

Michael DeRose of the McLean Rotary Club presents one of this year's Youth Service awards to McLean High School student Cecilia Lam.



Recognizing Teens Who Serve

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Recognizing Teens Who Serve Others

McLean Rotary bestows annual Youth Service awards.

Insup Lee is president of Langley High School's Korean Club and a member of the National Honor Society, and he tutors other students while earning perfect grades. The high-school senior's interest in Korea's diplomatic history led him to start a program for summarizing and cataloguing documents on that subject in the Library of Congress.

However, none of these are the reason he received one of the McLean Rotary Club's Youth Service awards, presented at a luncheon last Tuesday, Feb. 3. Recipients of the awards are chosen for their embodiment of the Rotary motto, "Service above self."

Lee was one of three area students chosen for the awards this year. Also receiving plaques and \$400 checks were Cecilia Lam of McLean High School and Elyse Marriott of the Potomac School.

ROTARIAN MICHAEL DEROSE, who organizes the youth awards program, now in its fourth year, said Lee's nomination was among the most overwhelming he had ever seen. "This is one of the most remarkable stories," he told the Rotarians gathered for the luncheon at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

Diagnosed with leukemia, now in remission, Lee founded To the Next Stage, an organization that encourages teens with cancer to continue their studies and pursue their goals. Lee also shares his story as a counselor at Camp Fantastic, a camp for children with cancer. He created a back-to-school program for parents of children with cancer, was the speaker at the Growing Hope annual picnic and volunteers with patients at Children's National Medical Center for Oncology and Hematology.

"When I shook his hand for the first time, I knew this young man was destined to go on to do great things," said Jennifer Baldesare, the Langley counselor who nominated Lee for the award, adding that he "exemplified what it means to put others before self" and was also one of the best students she had known. Through To the Next Stage, Lee had motivated other teens by talking about his own experiences and distributed pamphlets about teen cancer at local hospitals, Baldesare said. "He's truly a real mentor and all these patients have benefited from his strength."

DeRose asked whether he correctly understood that Lee had kept his grades up during three months of daily chemotherapy. He had. Asked where he would be attending college, Lee said he wasn't sure — he had been accepted by Stanford, but was still waiting to hear from Harvard.

Introducing Lam, DeRose said, "This is someone whose life has been greatly influ-



Rotarian Michael DeRose introduces Langley student Insup Lee, who works to give hope and inspiration to other teens battling cancer.

PHOTOS BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION



From left, Youth Service awards organizer Michael DeRose poses with award winners Insup Lee, Elyse Marriott and Cecilia Lam, as well as McLean Rotary president Lois Wilson and Stan Richards of the Rotary Foundation.

"He's truly a real mentor and all these patients have benefited from his strength."

— Jennifer Baldesare

enced by music and she used music to influence the lives of those around her." A classical violinist, Lam founded and leads Union of Productive Performances, through which she assembles musicians from her school to give free concerts at the Lewinsville Senior Residences. The performers encourage audience participation and engage the seniors in discussions about music, as it relates to different periods in their lives.

She also organizes fund-raisers for Alter-

native House, Vienna's crisis shelter for teens, and is working with another McLean student to create a video that will promote community relations with the shelter. And Lam volunteers at the Holocaust Museum, where she gives presentations and acts as a translator for Chinese and Hispanic visitors, and mentors young musicians in the Queens Taiwanese Evangelical Church Summer Youth Orchestra.

HER GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, Isabelle Rahn, said Lam "represents what is best in today's youth." She also noted that Lam would be performing at the Kennedy Center later this month at Youth Orchestra Day with the National Symphony.

Lam said she started Union of Productive
SEE ROTARIANS, PAGE 7

Koger Sentenced

Hundreds of local homeowners associations victimized.

Jeffrey Scott Koger, 39 of Oak Hill, was sentenced last week in federal court to more than five years in prison and ordered to pay more than \$2 million in restitution.

Koger embezzled more than \$3 million from many of the 400-plus Northern Virginia homeowners associations that contracted services from his family's company, Koger Management Group, located in Fairfax.

KMG collected homeowners association dues and provided a variety of financial and maintenance services for the HOAs. Homeowners associations in virtually every part of Northern Virginia were affected, including in Ashburn, Chantilly, Arlington, Burke, Springfield, McLean, Reston, Mount Vernon and Alexandria, among others.

Neither the United States government nor Jeffrey Koger's defense attorney call his criminal actions "sophisticated," but Koger used more than 140 bank wire transfers to move the money for his own purposes. The embezzlement was conducted over the course of several years.

"The defendant took steps to cover up and explain away his criminal behavior which made his theft more difficult to detect," according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Hanly. "A significant term of incarceration is needed to reflect the seriousness of the defendant's crime, to impose just punishment, and to deter him from future offenses."

Koger, who also faces criminal charges in Fairfax County (see below), pleaded guilty to wire fraud and tax evasion last November.

U.S. District Court Judge Leonie M. Brinkema sentenced Koger Friday, Feb. 6 to 66 months in prison and ordered that he pay more than \$1.2 million in restitution as well as \$775,272 to the IRS for tax evasion.

Koger was the former Chief Financial Officer of his father's real estate management firm, Koger Management Group, which filed for bankruptcy in July 2007. Robert Koger, the defendant's father, reported to the Fairfax City Police in November 2006 that he believed his son had embezzled \$800,000, kicking off the investigation.

"The defendant's crimes caused substantial harm to numerous individuals, including: KMG which was forced to dissolve and declare bankruptcy; KMG's employees, many of whom lost their jobs as a result of the dissolution; the more than 350 HOA

SEE NEW, PAGE 5

Bulova Becomes Chairman

Democrat wins special election by slim margin Feb. 3.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Former Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D) was sworn in as the Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's newest chairman at the county government center Feb. 6.

Bulova defeated Springfield Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R) by 1,217 votes, a margin of less than two percent, in a special election for the countywide seat three days earlier. She replaces now U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), who left the office to join the U.S. Congress in early January.

A 21-year county board veteran, Bulova serves as chair of the supervisor's budget committee and was a founder of the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), a commuter train to Washington D.C. with stations in southern and central Fairfax.

In opening remarks at the swearing in ceremony, Fairfax County public information officer Merni Fitzgerald also said Bulova had "championed the redevelopment of Tysons Corner as an environmental project," while serving as Braddock District supervisor.

AS CHAIRMAN, Bulova has her work cut out for her in 2009. Fairfax County must close a projected \$650 million budget hole in the annual budget that begins in July.

Approximately 75 percent of the local government's revenue comes from real estate taxes and the county's property values have fallen significantly. The supervisors would have to raise the real estate property tax rate 14 to 15 cents just to keep county revenue at the same level as last year.

According to Bulova, residents should brace themselves for some cuts to county services, though Fairfax will try to take care of its most vulnerable citizens.

"We will adopt changes that will bring our budget into equilibrium ... [But we] need to take care of those among us who need our help now more than ever," said the new chairman at the swearing in ceremony.

"Working together, we will come through these difficult financial times. ... The darkest hour is just before the dawn," she added.

THOUGH FACING a tough situation, Fairfax County's economy is also resilient, according to Bulova.

Hilton Hotels recently decided to move its headquarters to Fairfax over other local jurisdictions. The military's Base Realignment And Closure process will also bring new jobs and economic development to the southern part of the county, said Bulova.



Sharon Bulova addressed the crowd after her swearing in as Fairfax County chairman Feb. 6.



Judge Jan Brodie swore in Sharon Bulova as the new Fairfax County chairman Feb. 6.

As chairman, Bulova will also push for the extension of Metro rail west in the Interstate 66 corridor and the expansion of VRE services, she said.

HERRITY, whose father served as board chairman in the 1970s and 1980s, attended Bulova's swearing-in ceremony.

His race with Bulova is the closest high-profile countywide contest between a Democrat and Republican in several years. The last two Fairfax County chairmen, both Democrats, won their seats by a larger margin than Bulova did last week.

Former chairman Kate Hanley beat former Supervisor Elaine McConnell (R-Springfield) in a 1995 special election with 52 percent of the vote and approximately 3,500 ballots. In 2004, Connolly won his first chairman's race by nine points and approximately 17,000 ballots.

Bulova lost two magisterial districts, Mount Vernon and Dranesville, which Hanley and Connolly had won over the past four election cycles.

Fairfax County Chairman Special Election Results

Fairfax County provided these returns for the Fairfax County chairman special election Feb. 3.

District	Voter Turnout (%)	Bulova	Herrity
Braddock	22.7	8,750	5,849
Hunter Mill	15.5	6,655	5,129
Dranesville	17.1	5,810	6,252
Lee	13.3	4,665	3,489
Mason	15.7	4,510	3,519
Mount Vernon	14.7	5,066	5,256
Providence	14.7	5,148	4,356
Springfield	18.9	5,758	9,155
Sully	11.9	3,437	5,023
Absentee	-	2,150	2,704
Total	16.1	51,965	50,759

Herrity said the election results prove that not all residents are pleased with the direction of the county's leadership in recent years.

"I am going to continue to stand up for what I believe in. ... Clearly there is a difference of opinion in the county," he said.

THE ELECTION RESULTS do not necessarily reflect the views of the larger electorate. Voter turnout for the special election, at 16.1 percent, was low countywide.

Of the Fairfax's nine magisterial districts, Braddock — which Bulova has represented for over 20 years — had the highest voter turnout of 22 percent. Springfield — which Herrity and his father have both represented — had the second highest, with 18.9 percent.

With 11.9 percent, Sully was the magisterial district with the lowest turnout in the special election. It is also the only district besides Herrity's Springfield that is represented by a Republican, Michael Frey, on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Blocking Metrorail Noise

Wolf, MWAA exchange letters.

It appears that the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) has U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) on its side with regard to noise mitigation along the Dulles Access Road Extension. But it is not yet clear what measures will be taken to reduce noise from existing traffic and the coming Metrorail along that stretch of the Dulles Transportation Corridor.

Last year, members of the MCA Planning and Zoning Committee co-chair Mark Zetts and other members of the association's board of directors took measurements of the noise already generated by traffic along the extension of Route 267 that runs from Route 123 to Interstate 66, through the southwest corner of the McLean area.

At the association's January meeting, Zetts presented the results of the study, saying the measurements more or less resembled those documented in the Dulles Rail Project's environmental impact study but were often higher than the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority's (WMATA) standard of 50 decibels. The MCA passed a resolution calling for sound walls to be completed along the route, before rail construction begins, wherever noise exceeds standards.

Currently, there are gaps in sound wall coverage along the residential areas on both sides of the road and the concern is that rail construction and operation will produce more noise.

Following the resolution, Wolf sent a letter to Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) president James Bennett, asking that the organization work with WMATA and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to provide sound barriers along the length of the Dulles Rail Project. About a week later, Bennett responded, assuring that the Airports Authority would adhere to a uniform standard of noise abatement along the corridor.

"I don't know what this means, but I do know our representatives are very interested in seeing some kind of noise mitigation along that stretch of the Dulles Access Road Extension," Zetts said.

He said MWAA had also promised low walls directly along either side of the tracks to block the sound of the wheels running along the rail, but he said the MCA was still looking into how effective such walls would be.

— MIKE DICICCO

New Koger Trial Set to Start

FROM PAGE 3

[homeowners associations], many of whom suffered real financial hardship because of the stolen monies," according to Hanly.

KOGER COOPERATED with probation officers in preparing his pre-sentence report. He "places no blame on others for his conduct," according to his defense attorney Peter D. Greenspun.

"However, counsel for Mr. Koger feels it is important to bring to the attention of the Court the context of what occurred and a full understanding of mental health challenges untreated through the time of his offenses," according to documents filed by Greenspun in U.S. District Court, giving the position of the defendant with respect to sentencing.

"Mr. Koger's actions were ultimately derived not from pure greed but rather as a result of his severely deteriorated mental health state coupled with an unhealthy need to provide for his wife," he said.

Untreated mental health challenges included Koger's bipolar disorder, alcohol dependence, bulimia nervosa and borderline personality disorder as well as gambling addictions, according to Greenspun.

Greenspun described his client as a "bright and capable businessman" who lived for years in a "frantic and type A-plus manner" helping to make KMG successful.

There is no evidence of theft before Koger began his relationship with his wife in 2002, Greenspun wrote, when Koger started to support her fitness and restaurant business ventures as well as a newly acquired lavish "extreme life style."

"The theft scheme was not complicated," according to Greenspun. "Mr. Koger took out funds out of a

BB&T pass through account. While those transactions were covered up by various KMG accounting and administrative entries, there was no secret as to where the funds were going."

Koger embezzled the money and invested funds in personal accounts and businesses he and his wife were involved in, according to court documents, including: \$733,000 in Jordan's 8 restaurant on Capitol Hill; \$374,960 to pay a contractor to remodel his Oak Hill house and the Tri-Fitness, Inc. facility in Annandale; \$40,000 for a down payment on a 2005 Chevrolet Corvette convertible; \$60,000 for a down payment on a house in New Mexico; and \$56,668 for windows and doors for his home.

Koger also evaded \$775,273 in federal income taxes by failing to file personal income tax returns from 2003-06, according to the Internal Revenue Service. In 2005, Koger received taxable income of more than \$810,257.

FEDERAL SENTENCING may be the least of Koger's problems. He also faces three counts of attempted capital murder of police officers, two counts of aggravated maiming and five counts of use of a firearm in the commission of felonies in Fairfax County courts.

"The struggle for Mr. Koger only begins with this [federal] sentencing," said Greenspun.

Additional aggravated malicious wounding charges in the City of Alexandria Circuit Courts could also be prosecuted, although they have currently been nolle prossed, or set aside.

According to police reports and testimony at Koger's preliminary hearing in Fairfax County court in June 2008, Koger stopped his 1990 Jeep Cherokee behind a taxicab stopped at a traffic light at the corner of Seminary Road and

North Beauegard Street in Alexandria in the early morning of Feb. 2, 2008.

Koger got out of his Jeep, walked to the taxi driver's window and fired several shots into the cab. The driver was seriously injured.

Koger shot two other men in another car, who escaped him by driving into the Fairfax County Police Station on Franconia Road.

"These incidents are without reason and there is not any evidence of motive," according to Greenspun, who called the incidents "serious events" although "nothing but the delusional actions of a very challenged and intoxicated man."

Koger eventually fled in his Jeep to elude a Virginia State trooper. Koger crashed into a traffic control box in front of Springfield Shopping Mall, and got out of his car with a firearm in his hand.

When Koger fired his weapon, the trooper and Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority officers shot back, hitting Koger in the midsection. He was hospitalized with life-threatening injuries, but recovered.

After being shot, Koger said, "Help me, they're coming to get me."

Koger had a blood alcohol content of .25 or higher — three times the legal limit in Virginia to drive — according to federal court documents.

In August, Greenspun, filed notice of Koger's possible intent to claim the insanity defense.

"Law enforcement, family and defense counsel have not been able to identify any assaultive behavior in the span of Mr. Koger's life," he said.

Koger faces more than three life terms in prison if convicted in Fairfax County Circuit Court. His trial on those charges is currently scheduled for later this month.

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PEOPLE

McLean High Orchestra Presents 'Rock You Can Believe In'

School community praises retiring orchestra director Gretta Sandberg.

BY MERRILL ROTH
THE CONNECTION

On Friday, Feb. 13, the McLean High School Orchestra will rock the house with "Rock You Can Believe In," concert at 7:30 p.m.

"Rock You Can Believe In" will be the culmination of countless rehearsals for the orchestra, all leading up to

"The word is out that if you want to be in a rewarding program, join orchestra."

— Anne Oudemans

orchestra's director, Gretta Sandberg, made funding for the workshop pos-

sible. In anticipation of the workshop, Sandberg said, "I'm looking forward to seeing how the kids react to someone who wants them to do something totally different. Kids need to know that music has no boundaries, you can do whatever you want."

The concert will feature music from Metallica, The Beatles, Jimi Hendrix and much more played by more than 180 students from McLean High School as well as Longfellow Middle School. According to Anne Oudemans, the president of the Parents Booster Group of the MHS Orchestra, "there's a lot of excitement, not just in orchestra, but throughout the school."

Sandberg's dedication to the McLean High School Orchestra has not gone unnoticed. In 2007 she was presented with the Orchestra Director of the Year Award on behalf of



President of the Parents Booster Group, Anne Oudemans, displays the T-shirt for the upcoming Rock You Can Believe In concert at McLean High School.

the American String Teachers Association. After more than 40 years of teaching, 14 of which have been spent at McLean High, the legendary director is set to retire. During her tenure, the MHS orchestra has won many national and regional awards for its concert, symphonic and chamber orchestras.

Janis Thomas, the mother of a junior and orchestra member at McLean, said that, "She's extremely organized, she's very dedicated. It is an incredible undertaking and an incredible job. There are three orchestras, probably over a hundred students."

The parents say Sandberg has earned a great reputation at McLean High. "The word is out that if you want to be in a rewarding program, join orchestra," Oudemans said. "They [students] have to make a commitment and a lot of the credit goes to Ms. Sandberg."

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PHOTO BY KIM MORAN

Pictured, from left, are Churchill Road Elementary School fourth-graders, Sean Olmsted, Christian Markwart, Alex Wallach, Grant Hughes and Ethan Reblitz. Back row, Langley High School seniors Danny Pritchett and Barrett Hunter, along with Dave Ickowski, Churchill Road fourth-grade teacher.

Langley Players Meet Loyal Fans

On Thursday, Feb. 5, Langley Saxon basketball starters forward Danny Pritchett and guard Barrett Hunter took a break from their busy schedules to enjoy a pizza lunch with a group of their most loyal fans. For the past two years, these five Churchill Road Elementary School students have come to all the Langley home games to cheer on the team. They know all the players and keep an eye on them during games. The boys developed their interest in the Langley basketball program when they began attending the summer basketball camps sponsored by the high school's varsity team.



The director of McLean High School Orchestra for 14 years, Gretta Sandberg stands outside of her classroom on "Kilt Avenue," the hallway that leads to the orchestra room.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

George C. Marshall High School has been designated a "Silver Medal School" by US News & World Report. Silver Medal high schools meet specific criteria, which include college readiness, proficiency on standardized state tests, as well as student participation in and performance on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams. Marshall High School has also placed as the highest ranked IB school in the Washington Metropolitan region. Students at Marshall High School took the highest number of IB exams in the history of their school, 927, an increase from 751 exams in 2007. 70 students earned the IB Diploma.

Westminster School in

Annandale is holding their "Renaissance of Reading" book fair at Barnes & Noble, 7851 Tysons Corner Center, McLean, on Feb. 14 and 15. Find Valentine's Day gifts and learn about the school. In addition to shopping, guests will be treated to Westminster's scenes from Shakespeare and performances by our chorus and orchestra members from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday. Contact Margaret R. Sutton at msutton@jdmtdg.com or 703-891-2551.

Averell Gatton of McLean has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at The College of Wooster. Gatton, a graduate of Langley High School, is a senior physics major.

Three McLean residents were named to the 2008 dean's list at Washington and Lee University: **Brendon Charles Ellis**, sopho-

more, son of Daniel Ellis and Colleen Sanford, **Benjamin Kenney Belair**, sophomore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Belair, and **Jody Thomas Davis**, freshman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Davis.

Three students were named to the 2008 dean's list at Colby College in Waterville, Me.: **Tamar H. Hassan**, sophomore, son of Hany and Deborah Hassan of Great Falls. **Duncan H. Hardock**, sophomore, son of Randolph and Anne Hardock of McLean. **Sally H. Klose**, freshman, daughter of Thomas Klose and Elizabeth Hull of McLean.

Alaura Rose Magilo of McLean was named to the University of Wisconsin-Madison's dean's list for the fall semester in the 2008-2009 academic year. Magilo is currently in the College of Letters and Science.

Marine Corps 2nd Lt. Brian C.

Jones, son of Michelle B. Krockner of Oakton and Michael R. Jones of McLean, has received his commission as an officer in the Marine Corps after completing Officer Candidate School in Quantico. Jones is a 2004 graduate of St. Johns College High School of Washington, D. C., and is a 2008 graduate of University of Alabama - Tuscaloosa with a BA degree.

Kelsey Dunn of McLean has graduated with a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Coastal Carolina University in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Erin Ellis and **Bennett Silverman** have been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Ct. Ellis is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn I. Ellis of McLean, and Silverman is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Alan Silverman of McLean.

Rotarians Present Annual Awards

FROM PAGE 3

Performances in part for her grandparents, who never got to see her play the violin after she moved from Hong Kong when she was little. She said she liked playing at the senior citizens residence because she thought the elderly appreciated the performances more than others might, "and it reminds me of my grandma, and I hope she'll see that."

After Marriott and her family spent a week volunteering in In-

dia with Rising Star Outreach, an agency that works with leprosy colonies, Marriott brought the founder of the organization to her school for an assembly, DeRose said. The next week, she organized a fund-raiser that raised \$1,000 for Rising Star.

Upon Marriott's enrolment in the Potomac School, "It was immediately apparent to everyone in our community that she was an exceptional student and a great person," said Doug Cobb, one of

her teachers, noting that she juggles homework with varsity sports throughout the school year. Despite her rigorous schedule, "which, frankly, makes me exhausted just looking at it," Cobb said, Marriott still finds time to volunteer, working as a student leader in the Community Service Club and a youth leader in her church's Young Women's Presidency, and sewing blankets for patients at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

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Right now, some of the guns sold at gun shows in Virginia are sold without the background check required of gun sales in any other official setting. This allows even convicted felons, stalkers with restraining orders against them, and people with documented mental health problems that could make them a danger to themselves or others a clear path to purchasing a firearm.

EDITORIAL

There is no reason for this.

In November, at the "Nation's Gun Show" the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly was the scene of record gun sales. It was an ebullient gathering of people with shared interests, and no doubt all but the tiniest percentage of participants were law-abiding, responsible people, fully qualified to own the guns they were buying. The record sales were motivated in part because of concern by some gun enthusiasts about new restrictions on some firearms that could come with Democratic control of Congress and the White House, and in part because of the recession.

Why would those people want to run the risk that a tragedy like the one at Virginia Tech nearly two years ago that claimed the lives of 33 people would involve a gun purchased without a proper background check at the Nation's Gun Show?

For the record, the Virginia Tech shooter was able to buy his guns legally because his name was mistakenly not included on the list of those excluded from gun ownership; he was previously ruled a danger to himself or others and should not have been able to buy from a licensed gun dealer. But if he had been excluded through normal means, he could have traveled a few miles from his home to the gun show in Chantilly in search of weapons he could buy without a background check.

In any event, legislation in the General Assembly that would have closed the gun show loophole is dead for this year. Only one Northern Virginia senator, Ken Cuccinelli, voted against closing the loophole.

Budget Dominates Assembly Discussions

BY MARGI VANDERHYE
STATE DELEGATE (D-34)

We are halfway through our legislative session. All the bills that originated in the House have been passed or voted down in committee or on the floor and will now be considered by the Senate. We begin to deliberate this week on the bills that were passed in the Senate, some of which are similar to bills considered by the house.

One example of a bill that has a "twin" is HB2200, my bill to create a fund to treat underserved women with breast or cervical cancer. The bill passed unanimously with many co-sponsors from both parties. In the Senate, Mary Margaret Whipple (D-Arlington) introduced a version of the bill that also passed unanimously. The bills will be assigned to a conference committee to work out small differences between the two. This kind of affirmation reinforces the chance that the legislation will ultimately pass each house and be signed into law by the governor. The Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Fund will qualify for a two-to-one federal match and will reduce health-care costs and mortality through early diagnosis and treatment for indigent Virginia women. After working for more than a year, with the guidance and advice of numerous stakeholders and legislators on both sides of the aisle, I was thrilled to have HB2200 pass unanimously as representatives from the Virginia Breast Care Coa-

lition observed from the gallery.

AT THIS WRITING I expect favorable consideration on several more of my bills that were reported out of committees without opposition. One of them is HB2201 that calls for consolidating the councils that advise the governor on research and development in technology. When enacted, the new streamlined technology authority will reduce current costs and will include university presidents, financial leaders and entrepreneurs among its appointees in order to make sure that our critical technology industry remains vibrant.

Another of my bills, HB2171, will remove legal barriers to farmers who want to invest in waste to energy technologies, such as methane digesters. The legislation paves the way for economic development for our farming communities, offers a way to clean up our water supply and gives us a chance to develop an alternative energy source right here in Virginia. On two headline issues that our citizens consider important, there is good news and bad news. The good news is that a compromise was reached to place limitations on smoking in restaurants, an important step to reduce the effects of second-hand smoke and related health-care costs. Considerable effort will be made to keep the compromise intact throughout the



RICHMOND REPORT

remainder of the session. The bad news is that once again, both the Senate and the House have declined to close the gun-show loophole, a measure that has overwhelming support in our district and throughout Northern Virginia. Despite intense lobbying, there is almost no chance this legislation will come to an up or down vote on the House floor before 2010.

THE BUDGET continues to dominate the discussions and debates in both houses. The extent to which the federal stimulus package will affect our Virginia

economy remains uncertain, but any help in transportation and education funding can offset some of the painful choices we must consider to close our current deficit of more than \$3 billion. A special session of the legislature is possible this spring to assess the impacts of the stimulus funds. Each of the bills I have successfully introduced this session have benefited from bipartisan cooperation and support. I hope that the budget deliberations receive the same serious bipartisan collaboration. The stakes for Virginia are too high to do otherwise.

As always, I welcome your comments and views about our state government. You can still fill out my survey by going to www.vanderhye.com. Thank you.

VIEWPOINTS

Valentine's Day: Celebration of Love

**Clint Leonard,
McLean High School
Class of '09**

"It's a day where people love each other."

**Natalie Holm,
McLean High School**

"It's just a day where you can go all out about your feelings for someone. On a normal day it would be weird, but Valentine's Day gives you an excuse."



— MERRILL ROTH AND DANIELLE LANDAU

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CRIME

Activities reported by the McLean District of the Fairfax County Police Department through Feb 6.

UPDATE: HOMICIDE

5400 block of Moultrie Road.

Police are releasing new details regarding the deaths of three men in the hope someone will step forward with new suspect information. Investigators believe Terence Strope, 38, Ryan Strope, 26, and Andres Yelicie, 26, were killed during a narcotics-involved robbery around 9:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 19 in the 5400 block of Moultrie Road in Springfield. They died as a result of multiple stab wounds to their upper bodies and detectives have reason to believe this incident was not random in nature. One victim described the suspects as males, wearing black clothing with the words "Police" and "SWAT" displayed. Witnesses observed an older-model Chevrolet Blazer or Jeep, near the home on the night of the homicide and the day prior. The vehicle was light-colored, possibly gold, and had Maryland license plates. A second vehicle was also seen near the home about one hour prior to the murders. It was described as a white, compact car with Maryland license plates. Detectives do not believe the suspects were direct acquaintances of the victims; however, the suspects may have learned of the narcotics sales in the victims' home indirectly through friends of the victims. Detectives continue to follow up on leads in this case. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES(274637). In addition to the \$1,000 cash reward being offered by

Crime Solvers, an additional private reward of \$10,000 is also being offered for information that leads to an arrest in this case. As always, callers never have to give their names or appear in court.

ROBBERY

7300 block of Lee Highway. On Sunday, Feb. 1 at 5:50 p.m. a man took some pain medication from the Rite Aid pharmacy at 7395 Lee Highway in Falls Church. The pharmacist, a 66-year-old Springfield-area woman, was behind the counter when the suspect approached and demanded Oxycodone. He hopped over the counter when she did not comply and again demanded the drugs while implying he had a gun. She began to reach for a substitute drug. He took the entire bottle and fled the store. There were no injuries. The suspect was described as Hispanic, in his 20s. He was approximately 6 feet tall and 160 pounds. He was wearing dark sweat pants with pockets, a gray hoodie, dark jacket and a dark knit cap. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

TRAFFIC PURSUIT/ SPEED TO ELUDE/ POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY/ DRIVING ON A SUSPENDED LICENSE

2700 block of Prosperity Ave. On Sunday, Feb. 1 around 6:35 p.m., an officer observed smoke coming from a pickup truck pulling a trailer that was traveling onto northbound I-495 from Little River Turnpike. The officer activated his emergency lights to stop the

vehicle and offer assistance but the pickup truck, a 2002 Ford F450, accelerated and a traffic pursuit was initiated. It continued toward the Maryland border and the truck stopped on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge where both the driver and passenger bailed out. Officers from Prince George's County arrived to take over and a Fairfax County Police helicopter located the two men hiding nearby. They were taken into custody; one was released at the scene and the other suspect was turned over to Prince George's County because he was wanted on a previous, unrelated charge. Further investigation determined that the pickup truck was stolen from the 3100 block of Fairview Park Drive. The truck was returned to its owner and warrants have been obtained for the two suspects.

LARCENIES

- 6400 block of Arlington Blvd.** Computer stolen from business.
- 1900 block of Baton Drive.** Cash and credit cards stolen from vehicle.
- 1400 block of Chain Bridge Road.** Beer stolen from business.
- 1900 block of Chain Bridge Road.** Cellular phone stolen from business.
- 1900 block of Chain Bridge Road.** Flags stolen from business.
- 1900 block of Chain Bridge Road.** Credit card and cash stolen from business.
- 1600 block of Davidson Road.** Computer stolen from school.
- 6500 block of Georgetown Pike.** Camera stolen from school.
- 6400 block of Hitt Ave.** Tools stolen from residence.
- 8400 block of Hollis Lane.** GPS unit stolen from vehicle.
- 8400 block of Idylwood Road.** Ring stolen from residence.

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- Thursday, Feb 26th
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Ticket prices: \$25 adults; \$15 students. Senior adults asking for a discount are offered the student rate. Showtimes: Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 4 p.m. matinee and 8 p.m. evening show; Sundays, 2 p.m. matinee and 6 p.m. evening show. 1524 Spring Hill Road, Suite LL. Information line: 703-854-1856. Free parking. <http://www.1ststagespringhill.org>.

Professional Theater Comes to Tysons Corner

'Pig Farm' runs four weeks.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

For several years, a group of theater enthusiasts talked about creating professional theater in Fairfax County. In June of 2008, their concept became reality. Housed a quarter mile from Leesburg Pike on Spring Hill Road, 1st Stage Theatre opened its 100-performance seat theater in September. On Feb. 13, 1st Stage premieres a four-man play, "Pig Farm." The play's original run, at the Roundabout Theatre in New York and the Old Globe in San Diego, was in 2006.

"We're trying to provide a place for young local talent to launch professional careers and get professional credits to their names," 1st Stage spokesman, Brad Kalbfeld, said. "Secondly, but just as importantly, we want to provide a local cultural center where people can see new productions at a reasonable price."

"1st Stage would like to be part of the betterment of Tysons Corner."

For the principals and founding members, 1st Stage is a labor of love, Kalbfeld said.

Only artists are paid; all others, from artistic director to operations, set design and construction, and fund raising, are volunteers. Volunteers pitch in where ever help is needed.

"We all find the time when we can do what we can to contribute to the success of the theater," Kalbfeld said. Kalbfeld and artistic director, Mark Krikstan, are retired. Krikstan spent 12 years teaching drama at George C. Marshall High

School, leading the school's One-Act Play drama team to the state championship five times. Kalbfeld worked as a broadcast reporter and editor for the Associated Press in Washington, D.C., and Great Britain.

"There's no professional theater in Fairfax County," Krikstan said. "Kids go off to college majoring in theater and have nothing to come home to professionally. When I was at Marshall, I took kids on field trips to D.C. and New York, but never locally."

"That's where the impetus for this came from. To answer a need, to fill a void of the theater experience."

Founding members of 1st Stage are Krikstan, Deb Crierie, Alex Mandell, Lucas Beck, Nat Krause and Vienna residents Jane Kalbfeld, Brad Kalbfeld, Peter Van Valkenburgh, and David Winkler.

Jane Kalbfeld, Brad's wife, studied in New York under famed acting coach, Stella Adler. She works as a voice and acting coach now. "Mark has such an eye for detail and that's how I was trained," said Jane Kalbfeld.

There are approximately 15 people volunteering their time and skills to 1st Stage. Stage manager, Lauren Friedman, is a 2003 graduate of Marshall High School and lives in Vienna.

The theater company is a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit organization, primarily funded at this time by personal contributions. Ticket sales are 1st Stage's main source of financial support. "We are looking for opportunities to work with our corporate neighbors in Fairfax County," Brad Kalbfeld said.

FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT of "Urinetown," "Pig Farm" is part love story, part commentary on government interference, set against the backdrop of a 1,837-



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Community outreach coordinator, Sean Whinnie, artistic director Mark Krikstan and spokesperson/set builder Brad Kalbfeld stand on the set of "Pig Farm."

pig farm. Four professional actors perform the play on a set built by theater company volunteers. 1st Stage describes "Pig Farm" as the story of a "pig farmer who's struggling to keep his business going, whose wife is dallying with the new farmhand — a 17-year-old fresh out of Juvenile Hall — and who has suddenly come under the eye of the feds, in the person of a gun-toting EPA inspector asking questions about sludge washing up on the shores of the Potomac. When the feds demand a count of just how many pigs there are on the farm, havoc reigns."

"Pig Farm" is the third production in the five-show schedule planned for this season, the first.

THE 1ST STAGE VENUE is New York-artsy, a former industrial facility turned theater with soaring ceilings. The volunteers who conceived the theater company focused on making an environment that was "interesting and different," Brad Kalbfeld said.

Sean Whinnie attended 1st Stage's first show with a friend. After the show, they talked to Krikstan, and asked, "How can we help?" Since then, Whinnie has avidly supported the theater company, becoming its community outreach coordinator and database master. Whinnie, an energy engineer by profession, said, "this is an organization of people. We can benefit from the skills set of everybody."

Brad Kalbfeld calls 1st Stage an "intersection of learning and performance."

Presently, 1st Stage offers a Saturday class, taught by Lucas Beck,



BRAD KALBFELD, 1ST STAGE

Wife, husband, farmhand, EPA agent ... the professional cast of "Pig Farm," the third production of 1st Stage Theatre at Tysons Corner.

for high-school students. The company's goal is to offer a series of classes for both adults and students. 1st Stage plans on running a summer camp for high-schoolers.

'PIG FARM' RUNS from Feb. 13-March 8, at 1st Theatre, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Suite LL. Parking is free. See <http://www.1ststagespringhill.org> for further information and for ticket sales.

CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 11

Chris Bohjalian signs 'Skeletons at the Feast,' 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. 703-506-2937 or www.bn.com.

Preschool Sing-Along. Sing songs with Miss Belle. All ages. 10:30 a.m. at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

Great Falls Historical Society. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Historical will meet with special guest Jorge Adeler of Adeler Jewelers, who will talk about his travels over the world in search of gems and coins. Free. Visit www.GHFS.org or call 703-759-9188.

THURSDAY/FEB. 12

Rokia Traore. Progressive West African music. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Taarka and Whiskey Rebellion. 8 p.m., Jammin' Java, 227 E. Maple Ave., Vienna. Taarka, a gypsy string quartet, performs live with local band Whiskey Rebellion. Visit www.jamminjava.com and www.taarka.com.

FRIDAY/FEB. 13

Julie Murphy Wells, Sophisticated Lady. Jazz and Broadway tunes. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf

Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

K-Beta, Bo Jankans and D II. Rock. 10 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Pig Farm. 8 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. 1st Stage presents "Pig Farm," a comedy by Greg Kotis, playwright of "Urinetown." Tickets: \$25/adults, \$15/students; call 1-800-838-3006 or visit www.1ststagespringhill.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 14

Shemekia Copeland, blues vocals. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Crash Boom Bang, Boys Will Be Boys, Sunset Shootout and Surprise Attack. Pop/rock. 5:30 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Mambo Sauce. Hip-hop. 10 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Valentine's With Noah's Ark Animal Workshop, 2 p.m. Come and make your own teddy bear valentine. The Noah's Ark Animal Workshop promises to be a fun-filled event. Age 6-12. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560.

Propagation Workshop. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Horticulturist Tammy Burke will show how to start annuals and perennials from seeds and cuttings. Free. Reservations required; call 703-255-3631.

McLean Symphony. 7:30 p.m., Alden

Theater, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A celebration of love, Latin style with the music of the Americas. General Admission: \$25/person; \$20/seniors; \$12/youths 18 and under. Call the Alden Theater Box Office at 703-979-9223.

Fairfax Jubil-Aires Barbershop Harmony Chorus Singing Valentines, at a location of your choosing. Contact Ron at 703-978-7691 or order online at www.fairfaxjubilaires.org.

Jim West's Puppets. 2 p.m., 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Jim West and Jeremy Wingle of Jim West's Puppets will perform Aesop's Fables II. Tickets: \$12/person, \$8/McLean district residents. Call 703-573-SEAT or visit www.ticketmaster.com for tickets.

Pig Farm. 4 and 8 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. 1st Stage presents "Pig Farm," a comedy by Greg Kotis, playwright of "Urinetown." Tickets: \$25/adults, \$15/students; call 1-800-838-3006 or visit www.1ststagespringhill.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 15

Rock 'n Roll Songwriters Circle featuring Anthony Fiaco, Shane Hines and Todd Wright. Acoustic 7 p.m. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

The Virginia Opera and "Tosca," 2 p.m. George Mason University Concert Hall on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University, at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12



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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

begins at 1:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$44-\$98. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or at www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Pleasant Piano. 3 p.m., Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Chamber music. Free. Tickets are not required. Call 703-790-0123.

Maple Syrup Boil-Down. 12-2 p.m., Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Mason Maddox will demonstrate the maple syrup-making process and guests can sample syrup served on cornbread made from cornmeal milled onsite. \$5/adults, \$4/children, free/children under 4. Call 703-759-2771.

Pig Farm. 2 and 6 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. 1st Stage presents "Pig Farm," a comedy by Greg Kotis, playwright of "Urinetown." Tickets: \$25/adults, \$15/students; call 1-800-838-3006 or visit www.1stStageSpringHill.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 16

Open Mic Night with Ron Goad. 7 p.m. \$2. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/FEB. 17

The Von Bondies and Nico Vega. Rock. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Beer Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Wildfire Tysons Galleria, 3rd floor, 1714U International Drive, McLean. Wildfire will host a four course beer dinner

where each of the courses will be paired with a different beer from Old Dominion Brewery. \$40/person. 703-442-9110 to reserve.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

Sonya Kitchell, Residency and Naia Kete. Acoustic/indie. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

C. J. Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band. General admission dance. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

P for Penguins. Cool weather animal stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult. 10:30 a.m. at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

Book Discussion Group. Call for the book title. Adults. 7:15 p.m. at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

Recital Series. 1 p.m., St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The "Third Wednesday at One" recital series presents organist Jonathan Laird. Free. 703-356-0670 or www.musicinmclean.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 19

Young Dubliners. Rock and Irish music. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Mae, Shirock and The Daylights. Rock. 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Tiny Tot Tales. Stories and activities.

Age 13-23 months with adult. 10:30 a.m. at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

V.I.P. Vienna, 10 a.m. Support group for adults with vision loss. Adults. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

Chapter 227 of Vietnam Veterans of America, 7:30 p.m. All veterans, friends and general public are invited to attend the chapter meeting at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. The public is invited, and admission is free. Len Ignatowski, 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

Italian Love Affair. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. This course features an oenological tour from the northern regions to the southern provinces.

Cyber Summit. 7 p.m., Vinson Hall Auditorium, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. The Safe Community Coalition will host its third annual Cyber Summit. The theme of this year's program is Internet & Digital Technology: Teaching Our Children about Cyber-Safety, Cyber-Ethics, & Cyber-Security. Free and open to all. Visit www.safecommunitycoalition.net.

FRIDAY/FEB. 20

'A Raisin in the Sun,' 7 p.m. at James Lee Community Theatre, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Angela Hansberry's 1959 play about a family's experiences in Washington Park. For tickets, contact Nomikka Hunter at 703-324-555. Admission \$5.

Luke Brindley. Acoustic/rock. 8 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave.

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SCHOOLS

Standing in the spotlight, Hannah Powers as Joan of Arc stands up for French forces.



PHOTOS BY MERRILL ROTH/THE CONNECCION

‘Something Important To Say’

Langley School students present Write On! celebration.

Students, parents and teachers gathered at the Langley School Thursday, Feb. 5, for the first annual Write On! celebration.

Write On is the brainchild of Ed Triggs, the director of resource and counseling, and Mark Robbins, a sixth-grade teacher, who developed the program while working on lunch duty together last year. After attending Columbia University Teacher’s College this previous summer, Robbins said he was motivated to create a program that “galvanizes our focus on students as thinkers and writers with something important to say.”

The result was a schoolwide initiative started in the fall of the current school year, encouraging students as young as 3 and as old as eighth grade to engage in poetry, storytelling and journalism. The initiative culminated in Thursday’s event, which featured events hosted by each grade. Eighth-grade students in an advanced film and television class hosted one such event. Using green-screen technology, older students took pictures of their younger counterparts, imported the image into Photoshop and superimposed it onto a magazine cover. According to Lee Nelms, the Langley School’s director of technology and communications, Write On is a great opportunity to “integrate technology into the curriculum and into writing.”

Robbins’ sixth-grade students presented their own masterpiece, a three-act play on the life of Joan of Arc. Titled, “Joan of Arc: Savior of France,” the hour-long play was the result of 10 drafts, each and every word student written. Hannah Powers, a sixth-grader who played the title role of Joan of Arc and



Sixth-grade teacher Mark Robbins introduces the second act of the play on Joan of Arc his students wrote.

loves to write and act, said, “It was fabulous. I think everyone had a really good time and we learned so much.”

— MERRILL ROTH

Founded in 1942, The Langley School is an independent, coed day school for students in pre-school through eighth grade, located at 1411 Balls Hill Road McLean, VA 22101 Phone 703-356-1920, www.langleyschool.org.

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 **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.** 

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762 Applewood Lane	\$1,699,000	Sun 1-4	Glynis Canto	Weichert	703-395-2355
939 Seneca Rd	\$1,850,000	Sun 1-4	Aaron Seekford	Realty Corp 9	203-836-6116
639 Nalls Farm Way	\$2,500,000	Sun 1-4	Carol Ellickson	Weichert	703-862-2135
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McLean					
1604 Colonial Hills Dr	\$849,900	Sun 1-4	Matthew Shepard	Keller Williams	703-867-5442
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In Great Falls, Salome, 703-917-6467, or salome@connectionnewspapers.com
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FAITH

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

The **Watoto African Children's Choir** will perform at Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road, McLean Wednesday, **Feb. 11** at 7 p.m. A blend of African rhythm, contemporary gospel and ethnic dance. Visit www.providencetoday.org.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, is hosting its semi-annual consignment sale of baby, child and maternity items Friday, March 20, 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, March 21, 8-11 a.m. 703-356-3567.

McLean Women's Thursday Bible Study, at 9:15 a.m. The Book of Proverbs will be the focus for the next 12 weeks. Contact Martha Wiles at 703-448-2020 or MarthaWiles@msn.com.

St. John's Episcopal Church supports over twenty outreach ministries, including SHARE, Habitat for Humanity, Martha's Table, and the Gen. Colin L. Powell Leadership Club at Macfarland Middle School in Washington D.C. Services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

English classes at McLean Baptist Church on Mondays, including beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Advanced electives are Literature, U.S. Government, World Religions, and current events. Free class and registration, but students must buy their own books. 9:30 a.m. at 1367 Chain

Bridge Road. 703-356-8080 or www.mcleanbaptist.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean. The third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. Nursery is available at the 10:15 a.m. service. 703-356-7533.

Great Falls United Methodist Church is at 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-759-3705.

♦ **All Things New**, an ecumenical worship service every Wednesday at 6 p.m. Based on the Beatitudes of Jesus, for people affected by anger, fear, stress, dealing with rejection, credit abuse, drug/alcohol abuse, physical/sexual addiction or eating disorders.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or www.meditation-dc.org.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, at 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton chorale, a 60-voice adult choir, welcomes new members any time and meets Thursdays, 7:15 p.m. The Circle of Music Makers meets the first Monday of the month, for those who can share a vocal or instrumental solo. Contact Judy Harrison at 703-281-4230, ext. 26, or jharrison@uucf.org. Joint Activities in Music at Sunrise is for preschoolers, kindergartners, parents and residents of Hunter Mill Sunrise Assisted Living Center, on Wednesdays, 1-1:30 p.m. Contact Marsha Giusti at

703-425-1902 or giustim@juno.com.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul fitness. Balance is key, energy is renewed, strength is gained, and friendships are formed. Mondays 9:15 a.m. and Fridays 9:45 a.m. Childcare is free for registered students. E-mail bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org for more information.

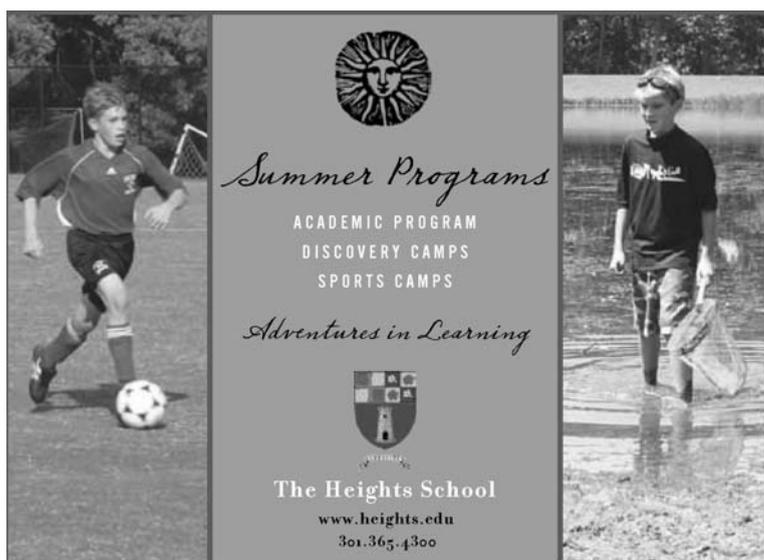
A **Centering Prayer Group** meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. E-mail Martha Thomas at mmthomas211@hotmail.com or call the church at 703-759-3509.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

The Jewish Social Services Agency, 3018 Javier Road, Fairfax, offers a variety of family programs. **Call 703-204-9100.**

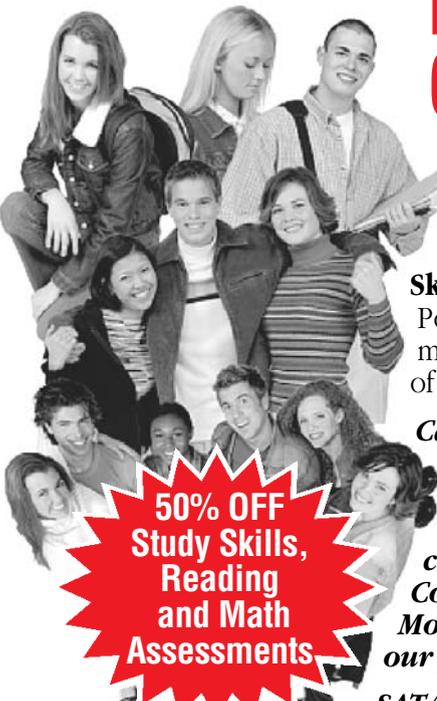
♦ **Just Child: An Anxiety Management Group**, for ages 8-10. Wednesdays through Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.

♦ **Teen Talk: An Adolescent Adoption Series**, for ages 13-18. Tuesdays through Dec. 23 at 7 p.m. Pre-registration required.



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THE COUNTY LINE

Getting Started on Start Times

School Board asks for answers on impact to athletics.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County School Board members pushed staff to answer questions about the impacts of changing school start times as they launched a community outreach effort this week.

The School Board is considering moving back start times for older students, in part because research suggests it is beneficial for teenagers to start school later so they don't need to rise so early. With current start times, high school and secondary school buses pick students up shortly after 6 a.m.

The proposal would also affect the start times for several elementary schools since Fairfax County Public Schools uses the same buses in three different shifts to carry the entire student population to school.

Currently, Fairfax schools start between 7:20 a.m. and 9:25 a.m., with most high schools in the "first tier" of school start times, beginning before 8 a.m. Under the new proposal, which could go into effect next year, all schools would start between 7:50 a.m. and 9:40 a.m., with no high school classes getting under way earlier than 8:30 a.m.

The school system hopes to get feedback from the public on the proposal at seven community dialogues scheduled for Feb. 24, 25 and 26.

They are also encouraging residents to fill out a new survey about the bell schedule change, which can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/start>.

The School Board expects vote on the bell schedule proposal in early March.

FOR YEARS, a group of citizens have been advocating for the later high school start times, attending nearly every school board meeting and signing up to provide public testimony on a regular basis. They formed the organization SLEEP, which stands for Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal, and collected thousands of signatures in support of their cause.

But recently, community members wary

Community Dialogues on Bell Schedule Changes

The School Board will hold public meetings about proposed changes to school start times. Note multiple locations on each night.

FEB. 24, 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

Annandale High School, Longfellow Middle School, Oak View Elementary School

FEB. 25, 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

Herndon High School, Rocky Run Middle School

FEB. 26, 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

Providence Elementary School, Whitman Middle School

of the initiative, particularly those who have concerns about its impact on high school activities like sports, have started to organize in opposition to later start times.

They formed advocacy organizations like WAKE (Worried About Keeping Extracurriculars) and SOS (Save Our Sport). Many are particularly concerned how later start times might impact the high school swim program.

DURING A WORK SESSION Feb. 9, some School Board members pressed staff for answers regarding the later high school start times' effect on "late buses," which provide transportation for students participating in sports and other programs after school.

Get Involved

Fill out a new survey about proposed bell schedule changes at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/start.htm>. A list of current start times and proposed start times for every school in the county is available at the same site.

The school system's transportation department was unable to give specifics on the later high school start times impact on "late bus runs." But transportation official Linda Farby said the buses would need

roughly 30 more minutes to come back to the high schools after their traditional afternoon drop-offs. Instead of elementary schools, several middle schools would be among the last dismissals in the school system each day and buses would have to complete longer routes before coming back to pick up students at high school late for sports events or other activities, said Farby.

"The answer is yes it will delay late bus service," she said of the proposal to change the bell schedule.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM could also face a shortage of bus drivers if the high school start times — and therefore the high school "late buses" — were pushed back since some employees are not willing to work the later hours, according to Farby.

Farby also left open the possibility that the school system could be forced to lease or rent more vehicles to help with "late bus" transportation if the existing fleet was not able to accommodate the later transportation schedule by itself in a timely manner.

Under the current proposal, the school system would save money if it switched to later school start times, though the need to rent or lease more buses could affect the estimates of the proposal's cost savings, according to staff.

School Board member Kathy Smith (Sully), who has been skeptical of the proposal to change the bell schedule, said officials also have no way of modeling how the new bell schedule would interact with traffic patterns.

"This model does not and cannot tell you the effect of being in traffic," said Smith.

Some school staff said it is also difficult to judge the impact a bell schedule change could have on high school sports travel, given that team schedules are likely to

change if the proposal takes effect next year.

For example, in order to accommodate the later high school start times, more games and sporting events are likely to take place on Saturday, said school officials.

But School Board members generally supportive of the bell schedule change said staff should to provide more specific information, not just speculation, about the impact the later high school start times would have on after-school activities like sports.

"I think it is a mistake to go into town hall meetings without any more information. ... [The information on late buses] should be made available to the public," said School Board member Kaye Kory (Mason).

"I would say if we don't have the facts together, then we don't do the public meetings," said School Board member Tina Hone [At-large] of the community dialogues scheduled for later this month.

FURTHER DISCUSSION of the public meeting format revealed how touchy the issue of a bell schedule change has become for the school system and School Board members.

Officials are taking pains to record an introduction to the issue of bell schedule changes that will be played at all public meetings on the topic, so that there is no differentiation between the staff presentations at each session.

"We have tried to do so that it is not biased in any way," said School Board member Liz Bradsher (Springfield).

"That is why we are taping the introduction, so everything can be the same across the board," said School Board member Tessie Wilson (Braddock).

Yet there was some question at the School Board's work session about what type of role the "science of teenage sleep" should play in the recorded presentation.

In general, School Board members who support the bell schedule change thought studies linking later high school start times to better teenage health and academic performance should play a larger role in the video. But others, who are skeptical of the proposal, said they had not seen any evidence that there was link between high school start times and academic performance.

"I have never seen a correlation between later start times and student achievement," said Smith.

"If there is not an impact on learning, then why are we even looking at this?" replied School Board member Phil Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence) to Smith's statement.



Some Fairfax County residents feel high school students have to be on school buses too early in the morning.

PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

COUNTY NOTEBOOK

County Tax Rate Over The Years

Fairfax County faces a projected deficit of approximately \$650 million next year and several supervisors had admitted the county will probably have to increase the real estate property tax rate to close the budget gap.

If the supervisors wanted to hold county revenue — and the average residents' real estate tax bill — to its 2008 level, they would have to increase the tax rate approximately 14 to 15 cents per \$100 of assessed value, the highest single real estate tax rate increase of the last 30 years.

But even with a 14 to 15 cent increase, the real estate tax rate would still only be \$1.03, significantly lower than any rate approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors from 1978 to 2005.

Still, most residents have seen their actual real estate tax bill nearly double since 2000, even as the tax rate has continued to go down every year. The tax rate — at its lowest in 2007 and 2008 — did not provide much tax relief, given that most residents were still paying much more to the local government for their home or commercial property than they had in years past.

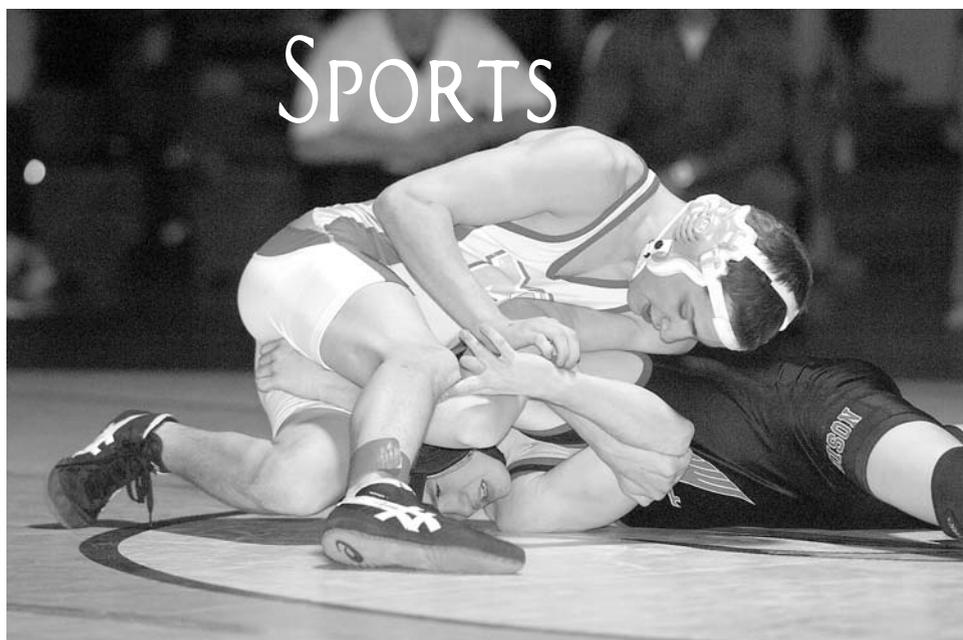
The following is a chart of the Fairfax County real estate tax rate and the amount it has fluctuated annually since 1978:

FAIRFAX COUNTY REAL ESTATE

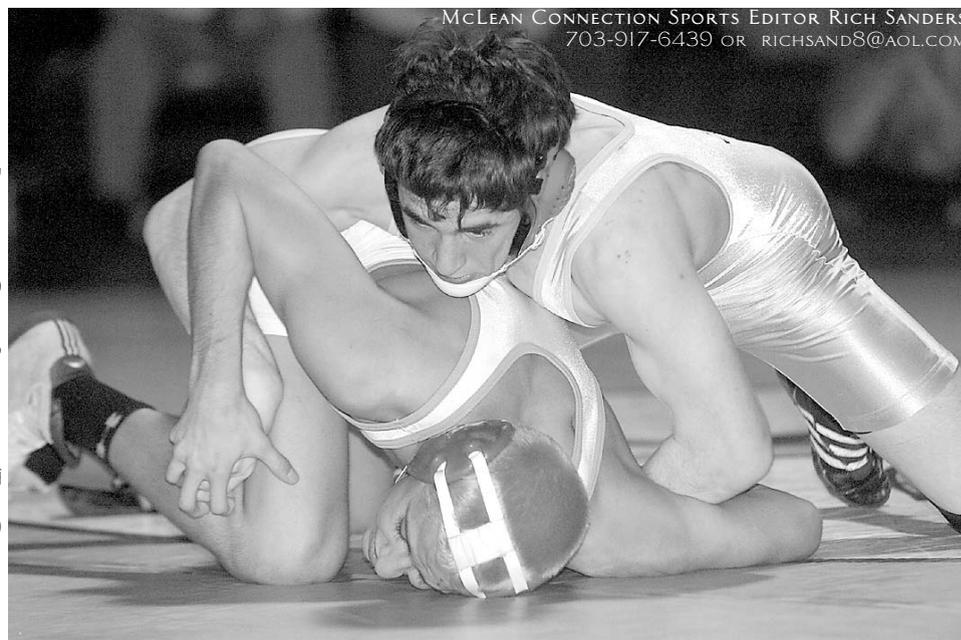
Tax Rates per \$100 of Assessed Value

Year	Tax Rate	Annual Fluctuation
1978	\$1.74	
1979	\$1.64	(\$0.10)
1980	\$1.54	(\$0.10)
1981	\$1.54	\$0.00
1982	\$1.51	(\$0.03)
1983	\$1.47	(\$0.04)
1984	\$1.47	(\$0.00)
1985	\$1.46	(\$0.01)
1986	\$1.39	(\$0.07)
1987	\$1.35	(\$0.04)
1988	\$1.32	(\$0.03)
1989	\$1.30	(\$0.02)
1990	\$1.19	(\$0.11)
1991	\$1.11	(\$0.08)
1992	\$1.11	\$0.00
1993	\$1.16	\$0.05
1994	\$1.16	\$0.00
1995	\$1.16	\$0.00
1996	\$1.16	\$0.00
1997	\$1.23	\$0.07
1998	\$1.23	\$0.00
1999	\$1.23	\$0.00
2000	\$1.23	\$0.00
2001	\$1.23	\$0.00
2002	\$1.23	\$0.00
2003	\$1.21	(\$0.02)
2004	\$1.16	(\$0.05)
2005	\$1.13	(\$0.03)
2006	\$1.00	(\$0.13)
2007	\$0.89	(\$0.11)
2008	\$0.89	\$0.00
2009	\$0.92	\$0.03

SPORTS



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



McLEAN CONNECTION SPORTS EDITOR RICH SANDERS
703-917-6439 OR RICH SAND8@AOL.COM

McLean High's Palmer Dickson, top, controlled his district title match against Madison's Mason Keena, bottom, last Saturday night, winning by decision, 8-0.

In the 130 finals, Marshall's Andy O'Meara, bottom, fell to Langley's Jay Ives. O'Meara defeated top-seeded Vitally Pisarenko of Woodson to reach the championship match.

Three Statesmen Wrestlers Earn District Titles

McLean's Palmer Dickson garners 119 crown.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Marshall High had three individual champions crowned, while McLean had one, at last Saturday night's Liberty District wrestling championships. The postseason competition took place at Langley High School in Great Falls.

Marshall's district champions were Andrew Embree (215-weight class), Mark Bergenholtz (189) and Dan Montes (135). From McLean, Palmer Dickson captured the 119-weight-class title.

The next postseason stop is this weekend's Northern Region championships, set to take place at Fairfax High School.

McLean's Dickson, the top seed at 119, defeated both Harry Mandeles of Woodson and Jon Sommer of Stone Bridge to reach the finals of his weight class. There, he controlled his match against Madison's Mason Keena, defeating the Warhawk opponent by decision, 8-0. It marked the second straight year in which Palmer, a senior, has won a district title.

"It's great and I'm very happy about it," Dickson, who holds a 28-7 record on the season, said.

DICKSON SAID one of his motivations to do well in the finals was to help the Highlanders, who did not win a single district dual team meet this season, finish ahead of rival Madison in the team standings. As it turned out, Madison (75 points) and McLean (74) finished seventh and eighth, respectively, in the eight-team field. Langley High (193) was district champion for the ninth-straight year.

Dickson said he was going for a pin in the finals, which ultimately would have propelled the Highlanders out of last place. But he was not quite able to get it against the

"The team score was close with Madison and I wanted a pin. We were trying real hard to beat Madison."

**— Palmer Dickson,
McLean High Senior Wrestler**

determined Keena (20-11), who twice was turned on his back in the first period before getting out the period trailing 5-0. Palmer, later in the match, wrapped up the scoring with a two-point standing takedown with one minute remaining in the third and final period.

"The team score was close with Madison and I wanted a pin," Dickson said. "We were trying real hard to beat Madison."

Dickson, who holds an 87-42 career record at McLean, said the energy level

during the finals within the cozy, crowded Langley gymnasium was high.

"It really stimulates your adrenaline," he said. "It gets you pumped to try harder because everyone's watching."

Keena reached the finals with a semifinals win over Langley's Daniel Hozik.

McLean's Billy Dvorkin (22-10) reached the 171 finals before losing to Woodson's Tommy Williams (21-2) in a wild 15-12 score. Dvorkin, who was third at last year's districts in the 171-weight class, drew within 10-9 on a takedown with 55 seconds left in the third period, but never was able to tie the match or go ahead.

MARSHALL HIGH had a solid fourth-place team standing with 122 points, thanks in large part to the championship wins of Embree, Bergenholtz and Montes.

In the 135 finals, Montes (22-9) bested Woodson opponent Ben Breazille, 8-1. The senior built a 4-0 lead going into the third period, then scored two points with 1 minute, 35 seconds left to take a 6-0 advantage on way to the win.

"It's an emotional win," Montes, who was fifth at districts last year, said. "It took real hard work and lots of dedication. It feels great."

He looks forward to regionals. "It will be fun and a good experience," said Montes, who is 97-32 during his varsity career with the Statesmen. "Hopefully I can [qualify] for states."

Marshall's Embree, in his 215 finals match, pinned Jefferson's Joe Latta (18-12) with 1:22 remaining in the third period. The

junior took his opponent down at the edge of the mat at the 1:33 mark before recording the decisive pin.

Embree (32-5), who is headed for regionals for the third time, won matches over McLean's Abdelhadi Jarrar and Stone Bridge's Connor Calderwood to reach the finals.

In the 189 finals, Bergenholtz of Marshall defeated Woodson's Alex Jabaley by technical fall in the third period. The match ended when the Statesmen junior, who finished third at districts last year, scored a takedown to go ahead 16-0. Bergenholtz improved his season record to 31-7.

Marshall's Andy O'Meara made it to the 130 finals before losing to Langley's Jay Ives by a second-period pin. O'Meara, a senior, won districts last year at 119, will be competing at his fourth region tournament this weekend.

Other locals who placed — top-four finishers — at districts and will compete at regionals were McLean's Andy Chung, third place at 112, Marshall's Quan Nguyen, third at 140, Marshall's Daniel Picado, third at 145 and McLean's Will Stanton, fourth at 189.

Langley's David Helmer (44-1), competing at the 152-weight class, won his fourth-career district title and will be going for his fourth region crown at Fairfax. He was named Most Outstanding Wrestler at districts.

"Davey's just a tough kid, no doubt," Langley coach John Belyea said. "When he came in as a freshmen we knew we had something special there."

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The **Madeira girls basketball** team lost a hard-fought 48-44 game to private school opponent Maret last Friday. Madeira, playing at home, trailed 19-10 at halftime before playing a solid second half to make the final score close. Madeira was led by sophomore Tess Atkins' 18 points. Also for Madeira, junior Audrey Hughes scored 13 points while sophomore Emily Purdon added nine. Sophomore Annie Lewis brought down nine rebounds. Madeira was

scheduled to host Georgetown Day on Tuesday, Feb. 10, of this week.

In other recent Madeira action, the locals lost a game at public school opponent Potomac Falls (Loudoun County), 59-41. The host Panthers jumped out to a 19-4 first-quarter lead. But Madeira scored 17 points in the second quarter to get with in 29-21 at the half. Madeira ultimately took the lead, 36-35, in the third quarter. The game remained close until midway through the fourth

quarter when Potomac Falls pulled away for the win. Annie Lewis scored a season-high 10 points to lead Madeira.

Madeira's most recent win came over Potomac School, 44-41. Potomac School led by as many as nine points late in the third quarter before Madeira, behind 17 fourth-quarter points, rallied for the win. Scoring leaders for Madeira included Tess Atkins (13 points), Audrey Hughes (10) and Emily Purdon (9).

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Dying To Find Out, Sort Of



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I have to admit, the pain was a bit unusual, and it had migrated so, at my wife, Dina's, insistence, I made the trek to my HMO's emergency room, relayed my symptoms to the receptionist and took a seat in their waiting room.

All things considered, the wait wasn't interminable, nor was it hours; of course, it wasn't minutes, either, but given the holiday-nature of the day, it could have been much worse.

And apparently, so could the diagnosis. After having my vital signs taken by a nurse, and answering questions from a physician's assistant, there was no clear picture (heck, at this point, it wasn't even blurry, it was completely befuddling, even after the chest x-ray was viewed) to explain my discomfort. It was so befuddling that the physician's assistant actually involved a doctor.

He asked me the standard questions. My answers offered no standard help. So much so, that I remember asking the doctor, if it only hurt when I make certain movements, perhaps I shouldn't make those movements; and then watching as the doctor shrugged his shoulders and said, "Yes, probably." And so I was excused, with the ever-popular: "If it gets worse, come back." And symptom-wise, it didn't; it got better, until five days later.

That's when the same physician's assistant called back. Still puzzled by my pain and lack of symptoms, she had, on her own initiative sought out the opinion of a Radiologist to review my chart/x-ray. Based on that consultation, I was urged to go to my nearest HMO pharmacy, that evening, to pick up a precautionary prescription to begin taking immediately. The concern was, despite being asymptomatic, perhaps I had a touch of pneumonia. And so it continued.

The next day, still improving and symptom free, my HMO called to tell me that they had ordered a CT Scan. Somewhat perplexed by their uncharacteristic speed, I nonetheless complied and went the very next day. TWO HOURS after completing the scan, my primary doctor called to discuss the results. Unfortunately — and surprisingly — there was cause (given my age and health history) for concern.

Perhaps I'd like to schedule an appointment to discuss the findings, my doctor suggested. "No, just tell me," I said. And so he did. There were lesions on my lungs that might be malignant. WHAT! Still unsure, however, the doctor scheduled an appointment with a pulmonary specialist as soon as possible. Two hours later, ON THE SAME DAY, the appointment was made for the next afternoon, with a P.E.T. scan to follow, all of which seemed incredibly fast and efficient given my previous experiences with this same HMO. Nevertheless, I was appreciative of their record-breaking haste.

The pulmonary doctor didn't interpret the x-ray and CT scan as the cancer threat that my primary care doctor and radiologist had (canceling the P.E.T. scan in the process), but nonetheless, suggested I return in a week, take a second x-ray and see what develops. And so I did. Still symptom free.

A week later, I'm back with the pulmonary specialist, second x-ray in hand. The second x-ray confirmed the doctor's suspicions that maybe I had indeed had pneumonia and so two weeks after the initial fact, I was once again excused; with the "We'll call you if ..." goodbye.

THE NEXT DAY, the pulmonary doctor calls back to say that, upon further review with yet another radiologist, he now wants to me to see another doctor, a thoracic surgeon.

Five days later, I see the thoracic surgeon, x-rays and CT scan in hand. Likewise puzzled by what he sees, he apologized for his inconclusiveness and says he too, would like to review the x-ray and scan with his radiologist to get a better understanding A biopsy and/or surgery are certainly possible but he's not sure. Moreover, he's not sure another diagnostic test (P.E.T. scan, M.R.I.) would clarify anything. Let him review everything he asks, and he'll get back to me, probably in the next day or two.

THE NEXT DAY, the thoracic surgeon calls back to tell me that he now thinks I should have the P.E.T scan and to schedule it as soon as it's convenient. And so it continues.

Four weeks later and still wondering, I wouldn't say I'm worrying yet, however, but I am beginning to have a little trouble falling asleep.

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE
PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP
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There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at:

Rosslyn Gas
1625 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Rosslyn Gas to develop a Corrective Action Plan to address cleanup of gasoline at the site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup, please contact:
Old Dominion Environmental, Inc.
185 Deep Woods Road
Louisa, Virginia 23093
540-967-3188
Attn: Kathleen Albertson
The Corrective Action Plan will be submitted to the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ in February 2009. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Mr. Alex Wardle at 703-583-3822 after the date of the Corrective Action Plan submittal. The DEQ Northern Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan until March 15, 2009 and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC # 2008-3203.
Department of Environmental Quality
Storage Tank Program
Northern Regional Office
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE
PROPOSAL TO MODIFY CORRECTIVE ACTIONS
IMPLEMENTED AT A PETROLEUM
RELEASE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE

A petroleum release from former underground storage tank systems had occurred, and corrective actions have been implemented, at:

2758 North Washington Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Mr. Frederick Kline to prepare a Corrective Action Plan Addendum to address cleanup of petroleum fuel contamination at the site. If you have questions regarding the cleanup please contact:

John Diehl
Environmental Consultants and Contractors, Inc.
43045 John Mosby Highway
Chantilly, VA 20152
(703) 327-2900

The Corrective Action Plan Addendum will be submitted to the Remediation Division of the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ by January 30, 2009. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Mr. Randy Chapman of the DEQ at (703) 583-3816 after the date of the Corrective Action Plan Addendum submittal. The DEQ Remediation Division will consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan Addendum until March 6, 2009, and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC # 1991-1474.

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Northern Regional Office
Remediation Division
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

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-Arthur Wing Pinero

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NOTICE
We deeply regret that due to space limitations, we're no longer able to publish the Crossword Puzzle. We appreciate the week-to-week commitment and enthusiasm of our loyal participants.
THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



The Fairfax Symphony held its annual Valentine Pops Gala fund-raiser on Friday evening, Feb. 6, at the McLean Hilton.

Valentine Pops Gala at McLean Hilton



Steve and Ginny Davis of McLean attended the annual Valentine Pops Gala held as a fund-raiser for the Fairfax Symphony on Friday evening at the McLean Hilton.



Bob Hawthorne and Brenda Shippett of McLean.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

District Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. 703-425-6542.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

Budget Crisis Forum. 7:30 p.m., McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The McLean Citizens Association is holding a forum on Fairfax County's Budget Crisis. County Budget Director Susan Datta, At-Large School Board Member Jim Raney and former Chief of Staff to the Dranesville Supervisor Rosemary Ryan will share their ideas and observations on handling the impending \$648 million County budget shortfall for 2010. Visit www.mcleancitizens.org, e-mail MCA.President@mcleancitizens.org or contact MCA President Rob Jackson at 703-556-9160 or Corresponding Secretary Sally Horn at 703-442-6601.

Marketing Workshop. 8-9:30 a.m., The Tower Club, 8000 Towers Crescent Drive, Vienna. The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and Allison & Partners present a workshop, "Cause Related Marketing to Open Doors," to help private companies and non-profit organizations learn how they can come together to better promote their businesses, causes and goals as partners.

THURSDAY/FEB. 19

Republican Women Meeting. 11:30 a.m., 2205 Arynness Drive, Vienna. The New Providence Republican Women will meet. Call 703-591-7368.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 11

Breakfast and Economic Discussion. 8-10:30 a.m., Tysons Corner Tower Club, 8000 Towers Crescent Drive #1700, Vienna. Join nonprofit, business and government leaders for a discussion on how to stretch and strengthen the region's safety net during these tough economic times. Panelists and participants will also examine the ways in which we can work across sectors and jurisdictions in order to meet the growing needs of Northern Virginians. RSVP to RSV211@crisislink.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 14

Volunteer for Children. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls St., Falls Church. Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates is hosting an information session. If you would like to learn more about advocating for abused or neglected children, please call (703) 273-3526, x22 or e-mail ekosarin@casafairfax.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 15

Western Fairfax Republican Women's Club Meeting w/Delegate Tim Hugo, 6:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center Sully

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Experience You Can Trust



924 Towlston Road, McLean \$3,950,000



8035 Georgetown Pike, McLean \$3,800,000



482 River Bend Road, Great Falls \$3,500,000



9637 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls \$3,500,000



948 Towlston Road, McLean \$1,399,000



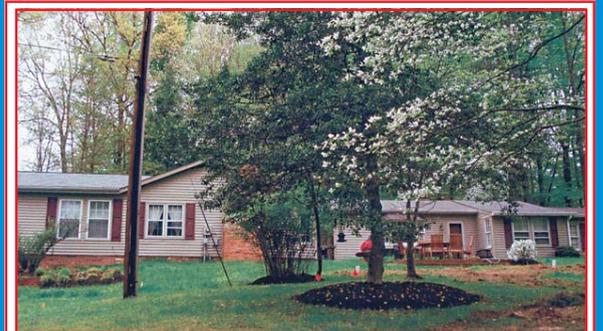
9300 Ivy Tree Lane, Great Falls \$1,285,000



1952 Kirby Road, McLean \$995,000



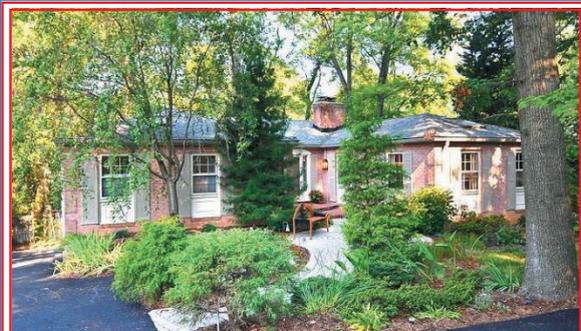
7834 Langley Ridge Road, McLean \$929,900



10808 Beach Mill Road, Great Falls \$948,742



6904 Haycock Road, Falls Church \$895,000



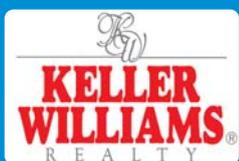
1602 Longfellow Street, McLean \$844,550



1820 Fonthill Court, McLean \$787,500

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