

McLean CONNECTION

Joan Lewis, left, and Betty Marie Fields unveil Fields' recently completed portrait of Frederick Douglass at Pleasant Grove Church's Black History Month program.



History Revisited At Pleasant Grove

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Hometown
Humanitarian

NEWS, PAGE 4

Cooper Middle
Crowns Spelling
Bee Queen

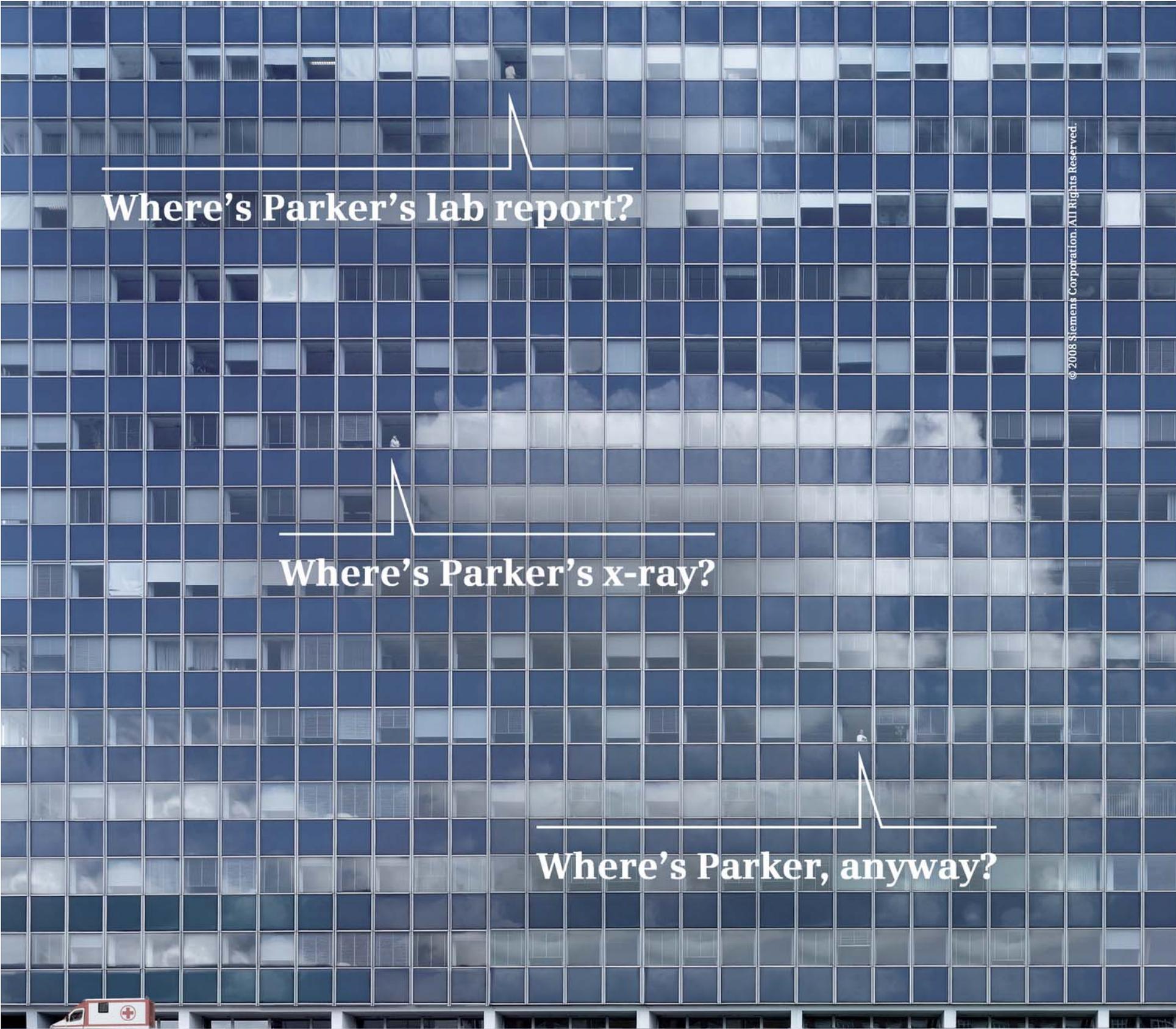
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ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.
REQUESTED IN HOME 02-26-09



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PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION



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Where's Parker's x-ray?

Where's Parker, anyway?

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McAuliffe Opens Campaign Headquarters in McLean



Mark Lowham of West Group and John Boland join gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe at the opening of his campaign headquarters on Colshire Drive last Wednesday evening.



Gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe talks with Arjun Jaikumar at the opening.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CONNECTION



Local historian Karen Washburn talks about Pleasant Grove's chief founder.

Revisiting History

Neighborhood learns of historic Pleasant Grove church's chief founder.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

The historic black church that would be saved by a group of McLean residents in the 1980s was built by a very different group of McLean residents in the 1890s. Most of the members of the congregation that became Pleasant Grove Church were farmers, local historian Karen Washburn told the small crowd that gathered at the church for its fifth annual Black History Month program Saturday afternoon. Most were descendants of slaves and some had been slaves themselves. None had much money.

They were led by a man named Samuel Sharper, and Washburn, who also spoke at last year's program, focused this year on Sharper's life and his activities during the Civil War.

SHARPER, a third-generation freedman, was born in Loudoun and came to live in Lewinsville on his grandparents' farm, Washburn said. During the Civil War, he was an ardent Union supporter. "Some of Samuel's neighbors worried about how outspoken he was," Washburn said, noting that, although loyalties were divided in the region, the majority supported secession. Sharper was known to contact Union officers and express his support.

However, just after the first battle of Bull Run, a Confederate officer approached him as he was working in his garden and told him all free blacks had to serve for 60 days in the Confederate military. Sharper was made to drive teams for the southern forces. After 68 days had passed, he confronted his officers and they agreed to let him and his fellow freedmen return to their homes. He

SEE CHURCH HISTORY, PAGE 9

Debate Champions

Potomac School defends state debate title.

The Potomac School varsity debate team successfully defended its title as state champion in Lincoln-Douglas (LD) debate at the National Forensic League's Virginia Tournament Jan. 24-25.

This year, Esfandiyar "Yar" Batmanghelidj — who was state champion last year — and Adam Gerchick — who was third last year — closed out the final round. Batmanghelidj was undefeated at this year's tournament. By virtue of their victories, both debaters will attend the National Forensic League's national championship tournament in Birmingham, Ala., in June.

James McElwain and Madhu Rhamankutty of the varsity squad also won rounds at the tournament for Potomac. Thus, Potomac captured the "Jefferson Award for Excellence" as the best LD debate school at the state tournament. Potomac also won the "Dogwood Cup" for outstanding mid-sized school.

The Potomac team headed to Harvard University Feb. 14 for one of the largest high-school tournaments of the year. The topic was "Resolved that the U.S. should submit to the jurisdiction of an international court designed to prosecute crimes against humanity." All teams debate both sides of the issue.



The Potomac School debate team, James McElwain of Washington, D.C., Esfandiyar "Yar" Batmanghelidj and Adam Gerchick of McLean, and Madhu Rhamankutty of Vienna.

CONTRIBUTED

Falls Church House Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a house fire at approximately 6 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 15, in the Falls Church area of Fairfax County. The home is located at 7100 Oakland Avenue.

Firefighters encountered fire to an attached carport, extending to the second floor and attic of the two-story, single-family home. Firefighters brought the fire under control in approximately 30 minutes.

The fire originated on the attached carport and extended into the home. There were no injuries.

Fourteen residents have been displaced, nine adults and five juveniles. The damage is estimated at \$150,000 and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Rotary Hosts South African Partner

The Rotary Club of McLean hosted a reception at the McLean Community Center to demonstrate the evolution of Rotary's vision of long-term District-to-District partnering. District 7610, which includes the Rotary Clubs of McLean, Vienna, Falls Church, Herndon and Bailey's Crossroads among others, has had an eight-year relationship with South African District 9250.

The guests of honor were Albie van de Venter, of White River Rotary Club in District 9250, and his wife, Elna. On July 1, Albie van de Venter will become the District Governor of District 9250, the Rainbow District, which includes South Africa, Swaziland, Botswana and Mozambique.

The relationship between districts 7610 and 9250 began in 1998 with many achievements including The Masoyi Special Care Project to assist special needs children, the Capricorn Therapeutic Riding Center, the completion of a water project, the construction of a library with 4,000 books and the construction of a gazebo to shelter more than 900 school children from the elements.

In 2007 McLean Rotary president Lois Wilson, DDS, was selected to lead a group of young professionals, including Michelle Peters, on a group study exchange to Africa. Wilson was inspired to raise funds and begin several projects to help the thousands of children orphaned by the deadly HIV/AIDS virus spread.

Wilson and Peters have collaborated on a project to send teachers from Fairfax County into Southern Africa to train other teachers.

McLean Day Application Posted

The McLean Day application for exhibitor booth space has now been posted. Visit www.mcleancenter.org/special-events and click on click on McLean Day.

The deadline to apply is April 3 and all applications are reviewed and approved on a first-come, first-served basis with preferential treatment given to McLean-based businesses and organizations.

Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

The Women's Association of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Great Falls is accepting applications for two Alexander De Filippis Scholarships of \$3,000 each for high-school students graduating in 2009 and going to college or post-secondary school.

Students must reside in Great Falls, Vienna, Reston, Herndon, McLean, Sterling and Potomac or have family registered as parishioners of St. Catherine of Siena.

Applications and complete details are available online at stcatherines.net or from the guidance office of high school. Strict adherence to the deadline of May 15, as well as to the completeness of the application is imperative.

FOR MORE VISIT,
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM.



There is an emerging consensus within the international development community that small groups and individuals like Falls Church resident Sarah Armstrong can be as effective as — if not more so than — large bodies like the UN in carrying out humanitarian aid.

Hometown Humanitarian

Falls Church resident's internationally recognized foundation provides aid to women and children in Sierra Leone.

BY ROB WILE
THE CONNECTION

On her most recent trip to Sierra Leone this past December, Falls Church resident Sarah Armstrong walked into the small school whose students had been helped by her charitable foundation, Brighter Tomorrow for Africa. She found that they had put up signs welcoming her return.

One sign in particular left her speechless.

It read, "Aunty Sarah You Have Saved Us From Starvation."

"You do it because you want to help them, but I was overwhelmed when I saw that," she said.

Feeding hungry children in what is officially the poorest country in the world represents a mere one-fifth of the projects that Armstrong's organization carries out in the country. Begun in 2005, Armstrong's foundation — and it is still literally hers, as she has not hired any full-time staff — has already helped thousands of women and children in Sierra Leone. Now officially a 501(c)(3) organization, which makes it a federally recognized nonprofit exempt from federal income taxes, Armstrong said her efforts are a lifelong dream come true.

"I always had a dream of being in an African village holding the hands of African children," she said. "I've just had a vision in my head that I was supposed to do that. I started studying the continent about five or six years ago to try to figure out how I could help and landed upon Sierra Leone."

IN ADDITION to providing food,

Armstrong's foundation, working with local groups in Sierra Leone, also runs an inoculation program that covers an array of illnesses and diseases; organizes "peace clubs" for former child soldiers that fought in the country's decade long civil war; teaches students how to avoid and speak out against corruption; and imparts literacy skills to women, 85 percent of whom cannot read.

Her efforts have not gone unnoticed. Last spring, Armstrong received the Humanitarian Leadership Award from the National Organization of Sierra Leoneans in North America. She has already met with Sierra Leone's president, as well as current and past Sierra Leone ambassadors to the United States.

One might think that such a small organization — the annual operating budget is less than \$3,000, all out of Armstrong's pocket — might not be as effective as larger multinational organizations like the United Nations or the Red Cross. In fact, according to Suzi Peel, an international development consultant, it is small groups and individuals like Armstrong that are having the most direct impact on improving the lives of individuals living in poverty.

"There are amazing numbers of women [doing this work]," she said. "They've all been bitten by the same bug as Sarah. I can't say [large international organizations] are more effective than one driven person. It's just so cumbersome to work with groups like the UN This is way more effective, because there's a direct link [to the people being helped]."

Get Involved

Brighter Tomorrow for Africa's Web site can be found at www.brighterafrica.org.

A single mother in her late 40s with two sons in college, Armstrong has been able to achieve her successes while still holding her day jobs as a marketing communications consultant and fitness instructor. She said she wouldn't have it any other way.

AFTER SIX VISITS and nearly \$150,000 in donations, her work has begun making waves around Falls Church and McLean. Her first large-scale fund-raiser in the area was held Feb. 12 at the home of Carol Walter in McLean. Fifty-eight women attended, with more than \$4,300 raised.

"I think the [biggest] thing [was] for women to be able to walk away and see what Sarah's been able to accomplish," Walter said. "So many say 'I'd like to do this, like to do something like this, but I don't know how.' If Sarah can do it I hope women can walk away with this and if not get involved in Sarah's foundation, at least on a local basis — it doesn't have to be in Africa."

Alison Moledina of Great Falls, one of the women in attendance at the fund-raiser, echoed the sentiments of most of the other guests in expressing her admiration. "I'm proud, as a woman, that she's accomplished what she's accomplished," she said. "It's amazing, her energy, what she's done. Where she got it, I don't know."

The president of the Rotary Club, Lois Wilson, said that her organization hopes to provide a grant. "She's fulfilling the mission of the club," she said. "She's the embodiment of the Rotary motto, 'Service Above Self.'"

INNOCENT LIVES AT RISK

Dear friends and neighbors:

Early in 2008, 7 members of the Bahá'í Faith in Iran were arrested and imprisoned on baseless charges. News agencies have widely reported that these individuals have been erroneously accused of "espionage for Israel, insulting [Islamic] religious sanctities and propaganda against the Islamic republic". Since then, they have been held without access to their legal counsel, Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi, and it is expected that in the next few days, they will be placed on trial.

We write to ask that you add your voices in support of the most basic human rights denied to these 7 individuals, as well as other members of the Bahá'í Faith in Iran.

Representatives Frank Wolf and Jim Moran of Virginia, along with six of their colleagues have sponsored Resolution H. Res. 175 on the persecution of the Bahá'ís in Iran. We ask that you contact Congressman Frank Wolf or Jim Moran (based on jurisdiction) and voice your support for this resolution, calling for the release of these seven, and other prisoners held solely on account of their religious belief.

More importantly we ask that you request that Senators Webb and Warner (based on jurisdiction) sponsor a similar bill in the Senate. To assist you, brief instructions have been provided below, and this should take just a few minutes of your time. The situation is grave and those of us that freely enjoy human rights need to speak up for the voiceless.

With gratitude and hope,
Your Baha'i neighbors in Great Falls and McLean

WE NEED YOUR HELP

SENATE

Mark Warner

<http://warner.senate.gov/contact/contact.cfm>

Jim Webb

<http://webb.senate.gov/contact/>

1. Type URL
2. Enter name and info
3. Request that they introduce a resolution similar to H. Res. 175 on the persecution of Bahá'ís in Iran in the senate

CONGRESS

Frank Wolf

http://www.house.gov/formwolf/contact_email_emailzip.shtml

Jim Moran

<https://forms.house.gov/moran/zipauth.shtml>

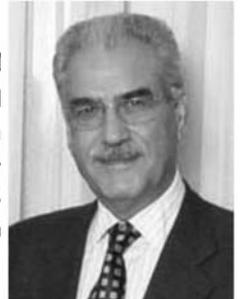
1. Type URL
2. Enter zip code
3. Insert name and info
4. Write note of support/ thanks for H. Res. 175 and submit

BRIEF PROFILES LIVES AT RISK: SERVICES



Fariba Kamalabadi, 45 years old, was denied higher education because of her Bahá'í beliefs. However, she received a post-graduate degree in Education and Developmental Psychology from Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education, an alternative institution established by the Bahá'í community of Iran to provide higher education for its young people. She is married with 3 children.

Jamaloddin Khanjani. A 76 year old businessman, dedicated husband and loving father of 3 daughters and 1 son. Once a successful factory owner, Mr. Khanjani was forced to shut down and abandon his factory which was later confiscated by the government. Mr. Khanjani later established a mechanized farm on properties owned by his family, but authorities continued to place many restrictions on him and his family.



Afif Naemi. A 47 year old industrialist whose dream of becoming a physician was shattered when he was expelled from medical school because he was a Bahá'í. Instead, he diverted his attention to business, one of the few avenues of work open to Bahá'ís, taking over his family's textile factory. He is married and has 2 sons.

Saeid Rezaie, 50 years old, a farming equipment engineer, scholar and author. He is married and has 3 children. Two of his daughters were among 54 Bahá'í youth arrested in 2006, while engaged in a humanitarian project helping underprivileged young people. Later they were tried and released, but three of their colleagues were sentenced to 4 years in prison on false charges and are currently incarcerated. Mr. Rezaie has experienced various forms of persecution for his beliefs, including arrest, detention and solitary confinement.



<http://news.bahai.org/>



Mahvash Sabet is a 56 year old former teacher/school principal with a degree in educational planning and an advocate for literacy programs. She was expelled from both her job and the literacy program, because of being a Bahá'í. For the last 15 years, she has been director of the Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education. Mrs. Sabet is married and has 2 children.

Behrouz Tavakkoli, 57, psychology major with expertise in the care of the physically and mentally handicapped. He worked in government as a social worker until the early 1980s when he was dismissed because of his faith. Prior to his current imprisonment, he has been subjected to intermittent detainment and harassment, including solitary confinement where he developed serious health issues. He is married with 2 children.



Vahid Tizfahm is a 37-year-old optometrist and owner of an optical shop. At the age of 18, he studied to become an optician, and later studied sociology, at the Advanced Bahá'í Studies Institute. Since his youth, Mr. Tizfahm has served the Bahá'í community in a variety of capacities. He was married at the age of 23. He and his wife have one son who is 9 years old and in fourth grade.

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OPINION

Three Steps on Health Care

Smoking restrictions, SCHIP, Cobra subsidies should lead to a healthier Virginia.

For a minute, some would be forgiven for wondering if we were still in Virginia.

A smoking ban for many bars and restaurants? In Virginia? Amazing.

Long overdue, the result will be a healthier environment for many employees of bars and restaurants who have toiled for years while breathing in a carcinogenic soup. It's never appropriate to say that wait staff, bartenders and others can "choose" to work in places that are smoke-free if they want to. In the current economy, the current job market, anyone who has a job knows they need to hang onto it if they can.

It's up to the state to ensure that employees work in a safe environment, and Virginia's new smoking restrictions are a good step in that direction.

The new rules will also benefit many businesses. In other areas, restaurant business has actually increased after smoking bans went into effect as more families and other people who were avoiding smoke-filled rooms come out to

enjoy the newly cleared air.

SCHIP: All of Northern Virginia's members of Congress voted to reauthorize and expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a step for healthier children and families here. The SCHIP program helps states provide health insurance coverage to uninsured children, providing health insurance to children and some parents with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid, but who can't afford private health insurance. The SCHIP Reauthorization bill expands health coverage to 55,000 uninsured Virginia children who do not qualify for Medicaid, in addition to the 155,000 children statewide already covered by the SCHIP program.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) helps to extend health coverage to children in low-income working families with incomes above the cut-off for Medicaid coverage. Enacted in 1997, this program operates under the FAMIS (Family Access to Medical Insurance Security). Families are eli-

gible for this program with incomes up to twice (200 percent), of the federal poverty level. For example, in Virginia a family of four can make up to \$41,300 a year and still be eligible for FAMIS.

COBRA: As part of the economic stimulus bill recently passed in Congress, the Federal government will pay for 65 percent of the costs of continuing health insurance for people who lose their jobs. Going into effect March 1, the rule applies to people who lost their jobs or will lose their jobs involuntarily between last September 2008 and the end of 2009. (The subsidy is not retroactive; employees will be offered another chance to enroll in COBRA however.) Health insurance is available for terminated employees under COBRA, but without the subsidy, many unemployed people cannot afford the high premiums. The former employers will be required to pay the 65 percent, with the former employee paying 35 percent. Employers will be "reimbursed" by the Federal program by reducing their payroll taxes by that amount.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Correcting Errors

To the Editor:

I would like to correct some factual errors in Bruce Bennett's letter ["Life Still in Dead Cat," Connection, Feb. 18-24, 2009]. Purchasing the building designated "Gatehouse II" is the final major step in a six-year process to consolidate Fairfax County Public Schools' support and administrative personnel to a centralized site. Currently, these personnel work in leased buildings and in older buildings, owned by the school system, that require extensive maintenance now paid for year-by-year by the school system. Purchase and renovation of Gatehouse II would be paid for entirely by the savings realized from freeing up dollars currently spent on leases, on maintenance of older buildings and on position cuts made possible by consolidating personnel.

If the school system does not buy the Gatehouse II building, this money, whether to pay for the leases, maintenance and additional personnel or to pay for the new building — including principal and interest, will not be available for "refurbishment of existing school facilities" or any other use. It will be spent one way or the other, but will be better spent on

buying the building at a very good price — the lower price caused by the very real estate downturn that is causing shortfalls in tax revenues. An additional benefit of the purchase is that two of the buildings vacated by support personnel will be used as sites for schools.

And we have no idea where Mr. Bennett got the idea that Fairfax County Public Schools has a "Department of Statistical Responsibility." No such department exists or ever has existed.

Paul Regnier
Coordinator, Media and Crisis
Communication
Fairfax County Public Schools

SLEEP Sets Record Straight

To the Editor:

In a letter on Feb. 16 to the Connection, Lorraine Monaco of Wakefairfax wrote that our questionnaire to Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-Large) and Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) before the Feb. 3 election for BOS Chair "assumes elimination" [of after-school middle-school programs].

She is incorrect. Here are the response options that we offered to the candidates in that race:

❖ Use it [the \$4 million of county funding] for before school

middle school programs

❖ Use it for a combination of before and after school programs at the middle and elementary school levels (could include SACC)

❖ Use it for other county priorities

❖ Use some of it for middle school before and after school programs and some of it for other priorities

❖ Other.

In fact, we were hoping to show that the funding for these programs would continue for middle schoolers but would be available for more flexible scheduling either before or after school, according to the needs of each school. This is our position on the middle-school after-school program funds.

We hope this sets the record straight.

Sandy Evans and Phyllis Payne, SLEEP Co-founders
Terry Tuley, SLEEP Chair

Streak Not Likely To Be Broken

To the Editor:

One of the joys of an approaching spring is the start of a new baseball season. Unfortunately, controversies surrounding steroid use have placed a cloud on Major

League Baseball. It seems a long time ago since Cal Ripken saved baseball by breaking Lou Gehrig's 2,130 consecutive-games streak. Fortunately, residents of McLean can celebrate a streak as impressive as that of Cal Ripken and the Iron Horse. Local resident, and McLean Rotarian, Bob Rosenbaum has been volunteering his time playing piano and entertaining folks at the Lewinsville Adult Day Health Care Center since 1987. This almost 22-year-old streak continues and like Cal's streak is one not likely to be broken. Bob's selfless giving of his time to the community deserves recognition and is something that makes life better and more enjoyable for those visiting the center. Bob's hit this one out of the park.

Mike Holleran
Herndon

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the McLean District of the Fairfax County Police Department through Feb 20.

BRANDISHING A FIREARM/ ARREST

6800 block of Fleetwood Drive.
Three men were repossessing a Dodge Dakota on Wednesday, Feb. 18 around 1:45 a.m. in the 6800 block of Fleetwood Drive when the owner approached. The men allowed him time to collect his belongings from the vehicle. The owner allegedly removed a handgun from the car and turned to face one of the men, 29, from Warrenton, with the weapon in his hand. All three men backed away from the suspect, who got into the car and drove away. Police responded and located him driving nearby. Officers initiated a traffic stop and arrested a 53-year-old McLean resident. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with one count of brandishing a firearm and two counts of carrying a concealed weapon.

LARCENIES

- 2600 block of Bowling Green Drive.** Passport stolen from residence.
- 1900 block of Chain Bridge Road.** Sunglasses stolen from business.
- 1900 block of Chain Bridge Road.** iPhones stolen from business.
- 1900 block of Chain Bridge Road.** Wallet stolen from business.
- 6500 block of Georgetown Pike.** iPod stolen from school.
- 6500 block of Georgetown Pike.** iPod stolen from school.
- 8200 block of Greensboro Drive.** Purse stolen from vehicle.



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THE COUNTY LINE

Tax Rate Hike To Fund Reduced Budget

Ninety-five percent of residential properties decline in value; proposed budget raises average tax bill by \$14.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Executive Anthony Griffin proposed holding most residents' real estate taxes relatively steady in 2010 even though Fairfax experienced the single largest drop in home property values ever recorded this year and most citizens' real estate taxes would have gone down significantly otherwise.

Griffin has suggested the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors raise the real estate property tax rate 13.5 cents per \$100 of assessed property value, potentially the largest real estate tax rate increase in the county's history. The measure would help close the approximately \$650 million gap in Fairfax's fiscal year 2010 budget, which goes into effect July 1.

It compensates for the sharp decline in the county's real estate values and, therefore, real estate tax collection. Since last year, residential property values have fallen 12.55 percent in value and commercial properties have fallen 4.51 percent in value.

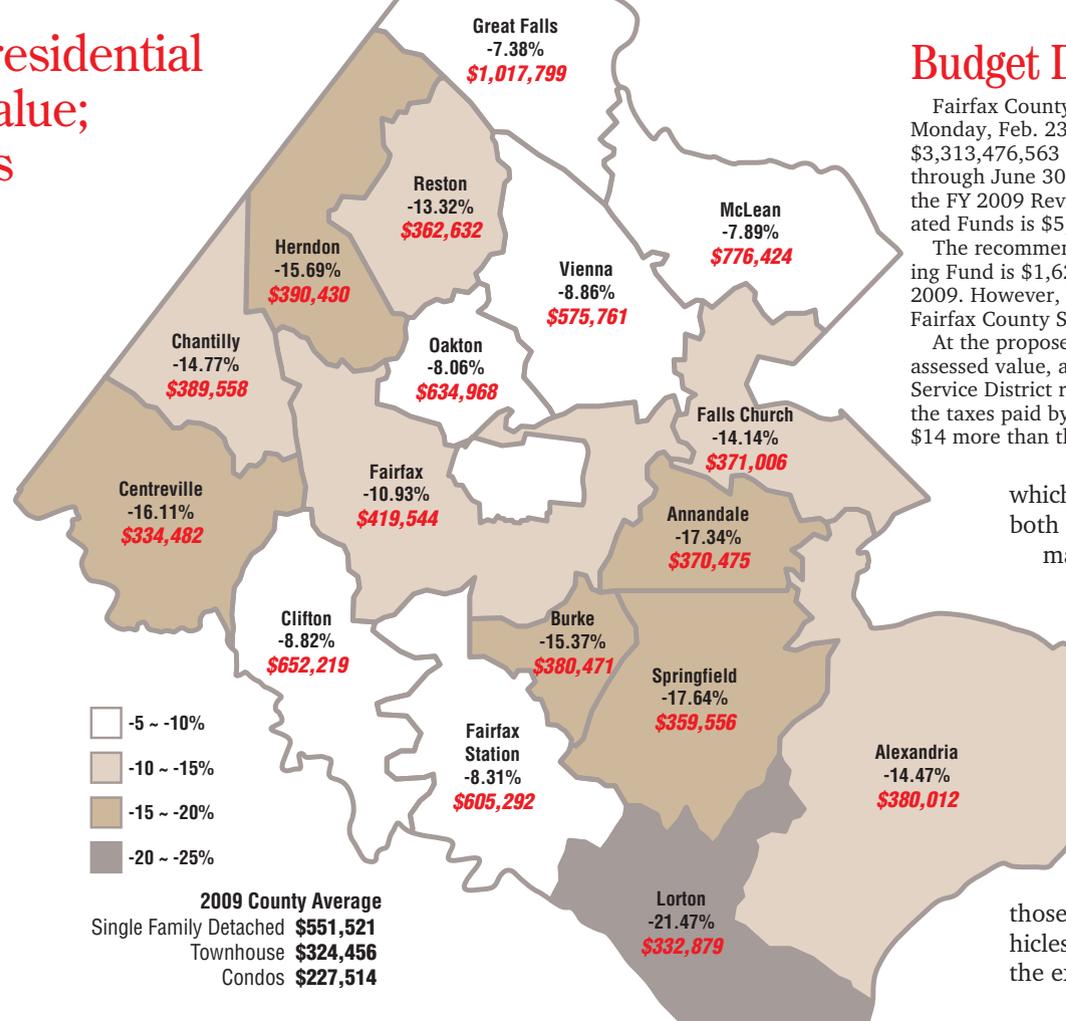
If the supervisors adopted Griffin's recommendation, the real estate tax rate will go from 92 cents per \$100 of assessed value to \$1.05.5 per \$100 of assessed value. The average homeowners tax bill would increase approximately \$14 from last year.

Griffin has also proposed cutting county jobs, freezing county employee pay and reducing some services. Residents would also see an increase in some user fees, he said.

FAIRFAX COUNTY Public Schools has been spared more than other county agencies in Griffin's proposal.

His recommendations call for the school system to receive the same amount of operational funds as last year and not to sustain the cuts that most other county departments will have. Griffin would reduce the school system's annual capital budget slightly next year, from \$155 million to \$140 million.

Even with a flat operational funding transfer from the county, school officials have indicated that they would still have to make drastic changes and cuts to their programs. Earlier in the year, the Fairfax County School Board had been prepared to ask for



2009 ASSESSMENT YEAR RESIDENTIAL ANALYSIS BY ZIP CODE AREA

Vacant and Improved Residential Property

ZIP CODE AREA	2008 MEAN	2009 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
ALEXANDRIA	\$444,287	\$380,012	-14.47
ANNANDALE	\$448,178	\$370,475	-17.34
BURKE	\$449,573	\$380,471	-15.37
CENTREVILLE	\$398,728	\$334,482	-16.11
CHANTILLY	\$457,053	\$389,558	-14.77
CLIFTON	\$715,300	\$652,219	-8.82
FAIRFAX	\$471,010	\$419,544	-10.93
FAIRFAX STATION	\$660,179	\$605,292	-8.31
FALLS CHURCH	\$432,102	\$371,006	-14.14
GREAT FALLS	\$1,098,936	\$1,017,799	-7.38
HERNDON	\$463,073	\$390,430	-15.69
LORTON	\$423,871	\$332,879	-21.47
MCLEAN	\$842,924	\$776,424	-7.89
OAKTON	\$690,635	\$634,968	-8.06
RESTON	\$418,371	\$362,632	-13.32
SPRINGFIELD	\$436,583	\$359,556	-17.64
VIENNA	\$631,767	\$575,761	-8.86

"I didn't see any real structural changes in how we do business."

— Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield)

a three percent increase in its funding transfer from the county, a proposal that would already have required program reductions because of the school system's rising costs in areas like enrollment.

The schools chief operating officer Dean Tistadt had also said any reduction to the school system's capital budget would be "devastating" since the current level of funding falls short of what is needed to repair all the schools facilities.

On the whole, Griffin has asked the supervisors to increase Fairfax's general fund, which would be approximately \$3.3 billion, by .4 percent. But due to rising costs, the

county would have had to grow its general fund by four to five percent just to keep all the county and schools' staffing and program levels the same as this year, he said.

SEVERAL SUPERVISORS were concerned about the impact Griffin's proposed budget would have on county staff. If adopted, county employees would be asked to forfeit their the cost-of-living-adjustment they usually receive, any scheduled pay raise they were expecting, and "performance pay," for some salaried county employees.

Griffin also recommended eliminating 524 full-time "merit" county positions, which he said could result in approximately 200 county employees losing their jobs. Approximately 300 "limited term" positions —

Budget Down, Tax Rate Up

Fairfax County Executive Anthony H. Griffin proposed Monday, Feb. 23, a General Fund budget of \$3,313,476,563 for Fiscal Year 2010 — July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010 — a decrease of 3.7 percent from the FY 2009 Revised Budget Plan. The total of all Appropriated Funds is \$5,839,237,244.

The recommended transfer to the Public School Operating Fund is \$1,626,600,722 — the same level as Fiscal Year 2009. However, the transfer request approved by the Fairfax County School Board on Feb. 5, is \$1,683,372,525.

At the proposed real estate tax rate of \$1.04 per \$100 of assessed value, along with the newly proposed Stormwater Service District rate of \$0.015 per \$100 of assessed value, the taxes paid by the average residential taxpayer will be \$14 more than the FY 2009 tax bill.

which are typically lower paying but include both full time and part time employees — may also be cut.

Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) asked Griffin to try and be more flexible when dealing with employees. She said he may want to ask for volunteers who would be more comfortable working shorter hours or retiring early before he starts to eliminate jobs.

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) wondered whether the county could increase some fees, like those for people who park commercial vehicles on residential streets illegally, and use the extra income to keep some of the positions being eliminated, particularly in the public safety department. "We should be charging the maximum [fine allowed under state law] for those violations if it spares jobs," said McKay.

A few supervisors were also angry to see the fee to participate in the county's recreational sports teams increase from \$5.50 to approximately \$13. "At a time when you are dealing with gang violence and gang prevention, it is self-defeating to increase a tax on kids participating in sports by 200 percent," said Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully).

Griffin said all the revenue generated by the fee increase would go to fully fund those programs and to avoid cuts in youth sports.

But both Frey and Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) were upset that Griffin had set aside 1.5 cents of the tax rate for storm water management. Last year, only one cent of the tax rate had been used for storm water management.

"At a time when we are cutting everything, why are we increasing storm water management by 5 percent?" said Frey.

Herrity and Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) said they would also have liked to see more structural changes and consolidations undertaken in the county government. During his budget presentation, Griffin said he had only overhauled one county agency, the planning department and planning commission staff.

"I didn't see any real structural changes in how we do business. ... We did not find any real structural savings," said Herrity.



Descendents of the church's founding members pose for a picture. From left are Constance Rucker, Merle Summers, Tawny Rucker, Barbara Williams, Joan Lewis, Alfreda Lewis Horton, Lauren Horton, Paul Jones and Laura Carter.

Church Preserves History

FROM PAGE 3

even managed to leave with his horse. The Confederate picket line, though, would not allow the men to pass, so they sneaked through the countryside in the middle of the night.

Sharper promptly contacted the Union forces and told them all he had learned about the Confederate army's activities during his service.

Nonetheless, Sharper's farm was repeatedly raided by Union soldiers, whose food and supplies primarily consisted of what they took from residents. "They were totally indiscriminate," Washburn said. After he had harvested his oats, threshed his straw and baled his hay, Union soldiers took it to feed their horses. They helped themselves to the contents of his meat locker — some hams and sides of bacon. Soldiers caught and killed two of his hogs. "Samuel witnessed all this theft, but he was powerless to stop it," Washburn said. "They also raided the henhouse. Off they went with 20 chickens."

AFTER THE WAR, Sharper was able to get \$63 in reparations, about half what he asked for.

Sharper and his congregation worked from 1882 until 1893 to raise money and buy the land for Pleasant Grove Church and the building was completed by 1896. Sharper died before the church, unofficially known as "Sharper Church" in its early years, was finished. He was the first person to be buried in the church's cemetery.

Washburn said the church was "not only a historic monument, but also serves as a perfect architectural example." Other churches in the area, she said, do not show the same level of "architectural purity" in their lines, balance and proportions. "We're really lucky to have it."

The church, which has not had a congregation since the 1960s but was restored by a group of residents, also houses other pieces of history in its basement, which has been turned into the Frances K. Moore Memorial Museum. Joan Lewis of the Friends of Pleasant Grove Church encouraged visitors to drop in on the museum, which displays items from the home of the descendent of Sharper for whom it is named. Many of Sharper's tools and other belongings are on display there.

Lewis said the collection represented the lives of Sharper and his descendents from the 1890s through the 1930s. "The family's life centered around home and the church," she said.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, the Friends of Pleasant Grove also unveiled a recently completed portrait of the famous black orator, abolitionist and statesman Frederick Douglass, painted by Friends vice president Betty Marie Fields, and artist Betty MacDonald showed some pen-and-ink drawings she had made of famous black heroes.

Fields noted that Douglass had been the first black person to run for the office of vice president, on a ticket that would still be rare today. The presidential candidate was a woman. "He's my hero and I know him like I know George Washington," Fields said of Douglass.

Among MacDonald's drawings were pictures of the man who invented the third rail for electric railway, a great Shakespearean actor and more than one man named George Washington, once a popular name. "And this is George Washington Bush. How about that?" she said, pointing to one drawing. He had been the first black settler in what became the state of Washington.

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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. 25

Jungle Film Series. 7 p.m., Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. "Beneath the Jungle...and Beyond" with Dale Johnson. Watch films about Mesoamerica. Go to the Alden Theatre Box office or call 703-573-SEAT to purchase tickets.

THURSDAY/FEBRUARY 26

George Winston, folk pianist. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$35. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFRAP.

Griffin House and Charlie Mars. Rock/folk. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Common Threat, Along Those Lines, The Hard Lessons and Fall Back Plan, 10 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

'The Last Days of Judas Iscariot,' 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$12, \$8 students and seniors. 703-993-8888.

FRIDAY/FEB. 27

George Winston, folk pianist. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$35. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFRAP.

Red Molly. Folk/bluegrass. 7 p.m. \$12 advance, \$15 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Antique Show and Sale. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Dealers will display and sell a variety of furniture and collectibles. Admission is \$4.50. 703-255-6360.

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

'The Last Days of Judas Iscariot,' 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$12, \$8 students and seniors. 703-993-8888.

SATURDAY/FEB. 28

Aztec Two-Step. Acoustic duo. 7 p.m. \$20. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

George Winston, folk pianist. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$35. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFRAP.

Planting Gardens. 10:30 a.m., Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Chief Horticulturist Doris Rodriguez will share ideas about removing existing vegetation and the use of soil amendments and fertilizers, plus preparing ground for planting. Free. 703-253-3631.

Justin Trawick band. 10 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Antique Show and Sale. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Dealers will display and sell a variety of furniture and collectibles. Admission is \$4.50. Call 703-255-6360.

Dave Parsons Dance. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. The company includes Billy Smith, a 2007 George Mason University dance alumnus. A free pre-performance discussion begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$22-\$44. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Pig Farm. 4 and 8 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy by Greg Kotis, playwright of "Urinetown." \$25 adults, \$15 students. 1-800-838-3006 or www.1stStageSpringHill.org.

Furia Flamenco. 8 p.m., Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Flamenco dance. \$30 per person, \$25 McLean district residents. Purchase tickets at the Alden Theatre Box Office, call 703-573-SEAT or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Joe the Plumber. 6 p.m. Barnes and Noble, 7851 Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Samuel



Mime Du Style: Black and White, Directed by: Sara, Jocelyn and Adrienne. Models: Maddie Boyer, Anna Thomas, Claudia Ho, Michelle Holt, Magali Carrillo Rodriguez, Leah McSteen, Allie Mendenhall, Isabella Naujoks, Michelle Pineiro, Stefanie Rowland, Erin Stewart and Nikki Turner.

Langley High Presents Fashion Show

The Langley High School Fashion Marketing Department hosted its annual Fashion Show Saturday, Feb. 21. The highlights of the show included current and popular trends that have dominated the fashion industry like little black dresses, vests and suspenders, men's wear inspired, leather and lace, neon and a number of others. The show featured Langley High School students, faculty, administrators, as well as Principal Matthew Ragone.

Wurzelbacher, a.k.a. Joe the Plumber from the 2008 campaign, will sign copies of "Joe the Plumber: Fighting for the American Dream" with co-author Thomas Tabback.

'The Last Days of Judas Iscariot,' 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$12, \$8 students and seniors. 703-993-8888.

SUNDAY/MARCH 1

The Master Singers of Virginia present Francis Poulenc's three best-known works, the Mass in G Major, the Prayers of St. Francis for men, and the Petites Voix for women. 4 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, McLean. Season tickets are \$38 for adults and \$30 for seniors or students; individual ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors or students in advance (\$2 more at the door). 703-655-7809 or www.msva.org.

Bo Bice. Southern roots and blues. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFRAP.

Celtic Concerts. 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Celtic music by Iona. \$15. 703-759-3309.

Antique Show and Sale. 12-5 p.m., Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Dealers will display and sell a variety of furniture and collectibles. Admission is \$4.50. Call 703-255-6360.

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

Charity Tennis Exhibition. 5:30-8:30 p.m., McLean Racquet and Health Club, 1472 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Featuring Richey Reneberg, a seven-time Davis Cup winner, U.S. Olympic tennis team member and the world's number one rated doubles player. Proceeds go to the Washington Tennis and Education Foundation and to Childhelp. \$45 per person, \$23 children under 12. 703-356-3300.

'The Last Days of Judas Iscariot,' 2 p.m. at the George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$12, \$8 students and seniors. 703-993-8888.

Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children's "Every Kid's a Rock Star" Fundraiser. 3-6 p.m. at The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Tysons Center, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Live music. Children can ride a virtual roller coaster, get airbrush tattoos

and meet an interactive robot. Meet Miss Virginia Outstanding Teen 2008 Lexie Overholt of Oakton. Nike golf challenge and a green screen station for surfing, snowboarding or tennis. Silent auction items include Britney Spears and Wizards tickets, an overnight stay for two at The Ritz-Carlton, and a Nike one-week summer golf camp for children. 703-208-6629.

MONDAY/MARCH 2

Laura Elliot. 4-5:40 p.m., Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Elliot will discuss her juvenile fiction book, "Give Me Liberty," on the role teens played in the revolutionary war.

Greg Laswell and Jay Nash, 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13



Farhana Khan, center, with her models wearing her designs: Jordan Blessing, Ana Loria, Celine Amani and Jessie Wheat.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION



Tame the Untamed: Little Black Dresses. Models: Leah Eyob, Lexi Gallucci, Evelyn Han, Lauren Iaconetti, Haley Johnson, Chelsea Juergensen, Chelsea Lipford, Gabby Mariotti, Natalie Might, Maddie Minnich, Taylor Mohrann, Shayda Rezazad, Alex Roueche, Lauren Rule, Lindsay Shelby, Carly Snively and Jarred Zuccari.

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Multimedia presentation with author

Eric Etheridge
and Mississippi Freedom Rider
Rev. Reginald Green
March 5, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.
Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean

Etheridge is the author of *Breach of Peace: Portraits of the 1961 Mississippi Freedom Riders*.

Rev. Reginald Green shares his experience as a Freedom Rider.

Registration is not required; tickets will be distributed beginning at 7 p.m. on March 5; limit of four tickets per person, first come, first served.

For information on additional spring speakers visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or call 703-324-8428

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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 **Master Singers of Virginia** will perform a cappella works and English part-songs Sunday, March 1, 4 p.m., at St. Luke's Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Admission: \$17/adults, \$14/seniors and students. Call 703-665-7809 or visit www.msva.choralmusic.org.

The **Genevans**, an a cappella group, will perform Saturday, March 7, 7:30 p.m. at McLean Presbyterian Church, 1020 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Free. Visit www.geneva.edu.

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.

The **Church of the Good Shepherd**, 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna, a United Methodist church, celebrates the publishing of its 10th annual "Devotions for Lent" booklet. The booklet of daily devotionals written by members and friends of the congregation will be available at the Feb. 25 Ash Wednesday 7:30 p.m. service at the church. The booklet also will be available at www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna, provides an Ash Wednesday Service, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. entitled: "Seven Who Met Jesus." The service focuses on those who met Jesus and were changed by the experience. The service is free and open to the public. Childcare will be provided.

The **Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna** will be holding its quarterly "Lunch N' Life" March 9, 12 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road. The program will feature special guest speaker Linwood Holton, former Governor of Virginia from 1970 to 1974. Gov. Holton will share life experiences, stories and anecdotes from his recently published memoir "Opportunity Time." Cost: \$8. Reservations and payment for lunch required in advance; call 703-281-0538 or e-mail office@scov.org.

Great Falls United Methodist Church is at 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-759-3705. "All Things New" is 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 choral, 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, kindergarteners, 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.

NEWS

DeBuck Named VP

Patricia K. DeBuck has been named vice president of development for Capital Hospice, the region's oldest and largest nonprofit provider of end-of-life care. She will lead a team of fund-raising professionals whose work allows Capital Hospice to provide the community a comprehensive program of services, including some for which it does not charge, and to care for anyone medically eligible for hospice but cannot afford it.

"Our donors are generous with their time, treasures and talents. I am honored to assist them to ensure that Capital Hospice continues to provide excellent care to everyone in our community regardless of someone's financial circumstance," DeBuck said.

"This will be an important and challenging year for fund-raising and we are fortunate to have someone with Patti's experience, compassion and commitment in a leadership role," said Malene Davis, Capital Hospice president and CEO.

DeBuck joined Capital Hospice, then known as Hospice of Northern Virginia, in 1996, eventually serving as manager of special events and then director of community



CONTRIBUTED

Patricia K. DeBuck

and corporate support, before being named acting vice president of development in December 2008.

DeBuck and her husband live in McLean.

SCHOOL NOTES

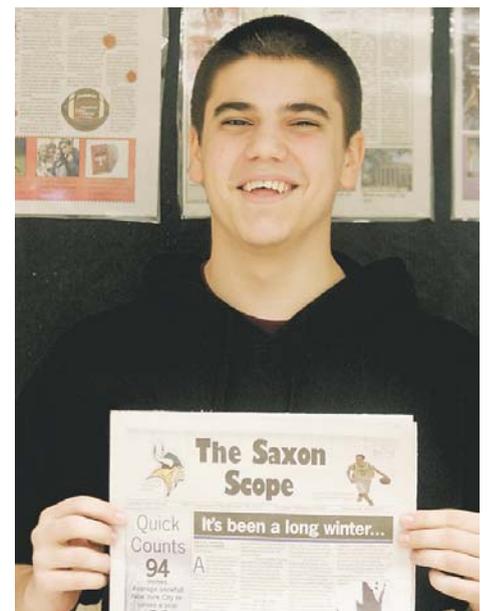
Send School Notes to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

McLean High School's Yearbook, The Clan, has been named a finalist for the 2008 National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) Yearbook Pacemaker Awards. **Hannah Bryan, Beth Cannon, Kenzie McCluer** and **Kaitlyn O'Donnell** are the editors and **Meghan Percival** is the advisor. Call the FCPS Department of Communications and Community Outreach at 571-423-1200.

Chesterbrook Kindergarten Orientation for parents of children who will turn 5 by Sept. 30, 2009 and live in the school's boundary will be held on Tuesday, March 3, from 7-8 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. This parent information meeting will provide an overview of the kindergarten curriculum and help prepare parents for this new chapter in their child's life. Chesterbrook Elementary is located at 1753 Kirby Road, McLean. Chesterbrook Elementary School PTA will be auctioning off a number of items to bid on to raise money for the school through March 8. Visit the auction catalog at www.chesterbrook.cmarket.com.

Oakcrest School has been awarded the National Endowment for the Humanities Picturing America grant. Picturing America is a new initiative from the National Endowment for the Humanities to bring masterpieces of American art that showcase our country's history and character to classrooms and libraries nationwide. Oakcrest history teacher Muriel Croston applied for the grant earlier this year.

Matthew Valcourt of McLean and son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery Valcourt, was named to Episcopal High School's academic honor



Langley High School junior Jimmy Bickel took second place recently in a Virginia High School League Sports Feature Writing Contest. **Jimmy is the assistant sports editor of "The Saxon Scope" and his story on the Lady Saxons' trip to Miami and the impact that trip had on the team's season will be featured in the 2008-09 VHSL State Basketball Championship Souvenir Program.**

roll for the second quarter of the 2008-09 academic year.

Kely Jo Stroud of McLean was named to Wake Forest University's Dean's List for the Fall 2008 semester.

Eric Caine of McLean and son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Caine was named as an honor student with the highest honors at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire for the Fall 2009 semester.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

The Great Game Escape, 4 p.m. at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Fun and brain-stretching games. Age 6-12. 703-356-0770.

Philadelphia Flower Show. 6:45 a.m.-8 p.m. Visit the 2009 Philadelphia Flower Show. This year's theme is "Bella Italia." Bus departs the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean at 7 a.m. \$142/person, \$117/district residents. Price includes deluxe motor coach transportation, a ticket to the Flower Show, morning snacks and the driver's tip. Call 703-790-0123.

TUESDAY/MARCH 3

August by August, 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY /MARCH 4

Peter Mulvey, 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Runaway Colors, 10:30 a.m. at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Wear a favorite color for stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-356-0770.

THURSDAY/MARCH 5

BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet. General admission dance. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Tyrone Wells, Brendan James and

Keaton Simons. Pop/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.

White Burgundy and Pinot Noir. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. A wine tour of one of the wine French regions and experience the delicate grape varietal.

The Bird and the Bee, 8 p.m. at The Barns. \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Portraits of Freedom Riders. 7 p.m., Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Eric Etheridge and former Freedom Rider Rev. Reginald Green will speak. Etheridge is the author of "Breach of Peace: Portraits of the 1961 Mississippi Freedom Riders." Tickets are first-come, first-serve with a limit of four per person. 703-324-8428

Tiny Tot Tales, 10:30 a.m. at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Stories and activities. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-356-0770.

Citrus Sale. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department, 9916 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Lions Club will be holding its semi annual citrus sale. All profits go to support local and national Lions charities.

FRIDAY/MARCH 6

Emmanuel Ceysson, harpist. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$35. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Shane Hines CD Release Show, Stepanian and Madi Diaz. 8 p.m. Rock. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple

Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Mariza sings Portuguese Fado, 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 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, begins 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$23-\$46. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

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

Bruce Dale. 7-9 p.m., Tysons Corner Marriott, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. National Geographic Photographer "The Making of Images: Bad Ideas Behind Good Photographs." \$25 online, \$30 at the door. www.leagueofrestronartists.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 7

Theresa Andersson. 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Nature Photography. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Two days of information and activities. Gain an appreciation for the natural world and learn to improve as a photographer. \$5 per person. 703-255-3631.

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

CORINTHIANS 13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrong. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a childish. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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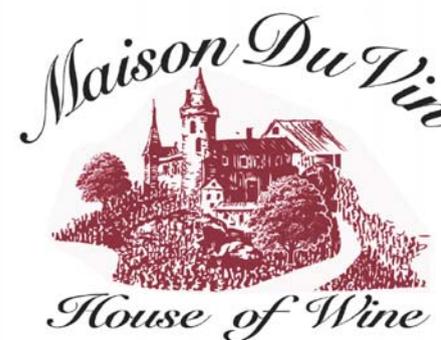


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SCHOOLS

Cooper Middle Crowns Spelling Bee Queen

Champ could be contestant in Scripps National Spelling Bee.

BY ROB WILE
THE CONNECTION

Pallavi Rudraraju, an eighth-grader at Cooper Middle School in McLean, strode confidently up to the microphone as a cafeteria filled with nearly 100 people looked on. After more than an hour, she had spelled her way through 18 rounds of the second annual Cooper Middle School Spelling Bee. After parrying volleys like “withdrawal” and “ephemeral” with ease, just one last word stood between her and the Cooper spelling crown. She was never in doubt.

“S-i-l-i-c-o-n,” she said.

The room erupted in applause.

“It felt really amazing,” she said as she clutched her colorful trophy, which came adorned with a cut-out bumblebee. “Last year I didn’t even participate [in the schoolwide bee]. I thought that I’d get out on ‘herpetology,’ [one of her words from an earlier round]. I’d never really heard that word before.”

PALLAVI, a Vienna native, had outlasted the 33 other sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders — 22 boys and 12 girls — to take the title. Besides the trophy, Pallavi took home “How to Spell Like a Champ,” a book endorsed by the Scripps National Spelling Bee organization, the group in charge of



PHOTO BY ROB WILE/THE CONNECTION

Pallavi Rudraraju shows off her championship trophy at Cooper Middle School Spelling Bee finals, as runner-up Michael Woo takes in the crowd.

“I thought that I’d get out on ‘herpetology.’”

— Pallavi Rudraraju,
Cooper Middle School’s
Spelling Bee, winner

the nationwide contest. She also received a subscription to Encyclopedia Britannic online. She now advances to the countywide bee, to be held March 21, at Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria. The winner of that bee will immediately become a contestant in the annual National Bee in Washington, D.C.

Pallavi’s father, Prasad, president and CEO of an information technologies services company, said that he and his family had been

turned away from attending by their daughter, who’d said they were going to make her too nervous.

“We were having a discussion with her before we left for school,” he said. “I said, ‘I’m going to be there,’ and she said, ‘No Dad, I’m going to be very nervous.’ She wouldn’t let me come! My pleas fell on deaf ears. But I’m really happy, we’re really proud of her.”

Prasad Rudraraju chalks up her daughter’s success to her love of reading and writing.

“She has been writing a lot of stories,” he said. “One of her favorite subjects is Harry Potter fan fiction and she hopes to publish a book soon. She’s got so many stories on her computers. It’s mostly from her ability to write — that’s where the spelling capabilities are coming from.”

THE BEE was run by Una Higgins and Julie Casso, two parent-volunteers, and organized by Laura McCafferty, a Cooper parent. The Fairfax Times was the sponsor. Eighth-graders Michael Woo and Tim Higgins, Una Higgins’ son, finished second and third, respectively.

Tim said he was just happy to have made it to the final rounds.

“It was good, it was exciting because I didn’t get that far last year,” he said. “It was good to be one of the top three.” He was ultimately felled by a rather insidious word — “insidious.” “When I heard that one [I knew I wouldn’t get it],” he said.

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Once Again, McLean Boys Send South Lakes Home

Highlanders earn another region playoff berth with district tourney win over the Seahawks.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Sometimes, one team just has another team's number in the big games. That has been the case in regards to the McLean High boys basketball rivalry versus South Lakes in recent seasons.

For the second straight year, in a first-round Liberty District tournament game, McLean upset the historically playoff-tested South Lakes squad, 66-40, Feb. 17. The postseason game was played on South Lakes' home gymnasium in Reston early last week.

The game was a do-or-die affair for both teams with the winner moving on to the district semifinals and automatically qualifying for this week's 16-team Northern Region tournament. Meanwhile, the loser, South Lakes, saw its season come to a halting end. The game qualified for a big upset as the Highlanders (8-15) entered the tournament as the eight-team district's No. 7 seed, while South Lakes (14-9) came in as the No. 2 seed.

Both teams also met in last year's first round of the playoffs with the stakes being the same. McLean, then the No. 5 seed, defeated the Seahawks, the No. 4 seed, in that game to end South Lakes' season. McLean ended up advancing to the district finals before losing to Langley.

Last week, following its win over South Lakes, McLean lost the following day in a district semifinals game to No. 3 Langley, 43-35. That game also took place at South Lakes.

SOUTH LAKES, over the years, has been one of the most prolific teams in the Northern Region. During the 1980s, '90s and into this decade, the Seahawks were a region power under former head coach Wendell Byrd. Byrd stepped down as coach following the end of the 2006-07 season. Under current coach Darryl Branch, who had been a longtime Byrd assistant, South Lakes has put together good regular seasons before falling to the scrappy Highlanders in first-round district play.

McLean lost to South Lakes in both of this

winter's regular season meetings, including a 68-65 home setback in the final game of the regular season on Feb. 13. But when it counted most, the Highlanders, like last season, got the best of the Seahawks in the playoffs and ended their season.

The biggest key to McLean's playoff win last week was its ability to shut down South Lakes standout guard Travis Williams, a First Team All-Liberty District selection. The senior point guard, the heart and soul of the Seahawks and one of the region's most prolific players, scored just four points in the playoff game. Four days earlier in the regular-season finale, Williams netted 26 points against the same Highlanders' squad in his team's three-point win.

"We knew we could play better [against South Lakes] and the kids were confident going into that [playoff] game," said McLean second-year coach Kevin Roller. "We did a much better job against Travis Williams. We changed the matchup on him and put another player on him. I think we were able to continually pressure him and he never got into the flow."

Williams nailed four 3-pointers against McLean in the regular-season finale. But in the playoff encounter, the Highlanders played him much better. Williams was also simply having a bad shooting night, often missing jump shots when he had good looks.

McLean, which executed well on offense throughout the playoff game, led 31-22 at halftime and went on to play a solid second half. The Highlanders, in the win, had four players finish in double-digit scoring. They were Curtis Symonds (17 points), senior guard Peter Brosnan (13), junior forward Sean Fitzgerald (13) and senior guard Matt Baruch (10).

THE WIN over South Lakes advanced McLean to last Wednesday's semifinals against Langley. While the Highlanders gave the defending district champion Saxons all they could handle, Langley came away with the eight-point win. McLean had no answer to stopping Langley shooting guard Derek Baker, who has been one of the region's most dominant players over the past month.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

McLean High's Sean Fitzgerald (33) and the Highlanders reached the Liberty District tournament basketball semifinals before falling to Langley last week. Earlier this week, McLean traveled to T.C. Williams for a first-round Northern Region playoff game against the defending state champions.

Baker, a First Team All-District selection, scored 21 points, including four 3-pointers, to pace the Saxons.

"The big difference in the game was Derek Baker," said Roller. "Every time he broke loose, he executed. We did a decent job against him defensively, but he had a phenomenal game."

McLean trailed 23-15 at halftime and was down by 11 in the fourth quarter before fighting back to get within three with less than a minute to play. But the Saxons hit several foul shots from there on to gain breathing room and gain the win.

Brosnan led McLean with 11 points in the loss, while senior forward Grayson Dahl added seven points.

MCLEAN entered the playoffs playing good

basketball. It won four of its final six regular-season games. Those victories, all in the district, came against Jefferson, Stone Bridge, Madison and South Lakes. In another late season game, the Highlanders gave regular-season champion Woodson all it could handle in a 54-49 loss.

McLean had lost six in a row before turning things around over the final three weeks. The scenario was similar to last year when the Highlanders, following tough stretches of play throughout the season, found themselves at the top of their game going into the postseason.

"Last year showed us that you're always building for the district tournament," said Roller. "The [regular] season is a marathon."

One reason the Highlanders were on a late-season roll was the strong play of Brosnan, the team's point guard. Last summer, Brosnan broke a wrist and struggled to get back into top form throughout the winter season. But in recent weeks he was back on top of his game. He finished the season averaging 13 points and earned First Team All-District honors. "He was dealing with [the injury] and not shooting as well the first part of the season," said Roller. "The last few weeks, he was what I hoped he would be."

McLean was scheduled to meet defending region champion T.C. Williams in a first-round region playoff game earlier this week.

"We did a much better job against Travis Williams. We changed the matchup on him and put another player on him."

— Kevin Roller, McLean High boys basketball coach

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The **Marshall High athletic office** is announcing an opening for a head varsity football coach. Marshall athletic director Joe Swarm will be collecting resumes through Friday, March 6. Applicants can send their resumes to Mr. Swarm by e-mail to Joe.swarm@fcps.edu or by fax to 703-714-5490, attention Joe Swarm. Former Statesmen coach JT Biddison will be taking over the football program at West Springfield High School. Marshall appreciates the hard work and dedication coach Biddison put into the Statesmen's program during his tenure at the Liberty District school.

The Marshall High School Boosters' **annual mulch sale** to benefit the students at Marshall High will be held Saturday, March 28. Mulch will be avail-

able to purchase at the school or to be delivered to homes with a preorder purchase of 10 bags or more. Home deliveries will be March 27-28. Preorders must be received by March 19. For more information go to www.gcmboosters.org or contact Sonnie Campos at vicepres@gcmhsboosters.org.

McLean Youth Soccer is still accepting registrations for the spring 2009 season on the league Web site at www.mcleansoccer.org for all returning and new families. MYS offers various programs for children ages 4-19, including House/Recreation, Travel and McLean Premier Soccer Travel, U5 for Pre-K players and TOP Soccer for children with special needs. The season will begin March 30 and run through June 14. Contact the MYS administrator at

admin@mcleansoccer.org for more information or call the MYS Office at 703-506-8068.

The McLean High girls 200 medley relay team, made up of Alexandra Yensen, Jamie Bugel, Eva Greene and Margaret Harlow, finished 11th at the Northern Region Championships two weeks ago at Oak Marr Recreation Center. Then, last week at the state meet, held at Freedom Center in Manassas, the foursome finished a strong 12th place in the event.



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

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546 Windover Ave NW	\$459,675	Sun 12-4	Lois McCormick	Weichert	703-938-6070
9019 Streamview Ln	\$699,000	Sun 1-4	Vanessa Vergnetti	Washington Fine	703-937-7169
8033 Reserve Way #43	\$719,000	Sat & Sun 12-4	David Mayhood	Mayhood Company	703-448-0400
8029 Reserve Way #42	\$769,000	Sat & Sun 12-4	David Mayhood	Mayhood Company	703-448-0400
10200 Westford Dr	\$779,900	Sun 12-4	Arthur DuHaime	Fairfax Realty	703-887-0439
8029 Reserve Way #41	\$835,000	Sat & Sun 12-4	David Mayhood	Mayhood Company	703-448-0400
2403 Beekay Ct	\$899,000	Sun 1:30-4	Anne Harrington	Long & Foster	703-585-8595
918 Desale St	\$685,000	Sun 1-4	Debbie McGuire	Weichert	703-406-9009

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

In Great Falls, Salome, 703-917-6467, or salome@connectionnewspapers.com

In Vienna, Don, 703-917-6466, or donpark@connectionnewspapers.com

In McLean, Lauri, 703-917-6460, or lauri@connectionnewspapers.com

HOME SALES

01/01/09 ~ 01/31/09

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
818 CLINTON PL	4	4	2		MCLEAN	\$2,300,000	Detached	1.12		LANGLEY FOREST
2155 ROYAL LODGE DR	4	3	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$1,549,799	Detached	0.14		STOCKWELL MANOR
6612 ORLAND STREET ST E	5	6	2		FALLS CHURCH	\$1,450,000	Detached	0.31		WETMORELAND HEIGHTS
1203 ALPS DR	4	4	1		MCLEAN	\$1,350,000	Detached	1.48		COURTS THE
6715 DEAN DR	6	5	0		MCLEAN	\$915,000	Detached	0.24		HILLSIDE MANOR
1781 CHAIN BRIDGE RD #108	2	2	0		MCLEAN	\$825,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			MORGAN AT MCLEAN
7402 SENECA RIDGE DR	3	3	2		MCLEAN	\$778,000	Townhouse	0.04		MCLEAN RIDGE
5927 OAKDALE RD	3	3	0		MCLEAN	\$760,000	Detached	0.50		CHESTERBROOK WOODS
1534 FOREST VILLA LN	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$720,000	Detached	0.47		FOREST VILLA
1320 LESSARD LN	4	3	2		MCLEAN	\$702,000	Townhouse	0.03		MCLEAN CREST
7476 CARRIAGE HILLS DR	2	2	2		MCLEAN	\$695,000	Townhouse	0.04		HUNTING RIDGE
6606 BEVERLY AVE	3	2	1		MCLEAN	\$650,000	Detached	0.38		GRASS RIDGE
6915 BERKELEY ST	5	2	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$649,000	Detached	0.33		WESTHAMPTON
1445 DEWBERRY CT	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$648,500	Detached	0.26		BROYHILLS MCLEAN ESTS
1661 STRINE DR	5	3	0		MCLEAN	\$630,000	Detached	0.27		DANA HEIGHTS
1726 SUSQUEHANNOCK DR	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$610,000	Detached	0.33		WEST LEWINSVILLE HEIGHTS
2201 REDDFIELD DR	4	2	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$600,000	Detached	0.44		REDDFIELD
6177 HARDY DR	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$600,000	Detached	0.32		POTOMAC HILLS
6523 FAIRLAWN DR	4	2	1		MCLEAN	\$575,000	Detached	0.24		ELNIDO ESTATES
1909 FOXHALL RD	4	2	1		MCLEAN	\$560,000	Detached	0.26		FOXHALL
6437 OLD CHESTERBROOK RD	5	2	1		MCLEAN	\$550,000	Detached	0.32		OAKVIEW
2001 HIGHBORO WAY	3	2	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$532,500	Townhouse	0.04		WESTMORELAND SQUARE
1638 LA SALLE AVE	3	2	0		MCLEAN	\$520,000	Detached	0.22		HUNTING RIDGE
2224 GLENHEATHER DR	4	2	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$499,000	Detached	0.24		CHURCHILL
2025 HIGHBORO WAY	3	3	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$475,000	Townhouse	0.00		WESTMORELAND SQUARE
2149 DOMINION WAY	3	3	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$425,000	Townhouse	0.04		MARSHALL HEIGHTS
6800 FLEETWOOD RD #804	2	2	0		MCLEAN	\$320,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			MC LEAN HOUSE NORTH
2009 HILEMAN RD	4	2	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$310,443	Detached	0.23		PIMMIT HILLS
1521 SPRING GATE DR #10403	2	2	0		MCLEAN	\$275,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			GATES OF MCLEAN
2230 GEORGE C MARSHALL DR #723	2	2	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$263,890	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			RENAISSANCE
8350 GREENSBORO DR #904	1	1	0		MCLEAN	\$252,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			ROTONDA
2230 GEORGE C MARSHALL DR #718	2	2	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$250,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			RENAISSANCE
1734 WESTWIND WAY #117	2	2	0		MC LEAN	\$235,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			WESTERLIES THE
1504 LINCOLN WAY #429	1	1	0		MC LEAN	\$210,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			FOUNTAINS AT MCLEAN
7618 SAVANNAH ST #18/203	3	1	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$153,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			FALLS CHURCH GARDENS
7612 SAVANNAH ST #12/101	3	1	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$136,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			FALLS CHURCH GARDENS

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BUSINESS NOTES

To have business notes listed, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com or 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102. Call 703-917-6449 with questions. Deadline is Friday.

Jacqueline (Jackie) Krick, president of ECU Communications, recently accepted the appointment as Vice President to lead the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The NOVA Chapter includes the counties of Fairfax,



Krick

Siciliano

Arlington, Loudoun, Prince William, and Stafford as well as the City of Alexandria.

Krick's plans include strengthening the NOVA Chapter through growing the numbers of members in diverse industries, leveraging local and regional opportunities, and establishing meaningful events for chapter members.

Mark H. Siciliano of The Washington Group based in McLean has been honored by Northwestern Mutual with its 2009 Southern Region Leader Award. Out of all Southern Region Northwestern Mutual Financial Network representatives, Siciliano ranked first. The honor recognizes Siciliano for an outstanding year of performance.

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 25

On the Importance of Girlfriends. 7-9 p.m., The Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Learn to establish a similar circle of friends that can be as dear as the ones in the past. Fee: \$45/non members; \$35/Center Circle Donors (Members). Visit www.thewomenscenter.org or call 703-281-2657 to register.

Project Support Grant Deadline. Project Support Grants for Arts Organizations are due at the Arts Council offices by 5 p.m. Call Jeannette Thomas, Grants Administrator, at 703-642-0862, Ext. 4.

Clergy Abuse Peer Support. 7-8:30 p.m., Tysons-Pimmit Hills Regional Library, 7684 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. The monthly peer support group for survivors of clergy abuse and others affected by the abuse will meet. The group meets on the last Wednesday of every month. Free. Confidential. No registration required. For information or directions, contact Ellen Radday at 703-538-6128.

THURSDAY/FEB. 26

Bankruptcy Basics. 7-9 p.m., The Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St., Alexandria. A bankruptcy attorney will discuss various types of consumer bankruptcy and your rights in dealing with creditors and debt collectors. The program will include bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy options available to prevent, avoid, or best deal with late/out-of-control mortgage payments or impending foreclosure. \$45/person, \$35/Center Circle Donors. To register go to www.thewomenscenter.org or call 703-281-2657.

SATURDAY/FEB. 28

Empowering Partnerships. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., George Mason University Johnson Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Learn more about innovative collaboration strategies from the experts to expand your reach and audience. \$5/person, free for members. Reserve seats by e-mailing rsvp@artsfairfax.org.

Marital Assets and Your Rights. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. Learn how Virginia courts divide assets and liabilities upon divorce, how to determine whether property is marital or separate and the factors the court must take into account in making its decisions. \$55/person, \$45/Center Circle Donors. To register go to www.thewomenscenter.org or call 703-281-2657.

SUNDAY/MARCH 8

Republican Women's Club. 1 p.m., Kena Temple Center, 9001 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. The Western Fairfax Republican Women's Club will hold a membership luncheon. Call: 703-425-6542.

GALLERIES

The work of local plein-air painters **Jack Warden and Karen Bateman** is featured in a show hosted by the McLean Project for The Arts at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls **through the end of February.** Warden and Bateman both work almost exclusively outdoors and do a lot of their painting right here along the Potomac River.

The artwork of **Ronni Jolles** of Great Falls will be on display at Katie's Coffeehouse, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls through Feb. 28. Visit www.RonniJolles.com.

The **U.S. Geological Survey**, National Center Art Hallway, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, presents paintings by Pauline D. Lorfano March 3-30, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Drawings, collages, and sculptures by students of Great Falls Elementary School under will be on display in the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, **March 3-31.** On March 5, 3-5 p.m., an ice cream social to celebrate the students' art will be held in the conference room.

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'Total' Confusion



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Recently, my wife Dina, was in a car accident on Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C., through no fault of her own, admitted to on the scene by the other driver. Fortunately, no one was hurt. However, Dina's car appears to have been "totaled." At present, two weeks after the accident, we're still waiting for both sides to adjust/agree on the car's assessment and therein lies the confusion.

Both companies, brand name insurers of unquestioned and unparalleled integrity, have reacted quickly to their respective client's call-ins. So quickly, in fact, that neither company has had the real-time information in as timely a manner as we have since the claims process has been tended to with the utmost care and concern. What I mean is, Dina (as the driver) and yours truly (as the owner) are both receiving calls from both insurers seeking information and status concerning what action has been taken (car seen/adjusted, car towed, where towed; and hearing who else had to determine what in order for all interested parties — insurers and insureds — to agree) or still needs to be taken, all in an extremely efficient and responsive pursuit of the truth, justice and settlement of the pending claim and ultimate disbursement of funds.

The problem is that both insurers' proactiveness has caused Dina and I to act cautiously, so cautiously in fact that, two weeks after the accident, no decision has been made; no repairs have been authorized, and of course, no settlement has been offered. Let me amend that. A settlement offer was made to me by my insurance company. However, when I told the other driver's insurance company's claims person of my company's offer, she balked at its legitimacy, so to speak, because she said that her company's adjuster hadn't even seen the car yet. As a result, rather than upset the other driver's insurance company, who I had hoped would settle with my insurance company — and its subrogation department, and include my \$1,000 collision deductible in the "total" check, I called my insurance company and withdrew my consent to their settlement offer, paperwork concerning which I had not yet "over-nighted" due to the criss-crossing of customer service/claims phone calls we were still both continuing to receive.

When I advised my car insurance company's claims representative of this decision/further delay, she was a bit perturbed (I realize it was costing them money; storage fees, no sale at auction, etc.) and asked what insurer I wanted to "go through" to settle this claim. I replied that I didn't preferably want to "go through" anybody (my insurance company versus the other driver's), I simply wanted to involve all the parties that, based on the number and variety of insurance company phone calls that Dina and I were receiving, sounded like I was supposed to, to facilitate the claim. At the very least, I thought, both sides needed to have an equal opportunity to gather all the information deemed appropriate/necessary to assess the damage/make a settlement offer (what do I know?). Given her attitude, apparently, I wasn't supposed/expected to do that.

I guess I was supposed to do what my insurance company advised me to do. Whatever confusion I was experiencing, whatever cross-communicating we were still receiving, would all be sorted out at settlement, if and when a final offer was made, and I should let the professionals work it all out on my behalf.

And though it all still sounded reasonable, I couldn't help wondering exactly who wants to know what and why, and how all of it affects Dina and me, and what's all the rush anyway?

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

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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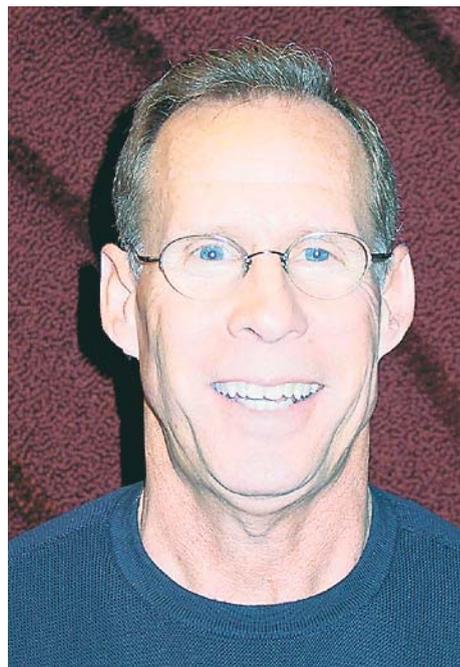
PEOPLE

MCC Appoints New Director

The McLean Community Center (MCC) has appointed George A. Sachs as its new intergenerational program director. As director, Sachs will oversee programming and services in all areas of youth, senior and family programming, including the Old Firehouse Teen Center, a satellite facility. The center is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

Sachs served as the center's deputy director for four years, from 1991-1994, administering the facilities, overseeing the operating budget and supervising program directors. Prior to rejoining MCC, he was co-owner and chief financial officer of LifeQuest Swim and Fitness Club in Myrtle Beach, S.C., where he directed operations and oversaw bookkeeping and contracts. Under his administration, the club sponsored several community events, such as the annual Columbus Day sprint triathlon, a fund-raiser to benefit the American Red Cross.

In addition, he has held management positions with George Mason University, adjunct professor for parks, recreation and leisure services and associate athletic director for recreation/sports and facilities; Fairfax County Department of Recreation and Community Services, recreation spe-



CONTRIBUTED

George A. Sachs

cialist; and Fairfax County Park Authority, manager, Wakefield Park and Recreation Center. Sachs holds a bachelor of science degree in education from Old Dominion University. He has been a member of the National Recreation and Park Association and the Virginia Recreation and Parks Society.

For more detailed information on the center's programs and services, visit: www.mcleancenter.org.



PHOTOS BY KIM MORAN

Jordan Craig-Kuhn, Churchill Road Elementary School teacher, announces on the morning news program that the \$20,000 goal has been met and he will be going through with getting his head shaved. From left, Laura Johnston, Craig-Kuhn, and morning news anchors, Aaliyah Booker and Ellie Womack.

Jump Rope for Heart

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, Churchill Road Elementary School physical education teacher Jordan Craig-Kuhn had his head shaved on the morning news program, as the culmination of the school's Jump Rope for Heart fund-raiser on behalf of the American Heart Association. Craig-Kuhn agreed to shave his head if the school raised \$20,000 for the charity. When the final moment arrived, the 234 students and families amount fell shy of the goal by a mere \$39 and Craig-Kuhn wrote the final check himself. All of the students were delighted to see the top fund-raiser, fifth-grader Laura Johnston, shave Craig-Kuhn's head live on the news program.



Laura Johnston, top fund-raiser, begins shaving Jordan Craig-Kuhn's head.

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