

Choir of Hope

NEWS, PAGE 5

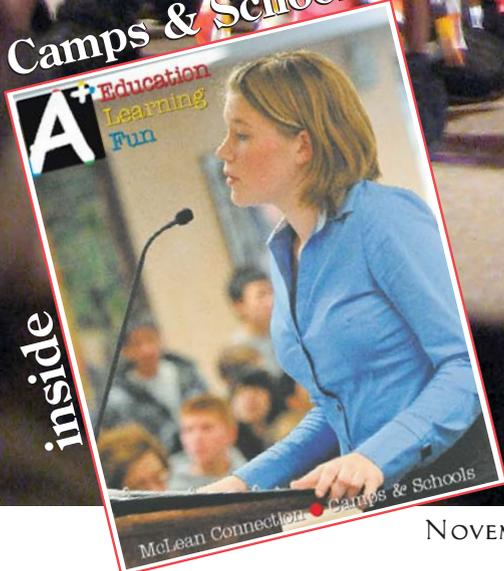
Members of the Hope for Africa children's choir take in the applause after one of their numbers at the Charles Wesley United Methodist Church in McLean last Saturday.



Honoring Those Who Serve

NEWS, PAGE 3

Camps & Schools



Local Stores Offer Variety Of Gifts

NEWS, PAGE 10

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OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 12 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 17

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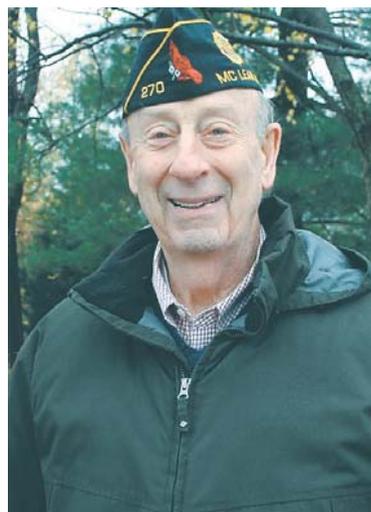
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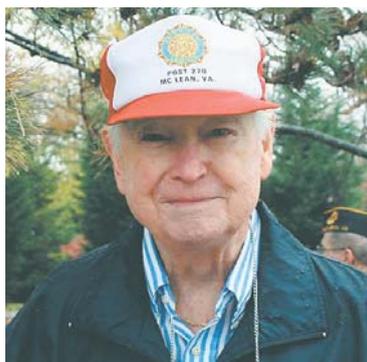
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Acting First Vice Commander Thomas Lucas recently stepped in for Jay Edwards who had a stroke and is now recovering.



Veteran Bob Rosenbaum



Jack McMahon, a member of the McLean Post 270 and the project officer for patriotic events, stands in the grove at McLean High School.



The McLean Pedestrian Task Force met for the last time on Thursday, Nov. 5 to submit its final report.

PHOTOS BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Task Force, LEGO Leaguers Tackle Pedestrian Safety

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

After more than a year of work, the McLean Pedestrian Task Force submitted its final report to Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) on Thursday, Nov. 5. But this was not the only group to present suggestions for bike and pedestrian safety in the downtown area that evening. As this year's First LEGO League challenge centered on transportation, two teams from Haycock Elementary had investigated the topic as their LEGO League project.

"We were to choose a community that we wanted to study, identify a problem with the community and come up with some solutions," said Kunal Naik of the sixth-grade team Gears of Fear, addressing Foust and the task force. The community they had chosen, he said, was Westmoreland Street, where four schools, churches, a Little League field and a pool were located on the 2-mile stretch between Chain Bridge and Haycock roads.

Michael Tang noted that only three traffic lights were located on that 2-mile stretch, no sidewalk on the side of the road where the

schools were located and bike lanes that abruptly ended, and Jake Barnett said school bus riders had to cross the street at its intersection with Lemon Road, where Westmoreland narrowed and a bus stop was located at the bottom of a hill.

"Our first idea is to simply add more crosswalks," Ross Dempsey said. He also suggested a stop sign or traffic light at the intersection with Lemon Road and the addition of continuous sidewalks. To deter speeding, he recommended increased police presence. "Unoccupied police cars or even broken police cars could be parked on the side of the street," he said.

Michael Harris suggested some higher-cost solutions, including pedestrian overpasses or possibly a ski lift-style apparatus to move people safely, and Ryan Golant proposed a tunnel running under Westmoreland for walkers and bikers.

"You nailed it in terms of picking Westmoreland," Foust said, noting that he got more complaints about that street than any other in the Dranesville District. He said a couple of projects for the

SEE PEDESTRIAN, PAGE 6



The Gears of Fear sixth-grade LEGO League team from Haycock Elementary School presents its ideas for pedestrian safety. From left are Kunal Naik, Michael Tang, Jake Barnett, Ross Dempsey, Michael Harris and Ryan Golant.

Honoring Those Who Serve

McLean High School conducts Veterans Day ceremony.

BY CHRISTY STEELE
THE CONNECTION

On Wednesday, Nov. 11, McLean area veterans and other community members gathered in front of McLean High School in honor of Veteran's Day. Thomas Lucas, acting first vice commander of McLean Post 270, gave the introductory speech and asked attendees to pray for those who have fought, past and present, in any way for this country.

Five McLean firemen attended the ceremony and Jack McMahon, a member of the McLean Post 270 and the project officer for patriotic events, later said: "After Sept. 11, we decided to dedicate this [McLean High School] memorial to all of our heroes. Twice a year, Memorial Day and Veterans Day, we bring all public service personnel, firefighters, policeman, and other first responders here, plus the veterans. Hopefully this will go on forever."

Four years ago, students donated a plaque to the grove in front of McLean High School that reads "This

grove is dedicated to the McLean High School graduates who have given their lives in the line of duty for our country." Since then, the grove has been the site of ceremonies both on Veteran's Day and Memorial Day every year to pay tribute.

Deborah Jackson, principal of McLean High School, comes from a family with a long line of individuals who have been part of the armed services. She was in attendance at the ceremony. "As I stand here today, I just want everyone to keep all the veterans, active and inactive, in their prayers, because it does mean a great deal when we fight for the great freedoms that the U.S. is based on," she said. "I am proud to be a part of what they do here in the garden every year."

After the ceremony, veteran Bob Rosenbaum said, "This is a small part of my time to give to acknowledge what people are giving their lives for and it's such a small tribute to pay to those who are worthy of a lot more than they receive. They quietly go about their job, doing the business of keeping us safe. It's a thing that you feel good about that you should do. It's an obligation."

"After Sept. 11, we decided to dedicate this [McLean High School] memorial to all of our heroes."

— Jack McMahon

McLean veterans stand with Barbara Comstock, recently elected Virginia delegate, at the McLean High School veterans day ceremony.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTY STEELE/THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY CHRISTY STEELE/THE CONNECTION



Tony Womack, right, purchases a birthday present for his daughter Ellie's 13th birthday while other daughter, Audrey, examines other jewelry on display. Enrica Frost, left, travels to about 10 antique shows each year.

MCC Hosts Annual Antique Show and Sale

The McLean Community Center had its 33rd annual Antique Show and Sale on Saturday, Nov. 14 and Sunday, Nov. 15. More than 50 antique dealers from various cities on the East Coast were in attendance. Nearly every room of the Community Center was filled with displays of American, English and European antiques, decorative accessories, furniture, folk art, porcelains, silver, paintings, prints, linens and much more. Proceeds from the event benefited the Alden Theatre's James C. Macdonald Arts Scholarship fund.

Paul M. Nulton, a glass restoration specialist, traveled from Hallstead, Pa. to provide his services at the show. A free verbal appraisal service was offered on Saturday afternoon for any customers who brought their own antique pieces with them. The event drew hundreds of Virginia residents who shopped and enjoyed the food service provided by Bertucci's Italian Restaurant.

Information about upcoming events at the McLean Community Center can be found at <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>

— CHRISTY STEELE



With nearly every room in the Community Center filled up, some vendors set up tables in the hallways.



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

From left, Langley Residential board members Meti Fekadu, Carol Mournighan, Kelly Wolfe, Dorothy Hassan, Judy Yolles, Scott Smith, Joanne Heininger, Sean Manley, Melissa Smarr, Betsy Schatz and Steven Cohen pose with Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and his wife Marilyn Jerome Foust during a fund raiser at the Fousts' home.

Fousts Host Fund Raiser

Langley Residential's wine tasting raises money to support those with intellectual disabilities.

Langley Residential Support Services conducts fund raisers like last Saturday's twice a year, said Executive Director Betsy Schatz. However, the event is usually a "very low-key" affair at the McLean Community Center, she said. On Nov. 14, though, the organization had its wine tasting and silent auction at the home of Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and his wife, Marilyn Jerome Foust.

"A couple of the board members knew the Fousts and asked them, and they generously let us use their house," Schatz said, adding that the luxury home provided a "great" setting for the event. Normally, the fund raisers generate between \$3,000 and \$4,000, but

Learn More

For more information on Langley Residential Support Services, visit <http://langleyresidential.org>.

she said, "We expect it to be much more this year."

Langley Residential is a McLean-based nonprofit organization that provides housing, oversight and various recreational and enrichment programs for people with intellectual disabilities. It was founded in 1983 by members of Trinity United Methodist Church, Immanuel Presbyterian Church and Lutheran Church of the Redeemer and now operates four group homes in the area.

The Arlington wine store The Curious Grape conducted the wine pouring and demonstration at

Saturday's fund raiser, and board members and businesses donated the silent auction items.

Board member Kelly Wolfe said more than \$12,000 worth of items were up for grabs in the auction, which was spread across several tables in different rooms of the house.

Guests filled the home's lower level, drinking wine, eating hors d'oeuvres and checking on their bids in the auction. "There were supposed to be 83 [guests], but more showed up," Foust said. He and his wife have frequently hosted fund raisers for nonprofit groups and political candidates in their home, which can comfortably accommodate about 300 people.

— MIKE DICICCO

McLean Teen Places Third in 'Jeopardy!' Teen Tournament

Aidan Mehigan, a 16-year-old sophomore from McLean, played a variety of impressive games earning him a spot in the finals of the "Jeopardy!" Teen Tournament. On Friday, Nov. 13, Mehigan came in third place winning a cash prize of \$15,000.

"The entire 'Jeopardy!' experience was great," said Mehigan. "The actual playing was fun; the 'Jeopardy!' staff was wonderful; the hotel was nice; and, most of all, my fellow contestants were amazing people to be around for a couple of days."

Mehigan enjoys reading and playing basketball and guitar. He also spends as much time as possible with his siblings and friends.

Rachel Rothenberg, who attends Pittsburgh High School for the

Creative and Performing Arts in Pittsburgh, Pa. finished first and won the grand prize \$75,000. Will Dantzer, who attends Bishop England High School in Mount Pleasant, S.C., finished second and won \$31,600. The two-week competition featured 15 students from across the country.

The "Jeopardy!" Teen Tournament was taped at the Sony Studios in Culver City, Calif. on Aug. 17 and 18.

In the Teen Tournament, players compete in a series of five shows the first week. The winners of those games and the four highest money-earners go on to the semi-finals, and the three winners of those shows proceed to a two-game finals match. The three finalists keep the money they accu-

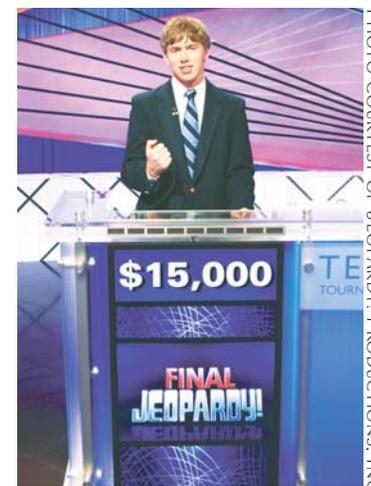


PHOTO COURTESY OF JEOPARDY! PRODUCTIONS, INC.

Aidan Mehigan

mulate in the last two games. Players reaching the semi-finals are guaranteed \$10,000, while every player is guaranteed at least \$5,000. For more information regarding the tournament, visit www.jeopardy.com.



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

The group of about two dozen children puts on an energetic show, where the dancing is as important as the singing.

Choir of Hope

Hope for Africa children's choir performs at Methodist church in McLean.

For years, Charles Wesley United Methodist Church in McLean has supported efforts to help residents of war-torn areas of Sudan. On Saturday, children from the East Africa Conference of the United Methodist Church, which includes Sudan and four other countries ravaged by war, did a favor for the church, providing an evening of

song and dance for members and anyone else who was interested. The performance by the Hope for Africa children's choir was free, but any donations went to support the choir, as well as "all-inclusive centers," such as the Humble United Methodist School in Uganda, which cares for and educates orphans and vulnerable children.

SEE AFRICAN, PAGE 14



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Chain Chums, a fourth-grade LEGO League team from Haycock Elementary, presents its findings to the Pedestrian Task Force. From left are Owen Barnett, Leela Abrishami, Maggie Chen and Jack Kelly.

PHOTO BY
 MIKE DiCICCO/
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Pedestrian Safety Discussed

FROM PAGE 3

road were in the works, such as a sidewalk along Haycock's side of the road. "Some of your other ideas we hadn't thought of," he said. "But we'll look into them. They're very good."

The fourth-grade team Chain Chums had examined bike safety in McLean and north Falls Church. "We like to ride our bikes a lot because it is not only a way to get around, it is also a fun and enjoyable way to get exercise," said Maggie Chen, noting that bike riding also reduced traffic and air pollution.

However, Owen Barnett said, the team members had found that they were unable to safely bike to each other's houses, due to traffic that didn't yield to pedestrians, curbs without ramps and a lack of bike lanes, sidewalks and crosswalks. Also, he said, medians on wide, busy roads were not large enough.

Leela Abrishami said the group wanted to see more sidewalks

leading to Dolley Madison Library and more yield-to-pedestrian signs along Chain Bridge Road, particularly at its intersection with Westmoreland Street. "We observed that intersection and noticed that a lot of cars don't listen to the sign that is there," she said. "So, we think another one should be put up next to the traffic light." She also suggested that all cars have a red light while pedestrian lights are green and that cameras be installed to photograph cars that don't give pedestrians the right of way. In terms of future technology, she said the group envisioned sensors installed in cars that would beep when pedestrians had the green light.

Jack Kelly said 1,675 pedestrians had been injured and 76 killed in crashes last year, while 716 bicyclists were injured and 14 killed. "If some of our solutions are implemented, maybe those people would not have lost their lives or have been injured," he said.

Many of the solutions the stu-

dents offered were not unlike those suggested by the official pedestrian task force, which had issued its preliminary report in July. At that time, the group had taken suggestions from the community and incorporated many into its final report. Meanwhile, some recommendations, such as pedestrian signals at Dolley Madison Boulevard and Churchill Road, have already received funding.

Among the many suggestions in the 50-odd-page report are bike lanes on Westmoreland Street and Dolley Madison Boulevard, a sidewalk in front of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer at the intersection of Westmoreland and Chain Bridge and lowering speed limits to 25 mph in the downtown area, said task force Chairman Doug Potts. The task force also recommended that Foust appoint an ongoing group to advise him on pedestrian safety.

"It's amazing the number of things that just need fixing," he said.

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MCF Helps Adult Education for Persons Recovering from Serious Mental Illness

The McLean Community Foundation (MCF) approved a grant of \$8,333 to help fund PRS' Adult Education Program for the 2009-10 academic year.

"Since our move to the McLean area, we have enjoyed meeting and getting to know our new neighbors and have discovered that the McLean Citizens Foundation has been a generous donor here in the community for close to three decades," said Wendy Gradison, PRS' president and CEO.

Since 1963, PRS, Inc. has provided skills training and supports to persons working to recover from serious mental illness. Today, PRS serves more than 800 persons yearly with a variety of rehabilitation services designed to facilitate clients' recovery and assist them in achieving satisfying and productive community lives. With centers in McLean and Mount Vernon, and residential sites throughout Northern Virginia, PRS offers Day Programs, Supported Employment Services, Community Housing Services and Mental Health Support Services. The Supported Education Program is offered to clients in PRS' two Day



Pictured, from left, are Tammy De Martino, director of resource development, PRS; Demetra Matthews, secretary, MCF; Pamela Danner, president, MCF; Wendy Gradison, president and CEO, PRS; Toni MacAulay, MCF board member, and Kala Koenig, PRS adult education/Fairfax County Public Schools teacher.

Programs to help increase self-sufficiency and independence. For more information about PRS, visit www.prsinc.org.

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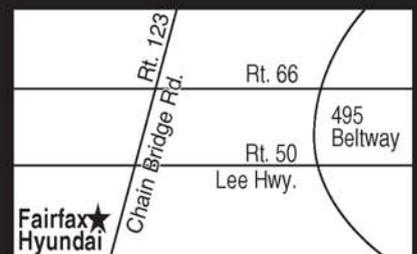


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OPINION

Children's Connection

Every year, over the winter holidays, the Connection turns the pages of one entire issue over to the contributions of local students.

We will feature artwork of many kinds, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories, reflections and more. Artwork can include paintings, drawings or any media; photos of sculpture, ceramics or other works too large to submit are also encouraged.

We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are

home schooled. Past contributions have come from children from nursery schools through those preparing to graduate from high school.

Sometimes an art or English teacher will assign a project and submit the work of an entire class, but individual submissions from any young person in the community are welcome.

You can see last year's Children's Connections on our Web site. Go to www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, click on

"print Editions Online" in the red bar and scroll down to "Children's Connection."

We prefer digital submissions, delivered on CD or via email. Please send in submissions as soon as possible. Our address is 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. E-mail to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Please be sure to include the name of the artist or author, and include age, grade, school attended and name of the home town, along with address and phone number to be used for verification purposes only.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Making a Case For Public Option

To the Editor:

Open Letter to Our Congressional Representatives: Senator Mark Warner, Senator Jim Webb and Representative Gerry Connolly:

We agree with President Obama's assertion to Congress that "now is the time to deliver on health care." Moreover, we strongly endorse the views expressed by many reform advocates, such as Dr. Howard Dean, that "the healthcare reform bill is not worth passing unless the American people have the choice of signing up for a public option — a real public option." And last but not least, we thank you, Mr. Connolly, for your vote on Saturday.

Some detractors argue that a public option would bring with it a bloated, inefficient, "big government" program, and that our hard-earned dollars should not be cavalierly siphoned into a taxpayer-funded, perpetual revenue sink that citizens end up regarding as their inalienable right. If you have a visceral reaction against federal taxes in any amount or for any purpose, we have no counterargument to convince you. But if you are open to a more nuanced assessment, we offer the following comments for your consideration as you debate, amend, reconcile, and vote on health care legislation over the next few weeks:

We also don't like paying taxes, and take personal offense when our hard-earned dollars are squandered on special-interest projects large and small. We are, however, prepared, indeed enthusiastic, to pay hard-earned dollars for programs that benefit the citizenry at large — tangibly or intangibly, now or in the future. We understand that the executive departments, from Commerce to Veterans Affairs, and the independent agencies must be funded, to administer and enforce federal laws. Thus, while we may quibble about this or that funding decision or

look askance at this or that mission priority, we shed no tear about our dollars invested in the likes of the EPA, FBI, FCC, FDIC, NASA, NEA, NIH, NOAA, NSF, SSA, etc., as well as the GAO that keeps tabs on them all.

Now, with respect to health care, we submit that such a nuanced assessment resoundingly affirms the need for a true public option. Would a public option slather a slippery slope to socialism? Of course not: one more agency added to the alphabet soup of agencies would not transform the underpinnings of this country. Is private industry inherently more cost-efficient than the public sector? Not at all: without generating income over expenses, a corporation ceases to justify its existence; and a corporate executive's compensation dwarfs that of the civil service counterpart, regardless of job description. Moreover, private industry shoulders expenses for advertising and lobbying that the public sector can largely avoid. Thus, the health care industry is currently spending well over \$500,000 of our insurance premiums a day to lobby your colleagues to abandon or dilute a public option. Is a public option redundant to the private insurance industry? Apparently not: the private insurance industry fails to enroll over 30 million citizens of this country. And many of the insured are denied coverage under any of a multitude of fine-print exemptions and exceptions, including lack of portability, preexisting conditions, deductibles, notification and claiming failures, etc. Estimates for the number of claims denied varies wildly, from around 20 percent by state agencies and public advocacy groups, to 2.36 percent by an insurance industry trade association in testimony submitted to Congress. In any event, well over 60 percent of this year's bankruptcies in the United States stem

from medical bills, even though over three-quarters of the bankrupt had some form of medical insurance. And this is no wonder: medical bills following a single auto collision can cost thousands, sometimes hundreds of thousands, of dollars; the cost for treating a typical breast cancer runs about \$50,000 to \$100,000 or more. This is not the sort of money that ordinary folks can set aside for a rainy day.

Thus, a respectable public option strikes us in many ways as analogous to our National Park Service. Just as we can choose between the Everglades and Disneyland for our Florida-vacation, we should be able to choose between a public option and private insurance for covering our health-care needs. Some of us can't afford Disneyland, and are happy to have "nationalized recreation" as a fallback. Others of us are simply put off by the rampant commercialism of the private sector and prefer the public, unadorned approach.

Like Great Falls, Gettysburg and the Grand Canyon, a public health insurance option would cost us some of our hard-earned dollars. But at Great Falls, Gettysburg and the Grand Canyon, we are amazed at how much our park rangers do with so little funding, and wish that more of our tax dollars were channeled in their direction. Our biggest fear regarding a public option would be chronic underfunding rather than rampant waste and abuse.

And finally, we note that our national parks are a source of national pride and actually weave into the fabric that defines us as Americans. That fabric would be stronger and even more precious with the added thread of a national healthcare option.

George, Christine and Karin Lehnigk
Oakton

Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow

To the Editor:

Please forgive the line lifted from the Fleetwood Mac song. But it's oh, so true.

Americans cannot stop thinking about the impact that enacting true healthcare reform will have upon our generations to come. Despite the doomsday prophecy fodder that the ultra-conservative, ultra-right wing is pushing, the reality of this legislation would simply be twofold: accountability mandated for the huge insurance companies and a cost-effective public solution for the 50 million plus citizens and permanent residents without healthcare.

That's it.

Let's revisit those lies again, shall we?

No, undocumented workers/illegal aliens would not be given access to this public program.

No, small businesses would not suffer from the public program. They are already paying through the nose for expensive private health insurance.

No, America will not become a socialist state because we do what every other country (count'em, every single one) in the developing world did decades ago — invest in the long-term health of their most prized possession, their human capital.

Why do you think medicine here costs a grossly more amount than in Canada or Cuba? Somebody's getting very, very rich, and it's not you or me. Or at least not me.

There's nothing unethical about stopping private insurers from denying care and discriminating against small groups based on an individual's health status, gender or age. There is something sickly, though, about leaving a fellow American to die because of money.

Parvez Khan
Herndon

THE CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Newspaper of
McLean

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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FAITH

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

St. John's Episcopal Church in McLean will hold a Thanksgiving Day service of Holy Eucharist on Nov. 26 at 10 a.m. The Thanksgiving Offering will support SHARE, a non-profit organization founded in 1969 to meet emergency needs in McLean, Great Falls, Pimmit Hills, and surrounding areas. All are welcome. St. John's Church is located in McLean at 6715 Georgetown Pike. For more information, call 703-356-4902, or visit www.stjohnsmclean.org.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. Contact Gary Axelrod, 301-610-8309 or gaxelrod@jssa.org, or www.jssa.org.

Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road, Vienna, is celebrating the 400th birthday of Baptists. Sunday service is at 11 a.m.; Sunday Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. 703-281-4400 or www.vbc-va.org.

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.

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Local Real Estate Company Offers Free Loan Modification Assistance

Dynamic Duo & Associates (DDA), a local Real Estate Firm brokered by Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Northern Virginia gives back to the community by offering FREE Loan Modification assistance and Short Sale Services to any person in need of assistance. DDA has helped many families to restructure their loans with their mortgage company. This process can be quite cumbersome to a consumer who is inexperienced in negotiating with their mortgage company. Joan Williamson of DDA states "many homeowners just don't know what to request from their lender or are not experienced in completing the lender's financial documentation to standard. As such many homeowners find themselves only being denied". As part of the loan modification process, DDA will contact your lender and obtain the necessary paperwork to initiate the loan modification process, review financials and provide recommendation and follow-up with your lender every 72 hours for a response. Consumer options may include a reduction of the principle balance; re-negotiate interest rate or a restructure to a fixed loan. DDA will review all options with you to help you determine the best option for you. Joan adds "we are Loan Modification & Short Sale specialists and can help you save your home from foreclosure. Some companies charge a substantial amount of money for loan modifications, but we offer this service as a free service to homeowners. Donations are optional."

DDA also specializes in Short Sales. Over 10 million homeowners are upside down with their mortgages; which means they owe more than their home's value. A Short Sale, sometimes referred to as a "pay off" or "short pay", is a transaction authorized by the mortgage company / lender in which they agree to the sale of the home for less than the Seller owes on the mortgage. As a part of the Short Sale, the Mortgage Company / lender "usually" agrees to write-off / forgive the balance difference in order to avoid greater losses of their mortgage loan that a foreclosure would cause. In order for the Seller to be pre-qualified for a short sale the Seller must be experiencing a financial hardship that meets the lender's criteria.

DDA has helped over 69 people in either a Loan Modification or Short Sale. One of their clients refers to DDA as "Angels sent from GOD". Over the past 3 years, DDA has managed over 1100 properties and SOLD over 920 properties in the last 2 years. Recent accolades include Wall Street Journal Top 400 Real Estate Professionals, Ranked # 19 in June of 2009. DDA also specializes in Commercial, Luxury Estate, Foreclosures, Investment and Property Management Services. The team is committed to taking care of all of your real estate needs with a focus on customer service. Please contact Dynamic Duo & Associates today at 703-680-9551 or email asharpton@cbmove.com for assistance.

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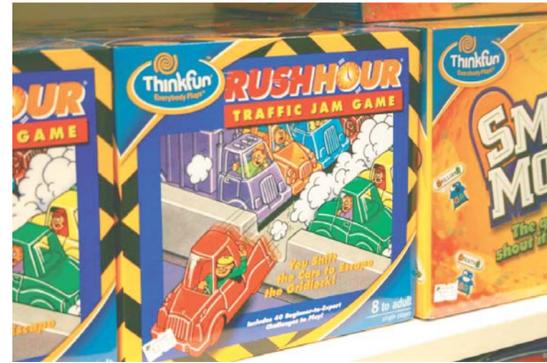
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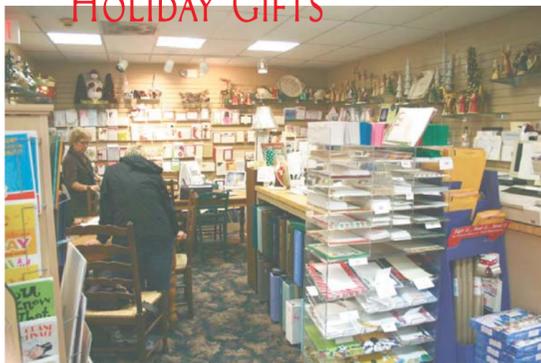
A fused glass sushi dinner set made by Sam Schmer and Barbara Koffer of O3M. Their studio is located in Northern Virginia. \$60.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTY STEELE/THE CONNECTION



Rush Hour is a game made by Thinkfun, a company located in Alexandria. \$21.99

HOLIDAY GIFTS



Creative Occasions is located in the back of Georganne's Hallmark Shop. Prices for items vary. \$11.95 for personalized luggage tags. \$30-\$50 for personalized stationary.



A set of earrings made by Shannon Price, co-owner of the Artisans. Her earrings range from about \$25-\$50.



Julia Knight holds two of her holiday pieces for sale at Name Dropper Gifts. The 'Argento' cocktail glass is hand-made in Tuscany by glassblowers and costs \$64.95. The 'Holly Sprig' bowl, shown in 'Mojito' color, is hand painted and contains crushed mother of pearl. This bowl costs \$59.95.

Locally Owned Stores Offer Variety of Gifts

Locally owned McLean stores offer fun gift items. The shelves are continually stocked with new items both from local artists and Fair Trade artisans around the world. Among items for sale are pieces of jewelry made by Shannon Price, co-owner of the store. One great gift item available at the Artisans is the fused glass sushi dinner set, made by local artists Sam Schmer and Barbara Koffer.

THE ARTISANS is a gift store that

sells clothing, jewelry, pottery, home decor and many other craft items. The shelves are continually stocked with new items both from local artists and Fair Trade artisans around the world. Among items for sale are pieces of jewelry made by Shannon Price, co-owner of the store. One great gift item available at the Artisans is the fused glass sushi dinner set, made by local artists Sam Schmer and Barbara Koffer.

NAME DROPPERS GIFTS specializes in personalizing gifts with names, initials and special sayings. While the store offers many traditional gifts like frames and bathrobes, it also carries items like a wooden tree swing that can be painted with a personalized design. Name Droppers also carries a line of glassware, barware and serveware created by Julia Knight. Knight traveled to Tuscany, Italy to meet with traditional glassblowers and found four highly experienced

glass blowers that now create each glass by hand. Artisans sculpt, sand-cast and polish every platter and serving bowl, each of which is infused with crushed mother of pearl. The line is titled "Entertaining Redefined" and Knight hopes that her pieces "make the ordinary extraordinary" when it comes to entertaining. Product prices begin at \$19.95. Name Droppers Gifts is located at 1349 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.

CREATIVE OCCASIONS, located in Georganne's Hallmark Shop, provides the service of personalizing stationary, notepads, mugs and other gift items. Customers can look through books filled with designs, fonts, layouts and images that can be printed onto many different items. This is a place to personalize a gift for a teacher, coach, friend or family member. Creative Occasions is located at 1312 Chain Bridge Rd. McLean.

Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') CONNECTION

Every year between Christmas and New Year's, the McLean Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: PhotoM@connectionnewspapers.com, or mail or deliver contributions by Dec. 4, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.



THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

McLEAN WINTERFEST
DECEMBER 6, 2009 4PM ~ 6PM

McLean's ONLY parade! Don't Miss It!
Sunday, Dec. 6th

Make a day of it with your family -
Bigger and better - heated tent with free snacks -
antique cars and fire trucks - reviewing stand -
music - community groups - and
much, much more!

www.mcleanwinterfest.org

Reindog Pageant begins at 2PM - McLean Baptist Church lot.
McLean Holiday Tree lighting follows the parade.

The Church of the Holy Comforter (Episcopal)
The Rev. Richard A. Lord, Rector

All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS EVE:
11:00 a.m. Eucharist with Children's Living Crèche
4:00 p.m. Eucharist with Children's Living Crèche
7:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist
10:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

CHRISTMAS MORNING:
10:30 a.m. Traditional Holy Eucharist

543 Beulah Road, Vienna, VA 22180, www.holycomforter.com, 703-938-6521



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COME HIKE AT MADEIRA
Sunday, November 22: 1-3pm

Family Discovery Walk: Explore our forests and trails at a pace even little legs can handle.

Black Pond Hike: Follow our trail system deep into the woods, then along the Potomac River, ultimately arriving at Black Pond. This natural treasure sits at the base of the Potomac River Gorge and is full of endangered and rare plant species some of which are found only in this area.

Both hikes begin with a short information session with Fairfax County wildlife Biologist, Victoria Monroe.

For more information and to register for the hikes please go to www.madeira.org/hike

Immediately following the hikes we will have a Camp Greenway Open house at the Hurd Sports Center as well as an Open House at the Stables. If you are interested in learning more about summer camp at Madeira or just visiting some of our four legged friends please feel free to join us for either or both of these events.



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8328 Georgetown Pike
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www.madeira.org

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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

THURSDAY/NOV. 19

Daughtry. 7 p.m. at The George Mason University Patriot Center 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets are \$42.50 and \$32.50, available through all Ticketmaster outlets, online at www.ticketmaster.com or via Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. www.daughtryofficial.com or www.patriotcenter.com. 703-993-3000.

The GMU Players present Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's "The Exonerated." 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Black Box Theater. \$6, \$3 students and seniors. 703-993-8888.

Workshop Jazz Band Concert. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Model Investment Club of Northern Virginia. 7 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Learn about investing. Adults. 703-356-0770.

Joe Purdy and Julie Peel. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Our Daily Bread 25th Anniversary Celebration. 7-9 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Business casual. Light appetizers, cake, wine tasting provided by The Wine House. Children's activities for age 5 and up. Donations welcome. 703-273-8829 or info@ODBfairfax.org. www.our-daily-bread.org.

McLean Historical Society: Veterans - Living in Memory. 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Author and artist Richard C. Kirkland, a decorated World War 2 fighter pilot in the Pacific theater and a helicopter pilot in Korea, will speak on his experiences. Books will be available for purchase and author signing. 703-442-9370.

Robbie Schaefer and Lucy Wainwright Roche. 8 p.m. at the Barns at Wolftrap Center for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$18. Wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 20

Aquila Theatre Company Presents "As You Like It." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$17-\$34. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468. www.patriotcenter.com.

The GMU Players present Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's "The Exonerated." 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Black Box Theater. \$6, \$3 students and seniors. 703-993-8888.

Charity Citrus Fruit Sale. Seedless Grapefruit, Navel Oranges, and Sunburst Tangerines fresh from Florida via American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Fruit available on Friday, Nov. 20, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 21, 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Proceeds support local community youth, patriotic activities, and veteran needs. Pure Maple Syrup will also be available. Call 703-356-8259 for additional details.

An Evening of Wine, Art & Chocolate to Benefit the Great Falls School of Art. 7:30-10 p.m. at 1144 Walker Road, Suites D & G, Great Falls. Silent art auction, wine tasting, professional chocolatier, wine and chocolate pairings and more. www.greatfallsfoundationforarts.org.



CONTRIBUTED

The Hot Society of Washington will provide the music for the evening.

Dancing Under the Stars at MCC

"Trip the light fantastic" at the McLean Community Center's Dancing under the Stars, co-sponsored by the Friends of the McLean Community Center. The event will be Friday, Nov. 20, from 8-11 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per couple, \$15 per person for district residents and \$25 per person for all others. The Center is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave. An hour before the dance, at 7 p.m., instructors from the Fred Astaire Dance Studio will provide an hour of

free dance instruction, followed by a night of music provided by The Hot Society of Washington. Appetizers will be served and wine will be available for purchase.

A limited number of tickets are available for purchase. Tickets are on sale at the Alden Theatre Box Office [<http://www.mcleancenter.org/alden-box-office.asp>]. For more information, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit: www.mcleancenter.org.

Grant Lee Phillips and Winterpills. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$18. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Passafire and MOJO. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance/ \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Jean-Luc Ponty and Clara Ponty. 8 p.m. at the Barns at Wolftrap Center for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$35. Wolftrap.org.

Jason Killian Meath signs Hollywood on the Potomac. 8 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. 703-506-6756.

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With artist Laura Clerici. 703-790-0123.

Dancing under the Stars. 8-11 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$25 per couple, \$15 per person for district residents and \$25 per person for all others. Free dance instruction at 7 p.m. Music by The Hot Society of Washington. Appetizers served; wine available for purchase. 703-790-0123, TTY 711 or www.mcleancenter.org.

Meet Me in St. Louis. 7 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Theater, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria. \$10. TJ.TheatreBoosters@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 21

Masterworks 3 Fairfax Symphony Orchestra with Chu-Fang Huang, piano. 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Falla's The Three-Cornered Hat, Suites 1 and 2, Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, Ravel's Piano Concerto in G, and Ginastera's Estancia. 7 p.m. pre-concert lecture, free to ticketed patrons. 1-888-945-2468 or Tickets.com

The GMU Players present Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's "The

Exonerated." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Black Box Theater. \$6, \$3 students and seniors. 703-993-8888.

Nation Coalition of Black Women 25th Anniversary Luncheon. 12 p.m. at the McLean Hilton in Tysons Corner. Speaker will be Joe Madison of WOL-AM. Music by David Cole & Main Street Blues. \$70 per person. 703-920-1626 or tshirleyanderson@yahoo.com.

GMU Saxophone Ensemble. 3 p.m. at the George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia's 29th Annual Fall Gala. 7:30 p.m. at Westfields Marriott, 14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly. Casino night, art auction, dancing and entertainment, dinner buffet stations, desserts and open bar. Tickets start at \$180 per individual/\$360 per couple, sponsorships begin at \$550. Proceeds benefit the JCCNV's Special Needs program. www.jccnv.org or Sara Moore, 703-537-3024 or SaraM@jccnv.org.

Robbie Fulks. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12 advance/ \$15 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Drumfish. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance/ \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Meet Me in St. Louis. 7 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Theater, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria. \$10. TJ.TheatreBoosters@gmail.com.

SUNDAY /NOV. 22

Young Soloists Recital. 3 p.m. at the Alden Theatre in the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 703-790-0123.

Amadeus Concerts, A. Scott Wood conducting, presents Amadeus Virtuosi, along with the Domingo-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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[www.mcleancenter.org/
special-events](http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events)

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Community Center

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

Cafritz Young Artists singers from the Washington National Opera. 4 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Works by Czech composers Dvorak and Janacek, plus opera arias by Mozart. \$25, age 17 and under free. www.amadeusconcerts.com or 703-759-5334.

Iona. 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Reservations required. \$15. 703-759-3309 or www.IonaMusic.com.

The GMU Players present Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's "The Exonerated." 2 p.m. at George Mason University's Black Box Theater. \$6, \$3 students and seniors. 703-993-8888.

GMU Various Chamber Ensembles.

2 p.m. at the George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.
Tracy Grammer and Pierce Pettis. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

MONDAY, NOV. 23

Push Play, Emily Osment and Phil Bensen. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12 advance/\$15 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/NOV. 24

Colvin Run Community Center Weekly Dance. 7 p.m. at Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. \$10.

www.colvinrun.org.
The Dangerous Summer, Mercy Mercedes and Single File. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance/\$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 25

Line Dancing Classes for Active Seniors. 11 a.m. at the Vinson Dominion Hall, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Join a new community program designed for age 55 and over. Free. Wear low heels and comfortable shoes. Registration required. 703-442-9075, TTY 711.

Bo Jankans and Mad Names Album Release Party. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/NOV. 19

Lewinsville Road and Spring Hill RECenter Information Meeting. 7 p.m. at Spring Hill Elementary School, 8201 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Supervisor Foust has requested that Fairfax County Park Authority and Fairfax County Department of Transportation conduct a community meeting to present their revised plans for a proposed median design along Lewinsville Road and a new entrance to Spring Hill RECenter. The revised plans are in response to input received from residents. Contact

Cheryl Patten at 703-356-0551, TTY 711 or dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov
Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Board Election Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. at Maggiano's Little Italy, 2001 International Drive, McLean. With speaker Sally Strackbein, on Strategic Bragging: Speak Out or Miss Out! Members \$40, non-members \$50. 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org.

MONDAY/NOV. 23

McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia. 5:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The group is planning an event, for June 26, 2010, commemorating the 100th

anniversary of the beginning of McLean. Contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223.

Providence District Council will have Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and staff from VDOT and the Virginia Megaprojects Team speak to the community regarding road maintenance issues and the status of the Northern Virginia "Megaprojects": I-495 HOT Lanes, I-66/I-495 Interchange and Metro Rail "Silver Line". The meeting will be held at the Dunn Loring Center, 2334 Gallows Road, at 7:15 p.m. in Training Room 1 (enter through door #2). This meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Denise Rodgers, 703-698-7852 or email PDCouncilChr@yahoo.com.

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African Children Show Hope

FROM PAGE 5

TONE MBOWA, a director of the choir, told the 50 or so people who attended the Nov. 14 concert that the children in the group all came from areas "where the schools are not enough, the food is not enough, the water is so bad they often have to walk very far to get it." Some, he said, had seen their parents killed. Mbowa said the Orphans and Vulnerable Children's Ministry, sponsored by the United Methodist Church, took such children in and fed and educated them.

This is the second year the choir has toured the United States, and it has been traveling since May.

When the children are flown across the Atlantic, Mbowa said, "They can't believe they're really in the sky."

Mbowa said he shared the children's background, as his father, a pastor, was killed under the reign of Ugandan military dictator Idi Amin when he was 7, and his mother died shortly thereafter.

When the church's pastor, Rev. Candace Martin, asked the children what were their favorite foods they had tried on the tour, they mentioned rice and beans, pizza, hot dogs, mashed potatoes, chicken and hamburgers. Asked what were the most interesting sights they had seen in the United States, the children listed roller coasters, a zoo, a children's museum and "your nice schools."

AFTER THE SHOW, Martin said she had first seen the choir last year at Crossroads United Methodist Church in Ashburn, where she was then a member, and she said the event had convinced her that she wanted the group to visit Charles Wesley. "I was so overwhelmed with experiencing them and getting to spend some time with them," she said.

— MIKE DICICCO

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HOLIDAY GIFTS

FROM PAGE 11

birder, the shop offers the largest selection of bird guides and books in the greater Washington, D.C. area. Mark Ludlow, the owner of the shop has many years of knowledge that he loves to share with his customers. For the Wild Birds is located at 1365 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.

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All listings are due by Monday at 3 p.m.

SPORTS

Playoff-Tested Saxons Competing at States

Langley volleyball has toughened up during the postseason.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

A year ago, Susan Shifflett's Langley High girls' volleyball team struggled with nerve problems at times during the postseason. Perhaps the Saxons were trying to live up to the previous year's success in 2007 when they had won the Northern Region title. Langley's 2008 squad never was quite able to get things rolling during the playoffs and ultimately was swept by Herndon in a second round region tournament match. Even so, it was still a good season for Langley, which went 17-7.

But, this season, the Saxons have broken through in a big time way. Langley, an overall young team much like last year, has improved as the fall season progressed. Shifflett was most concerned with her team's offensive firepower at the beginning of the season. She loved her team's passing and defense, but hoped the offense would round into top form. It did.

On top of that, Langley's ability to play well and handle the high energy tension of big matches has improved, as indicated by the Saxons' outstanding postseason roll the past several weeks.

"I always felt physically we had it," said Shifflett. "I wasn't sure if emotionally we were ready to deal with the big stress [of big matches] and winning. Emotionally, they've made so much progress and their



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Senior outside hitter Carlie Owen (3) makes a hit during the Saxons' region semifinals win over Robinson last week.

awareness of the game has improved."

Langley has hardly buckled under during this year's postseason, but has instead thrived under the pressure. Behind the stellar play of standout players Elysse Richardson, a senior setter, and Kathryn Caine, a junior middle hitter, the Saxons have made a playoff charger similar to two years ago.

As the No. 2-seed at the recent Liberty District playoffs, Langley reached the finals before losing to top-seed and defending district champion Stone Bridge, three games to one. But Langley re-grouped for the 16-team region tourney, dominating in 3-0 match wins over both West Springfield and Hayfield before upsetting Robinson (19-6

record), three games to one, in a region semifinals match triumph last Thursday.

That put the Saxons into last Saturday night's finals against South County, which had reached the title match with a semis win over Stone Bridge. The Stallions got the better of play against Shifflett's bunch and defeated the Saxons, three games to one, for the title. Both Langley and South County, by reaching the finals, qualified for this week's state AAA tournament.

THE REGION FINALS LOSS hardly spoiled what has been a postseason joyride for the Saxons (16-7), who return to the state playoffs for the second time in three years. Langley was scheduled to travel to

Loudoun Valley (Purcellville) for a state quarterfinals match on Tuesday of this week. Valley (20-5) is a part of the Cedar Run District and a member of the Northwest Region.

Langley hosted Loudoun Valley during a regular season match on Sept. 24. The Vikings topped the Saxons, 3-1, that night.

"They are strong all the way across the board," said Shifflett.

The first round state playoff winner was scheduled to advance to Thursday night's state semifinals at Virginia Commonwealth University's Siegel Center in Richmond. Langley, if it moves on to Richmond, would play the second semifinals contest on Thursday at 8 p.m. The region finals are scheduled for Saturday at 2:30 p.m., also at VCU.

Langley played one of its best matches of the season in its region semifinals triumph over Robinson last week.

"We just played so well against them," said Shifflett. "We had to play one of our best matches to beat them. It really was a whole team effort."

Then at the region finals, Langley started off well before South County re-grouped.

"South County was really nervous at the beginning," said Shifflett. "Once they settled in and got their passing going, we got a little down."

Both Richardson, this year's Liberty District Player of the Year, and Caine were named to the All-Tournament team.

Members of this year's state qualifying Langley volleyball team are: Christine Baek, Kathryn Caine, Nikki Hero, Olivia Justus, Maddie Kotoriy, Lainey Le Blanc, Maureen Marsh, Kat Ngov, Carlie Owen, Allison Prell, Elysse Richardson and Lindsay Warden.

Highlanders' Successful Football Season Concludes

McLean, following playoff loss to Lee, finishes 6-5.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

A remarkable turnaround football season ended for the McLean Highlanders Friday, Nov. 13, when they lost to Lee, 42-18, in a Division 5 Northern Region quarterfinals playoff game.

With the loss, McLean finished the season 6-5, a vast improvement from last year's winless season.

The Highlanders, under second year head coach Jim Patrick, took a 9-0 first quarter lead against Lee, thanks to a two-point safety and a Riley Beiro scoring run from 6 yards out. Lee came to life in the second quarter with a couple of touchdowns, but

McLean's Beiro scored on a 3-yard run and the Highlanders led 16-14 at halftime. The Lancers, however, dominated second half play with four touchdowns to advance to Friday night, Nov. 20's region semifinals game against Hayfield. Lee, a member of the Patriot District, is 8-3.

It has been a remarkable season for McLean, which opened the season with a convincing 44-14 road win at Washington-Lee and never fell under .500 thereafter. Perhaps the team's biggest win of the season came on Sept. 25 over Liberty District opponent Madison, 24-21, improving the Highlanders' record to 3-1. Madison, later during the season, went on to defeat region powerhouse Stone Bridge. This past weekend, Madison defeated Edison in another Division 5 quarterfinals game. This Friday, the Warhawks will travel to Ashburn to take on the Bulldogs in a Division 5 semifinal.

McLean's toughest stretch of the season came in back-to-back losses to Fairfax, 55-



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Will Hecht, McLean's senior quarterback, was behind center for the winning Highlanders this season.

17, and Stone Bridge, 38-21. But a week later after the loss to the Bulldogs, McLean completed the regular season with a dramatic 35-34 district overtime home win over cross-town opponent Langley to clinch a

winning record.

The loss to the Lancers last week hardly diminishes the memorable, victorious fall of 2009 experienced by the Highlanders and their fans.

A Big Shot I'm Not



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I would have thought – or expected, that after nearly eight months since I received my cancer diagnosis and six months since I've been column-writing my thoughts on the subject, that I would (perhaps even, should) be able to actually talk about it. And in talk about it, I mean, actually say the word cancer out loud in response to a friendly inquiry about my appearance, my hair (or lack thereof), my water-drinking, my diet, my work schedule, etc. But I can't, apparently, at least not without a lot of stammering and stuttering, and hemming and hawing, anyway.

And here I thought I was so well-adjusted, so comfortable in my cancer-affected skin; Mr. Positive, Mr. What-A-Great-Attitude, Mr. I-Can-Handle-This, that a simple question asking the obvious wouldn't illicit such a verbal vacuum. I know silence is supposed to be golden, but this silence seems so awkward, so inappropriate, sort of, that I find myself trying, occasionally, to avoid the conversation/situation altogether. Sometimes it feels better to be simply left alone with my own unspoken thoughts rather than struggling to express them in public to a sincerely interested person but one who is not, quite frankly, someone who my life is not dependent upon (the kindness of others notwithstanding).

And not that my life is dependent upon anyone right now, thank God! And not that cancer patients in general, or anyone with serious medical issues, are not dependent in some way on said kindness and queries – and prayers of others, because I've certainly come to realize that we are. Moreover, it's not that I'm a private person fearful of the invasion of that privacy. Hardly. I'm comfortable writing about it (obviously) and comfortable having people know about it. But in the past few weeks, social situations have presented themselves that have made it clear that I'm not nearly as comfortable talking about it as my writing would have lead me to believe.

I don't think I'm in denial; I think I'm in reality. Heck, when they stick a needle in your arm every three weeks for chemotherapy and every week for lab work, there's not a minute (make that second) that goes by when you're not keenly aware that you're "Not in Kansas anymore," unless of course, you're a cancer patient who actually lives in Kansas. I know exactly where I am, what I'm doing and more importantly, why I'm doing it. I don't know the outcome, yet. However, if I were to guess as to why my words are more easily written than they are spoken, I would bet that not knowing my future may be the cause of some of the verbal problems I'm having in the present.

It's that uncertainty that ties my tongue, I believe. And in recounting various conversations I've had with my oncologist, my oncology nurse and miscellaneous other health care professionals with whom I interact (and who know my diagnosis), my prognosis is so interdependent on variables impossible even to predict and/or anticipate that receiving a definitive assessment/scenario/future summarizing them and in turn comforting me, is unrealistic, apparently.

Therefore, when I ask the existential question, "What does it all mean, doctor?" the answer I usually receive is unsatisfactory. But at least I'm alive to ask it (and to hear the answer, too).

For a stage IV lung cancer patient that may be as good as it gets.

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T intends to submit a Section 106 submission for a proposed 85 foot tree pole to be located at 9950 Colvin Run Rd. in Great Falls, Fairfax Co., VA. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with federal regulation 37CFR 1.1307, the NEPA and the ACHP 36 CFR 800. Twelve antennas will be top-mounted to the pole, and an equipment shelter will be placed within a proposed 20 foot x 30 foot equipment compound. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed activity on Historic Properties may do so by contacting Carolyn Mitchell, (AT&T) at 7150 Standard Dr. Hanover, MD 21076, 410.712.7544 or CM2431@att.com.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Cleanwire Wireless Broadband, an FCC-licensed wireless provider in the State of Virginia, is proposing the collocation of wireless antennas on an existing building rooftop at 200 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia 22203. The proposed development will include a 10' x 10' lease area for equipment. Members of the public interested in submitting comments on the possible effects of the proposed project on historic properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places may send their comments to Alex Bos, Rescom Environmental Corp., P.O. Box 6225, Traverse City, MI 49696 or call 1.231.947.4454. Project Reference #: 0909042

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LEGAL NOTICE

AT&T intends to file an application to construct a cellular telecommunications tower at 2666 Military Road, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia 22207. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Covenant Church" will consist of the replacement an existing OMNI antenna and mount with a new OMNI antenna and mount at a height of 38 feet RAD center. In addition, the installation of two diplexers, two topside jumpers, one 850R XIAT, two jumpers from COAX to diplexers, jumpers from RXAIT to BTS are proposed in the existing equipment shelter on the ground level. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o michael.wolf@atcassociates.com.

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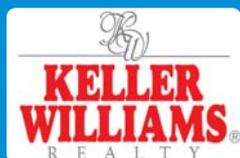
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