more than half the county funds available. In Loudoun, the percentage is much higher. Spending per student in Arlington and Alexandria demonstrate those localities' commitment to their public schools as well.

Another critical component of the quality of life, education and the economy here is the Northern Virginia Community College. While it's hard to overstate the importance of NOVA, the second largest community college in the nation with more than 60,000 students, will play an even bigger role in the decade to come.

While NVCC (or NOVA as it is more commonly known), along with local school districts, has taken its share of budget cuts, the

General Assembly should not take steps to cap its tuition. Northern Virginia Community College offers access to high quality college classes and degree programs at a very affordable price (well under \$3,000 annual tuition for a full-time student) and also offers support to students with financial need in a variety of ways. The school must have some flexibility to manage its revenues to continue to meet growing demand.

NOVA is one of the most internationally diverse colleges in the United States, with students from more than 180 countries; international students make up about 20 percent of student population.

The community college conducts significant outreach to the many students in Northern Virginia high schools who could be the first in their family to go to college, many of them immigrants. This is a critical link to the American dream.

NOVA provides an affordable path to a four-year college degree, plus provides certificates and training in careers high in demand like

nursing and health care, "green" technologies.

With even many affluent families feeling the effects of the economic crisis, many students in Northern Virginia will need to find alternatives to paying full freight for four years of college education.

NOVA accepts IB and AP credits, so an advanced student from Fairfax County could arrive at NOVA with a year's worth of college credit, get an associates degree in one year at an affordable rate, and then transfer to a four-year college, finishing in three years and potentially cutting their college costs in half.

Students who graduate from NOVA with an associate's degree and a minimum grade point average are guaranteed admission to other Virginia colleges and universities, including George Mason University, the University of Virginia, and the College of William and Mary.

NOVA has campuses in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Springfield and Woodbridge along with educational centers in Reston and Arlington. NOVA offers more than 160 certificate programs and degrees at the associate's level, along with distance learning programs.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTER

County Proves Responsive

To the Editor:

I'm writing because I contacted you on Sunday, Jan. 25, with a letter to the editor regarding a ticket I was issued that didn't agree I deserved. The situation was upsetting as I was issued a ticket parked outside my house with a permit and had spent two weeks calling the ticket contest number with no response.

However since writing to you I have been contacted by Sgt. Matthew, Sgt. Vincent and Arlington County Treasurer Frank O'Leary. These gentlemen were kind enough to listen to my grievance and Sgt. Vincent dismissed my ticket based on the grounds it was given.

Both the Arlington County Treasurers Office and Police Department were all very responsive and understanding to me. I wanted to express my thanks and appreciation for their work, and also for the work of PSA Blandon who issued the ticket mistakenly but was just doing her job.

As a new member of Arlington County I was impressed with the amount of response I got after contacting many people. I was told that the ticket hot line was monitored regularly and that they were working on a way to better the process. I can't tell you how nice it is to live in a place that cares so much about their citizens.

I hope you'll publish this letter as a response to my last letter, so the Citizens of Arlington County don't think they'll be ignored.

Meghan Sager
Arlington County resident



From left: Jon Kinney, Bean Kinney, & Korman, P.C.; Allen Schirmer, United Bank; Marisa Ottaviani and Phil Keating, Bean, Kinney, & Korman, P.C.

Chamber Gala

Ellen Rainey, 2009 Chamber Chair, Hamilton College, and Terry Rainey at the Arlington Chamber of Commerce Gala, Saturday, Jan. 31.



PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA THOMPSON/ARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ARLINGTON CONNECTION

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Streak (and Zone) Busters

Wakefield boy's end five-game losing drought to Yorktown in unlikely fashion.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE CONNECTION

Tony Bentley had all the classic gestures an angry coach makes down pat. At various points of last Friday's showdown against Arlington rival Yorktown, the Wakefield boy's basketball coach had thrown his sport coat in disgust, stomped his feet in frustration, screamed at his own assistants, and of course, gotten in the ear of whichever ref was closest.

So it was downright shocking when Bentley flashed a smile as Yorktown switched from zone to man-to-man defense with just four minutes remaining and his team clinging to a four-point lead.

Turns out it may not have secured a victory just yet, but Wakefield had officially won the battle of wills.

"These guys, it had just been in their brain that we can't beat them because of the zone, the zone, the zone," said a now beaming Bentley after defeating Yorktown, 66-59, to avenge a Jan. 6 loss. Wakefield had lost five straight games to the Patriots and its eight-member senior class had never beaten Yorktown at any level of basketball.

"That took entirely way too long

to do," said relieved senior Robel Getu of snapping the losing streak. "We needed this."

In saying good riddance to such bad karma, the Warriors have the unlikely combination of a more patient approach and senior Andre Allen to thank.

Wakefield (14-4 overall, 5-3 National District) usually favors a frenzied pace that takes advantage of its plethora of gifted athletes. But Yorktown's zone has served as

a proverbial tire spike for Bentley's squad, who committed 19 turnovers and forced numerous tough shots against the Patriots earlier in the season. This time around, Bentley made it a point of emphasis

in practice to swing the ball around the perimeter more, so gaps would open on the interior as the Patriots' zone rotated to keep up.

The Warriors did just that, and it left up plenty of room for the 6-foot-5 Allen (team-high 19 points) to operate in the high post. And whether it was feeding fellow senior Johnathan Ford (14 points, nine rebounds) in the paint, getting Getu (20 points, including four 3-pointers) open looks outside after the defense collapsed, or sinking his own smooth lefty jump shots, Allen's presence was felt more so than at any point during this season.

A player who Bentley could only describe as "sporadic" following the stellar performance, Allen is just five games removed from serv-

ing a suspension after violating team rules. He, along with four other seniors, were forced to sit out Wakefield's Jan. 9 loss to Mount Vernon.

"I just saw the court well tonight," said Allen, whose previous season-high was nine points against Annandale in December.

Now the Warriors move onto a pivotal match-up Tuesday night against National District-leading Mount Vernon, which takes place

after the Connection's press time. Like Wakefield, the Majors like to get up-and-down the court, a welcome change for the Warriors after going against the grain in more than one way this

past weekend.

FOR YORKTOWN COACH

Rich Avila this game was all about adjustments — as in the changes the Warriors made versus the inability to implement them on the Patriots' side.

Yorktown (9-9, 5-3) has the mid-week snowfall that closed school and therefore cancelled activities on Tuesday and Wednesday to blame for the failure to adapt. It meant the Patriots had just one hour of practice leading into Friday's game. And even though Yorktown scored more points than in their victory over Wakefield earlier in the season, the Warriors' decision to switch on every screen defensively is what Avila thought made a huge difference.

"We weren't getting the types of

It had just been in their brain that we can't beat (Yorktown)."

— Wakefield coach
Tony Bentley

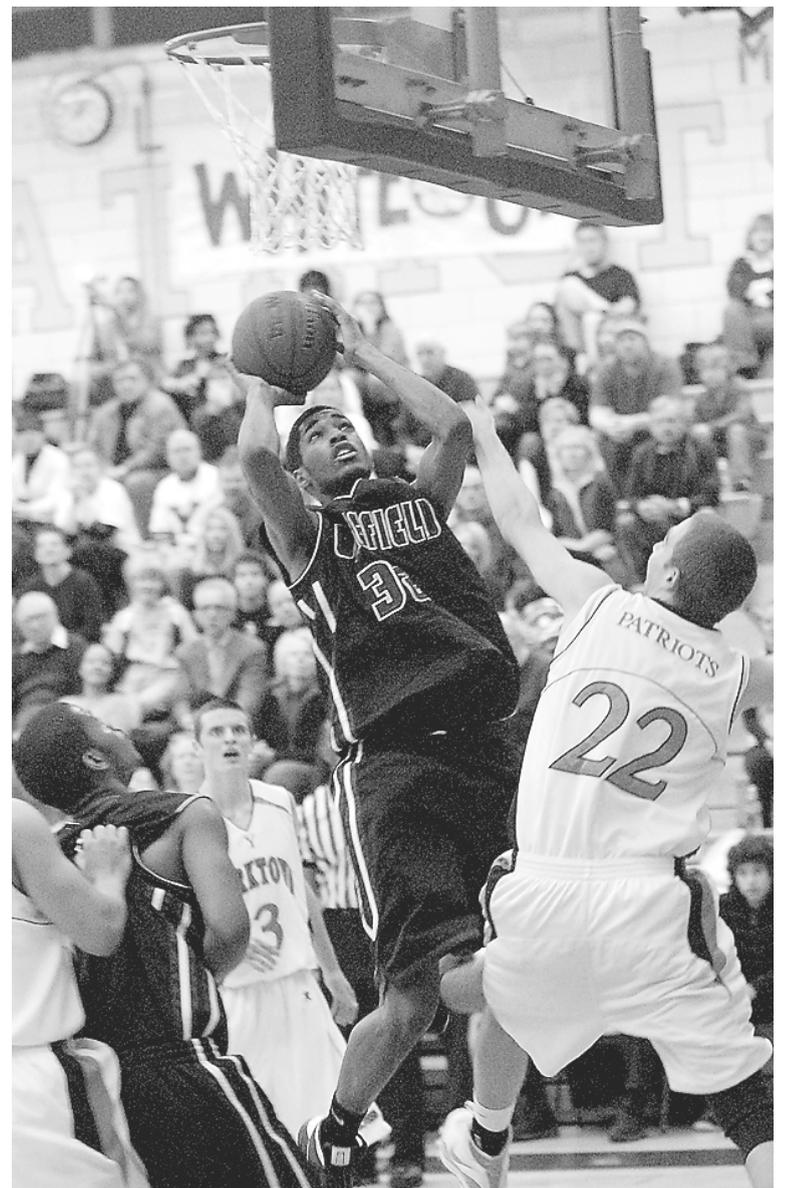


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Wakefield's Johnathan Ford attempts a shot over Yorktown's Will Carey during last Friday's boy's basketball game between the two neighboring schools. Wakefield snapped a five-game losing streak to the Patriots, winning 66-59.

shots we normally get out of our offense," said Avila

"Us taking hard shots, them taking easy shots — they're probably going to win every time like that," said guard Mike Veith (game-high

21 points). Yorktown takes on Edison Tuesday night and then faces Washington-Lee Wednesday night, a make-up of last Tuesday's game scheduled between the two schools.

Chasing County Track Crowns

Even 10 minutes after she crossed the finish line side by side with an Edison runner, Yorktown's Kelsey Coia had no idea whether she had actually won the 1600-meter (about one mile) race at last Friday's Arlington County meet at Thomas Jefferson Recreation Center.

Little did she know, thanks to the conjoined nature of indoor track, her supposed photo finish wasn't so close after all. While Coia's Patriots, Washington-Lee, Wakefield, and O'Connell raced for city bragging rights, Edison, Mount Vernon, Falls Church, and Stuart were all battling in their own meet simultaneously.

So even though there were two runners with almost identical times in the same race, neither had much to do with the other.

Coia's personal-best time of 5:33 simply provided her with a comfortable nine-second cushion ahead of second place Cynthia Carson of Washington-Lee.

"Oh gotcha, I didn't even realize it," said a laughing Coia when told she was in fact the Arlington County mile champion, before conceding that her counterpart at Edison may have out stepped her at the finish line.

It was all part of the largest winter gathering of Arlington runners this season, with close to 200 in action. But ask many of the participants and they'll say it isn't anywhere near as crazy as the National District meet (which begins Tuesday at Episcopal High School in Alexandria) or the Northern Region meet.

Yorktown coach Mark Stripe, who had a yellow smiley face balloon hovering over him at all times so runners could identify him amongst the masses, called the county meet "a three-ring circus. Those in attendance remained undaunted with two and sometimes three races or events going on at once.

"It's definitely smaller, so there's less competition, but there's much more spirit," said Coia, a sophomore who also won the 1000-meter run. "You know a lot more people that you're racing against than being really far away in Fairfax or something."

The big winners, though, came from **Washington-Lee**, which won both the boy's and girl's team competitions with scores of 83 and 71, respectively, and stak-



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Yorktown sophomore Kelsey Coia won both the 1000- and 1600-meter runs, helping lead the Patriots to a second-place finish overall.

ing its claim as the best runners in Arlington.

— MARK GIANNOTTO

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By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Partially due to doctor's orders, partially due to advancing age and partially due to friends', relatives' and educated opinions I've heard on radio and seen on television, I have begun, over the last year, to gradually supplement my vitamin- and nutrient-challenged diet with an assortment of pills, capsules, gels, liquid gels and soft gels to provide healthy sustenance that so far has escaped me. Since I cannot beat them on my own, I have decided to join them. If I've learned anything in life, it is that!

Surely exercise would help, as would dropping another 20 pounds (only 20?). Completely changing my eating habits, and I mean, 180 degrees, likely would contribute as well to a healthier and more fit me. But it's rather difficult to turn an ocean liner around after it's headed out to sea, and so far as I can see, the horizon is in my rear view window.

However, I imagine a few unexpected and discouraging results in my next quarterly blood test would most assuredly get the captain of my ship to turn tail and return to port. And even though my current and birth-to-date eating habits would seem to indicate that I don't yet know port from starboard, if I was unfortunate enough to receive "the talk" from my primary care physician and/or his nutritionist, I'm sure my interest and predilection to focus on the inside aisles at the supermarket (pre-packaged, bottled, canned; generally speaking, manufactured foods) would change rather quickly to a more concerted re-focus on the outside aisles at the supermarket (fresh and prepared foods, produce, dairy, meat, poultry, fish, etc.).

In lieu thereof, I have been pill-popping in one form or another going on 18 months. And for all I know, and for all my lab results seem to indicate, there may actually have been some benefit to the 10 to 12 pills a day regimen that I've maintained and even added to recently: multivitamin, a few prescriptions, baby aspirin, fish oil, Resveratrol of late, and possibly COQ-10 in the future, all in an attempt to stem the biochemical tide and imbalance caused no doubt by the life, liberty and happiness that I pursue.

And even though I've never characterized these pursuits as any kind of declaration of my independence, in effect, they were, and continue to be so. Now whether this pursuit has caused irreparable harm or in fact created an internal environment in which these manufactured and presumably concentrated supplements have no counter-balancing effect, I certainly don't know. Nor do I imagine that even the health care professionals who speak so knowledgeably and eloquently on the subject know exactly how the human body will ultimately respond for sure. One thing I know for sure, however, I'm not getting any younger. Nor am I, unfortunately, able to go back in time and start all over. Therefore, I have to make the best of the hand — and the health — I've been given. From my perspective, it's certainly nothing to complain about, it's just a dozen pills a day — or more eventually, I'm sure — likely for the rest of my life. A life that, because of, in spite of, all these supplements, will last longer and maybe even be healthier than I have a right to expect.

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

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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Cricket Communications, Inc. is proposing to install new wireless telecommunications antennas on an existing high-tension power transmission tower located at 9620 Verdict Drive, Vienna, Fairfax County, VA. The new facility will consist of 6 antennas at a centerline height of 127 feet on a proposed 127-foot Fort Worth-style monopole within the existing lattice power tower. Support equipment will be installed at the base of the tower. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 61090022-SLF c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403 or via telephone at (717) 428-0401.

21 Announcements

4 RE for Sale

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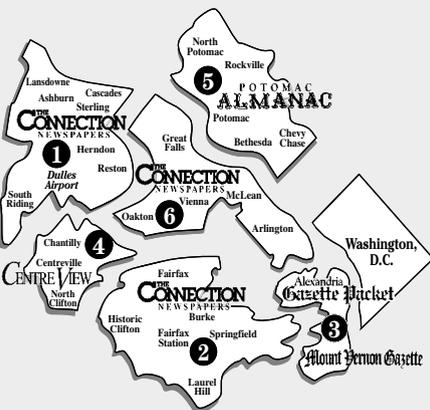
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25 Sales & Auctions

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE –
REDEEMED PROPERTY

Under the authority of Section 7506 of the Internal Revenue Code, the property described below will be sold at public auction on an open occupancy basis. The United States redeemed this property under the provisions of Section 7425 of the Internal Revenue Code on January 5, 2009. The property was deemed to the United States on January 15, 2009. The sale will be by public auction to be held on:

DATE: February 25, 2009

TIME: 1:00 P.M. Bidder Registration at 12:30 P.M.

LOCATION: Fairfax County Courthouse, Front Entrance, 4110 Chain Bridge Rd. Fairfax, VA 22030

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: ALL THAT certain property situated in the Township of Great Falls, in the County of Fairfax and State of Virginia, and being more particularly described in a deed dated 12/09/1988 and recorded 12/12/1988 in Book 7218, Page 1075 among the Land Records of the County and State set forth above.

Known as 11217 Raehn Court, Great Falls, Virginia, 22066, further identified as Tax Map/Parcel ID Number: 002-2-02-0031. Property is a single family dwelling consisting of 5,038 sq. ft. of living space, with 4 full baths, 1 half bath, 4 fireplaces, a 3 car detached garage, and an 800 sq. ft. swimming pool.

The opening bid for the property will be \$825,000

The terms of payment will be:

A deposit equal to 20% of the highest bid on the property is required within 2 hours from the sale conclusion. The balance must be paid within 30 days or no later than 4:00 pm on March 24, 2009.

Payment of required deposit and balance of the purchase price must be paid by certified, cashier's or treasurer's check drawn on any bank or trust company incorporated under the laws of the United States. Payment may also be made by any United States postal, bank, express, or telegraph money order. All checks and money orders should be made payable to the United States Treasury.

For Further Information, please contact: Robert Brown, Property Appraisal and Liquidation Specialist at (501) 366-0098 or check out www.irsauctions.gov

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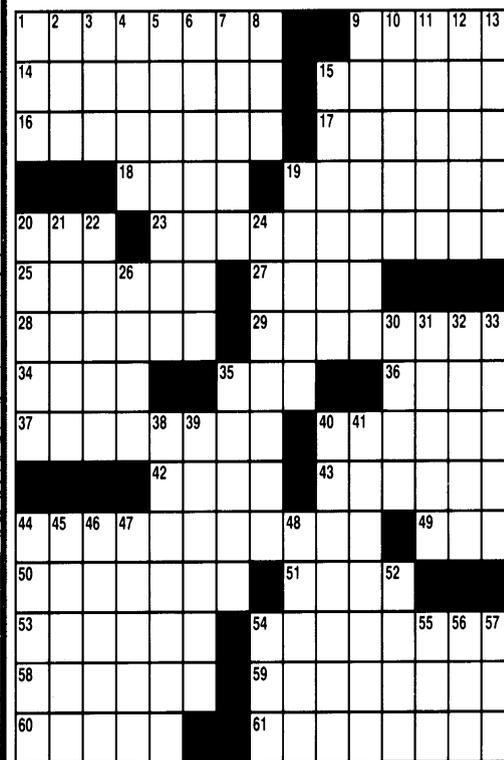
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ZONE 6 AD DEADLINE:
MONDAY NOON

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0417-6



Puzzle by Jim Page

ACROSS

- 1 Small tip
- 9 A ton
- 14 "Likely story"
- 15 Weed of the mint family
- 16 Shells may be in them
- 17 Blazing
- 18 Christmas times: Abbr.
- 19 Egyptian god shown holding a scroll
- 20 Hearst's captors: Abbr.
- 23 They're often made of silk
- 25 Las —, Canary Islands
- 27 Associate of Dayan
- 28 Connected, nowadays
- 29 Ellery Queen and others
- 34 Site of Kit Carson's grave
- 35 Opening of a retail store?
- 36 Strike
- 37 Don't act
- 40 Pupil surrounder
- 42 Hardly thrilling

DOWN

- 12 More terrible
- 13 Dance set?
- 15 Lincoln's first Vice President
- 19 Words before "Fine" and "Pretty" in song
- 20 Some are blind
- 21 Stoop in Hawaii
- 22 Set apart
- 24 Understanding
- 26 Spray
- 30 Skating maneuver
- 31 Dour
- 32 Solver of the Königsberg bridge problem
- 43 Fox's Fox
- 44 "Equal Time" co-host, once
- 49 Age abbr.
- 50 Some cats
- 51 Cleaning solution?
- 53 Wake-up call?
- 54 Acts between parties
- 58 Tennis's Makarova and others
- 59 Sorrowful souls
- 60 Bad lover?
- 61 Merchant
- 1 One-handed Norse god
- 2 Shoe designation
- 3 Noodge
- 4 McQueen of movies
- 5 "Conga" singer
- 6 Loony
- 7 "East of Eden" family name
- 8 French possessive
- 9 Chicken that's a prolific egg layer
- 10 Far from blasting
- 11 Fall off

- 33 Shiners
- 35 Has quite an impact on
- 38 Basque, e.g.
- 39 Learns little by little
- 40 Its range is about 500-1700 kHz
- 41 More out of shape
- 44 Iris Murdoch and others
- 45 — Gay
- 46 Protected bird
- 47 "The Secret History" novelist Tartt
- 48 Hindenburg's predecessor
- 52 Include
- 54 British sports cars
- 55 Pro —
- 56 Time piece?
- 57 1040 ID

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT!

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

The winner of puzzle #0416-6 is:

Frank Weinstein

Note: Due to space limitations, in some weeks the crossword may not appear. The next time it appears, it will be the next one in order, with the answers and winner for this puzzle.

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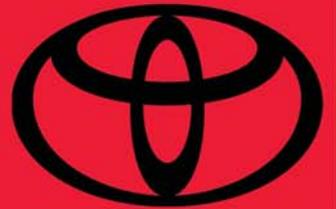
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