Great Falls
CONNECTION

Langley High School's AP Government teacher Allison Cohen congratulates Hunter Bohlen on his presentation during the school's Case Day last Friday.

Photo by Louise Krafft/The Connection

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Photos by Louise Krafft/The Connection

Langley High School's AP Government teacher Allison Cohen congratulates Hunter Bohlen on his presentation during the school's Case Day last Friday.

Langley High School seniors Julia Rasmus, Stormy Budwig and Brittany Fruin.

Langley High Holds Case Day

During Case Day, students debate DNA testing that could exonerate criminals.

By Mike DiCicco
The Connection

Melissa Reif could barely get a sentence out. The Langley High School senior was trying to make the argument that states should be able to decide the circumstances under which prisoners should have access to evidence from their case, but she was constantly interrupted.

"Why should we have separate rules for two categories of states?" "Justice" David Koplow interjected.

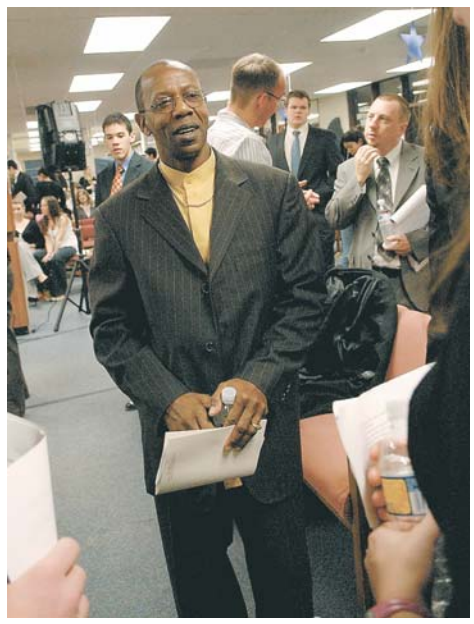
"States should be allowed to have their own standards that they can set," Reif said. Before she could say much else, Chief Justice Tom Barletta wondered if the point was to set standards.

In what would be a rare occasion, Reif managed to get more than one thought out before another question was asked. Not only should the decision be a legislative, rather than judicial matter, she said, but William Osborne had declined the highest quality DNA testing available at the time of his 1994 trial. Besides, she said, allowing inmates to petition for DNA evidence would "open the floodgates" for convicts to swamp DNA testing labs with frivolous appeals.

Justice Gyan Das noted that few such cases had arisen.

"What could be more fundamental than to make sure we don't imprison someone wrongly?" Justice Cary Greenberg asked.

THE CASE being debated at Langley High School's 17th annual Case Day last Friday was District Attorney's Office v. Osborne, which would be heard by the Supreme Court the following Monday. Many of the "justices" were law professionals visiting the school for the event. Koplow is a professor at Georgetown University, and Barletta and Greenberg are partners in their respective law firms. Das was one of two students sitting on the court.



A special presentation was made by Rickie Johnson, Innocence Project Exoneree. Through Innocence Project, Johnson was released after spending 25 years in prison in Angola.

An audience of students and parents filled the school's library to watch the day's proceedings, guest speakers and debates and many students watched via closed circuit television in their classrooms.

Osborne was convicted in Alaska of kidnapping, rape and assault, based on questionable eyewitness testimony, a type of DNA testing that would have implicated about 15 percent of black males and a confession. At his attorney's advice, he declined testing that would have had a greater degree of accuracy, although DNA testing at that time was still less precise than today.

In 1996, he requested to have the DNA retested and was denied. Under a statute commonly known as "section 1983," which allows citizens to sue officials for constitutional violations, Osborne appealed the decision until it was overturned by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Alaska then appealed to the Supreme Court. If the Ninth Circuit's decision were upheld, some current prisoners would be able to have their cases revisited in light of advances in DNA testing.

> "States should be allowed to have their own standards that they can set."
> — Melissa Reif, first counsel for the petitioner

Reif was arguing on behalf of Alaska. Her co-counsel, Dillon Grimm, argued that Osborne's post-conviction rights were much more limited than his rights during his trial and that the Constitution did not grant him a right to appeal his case from prison.

Greenberg pointed out that some states allow such a right while others do not and that the Supreme Court had previously stepped in to make the rights of the accused uniform from state to state.

THE JUSTICES also wanted to know what the state would have to lose in allowing Osborne's DNA to be retested, since Osborne had offered to pay for the test.

Osborne did not meet Alaska's standards for reconsideration of his case, as he had confessed to the crime, Grimm said, but the justices wondered whether Alaska's standards were appropriate. Justice Janie Strauss, the Dranesville District's School Board representative, noted that a confession is not always a trial's most important piece of evidence.

Osborne was not questioning the state's standards but was claiming a federal right to access evidence that could prove him innocent, Grimm said.

When the counsel for Osborne took the stand, the justices reversed their positions. Why was Osborne appealing on the grounds of a section 1983 claim rather than habeas corpus, they asked, when many of the 232 prisoners exonerated to date had made successful habeas corpus claims.

Section 1983 is more broadly defined, and at least one prisoner had been exonerated under the statute, said Hunter Bohlen, first counsel for Osborne's side of the case.

The court wondered whether finding a constitutional right for Osborne to have his DNA retested would invite frivolous appeals and endless proceedings for people already convicted.

Bohlen noted that Bruce Godschalk had been freed in 2002 after his DNA was retested and since then only two such cases had reached the Third Circuit Court that exonerated him.

Koplow and Justice Matthew Ragone, Langley's principal, asked whether deciding that prisoners had a post-conviction right to DNA testing would create a "slippery slope" and allow any and all evidence to be revisited. Bohlen asserted that DNA testing was a special case, in that no other evidence had such power to determine guilt or innocence. "Virtual certainty is virtual certainty," he said.

Having had an error-free trial and turned down DNA testing years ago, "How much more could [Osborne] want from the criminal justice system?" Koplow asked Bohlen's co-council, Chris Engebretson. "The state has an interest in taking criminal trials seriously," Koplow said.

Engebretson replied that Osborne's right to not be wrongfully imprisoned had not disappeared during the years since his trial.

Barletta again asked whether finding for Osborne would clear the way for a slew of prisoners to "come waltzing into court" seeking DNA tests.

Were the reasonable probability standards set fourth by the Ninth Circuit Court that decided in favor of Osborne adopted nationally, a relatively small number of cases would qualify for reconsideration, Engebretson said.

IN THE END, the court found for Osborne,

See Case Day, Page 15

Contributed

Martina E. Caputy receives Sar Silver Medal of Appreciation.

Caputy Honored

Virginia Society Children of the American Revolution C.A.R.) state president, Martina E. Caputy — the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Caputy of Great Falls — received the Silver Medal of Appreciation from the Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) at the recent SAR State Conference in Richmond. She received the medal for her leadership of the State C.A.R. Society and pursuit of SAR support. Her state project helped Gadsby's Tavern to educate children about colonial history through the use of traveling trunks. Caputy is a member of the local Col. William Grayson Society and is a junior at Foxcroft School. C.A.R. is a youth organization that promotes patriotism and community service. For more information se www.nscar.org

Shawn Ghuman

Ghuman Elected Student Representative

Shawn Ghuman, a junior at Langley High School, has been elected by the countywide Student Advisory Council (SAC) to serve a one-year term as student representative to the Fairfax County School Board, beginning July 1. Ghuman will participate in School Board meetings as a nonvoting member, filling the position held by Arvin Ahmadi, a junior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. Ghuman will be the 39th student representative to the School Board.

Ghuman hopes to focus on the current budget crisis and the school system's grading scale during his term. "I find it very important that we gain everyone's input when deciding what is to be cut," said Ghuman in a press release, referring to extracurricular activities. He pledges to work with the School Board to find a resolution that affects the least number of students.

Ghuman takes honors and Advanced Placement courses at Langley and plans to take four additional AP courses next year in addition to a fifth year of Spanish, a leadership class, and a class in radio and broadcasting. He serves as junior class president, captain of the Langley Bhangra Club — a cultural dance group, a member of the Leadership Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and Human Relations Committee. Ghuman was the Liberty District champion in prose category of the debate and forensics competition and took first place in the prose interpretation category at a Northern Virginia Forensics League competition. He received best delegate awards at two Model United Nations competitions and will be secretary general of the Langley Model U.N. team during the 2009-10 school year.

Design Firm Wins Award

Carlyn and Company Interiors + Design was honored with a gold award for Best Sales Office this year at the NAHB sponsored Nationals in Las Vegas. The Nationals are the country's

News

No Major Incidents

Winter's only major snowfall brings slipping and sliding but 'nothing serious.'

Photo by Mike DiCicco/The Connection

Mike and Vanessa Doyle of Great Falls stop during a snowy walk in Riverbend Park with their dogs Peanut and Gordita.

Between midnight and 2 p.m. Monday, 100 accidents and a total of 138 traffic-related incidents were reported in Fairfax County, said police spokesman Don Gotthardt. "There were minor injuries reported, but nothing serious," he said, noting that air transport had not been used once. Most accidents, he said, involved cars sliding into each other or sliding off the road, possibly into stationary objects.

The longest road closure, due to a multicar pileup at the intersection of Route 28 and McLearen Road, south of the town of Herndon, lasted about an hour. Only a couple of lanes were closed down, and police were able to route traffic around the accident, Gotthardt said. "There were numerous temporary road closures, but our officers, along with towing companies, worked to keep the roads open as much as possible."

Joanna Fazio, director of communications at Reston Hospital Center, said the hospital had seen a spike in incoming patients since the snow began accumulating on roads, but she said complaints were limited to the usual, minor snow-related injuries — "car accidents, whiplash, some people falling down." She said the heightened intake was steady until about 3:30 p.m., and she was expecting it to pick up again shortly, as commuters made their ways home.

— Mike DiCicco

Winning 'Chronology'

Fourth-grader wins Forestville Elementary School Spelling Bee contest.

By Aleksandra Kulczuga
The Connection

Photo by Aleksandra Kulczuga/The Connection

Winner Thomas Mecherikunnel, 10, and runner-up Daniel Rees, 11, pose with the emcee/organizer/chair of the Forestville Elementary School's Spelling Bee Heather Jacobs, pronouncer and fifth-grade teacher Kurt Jacobs and Principal Matt Harris.

The two finalists at the Forestville Elementary Spelling Bee battled through three tied final rounds before a winner emerged. The packed cafeteria hung on every letter and gasped at the difficulty of the words the contestants were presented with. Ten-year-old Thomas Mecherikunnel won by correctly spelling the championship word "chronology." Runner-up Daniel Rees, 11, missed a championship word in an earlier round and finished in second place.

The spelling bee took place Friday, Feb. 27, at 2 p.m., in the Forestville cafeteria. The winners of the classroom bees from the previous week participated in the schoolwide contest.

Both Mecherikunnel and Rees said they never thought they would make it to the final round.

After three successive rounds that ended in a tie, Rees missed "hacienda" in the fourth round and later admitted he was completely unfamiliar with the word. Meanwhile Mecherikunnel successfully spelled "imam." The fourth-grader confessed he had no idea what the word meant and originally thought it should be spelled with an "e" because of its pronunciation. "When I heard the definition, that was when I knew the leader of an Islamic mosque had to be spelled with an 'I.' I got lucky," Mecherikunnel said. The students are encouraged to ask for the word's definition or to hear the

Schools

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

The **sixth-graders of Colvin Run's Character Education** program will be doing a project to clean up and beautify Wolf Trap on March 23 and 30. Three classes will participate each day. Fifth graders will lead sneaker recycling Saturday, May 16. Sneakers in good condition will be donated to charity. Sneakers that are no longer usable will be donated to NIKE Grind, to be ground up and used to make sports courts around the world. The Kindergarten will hold a book drive March 23-27. Second grade will be making art kits to donate to Georgetown University Hospital; the fourth grade team applied for a grant to start a recycling program at CRES. Details of the recycling are beginning to be discussed.

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.

The **James Madison Wind Symphony and Symphonic Bands** will have a concert Thursday, **March 5,** 7:30 p.m., in the James Madison High School auditorium.

Jenny Hodge of Vienna has been named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Radford University. Hodge is majoring in special education.

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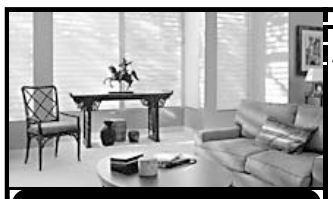

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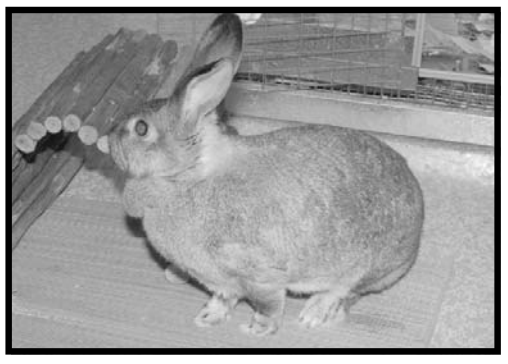

A 2-year-old female Dutch Rabbit. Ashes is a sweet lady who needs a good home. Her owner couldn't keep her. She loves Cheerios and being gently rubbed between her ears.

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Opinion

Later Start Times Still Possible

Not this proposal, but later start times still worth the effort, without hurting athletics and activities.

Next week, the Fairfax County School Board should direct school staff to resolve the many issues and concerns raised about moving high school start times.

Years ago, moving start times for high schools in Fairfax County was impossible because it would have cost $20 million. That was about a decade ago.

Editorial

Now, after five years of intensive study and probing by a group of dedicated parents, it turns out that start times could be moved back from 7:20 to 8:30 a.m. at no cost at all.

This alone makes it hard to have a lot of confidence in the financial forecasts coming from the school system.

The devil is in the details, and the details put forward in the proposal last month are fraught with conflict. While it represents a technically feasible plan, it clearly stops there. It seems to have maximized the size and number of changes that Fairfax families would face next year, and Fairfax families have responded accordingly.

Thousands of people turned out for community forums on the topic, responding with intensity in several directions. Teens and their families worry that later start times will throw a wrench in carefully orchestrated after school activities. Parents of children who attend different schools complain that they would have to accommodate vastly different schedules.

The parents who have advocated for later start times have science on their side. But even the many advocates of affording teens an extra hour of sleep have concluded that the current proposal is not workable for the coming year.

It's clear that this proposal has too many unresolved issues to move forward for next fall as many had hoped.

But this should be the beginning, not the end, of this proposal. An 8:30 a.m. high school start time won't cost $20 million to implement, and it should be compatible with high school sports, including swimming, and other extracurricular activities. Both Arlington and Loudoun manage this start time, and their sports teams compete with Fairfax sports teams in some leagues.

It isn't fair for school staff to dump a half-baked proposal on families without answering the obvious questions. Fear of change will stymie progress.

It's also essential to try to minimize the changes forced on elementary and middle schools individually. For example, if an elementary school has an early time now, it shouldn't be moved to a late time in transition.

These are logistics that can and should be addressed so that it's possible to address healthy start times without compromising athletics or activities.

All change is hard. Some change is worth the effort.

Let's put in the effort to try to resolve the conflicts, not use unresolved questions to fan the flames.

— Mary Kimm,
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Letters to the Editor

Looking for Hero's Relatives

To the Editor:

I am wondering if any of your readers could help me in locating relatives of S/Sgt Herbert M. King who was killed in action over the Netherlands on Dec. 13, 1943 when his B-26 bomber was struck by German anti-aircraft fire. S/Sgt King's mother was Icie Frances Seymour. In 1943 she lived at 104 13th Street Southeast in Washington D.C. Mrs. Seymour died in August 1972 in Great Falls.

I would like to locate any living relatives of S/Sgt King's in order to inform them of current activities in The Netherlands to honor him and the rest of the crew. Recently parts of the aircraft were discovered in a new residential develoment in Schipol and a display honoring the crew has been made in a local musuem. On May 4, 2010, a memorial will be dedicated to the crew of seven. Local historians and residents hope that family members can be located and be present at the dedication.

Contact information: Roy Thomas, W6722 State Road 11, Monroe, WI 53566. Tel: 608-325-2527; email: tyor@tds.net

Roy Thomas
Monroe, WI

Healthy Priority

To the Editor:

This is a critical time in our nation's history. We are confronted with large health care challenges. Yet the potential to significantly improve access to critical health care services for all and to make meaningful progress in discovering the cures to cancer provide us with the hope of an exciting and healthier future.

We were grateful Congress and the Administration took the first step in addressing the growing health care crisis in the states with the recent economic stimulus legislation. These funds give states the opportunity to avoid cuts to potentially life-saving breast cancer education, screening and treatment services for underserved women.

Yet there is so much more to do. As the non-partisan voice for over 2.5 million breast cancer survivors and the people who love them, we look forward to working with President Obama to establish a health system that ensures access to affordable, high-quality health care for all — including underserved populations and people with chronic or pre-existing conditions like cancer.

We must ensure that everyone has access to breast cancer screening and treatment. For breast cancer, as is the case for many diseases, early detection is the closest thing we have to prevention. Detecting cancer early not only increases a patient's chance of survival, but also considerably reduces the cost of their treatment.

We were also thankful for the considerable investment in health research contained in the stimulus legislation. We urge the Administration to intensify this commitment to discovering the cures, as funding has remained essentially flat since 2003. We must signal that discovering and delivering the cures for cancer is a top national priority.

Martina Hone
President, Susan G. Komen for the Cure Advocacy Alliance

Help on Road To Recovery

To the Editor:

The American Cancer Society has an opportunity to make a significant difference in the lives of Northern Virginia residents who are facing cancer. To take full advantage of it, we need the support of the entire community.

Cancer treatments today work better than ever. But for many residents of Northern Virginia, just getting to the treatment can be a problem. A patient receiving radiation therapy may need to travel to the clinic every day for up to six weeks. Someone receiving chemotherapy may need weekly treatments for as long as a year. Temporary side-effects can make patients feel too sick to drive themselves or to take public transportation. For those without a car or without family living close by, this lack of transportation may mean missing the treatments that could save their lives.

The American Cancer Society has a critical need for volunteers for its Road to Recovery driver program. We need Northern Virginia residents with a car and some time available between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to step forward and help out. If you can spare as little as one morning or afternoon each month, you could be making a significant difference in the life of one of your neighbors who is facing cancer.

If you can help out in this way, please call or e-mail American Cancer Society's Mission Delivery Manager, National Capital Region, Sarah Ness at 202-483-2600 ext. 101 e-mail Sarah.Ness@cancer.org. The American Cancer Society will provide an orientation, support materials, and other assistance. In return, you'll be providing local cancer patients with the help they need to travel the Road to Recovery.

Glynnis M Keogh
American Cancer Society Intern

The Connection

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-917-6451
Fax: 703-917-0991
e-mail:
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ❖ 703-917-6428
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike DiCicco
Community Reporter
703-917-6448
mdicicco@connectionnewspapers.com

Julia O'Donoghue
Education & Politics
703-917-6433
jodonoghue@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Courts & Projects
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Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-917-6416
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Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editors
Steve Hibbard, Michael O'Connell, Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Robbie Hammer, Louise Krafft, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Zohra Aslami, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong, John Heinly, John Smith, Stu Moll, Wayne Shipp
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CIRCULATION: 703-917-6480
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CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS, L.L.C.
Peter Labovitz
President/CEO

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
703-917-6416
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Jerry Vernon
Executive Vice President
703-917-6404
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Wesley DeBrosse
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Calendar

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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.

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

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. Valencia oranges, tangerines, red and white grapefruit will be on sale at $25 per box or $13 per half box. All profits go to support local and national Lions charities.

Anxiety Management Group. 6-6:50 p.m., Jewish Social Service Agency, 3018 Javier Road, Fairfax. This 17-session group is for children ages 9-11 with anxiety issues. Call 703-204-9100 to register.

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.leagueofrestonartists.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.

Green River Ordinance, 10 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. $10 advance, $12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

'It's All about the Cats' Adoption Day sponsored by Commonwealth Cat Rescue, Inc., 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560. Contact Chris C. Haslam, Commonwealth Cat Rescue, Inc. at 703-568-3600.

Legal Aspects of Separation and Divorce. McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Jeffrey Sprowls, Esq. will provide information on divorce topics including grounds for divorce, child custody arrangements, spousal and child support, division of assets and liabilities, retirement and more. $55/person, $45/Center Circle Donors. Call 703-281-2657 to register.

Estate Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Claude Moore Farm at Turkey Run, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Browse large and unique collections of crafts and miniatures, craft supplies and craft books from Washington area doll makers and miniaturists. Visit www.1771.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 8

The Irish Inn Mates. 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Traditional Celtic music. $15. 703-759-3309.

Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun with Special Guest Austin de Lone. 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. $20. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

U. S. Marine Band, Wind and Song. 2 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. 703-563-1990.

Pig Farm. 2 and 6 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.

Local Matinee with Mary and the Poor and Headless Mantis. 2 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. $8. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society. 2:30 p.m., Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls St., Falls Church. A one-hour program with a video, question and answer and reference handouts by grower Ed Mascali, on how, when and where to plant tubers to achieve huge Dahlia blooms. Free. Call Jim Dunne at 703-560-8776.

MONDAY/MARCH 9

An Evening with Andy McKee and Dan LaVoie. Fingerstyle guitar. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. $15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Spring Is Sprouting, 4 p.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Uncover secrets of spring wildflowers, and plant a seed to take home and watch as it transforms into a plant. Age 3-12 with adult. 703-757-8560.

TUESDAY/MARCH 10

Keri Noble and Rachael Sage, 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. $12. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Daughters of the Confederacy. 6:30 p.m., Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. The Laura Ratcliffe Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will meet. Meetings are open to the public. Call Nancy Wigginton at 703-408-8019.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 11

Rude Buddha and Ballyhoo, 9pm show at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. $10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

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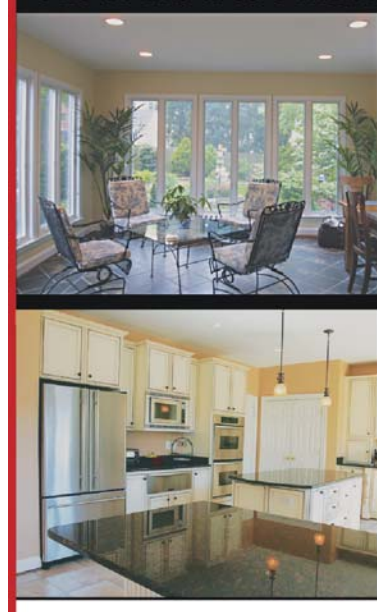

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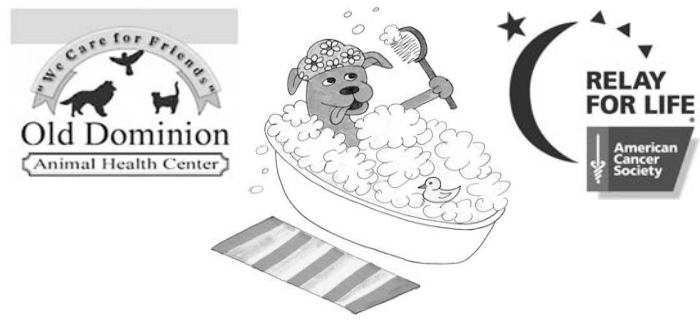

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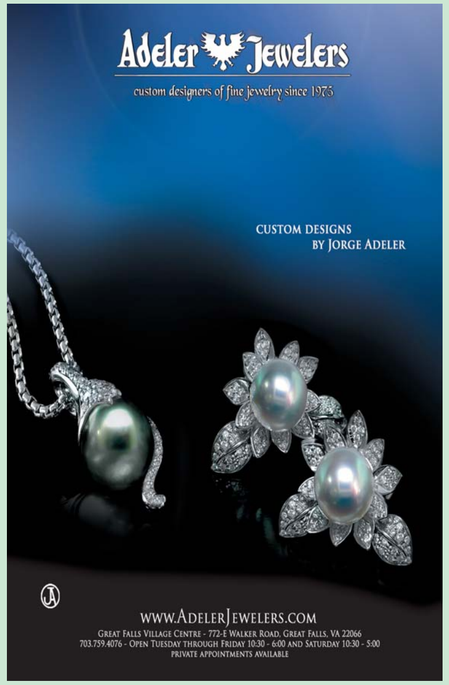

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JOIN NOW to Attend our Meetings:

Wednesday, March 18th ~ GFBPA Breakfast Meeting
7:30–9:00 a.m. at Executive Suites @ Great Falls:
- Networking with light breakfast…
- Rob Jolles – www.Jolles.com – Guest Speaker
- Update – Walker Road Traffic Calming Project

Save The Dates
- April 22nd: GFBPA Board Meeting at Katie's 7:30 a.m.
- May 20th: GFBPA Breakfast Meeting 7:30–9:00 a.m.

Shop Great Falls Campaign Continues ~
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For more information, contact Stephen Dulaney,
V.P. of Membership, at 703-759-4155
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Lions Club Citrus Sale

The Great Falls Lions Club will be holding its' semi annual citrus sale Thursday March 5 through Saturday March 7 from 9 AM to 6:00 PM at the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department parking lot.

Valencia oranges, tangerines, red and white grapefruit will be on sale at $25 per box or $13 per half box. All profits from the sale go to support various local and national Lions charities.

Great Falls Historical Society

"*Tie Guy*" Program
Wednesday, March 11, 2009
7:00 P.M. at the Great Falls Library
9830 Georgetown Pike

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Bennett, Paul – C5 Wealth Management
Boggs, Barbara – Ronco Irrigation, Inc
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Cassell, Jim – Great Falls Design/Build Ltd.
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Cornejo, Michele – Weichert Realtors
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Doerman, Randall, M.D. – Physician; Internal Medicine
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Fields, Suzanne – Jobin Realty Great Falls
Foley, Wayne – W.M. Foley Construction Corporation
Fouquet, Marcia – Great Falls Art Center, Inc.
Funger, Keith – Property Manager, Saul Shopping Centers
Gallagher, Michael – élan magazine
Graves, Terry – Capital Realty Services, Inc.
Gunther-Hatch Design Group
Haeringeer, Francois – L'Auberge Chez François
Hick, Vital - dba Maison Du Vin LLC (Retail Wine Store)
Hoyer, Diane – Women helping Women with Finances
Huff, Kathy – Concious Bean, LLC (Coffee Shop)
Jolles, Rob – Jolles Associates, Inc.
Jones, Cindy – Long and Foster, Realtors
Kearney, Michael – Old Brogue Irish Pub
Klagholz, Donna – PH.D & Assoc, LLC
Lazaro, Ralph, DDS – Dentist
Leadbetter, Doris – ReMax Gateway, LLC
Legler, Jack – Legenter, LLC. (Leadership/Performance)
Limonee, Hadi/Saman – Great Falls Exxon Automotive
Loebig, Glenn – Loebig Chiropractic P.C.
Loza, Juan – Lazaro/Loza Denistry
Luce, Beverly – Anova Senior Kare, Inc.
Malone, Dr. Timothy – Ophthalmologist
McCombs, Dr. Michael – Orthodontist
McDermott, Michael – Frank M. McDermott, Ltd. (Air Safety Consultant)
Meadow, Jay – Madows Farms, Inc. (Nursery)
Mencia, Jack – Cube Corp
Mobley, Robert (Bob), AIA – Architectural Design Consulting
Morse, Dr. Martin – The Great Falls Plastic Surgery Center
Nikolov-Borges, Rosmari – La Petite Spa and Laser Hair Removal Clinic
O'Dell, Jan – Associated Mortgage
Owen, Charles – Walpole Woodworkers
Palermo, Michael – E-novative Revenue Solutions, LLC
Paul, Jon – Megawatt, Inc. – Professional Disc Jockey Agency
Preston, Charles – Attorney
Rader, Jane – Java Town
Rainey, Jeffery – Home Equity Builders, Inc. (Home Remodeling)
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Runke, Kristen – Great Falls Eyecare
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Seven Strategies for Saving

By G. STEPHEN DULANEY
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Are you doing your best to save for your future? It can be very challenging to begin a savings program. After necessities such as food, clothing and housing, there can be little left to put aside for future goals.

Unfortunately, failing to save could mean the difference between enjoying a comfortable retirement and giving up some basic needs. Often it is a matter of making the decision to begin saving now in order to buy a new home or car later. The goals you set are important to you. Making changes to prepare for those goals can make a difference.

For that reason, State Farm® has taken a look at various ways to get a person's savings plan on track. We've come up with seven strategies that you can use today.

1. **Don't splurge with your tax refund**. Nearly 40 million Americans receive a refund each year, averaging around $2,400. Instead of spending your refund, use it wisely by paying down debt, funding an individual retirement account, or saving it for future financial goals.

2. **Take full advantage of your employer's retirement contributions.** Your employer may match a percentage of the contributions you make to your retirement savings plan. It's a good idea to do what it takes to get the matching limit. It's free money that can really help your bottom line during retirement.

3. **Start small and stay steady**. The first word is the most important – Start. You should begin as early as possible to get the most out of your savings plan. Thanks to the power of compounding, investing another $50 a month in a tax-sheltered plan for 30 years will add nearly $75,000 to your account assuming an 8 percent average annual return.

4. **Pay yourself first**. Think of your savings or investments as a bill you must pay on a regular basis, much the same as a car or mortgage payment. Be disciplined and make the payments according to a set schedule. For better results, establish an automatic monthly deduction from your paycheck or checking account to fund an investment or savings account.

5. **Create separate pots of savings for upcoming life stages**. Retirement may be an important goal for which to begin saving, but other goals or events need as much or more preparation. Don't short-change other goals while concentrating on one thing. Whether it's a home, car or child's education, it is important to give appropriate attention to each.

6. **If you have children, find the right education plan.** You have a number of choices when it comes to saving for a child's education. Finding the one that makes sense for your situation takes planning and information. This takes us to the seventh and, quite possibly, the most important point…

7. **Work with someone you know and trust**. Everyone's needs and goals are unique. Just as you go through many changes during your lifetime, your financial goals may change. You should work with a professional who not only knows about various plans and strategies, but knows you and will stay with you through the long haul. Most people feel the best guidance they receive comes from a financial professional they know and trust.

In the end, it all boils down to making a plan, getting started and staying the course. When you make the decision to finally start, contact a financial professional who knows you and understands your needs.

GFBPA Membership Application

"The Great Falls Business and Professional Association was founded for the purpose of advancing the business, professional and community welfare in the Great Falls area through activities that encourage Great Falls residents to use the business and professional services offered by the Great Falls business and professional people and by maintaining high business and professional ethics and practices in the community."

Association meetings are held 6 times a year at a local restaurant in Great Falls, Va. Membership applications can be mailed to prospective members upon request. Call Ralph Lazaro, President 703-759-3011 or Stephen Dulaney, Vice President 703-759-4155 for further details.

Mailing address:
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P.O. Box 1454 Great Falls, Virginia 22066

*Print, complete, sign and send via regular mail.

Application for Membership * Date _____ Sponsored by : _____

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I'm interested in serving on one of the GFBPA committees _____ (check) **A member of one of our committees will be in touch, Thank you.**

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Faith

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

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.

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 **Oakton United Methodist Church**, 2951 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton, is holding a Prayer Vigil and Meditative Music Program Friday, **March 7**, 4 p.m. Visit www.oaktonumc.org.

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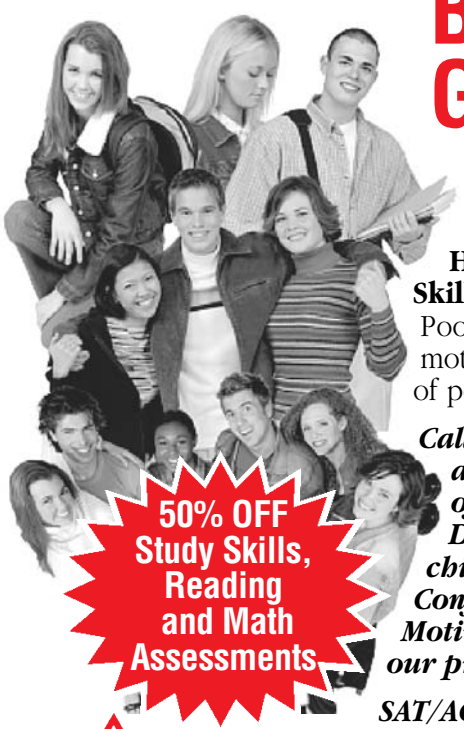

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Montessori School Proposed

Mark Zetts, co-chair of the McLean Citizens Association's (MCA) Planning and Zoning Committee, said a proposal to place a Montessori school just west of the McLean planning area had thus far been met with questions but little resistance by the committee.

At its last meeting Tuesday, Feb. 24, the committee heard a presentation by Mary Anne Duffus, founder of the Brooksfield Montessori School in McLean. She is proposing a second school on five acres near the intersection of Old Dominion Drive and Georgetown Pike currently occupied by an abandoned plant nursery. The site is just inside the Great Falls planning area, but Zetts said the MCA wanted to keep an eye on it because of its proximity to McLean.

"I don't think anyone on the committee was alarmed by the proposal," Zetts said, although he noted that the plans were preliminary and months of planning and hearings lay ahead. "We're looking forward to them coming back with more concrete plans," he said.

Once fully phased in, the school would have 200 students ages toddler through sixth grade. They would be taught in cottage-style buildings totaling about 33 thousand square feet, in order to maintain a residential appearance. There would also be a small soccer field on the grounds.

Zetts said the committee would want to make sure the school would not cause traffic problems and would be adequately buffered from the surrounding residential properties, and members had also asked that activities on the site end by 5:30 p.m.

— Mike DiCicco

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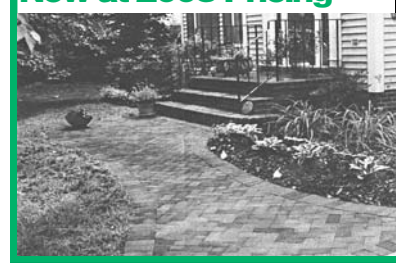

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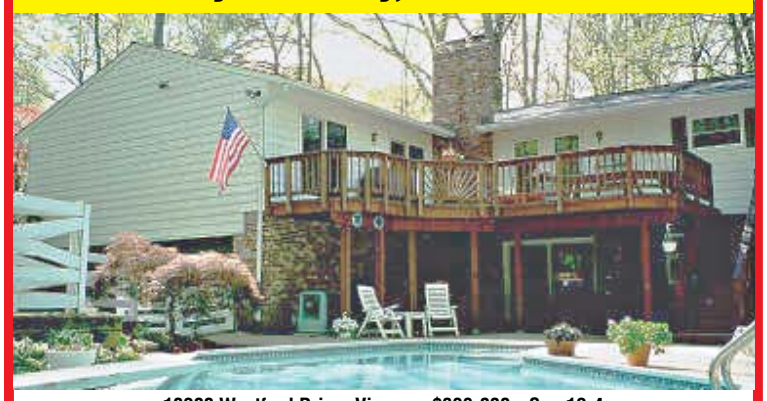

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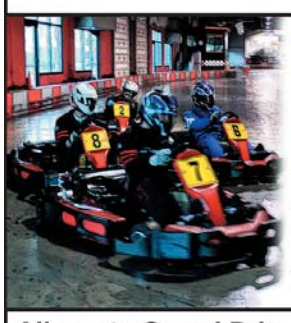

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Great Falls Connection Sports Editor Rich Sanders
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Langley's Buffo Stepping Down as Girls Basketball Coach

Popular mentor led Saxons to six district title game appearances.

By Rich Sanders
The Connection

For the past 11 years, the Langley High girls basketball program has experienced numerous good times and winning moments under coach Cheryl Buffo. But the Saxons will have a new leadership look in the future following the recent decision by Buffo to step down from the program's head coaching position.

"Mostly, I just lost a little bit of passion and love of it that I used to have," said Buffo, who coached her final game with Langley Feb. 23, in her team's 52-27 loss at West Springfield in a first-round Northern Region playoff game. "I don't think it's fair to me or the kids to go along [and continue coaching]. I needed a change and to step away."

During her tenure as the Langley head coach, the Saxons made it to six district tournament finals. Their lone tournament title came in Buffo's first season, 1998-99, when Langley beat Madison in the title game.

Photo by Craig Sterbutzel
The Connection

Lindsey Watts (12) was one of four seniors on coach Cheryl Buffo's Langley team this past season.

On two occasions, Buffo's teams reached the Northern Region tournament's semifinals at George Mason's Patriot Center. The Saxons reached the region Final Four in her first season as well as the 2004-05 season when Langley upset Edison in a quarterfinals game. She has accumulated about 160 career wins at Langley.

> "Obviously, I was very happy for the kids that we got to the district finals. It was very disappointing not to play our best in that game."
>
> — Chery Buffo

LANGLEY REACHED the district tournament finals each of the past two years, losing to Madison on both occasions. The recent district title game loss to the Warhawks came Feb. 20, a 40-29 setback, in the contest played at South Lakes High School.

Buffo said her team was informed over this past holiday season that this would be her final season with the Saxons.

"The kids knew at Christmastime as well as the DSA [director of student activities, Corey Bowerman] and most of the parents," said Buffo.

Langley struggled out of the gate this past season, losing six of its first eight games, before turning things around and finishing with an overall record of 15-10. Over the second half of the season, the Saxons were arguably the best team in the district. They won seven of eight district contests going into the title game against Madison. Langley won both of its meetings against regular season district champion South Lakes.

Langley's top players this season were senior forward Rachel Warrick and sophomore forward Audrey Dotson, both First Team All-District selections. Another all-district player was junior guard Kirsten Kody, named second team.

While Buffo was wanting her team to go as far as possible in her final season, she was also ready for season's end.

"I was looking forward to it," she said. "Obviously, I was very happy for the kids that we got to the district finals. It was very disappointing not to play our best in that game. Going out with a district championship would have been great. All in all, it was a great year."

Buffo said her greatest joy coaching over the years has been when former Langley players visit.

"The thing I loved the most was when kids would come back — kids I had coached who I am still in touch with who are 27 or 28 years old now. Just to have that connection. To me, that's more important than any wins or losses. It's neat to have those relationships."

Buffo will continue her duties at Langley as a driver's education and health instructor. She said there is a possibility she could be involved with basketball on some level next school year. And she is willing to advise or help out the school's new coaching staff when it is named.

"I've already told the DSA if they need anything from me, I'm there to help," she said.

Along with Buffo's resignation, assistant varsity coach Jamie Ready and junior varsity coach Bob Fall also stepped down.

"The program is going to grow through a very big change," Buffo said.

Sports Roundups

McLean Youth Soccer is 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 runs through June 14. Contact the MYS administrator at admin@mcleansoccer.org for more information or call the MYS Office at 703-506-8068.

The **American Icebirds** AAA Ice Hockey Team is looking for players ages 14-18 at all positions for spring/summer competitive AAA tournament play from May-July. Interested players, call 703-400-2343 and ask for coach Kulla or e-mail icebirds@inbox.com.

Photo Courtesy/Langley High

Faranak Shahryary, a senior at Langley High School, has signed a letter of intent to play soccer at the University of Arkansas. Faranak, an All-Conference player at Bishop O'Connell the past two years, will play for the Langley varsity this spring.

Photo Courtesy/Langley JV Basketball

The Langley High junior varsity boys basketball team finished the winter season with a perfect 16-0 record in the Liberty District. The Saxons were under the direction of head coach Eric Fish and assistant Ken Savittierre. Top row, from left, Coach Eric Fish, co-captain David Adams, co-captain Brenden Dwyer, Troy Scharfen, Brian Doll, Alex Anderson, Patrick Haddad and assistant coach Ken Savittierre. Bottom, from left, Jefferey Cochran, Austin Vasiliadis, Joseph Robinson, Alex Brunton, Braden Anderson and Zach Sekel.

On Feb. 7-8, Olympic Volleyball came to Northern Virginia. **Virginia Elite and NVVA** brought 2008 Olympic silver-medallist Stacy Sykora, Olympic silver medal-winning assistant coach Tom Hogan and five-time Olympic staffer John Kessel to town for two days of volleyball training. Sykora, Hogan and Kessel worked with middle-school- and high-school-aged volleyball players, sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for the game in fun-filled, two-hour training sessions. Sykora also gave a presentation, highlighting some of her favorite Olympic moments. She also shared some of her personal insight into being an Olympic player. Kessel answered questions throughout the clinic, offering insight about sports parenting, the competitive world of women's volleyball and life in general. About 160 players and 100 parents attended the two days of clinics in three different locations in Northern Virginia.

News

Jannery Launches New Book

Great Falls author continues Simple Grace series.

By Danielle Landau
The Connection

Contributed
Beth Jannery

Beth Jannery of Great Falls, author of the Simple Grace book series, has released her third book in the series, "Simple Grace: Awareness, Meditations, Breathing Space. "This, her 2009 release, finds its place in her growing collection as a means by which to slow down and appreciate quiet moments.

As Jannery explained on her Web site, "Inside you will find inspirational quotes and beautiful photographs. Read about love, truth, zen, 'the now' and what it means to create your own breathing space. A simple book full of wisdom from the ages and words that will touch deep in your heart and maybe even lift your spirit."

Jannery said, "What's really cool about the series is that readers will find one book, read it and then find out there are more books.

They are always so delighted because they can read them in any order. Most importantly, they tell me how the books help them pause for moments of reflection in their hectic lives. If I can help one person find an instant of peace after reading a quote from my book, then I have accomplished my goal."

Next in line for Jannery is "Simple Grace Miracle Moments," a collection of miraculous stories and moments that happen to anyone and everyone. This book will differ from the others in the series as Jannery is turning to her readers, friends and fans to contribute their miracle stories. Miracle Moments will be published in 2010 and Jannery is still taking stories and moments on her Web site.

Also in the opening stages for Jannery is Simple Grace Book Consulting, her consulting firm for "want-to-be" writers. Jannery said, "I was taking a lot of time away trying to help people write their own books, because it is my passion. People started offering to pay me for my help, so it turned into a business." Jannery helps beginning authors solidify their concept, create a working outline, write a summary and polish their first chapter.

More information about all of Jannery's books and endeavors can be found on her Web site, www.bethjannery.com.

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Opposites Attract What, Exactly

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As an old, comparatively speaking, married man, I am intrigued by the how-couples-met process of today's engaged and/or married couples. The fact that there can be some rhyme or reason for individuals to actually meet seems quite an advantage over those of us who had no real practical alternative other than letting "the chips fall where they may" or allowing "nature to take its course."

Still, not having had that opportunity doesn't necessarily mean that all is lost, it more likely means that potentially all, certainly some, things may not yet be found. And how could it all be found, especially if you're not starting from the same place? It seems like relationships would be so much easier if there were more inherited similarities than there were newly discovered differences, more common interests, shared experiences and familiar "familialities." And not that there are any guarantees in life ("other than death and taxes"), but knowing more about your partner would seem to be quite an advantage over knowing less. Granted, some of the adventure in pursuit of the inevitable discovery — who, what, where, how and why — might be missing, but so too might some of the disappointment and difficulties be missing when two attempt to become one. As the character Tevye, from Fiddler on the Roof, said, "A bird can love a fish, but where would they live?"

Nowadays, if you're attempting to match, with some professional data entry-type assistance, this problem would never arise (I know, never is a long time), presumably nor would a host of other conflicts arise among people who speak different languages (figuratively speaking but certainly literally, too): religion, age range, smoke or not, like pets, like/want children, among many other considerations too numerous to list. But maybe not. Chemistry, in the classroom, on the job, in social settings, isn't really drawn up in any book. It seems to be somewhere between the luck of the draw and there being no accounting for taste: opposites attract, like-minded persons/personalities clash, individuals from similar backgrounds aren't necessarily similar; in summary, what's good for the goose isn't necessarily good for the gander and vice versa. True in nature might not necessarily be true in nurture.

What brought this curiosity to light was a recent neighborhood function, the post-wedding BBQ to celebrate a neighbor's son's betrothal. The couple were both in their mid-twenties. They met over the internet. The groom (my neighbor) lives in Montgomery County, Md., the bride lived in Richmond, Va. Given the geography involved, it's unlikely they would have met otherwise. How did it all happen? I asked. They matched on line, they said. When I asked their recollections of their profiles and whatever it was that they thought they had in common that led to the match, all they could muster was "family was important." And though I tried to learn more about their how and why and so forth concerning their "togetherness," no further explanation was offered.

As incomplete as I thought their answers were (given the "matching" elements presumably in play), perhaps they really weren't so incomplete. Perhaps starting from one common point is enough. Time will certainly tell, just like for the rest of us old married couples.

Maybe we're not that different after all. Maybe it matters not how — and/or why — you start, maybe it matters more how you finish.

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

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News

Case Day at Langley High

From Page 3

affirming the decision of the Ninth Circuit Court.

Before issuing the majority opinion, though, Barletta noted, "It's a difficult situation to be pummeled from the moment you open your mouth until the moment you sit down," and he said the student litigators had done a "great job" of handling the pressure. He also congratulated his student colleagues on the court, who he said, "as usual, were much better prepared than the rest of us."

The student arguments had gone better than Bohlen expected, he said, as the school day came to an end. Since the holidays, he and the other student attorneys had spent many hours researching the case and holding practice hearings. "There were curveballs. I just felt we were so well prepared we could get around them," Bohlen said.

Reif said their success was a result of rigorous practice rounds with teachers and the student justices.

"We'd asked a lot of the same questions in practice that the justices asked today," Das said. He said he had found it interesting to discuss the case with career lawyers, and Melissa Neri, his fellow student justice, said the professionals had been "very friendly" and welcomed the students' input during the deliberations.

"It was fun. It was a good experience," Neri said.

A number of guest speakers talked over the course of the day, including Rickie Johnson, who was wrongfully imprisoned for 25 years, and attorney Colin Starger, who has been working on Osborne's case since 2003. Larry and Rachel Tice and their attorney, Melissa Henke, also spoke. The Tices' son, Derek, is one of the "Norfolk Four," who have been in prison since 1997 for a crime they did not commit, even though the actual perpetrator is now known.

And a lie detector test was demonstrated by a longtime professional.

"We did a lot of research, and we just had, sort of, the moxie to call these people up and tell them what we were doing," said Julia Rapp, one of the students who coordinated the event. The students had written to Derek Tice in prison in order to get in touch with his parents.

"It's really a student-run program," AP government teacher Jim Catlette said. Catlette started Case Day after receiving a fellowship in 1991.

This will be his last year at the school, but he said he would likely stay involved with the event in the future. "It's uplifting to see what the students are capable of," he said.

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