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CONNECTION

Santa Cruises Through Vienna

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Santa Claus waves from the 1946 fire engine as he makes his way around Vienna during the Department's annual Santa Run.



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VIENNA

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Santa Claus, Ellis, the elves and helpers all volunteer their time for the Santa Run, undeterred by weather conditions.



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CARPE LUMINOUS PHOTOGRAPHY

Santa Cruises Through Vienna

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department runs weeklong Santa routes.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

Braving wind and 30-degree weather, Santa Claus and his band of helpers and elves began their weeklong tour of Vienna on Wednesday, Dec. 16. Sponsored and manned by Santa's good friends of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department (VVFD), the Santa Run operates daily Dec. 16-23, from 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Waving from the station's antique fire engine, Santa greeted his supporters as they came from their homes or passed by him in cars, honking their horns. To the

youngest of fans, Santa handed out plush toys.

"I come to bring good will to all," said Santa as he hoisted his sack on opening night. "And to bring togetherness to all the people of the world."

DIRECT FROM THE NORTH POLE and armed with candy canes, dog biscuits and smiles, volunteer elves — who moonlight as Vienna firefighters, EMTs and support staff — jumped from the fire truck's running boards to hand out candy canes to families waiting along the curb or at their open doors. "Merry Christmas," Santa and his elves called out along the way.

"This gets the community involved," said VVFD volunteer Lydia Russo. "It's something the community looks forward to every year."

"The faces of the little kids are priceless," said Russo. "They'll come running out of their houses in their pajamas with the biggest smiles on their faces."

SEE SANTA, PAGE 7



Elf Erin Lorenc, a VVFD EMT, hops off the fire engine to hand out candy canes to happy children.



Elves and helpers accompany Santa Claus on the annual VVFD Santa Run.

PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

The county is trying to limit taxes on Potomac Vegetable Farms, one of the few remaining farms within its borders.

County, Neighbors Support Potomac Farm

Fairfax works with General Assembly to protect one of county's last farms from additional taxes.

Just 4 miles from the congestion and bustle of Tysons Corner is a 40-year-old farm that cultivates about 26 acres of land on the south side of Leesburg Pike, one of the last true farms in Fairfax County. The problem is that not all the land that comprises Potomac Vegetable Farms in Vienna is contiguous.

For about two years, the county's Board of Supervisors has been looking for a way to include a 5-acre plot of the farm in the agricultural and forestal district that protects the rest of the farm from the sort of property taxes paid by other landowners in the area. The board is now enlisting the help of the area's state legislators.

"The purpose of A and F [agricultural and forestal] districts is to help large landowners who really don't want to develop their property," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), in whose district the farm lies.

Potomac Vegetable Farms also owns about 180 acres in Loudoun County.

AT ISSUE are 5 acres of land that are now separated from the rest of the farm by a development under construction and are no longer being taxed as part of the farm. An agricultural district must be at least 20 acres

in size, so the smaller parcel can't stand alone as its own district.

According to Hiu Newcomb, the farm's owner, the 5-acre plot that comprises her most fertile fields was never contiguous with the rest of the farm but was included in its agricultural district due to a mistake in the county's zoning ordinance. However, the state's ordinance requires the land in an agricultural district to be contiguous.

"It's a totally integral part of our farm even though it's not contiguous," Newcomb said. She said the 40-acre Moutoux Orchard had always separated the plot from the rest of the farm, and the county had realized in the mid-1990s that the land technically shouldn't be included in the district. But, she said, the county had "turned a blind eye" to the discrepancy until Moutoux Orchard was sold two years ago and houses started to be built on the property, making the division obvious.

The difference in property taxes, depending on the smaller parcel's designation, is about \$3,000, Newcomb said. While it wasn't a matter of life and death for the farm, she said, "It takes a lot of tomatoes to make

SEE PRESERVING, PAGE 7

Chess Class for Children Opens Jan. 6

A chess class for ages 4-14 will take place each Wednesday, Jan. 6-Feb. 24, from 5-6 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E.

Professional instructors from Silver Knights Chess will teach basic rules of the game and tournament strategies, with students matched against opponents of similar skill.

The fee is \$80 for Town of Vienna residents and \$100 for out-of-town participants.

For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

New Mandarin Class for Toddlers

Tot and Parent Mandarin for ages 1 1/2-3 accompanied by parents or caregivers will be Monday, Jan. 11-March 15, from 2:30-3:15 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E.

While children start learning the language through songs and games, a native Mandarin instructor will teach parents ways to reinforce learning at home.

The fee is \$149 for Town of Vienna residents and \$186.25 for out-of-town participants.

For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

Dramatic Arts Class for Adults

Lights, Camera, Action! Break a Leg! will meet Saturdays, Jan. 9-March 13, from 12:30-3 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E.

This introduction to the dramatic arts for ages 18 and up, taught by three local actors, will include diction, overcoming stage fright, character and scene development, improvisation, the business of show business, and more. At the end of the course, students will perform a scene for the "Potluck" show on Fairfax Public Access TV.

The fee is \$100 for Town of Vienna residents, \$50 for residents age 65 and over, and \$125 for out-of-town participants.

For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

Free Workshop on Wills

"Why Good Wills Go Bad" is the title of a free presentation on Monday, Jan. 11, from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E.

Join attorney David G. Hoffman for a discussion of Virginia will law, organizing your assets, when to change your will, talking to your executor, reducing probate, will copies, do-it-yourself tax plans, and more.

The workshop is free of charge, and no advance registration is required. For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

Teens Compete in Knowledge Bowl

Vienna area sixth-eighth graders are invited to show off their trivia knowledge on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at 3:30 p.m., at Club Phoenix Teen Center, located in the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E.

This activity is free. Teams will compete in the annual Knowledge Bowl for the championship title.

For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

Club Phoenix features a big screen TV, VCR, jukebox, CD player, video games, pool and ping pong tables, food area, and a state-of-the-art sound system.

NEWS

Former Congressman Herb Harris Honored

Former Congressman Herb Harris received the Northern Virginia Service Award from the 11th Congressional District Committee at its annual awards ceremony Saturday, Dec. 12. U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) presented Harris with the award 'for distinguished and honorable service to our communities, our commonwealth and our nation.' Harris was elected to Congress from Virginia's 8th District in 1974. He served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives.



Supervisors Reject Meals Tax

Fairfax left with fewer revenue options than surrounding jurisdictions.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors killed a proposal for a special election to ask the voters if they would approve a new tax on restaurant meals in 2010.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D) put forward the suggestion at a Dec. 7 board meeting. He wanted to hold the special election March 16, so that a meals tax could be incorporated into the upcoming 2010 budget planning if voters approved the measure.

The supervisors said a meal tax could result in an extra \$80 million in revenue for the county. The Mount Vernon supervisor argued it would also bring tax diversification to Fairfax and government, which relied on local real estate taxes to fund over 60 percent of its budget last year.

According to recent county documents, approximately one cent per \$100 of assessed value in the real estate tax rate produces \$18 million in revenue for the county. By implementing a meals tax, the county could have potentially offset an increase in the residential real estate tax rate by about four cents, said supporters.

Hyland wanted to use money generated by the meals tax to fund Fairfax County Public Schools. The Mount Vernon supervisor only got two other votes of support, from Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D) and Dranesville Supervisor John Foust (D).

THE THREE REPUBLICANS on the board – Supervisors Patrick Herrity (Springfield), Michael Frey (Sully) and John Cook (Braddock) — said they opposed the meals tax for philosophical reasons.

"This is really nothing but a different way to increase the tax burden on our citizens," said Herrity during the board meeting.

Herrity and Frey said they were also concerned

about the expense associated with holding a countywide special election. Given that Hyland has known about the county budget forecast for months, they also questioned why the Democrat had not recommended putting a meals tax on the November general election ballot.

"I will not support doing this as a special election. It is just too costly," said Frey.

A few of the four remaining Democrats who voted against Hyland's proposal wanted to have more discussion on the matter of a meals tax referendum before voting on the proposal.

Given that there was no chance for a more in-depth discussion, some board members felt uncomfortable voting for Hyland's proposal, even though they might have supported a meals tax referendum overall.

"I think this has been brought up too abruptly. ... I want to make sure we have a package that could be presented that the restaurant and business community would believe is fair," said Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D).

But Hudgins said the board had discussed the possibility of a meals tax several times already – including during the supervisors' group retreat and through a board matter Hyland brought to a few months ago.

"Each time we have raised this, there has been some reason not to discuss it," said Hudgins.

UNDER VIRGINIA LAW, most counties must hold a voter referendum on the issue of a meals tax in order to implementing it. But governing bodies in towns, cities and some urban counties have the ability to implement a meals tax without a specific vote of approval from the public.

The result is that Fairfax – where a meals tax overwhelmingly failed in 1993 – has fewer revenue options than a lot of surrounding jurisdictions. Elected officials in the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Manassas and Manassas Park have all passed meal taxes as well as those in Arlington County and the towns of Herndon, Leesburg and Vienna have all passed taxes on restaurant meals without the hurdle of a referendum.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

NEWS



Vienna Police Participate in Santa's Ride for Kids

On Dec. 15, at 7:45 a.m. Officer Santa and his trusty elves rumbled in to Vienna as part of the 2009 Santa's Ride for Kids. The Vienna Police Department's Motor Squad, along with the Fairfax County Police and Sheriff's Departments traveled all around Fairfax County. For the past few weeks citizens and employees of the Town of Vienna donated hundreds of toys and games for children being treated in area hospitals, ensuring that they have a happier holiday season. The toys were then gathered and distributed to the children by the officers dressed in costume. Pictured from left to right are: Pfc. Bailey, MPO Mangan, MPO Hall and MPO Oliver.

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Happy Holidays

**A time to reflect,
a time to share.**

For the observant of any faith, and even for the more secular among us, the close of the year brings ritual, magic, reflection and hope.

In events around the area, a sense of community has infused holiday parades, Christmas tree lightings, menorah lightings, choral performances, singing of carols, and other traditional events with warmth and joy.

In Great Falls, it was the 19th lighting of the Christmas tree, with holiday songs by the Langley Madrigals. In Reston, Santa arrived by boat across Lake Anne in a snow squall. In Alexandria, the Scottish Christmas Walk announced the beginning of the season despite the wet snow. In Clifton, the Christmas spirit was celebrated in a candlelight homes tour, among other events. In Fairfax, one congregation built a 7-foot-tall menorah out of Legos.

And in every community, volunteers have come together to provide food, clothing and some holiday cheer for the needy.

2009 has been a challenging year for many families, businesses, schools, charitable organizations. As the year comes to an end, we can count our blessings. Here in the Washington suburbs most of us have been spared the intense difficulties of the economic downtown. We'll all likely to welcome 2010 with optimism and relief.

EDITORIAL

Next week between Christmas and New Years, look for our annual Children's Connection, when we turn our entire paper over to the contributions of area students — artwork of many kinds, poetry and other writing. Our next regular edition will come out the week of Jan. 4, 2010.

From the all the staff here, we wish you a merry Christmas, a happy Hanukkah, joyful holidays and a wonderful beginning to the New Year.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Give Locally

Remember that more local families are in need right now than ever before; thankfully, most of us are in a position to help. It's not too late to brighten the holidays for a needy family as many organizations are reporting record demand for holiday meals and help with providing children at least one present. The need will continue into the New Year as well.

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Upbeat Look at Business in 2009

Economic Development Authority has worked with companies to add 4,000 jobs to local economy.

BY GERALD L. GORDON

As 2009 draws to a close, it will be remembered as an especially significant year for Fairfax County's economy and for those who live and work here. And, the successes achieved this year will position the county and its residents well during the economic recovery and beyond.



panies that the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority worked with this year, a vast majority of them are small businesses with fewer than 100 employees.

The successes of 2009 have important implications for Fairfax County taxpayers in 2010 and beyond. First, there will be more job opportunities, particularly compared to many other parts of the nation. Second, a larger commercial tax

base means residents bear less of the cost of providing the range of high-quality services funded by the county Board of Supervisors.

Third, new workers in our community buy homes, dine in restaurants and shop in local stores. Fourth, the broader the base of companies that are here, the greater the likelihood that our economy and commercial tax base will be stable and grow. And, finally, the quality of life for which Fairfax County is known will be improved by economic stability and growth.

The mission of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority is to build the commercial tax base by promoting the county as one of the world's best business locations — attracting companies here and working with them to stay and create jobs here and fill office space.

The FCEDA is proud of its success in 2009 to broaden the economic diversity of Fairfax County. It will help ensure that Fairfax County remains one of the best of the best places to work and live for decades to come.

Gerald L. Gordon Ph.D. is president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SUNDAY/DEC. 20

NAACP Fairfax County Youth Council Meeting. 4 p.m. at the George Mason University Johnson Center, Robeson Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Meetings are open to youth ages 10-20. restonbell7@gmail.com.

MONDAY/JAN. 4

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 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of McLean. 703-356-8223.

SATURDAY/JAN. 9

Community Dialogue on the FCPS Budget. 12-3 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Vienna. Orchard St. N.W., Vienna. The Fairfax Branch of the NAACP, the Northern Va. Urban League, Northern Va. Minister's Conference, and Rev. Pastor Kenny Smith of First Baptist Church of Vienna in a dialogue with Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Dale. Reserve at 571-423-1064 or kathypartlow@fcps.edu. View the budget at www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm

Why Don't My Kids Listen to Me? 10 a.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Pre-register at 703-242-8824. www.PEPparent.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 17

NAACP Fairfax County Youth Council Meeting. 4 p.m. at the George Mason University Johnson Center, Robeson Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Meetings are open to youth ages 10-20. restonbell7@gmail.com.

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Santa Comes to Town

FROM PAGE 4

VVFD sectors Vienna into daily Santa Run routes, each night riding into a different part of town. By the end of the week, the Santa Run will have made its way across Vienna. The Santa Run began 10 years ago and has grown every year. More than 5,000 candy canes are given out to children.

"When you drive by and the kids run out the door, you can tell it's making them happy," said EMT Erin Lorenc.

Driver Billy Ellis is a former VVFD fire chief and every year he returns to the Vienna fire house to manipulate the 1946 fire vehicle

and its cranky clutch. The truck was festooned with colored bulbs and a lit wreath decorated the front. In the lead was an advance vehicle with sparkling lights, toting a giant inflated plastic Santa Claus. Sirens wailed and holiday music blared from the fire truck's speakers.

The appeal of the Santa Run crosses demographic lines. From parents clutching young children and grandparents reminded of their grown-up children to commuters tapping their horns in acknowledgment, from diverse ethnic groups to ranges of prosperity, the common denominator was simply the spirit of the festive sea-

son. A man danced to the Christmas music as the fire truck made its way down his street. At a daycare center in Vienna, youngsters and their parents swarmed around Santa as he surprised them with an unexpected visit.

Santa Claus, Ellis, the elves and helpers all volunteer their time for the Santa Run, undeterred by weather conditions.

EMT Willie Lorenc, Erin Lorenc's husband, said the Santa Run was the first thing he did when he began volunteering at the VVFD five years ago. "The smile on the kids' faces is what brings you back year after year," he said. "This is a load of fun."

Preserving Local Agriculture

FROM PAGE 4

up the extra \$3,000." "It didn't come to a head until the public hearing, which was a couple of weeks ago," Foust said. That was when the agricultural district came up for renewal. The county had been looking for ways to circumvent the state code, but "the attorneys were adamant that in the end we couldn't do it," Foust

said. He said State Sen. Janet Howell (D-32) was submitting a bill in the General Assembly to have the state code changed.

"Once it becomes possible, the board will make it happen," he said, adding that neighbors supported the measure because they wanted the land protected from development "and just really want to see some local agriculture preserved in Fairfax County."

THE FARM is also familiar to many because it frequently is the destination of class field trips, Newcomb said. She said she would continue to farm the detached parcel regardless of its designation, "but it's an opportunity for the county to recognize that this is one of the few legitimate remaining agricultural activities" in the area.

— MIKE DiCICCO



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Invitation To Dream Big

'Peter Pan' at Marshall High.

By Leila Goldstein
McLean High School

With the stress of college acceptance or entering the workforce on the minds of many high school students, it can often feel as if they are being forced to grow up too soon. But George C. Marshall High School's soaring "Peter Pan" brought its audience swooping back into the joys of childhood with a production that passed high school standards with flying colors.

Marshall chose to stage the original Broadway version from 1954. Just as the Lost Boys view life in a simpler way, this production also seems unconcerned with the political correctness of its depiction of native Americans, the appropriateness of kidnapping and shooting at children, and the taboo of smoking peace pipes. The story unfolds in its traditional telling, in which the Darling children follow Peter Pan to Neverland, gliding through confrontations with the Indians, lost boys, and the terrifying pirates.

One of the most impressive elements of the show was the flying. That's right, Marshall high school's technical crew operated a complex rigging apparatus and performers sang and danced through the air while harnessed to steel cables. This aspect reflected Marshall's dedication to the complexities of a show. Instead of watering down the production for a younger audience, Marshall enhanced it, choosing the difficult, the challenging and the intriguing.

Peter Pan gleamed with the



Pictured, from left, are Alli Rosenbluth, Mojan Nourbakhsh-Mohammadi, Hanna Rak, Kat Porcell, Whitney Wu and Amir Noorbakhsh in Marshall High's 'Peter Pan.'

CAPPIES REVIEW

unabashed confidence of a little boy. Ellen Chapin left behind her teenage girl mannerisms and flew into those of a fanciful boy with a clumsy gait, oversized smiles, and, of course, raucous croaks. She beautifully belted out showstoppers even while dancing, running through the aisles and flying. Wendy (Meara O'Malley) was both wide-eyed and authoritative, youthful and motherly. She was especially endearing when she had to leave Peter for her old life, showing her mixed emotions through her pained expression and limp body. Scott Anderson delivered a slightly nontraditional, somewhat aloof and whimsical portrayal of Captain Hook, along with a convincing accent and an admirable singing voice.

Tiger Lily (Allie Rosenbluth) commanded attention with her strong stance and loud whoops. Her dance skill was apparent through her impeccable pirouettes and low crouches. Slightly's (Orla Conway) performance was more than just slightly impressive as she took on a small role with the ut-

most energy, interacting with the other Lost Boys with boyish slaps and tussles.

All of the ensemble members, the Lost Boys, Indians, and the Pirates, should be commended for their commitment, almost always onstage and working with the difficulties of group choreography. While lagging in energy during the third act, overall, the cast delivered enjoyable performances for the whole family, eliciting squeals from small children and laughs from adults.

Besides the flying, Marshall's technical crew did an excellent job with the demands of the set. They created a British nursery, trees that actors entered and exited from, the Lost Boys' underground home, and a pirate ship over six feet tall. Even with the burden of building sets for multiple locations that had to be moved on and off stage during the performance, the crew still added intricate detail.

Marshall's delightful production surely took a high school audience away from their thoughts of SATs and GPAs, back to the ABCs.

CALENDAR

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 19

Yosi and the Super Dads: Rockin' Hanukkah Concert. 2 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Age 3 and up. 703-790-0123.

1-2-3 Imagine! with Elmo & Friends. 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play. 8 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$15 adults, \$13 seniors and students. 703-790-9223 or www.mcleancleanplayers.org.

Model Train Display. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Colvin Run Historic Site, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. G-gauge trains run through a miniature western town in the Colvin Run Barn. Free. 703-759-2771 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm.

Rocknoceros Holiday Show and Sing-a-long at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 for everyone one and older. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The D.R.A.M.A Kings at 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Colvin Run Christmas Ball. 9-11:30 p.m. at the Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Music by The Helmut Licht band. \$12 dance, no lesson. 703-795-2003 or www.colvinrun.org.

A Rockapella Holiday. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$21-\$42. Youth through grade 12 half price. Pre-Performance Discussion held 45 minutes prior to the performance. 703-993-8794.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

SUNDAY/DEC. 20

1-2-3 Imagine! with Elmo & Friends. 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

Folk Music. 1-2:30 p.m. at the Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St., N.E., Vienna. The exhibit "Vienna Remembers World War II" is also featured. 703-938-5187.

Model Train Display. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Colvin Run Historic Site, 10017

Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. G-gauge trains run through a miniature town. Free. 703-759-2771 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm.

Live Nativity. 4-7 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolly Madison Blvd, McLean. Live animals, hot cider, caroling, cookies and more.

Eric Hutchinson. 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$25. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

Musical Winter Solstice Celebration. 3:30 p.m. at 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Bob Brown Puppets, the South Lakes High School Choir, native flutes, drumming and bag pipes, followed by a solstice celebration ceremony will be held beneath the moon around a bonfire, weather permitting.

EcoStewardsAlliance.Org or MaureenESA@Gmail.com.
McLean Symphony in Concert:
Deck the Halls. 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Alden Theater, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Piano soloists, the Symphony Festival Singers and the McLean Symphony under the direction of Dingwall Fleary. Adults \$25, seniors \$20, age 18 and under \$12. Tickets available at the Alden box office, 703-790-9223, or TicketMaster, 703-573-7328. 222.mcleansymphony.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 21
Open Mic Showcase hosted by Ron Goad. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$2. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/DEC. 22
Colvin Run Community Center Weekly Dance. 7 p.m. at Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. \$10. www.colvinrun.org.

Todd Wright. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 23
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.

Todd Wright. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 24
Good for the Jews featuring Rob

Tannenbaum and David Fagin. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 25

A Day to Play at the 'J'. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The Center opens its doors to the community for a day of play. www.jccnv.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 26

Hotspur. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance/\$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

SUNDAY/DEC. 27

Dana Wells CD Release and Dream Dirt (Justin and Mark from Jonasa). 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

MONDAY/DEC. 28

Bliss FM and DJ M.A.F. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Game On Afternoon Edition. 3:30 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Test your prowess at Wii Mario Kart or Super Smashbros. Age 6-16. 703-938-0405.

TUESDAY/DEC. 29

Harlem Globetrotters. 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center. Tickets are \$22-\$26.50, available through all Ticketmaster outlets including the venue box offices, online at www.ticketmaster.com and via Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. www.patriotcenter.com.

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

Poor Man's Lobster and The Arctic Groove. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 30

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.
Treasured Threes to Fives. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Stories and songs. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-938-0405.

THURSDAY DEC. 31

New Year's Eve Capital Hospice Benefit. 8:30 p.m. at The Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Food, open bar, live entertainment and a silent auction. \$110 per person. All proceeds benefit nonprofit Capital Hospice. Reserve at 703-531-6209 or www.capitalhospice.org.

Robbie-noceros New Years Eve Party for Kids. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12 for everyone over one and older. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

New Year's Eve Party with Shane Hines, The Blackjacks, Crash Boom Bang and Billy Woodward and the Senders. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$30. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

Colvin Run Citizens Assoc. New Year's Eve Dinner Dance. 7:30 p.m. at the Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Dancing to The Family Band, including traditional ballroom and latin. \$75 through Dec. 15, \$85 afterwards. For reservations contact Ed Cottrell, 703-435-5620 or edcottrell@macp.org.



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Winter Break Trips

For 5th-8th graders
During the FCPS Winter Break, 5th-8th graders can join in on one of these fun-filled trips! Registration is required.

National Aquarium in Baltimore
Monday, Dec. 28
9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
\$45/\$40 McLean district residents

Ajax Amusements
Tuesday, Dec. 29
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
\$40/\$35 McLean district residents

Shadowland
Wednesday, Dec. 30
10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
\$35/\$30 McLean district residents

OFTC will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for trip participants.

The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123; TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org/special-events

Winter Break Camps

Half-Day Camp
For ages 4-6.
\$40 per day/\$30 McLean district residents

Activity No.	Day and Date	Time
8101.290	Monday, Dec. 2	9 a.m.-Noon
8102.290	Tuesday, Dec. 2	9 a.m.-Noon
8103.290	Wednesday, Dec. 30	9 a.m.-Noon

Full-Day Camp
For ages 5-9.
\$60 per day/\$50 McLean district residents

Activity No.	Day and Date	Time
8105.290	Monday, Dec. 28	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
8106.290	Tuesday, Dec. 29	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
8107.290	Wednesday, Dec. 30	9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The McLean Community Center
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FAITH

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

Old Fashioned Christmas Carol Sing, on Saturday, Dec. 19, 1-3 p.m. at Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna. Singing Christmas Carols with musicians from the Antioch Christian Church, sharing of the Christmas story and gifts for all children in attendance. 703-938-6753 or www.antiochdoc.org.

Vienna Baptist Living Nativity. 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20, at Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road,

S.W., Vienna. Angels, kings, shepherds, the Holy Family, live farm animals and more. Stay for hot drinks and cookies in the Fellowship Hall. 703-281-4400 or www.vbc-va.org.

The Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road in Vienna, will hold three Christmas Eve services on Thursday, Dec. 24. Contact 703-281-3987 or GoodShepherdVA.com.

❖5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Liturgy, for children and families.

❖7:30 p.m. Service of Music and the Word. Sharing the story of Christ's birth, hymns and carols.

❖11 p.m. Candlelight Communion service.

Oakton Church of the Brethren's Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7 p.m. on Dec. 24 and will feature candle lighting and communion. "Joy to the World, The Lord Has Come" is the title of the service. The church is located at 10025 Courthouse Rd., Vienna. For more information call 703 281-4411 or go to www.oaktonbrethren.org.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, will have several holiday season services. From Dec. 20-March 28, Sunday services will be at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. The adult forum and Sunday School will be at 9 a.m. Contact 703-759-2082 or www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org.

❖Sunday/Dec. 20. 10 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Pageant during the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service. Following the pageant, crafts from the Holy Land will be available for sale.

❖Sunday/Dec. 20. 5 p.m. Zion Rise! Words and Music for a Winter's Night. Celebrating Advent, Christmas, and the Winter Solstice. Free and open to the public.

❖Thursday/Dec. 24. 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Abbreviated Eucharists with carols and a brief homily, suitable for children.

❖Thursday/Dec. 24. 8 p.m. Christmas Eve service with the St. Francis adult choir.

❖Thursday/Dec. 24. 11 p.m. Midnight Mass of the Nativity with the St. Francis adult choir and a professional string quartet.

❖Friday/Dec. 25. 11 a.m. Worship service with Eucharist and carols.

❖Sunday/Dec. 27. 10 a.m. Christmastide baptism with carols.

❖Wednesday/Jan. 6. 7:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols service.

St. John's Episcopal Church at 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean, will hold Christmas worship services. Contact 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

❖Sunday, Dec. 20. 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Lessons will be read by parishioners and seasonal anthems sung by the choirs.

❖Thursday, Dec. 24. Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist at 4 p.m., following Christmas music at 3:30, for families with young children. At 7 p.m. a traditional service of Holy Eucharist includes carols led by the St. John's Quartet. At 10 p.m., Holy Eucharist follows Christmas music at 9:30 p.m. The Senior Choir with organ and woodwind accompaniment will lead the congregation in singing carols.

❖Friday, Dec. 25. 10 a.m. Christmas morning Holy Eucharist.

Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, is hosting a Live Nativity on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 5 p.m. There are three acts that will begin every 20 minutes. 703-759-5949.

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.

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.

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

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Baha'i Faith for Northern Virginia ... 703-821-3345
Baptist
Global Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462
Bethel Primitive Baptist Church ... 703-757-8134

Cartersville Baptist Church ... 703-255-7075
Fellowship Baptist Church ... 703-385-8516
First Baptist Church ... 703-938-8525
The Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400
New Union Baptist Church... 703-281-2556

Buddhist
Vajrayogini Buddhist Center... 202-331-2122

Church of the Brethren
Oakton Church of the Brethren ... 703-281-4411

Catholic
Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828
St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555
St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100

Charismatic
Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777
Church of Christ
Berea Church of Christ ... 703-893-7040

Disciples of Christ
Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

Episcopal
Church of the Holy Comforter ... 703-938-6521
Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991
St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082

Jehovah's Witness
Jehovah's Witnesses ... 703-759-1579

Lutheran
Emmanuel Lutheran Church... 703-938-2119
St. Athanasius Lutheran Church... 703-455-4003

Methodist
Andrew Chapel United Methodist ... 703-759-3509
Church of the Good Shepherd ... 703-281-3987
Dunn Loving United Methodist ... 703-573-5386
Ephiphany United Methodist... 703-938-3494
Great Falls United Methodist... 703-759-3705
Oakton United Methodist ... 703-938-1233

Vale United Methodist ... 703-620-2594
Smith Chapel United Methodist ... 571-434-9680
Wesley United Methodist ... 703-938-8700

Non-Denominational
Christian Assembly Church ... 703-698-9777

Presbyterian
Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church ... 703-560-6336
Korean Central Presbyterian ... 703-698-5577
Vienna Presbyterian ... 703-938-9050

Quaker
Langley Hills Friends... 703-442-8394

Seventh-Day Adventist
Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ... 703-342-9001
Vienna Seventh Day Adventists ... 703-938-6383

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Fairfax ... 703-281-4230

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2716 LINDA MARIE DR	5	2	1		OAKTON	\$715,000	Detached	0.73		CLARKES LANDING
1997 BARKHAM LN	3	3	1		VIENNA	\$715,000	Detached	0.23		WESTWOOD OAKS
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1832 CLOVERMEADOW DR	4	2	1		VIENNA	\$700,000	Detached	0.69		SUNNYBROOK
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1806 CLOVERMEADOW DR	4	2	1		VIENNA	\$626,000	Detached	0.77		SUNNYBROOK
2917 ELMESMEADE CT	3	3	1		OAKTON	\$625,000	Detached	0.10		OAK MARR COURTS
1487 NORTHERN NECK DR	3	3	1		VIENNA	\$618,000	Townhouse	0.02		TYSONS VILLAGE
1502 GINGERWOOD CT	5	3	0		VIENNA	\$595,000	Detached	0.60		CINNAMON CREEK
9424 COLONADE DR	3	3	1		VIENNA	\$592,500	Townhouse	0.05		VIRGINIA CENTER
2232 MALRAUX DR	4	3	1		VIENNA	\$575,000	Detached	0.21		TYSONS WOODS
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803 MEADOW LN SW	5	3	0		VIENNA	\$550,000	Detached	0.24		VIENNA WOODS
2108 PATTY LN	3	2	2		VIENNA	\$548,000	Townhouse	0.06		COURTHOUSE STATION
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2104 ELUNA CT	3	3	1		VIENNA	\$525,000	Townhouse	0.04		COURTHOUSE STATION
2873 SUTTON OAKS LN	4	3	1		VIENNA	\$499,900	Townhouse	0.04		COUNTRY CREEK
8533 PEPPERDINE DR	4	2	1		VIENNA	\$470,000	Detached	0.28		DUNN LORING WOODS
116 MELODY LN SW	3	2	0		VIENNA	\$470,000	Detached	0.33		VIENNA WOODS
1935 REPRIS CT	4	2	0		VIENNA	\$465,000	Detached	0.38		TIBURON
9674 SCOTCH HAVEN DR	3	3	1		VIENNA	\$460,000	Townhouse	0.04		COUNTRY CREEK
11607 HELMONT DR	3	2	0		OAKTON	\$445,000	Detached	0.55		GILMAR ESTATES
2348 WHEYSTONE CT	3	2	2		VIENNA	\$425,000	Townhouse	0.05		WHEYSTONE
201 MARIAN CIR SW	4	2	0		VIENNA	\$400,000	Detached	0.27		VIENNA WOODS
1556 NORTHERN NECK DR #101	2	2	0		VIENNA	\$396,500	Garden 1-4 Floors			WESTWOOD VILLAGE
702 KINGSLEY RD SW	3	2	0		VIENNA	\$393,900	Detached	0.24		VIENNA WOODS
2437 CAREY LN	3	1	0		VIENNA	\$392,000	Detached	0.50		FLINT HILL
7913 TYSON OAKS CIR	3	2	2		VIENNA	\$387,500	Townhouse	0.04		COURTS OF TYSONS
1576 LEEDS CASTLE DR #102	2	2	0		VIENNA	\$381,000	Townhouse			WESTWOOD VILLAGE
9912 OAKDALE WOODS CT	3	2	2		VIENNA	\$380,000	Townhouse	0.05		FIRST OAKTON PLACE
2963 CASHEL LN	3	3	1		VIENNA	\$379,900	Townhouse	0.03		WATERFORD
8012 TYSON OAKS CIR	3	3	1		VIENNA	\$375,000	Townhouse	0.03		COURTS OF TYSONS
2969 CASHEL LN	3	2	1		VIENNA	\$368,000	Ath/Row Hse	0.03		WATERFORD
3082 SUGAR LN	4	2	2		VIENNA	\$356,000	Townhouse	0.05		CYRANDALL VALLEY NORTH
2726 GALLOWES RD #716	2	2	0		VIENNA	\$336,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			WILTON HOUSE
9480 VIRGINIA CTR BLVD #213	2	2	0		VIENNA	\$332,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			ACADIA
2700 BELLFOREST CT #309	2	2	0		VIENNA	\$312,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			WESTBRIAR
8181 CARNEGIE HALL CT #302	2	2	0		VIENNA	\$289,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			WESTBRIAR
2546 GLENGYLE DR #177	3	2	1		VIENNA	\$272,500	Townhouse			MOSBYS LANDING
2817 JERMANTOWN RD #602	2	2	0		OAKTON	\$264,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			TREEBROOKE
10198C ASHBROOKE CT #127	2	2	0		OAKTON	\$263,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			TREVOR HOUSE
10204B ASHBROOKE CT #10	2	2	0		OAKTON	\$258,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			TREVOR HOUSE
10192 ASHBROOKE CT #UNIT A	2	2	0		OAKTON	\$229,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			TREVOR HOUSE
3178 SUMMIT SQ DR #3-B12	2	1	0		OAKTON	\$220,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			FOUR WINDS AT OAKTON
3178 SUMMIT SQ DR #3-B12	1	1	0		OAKTON	\$205,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			FOUR WINDS AT OAKTON
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212 PARK TERRACE CT #75	1	1	0		VIENNA	\$156,250	Garden 1-4 Floors			PARK TERRACE

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Oakton High Girls Win First Five

Caroline Coyer (5) and the Oakton High Cougars, shown here at last year's state AAA girls' basketball tournament, won their first five games of the new season, including a 69-30 home win over Jefferson on Dec. 15. Coyer, a standout sophomore point guard, scored 17 points in the win. The Cougars' leading scorer in the game was Zora Stephenson, who scored 20 points.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Local Wrestlers' Classic Success

Early season wrestling event officially kicks off new season.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Region Classic Wrestling Tournament took place Dec. 11-12 at Westfield High School. The annual, early season showcase event brings together top teams from the Northern Region and other areas of the state.

This year's team champion was host school Westfield (302 points), which finished well ahead of second place finisher Fairfax High (162). Rounding out the top five were third place Woodbridge (153), fourth place Annandale (143) and fifth place Potomac Falls of Sterling (142). In all, 32 teams competed at the two-day mat bonanza.

Local teams to finish well included seventh place Marshall High (126.5), ninth place Herndon (97.5), 15th place South Lakes (81.5) and 16th place Madison (80). McLean High finished 22nd overall and Oakton was 29th.

From Marshall, Andrew Embree captured the championship in the 215-weight class. He was a finals winner by second round pin over South Lakes' Reed Dismuke. Also for the Statesmen, Mark Bergenholtz (189) earned a third place finish, heavyweight Matt Crawford took fifth place, Connor Driscoll (103) finished seventh and Daniel Picado (145) was eighth.

Herndon High had several place finishers, including two Hornet wrestlers who gained second place medals in Matt Olem (135) and Josh Pike (125). Also for the Hornets, Gabe Pike (103) garnered fifth place, Justin Magerer (145) was seventh and Ramon Reyes (112) finished eighth.

From South Lakes, Reed Dismuke was second in the 215-weight class. Also for the Seahawks, Ryan Forrest (135) earned a third place medal while Alex Stanley (189) took sixth place.

For the Madison Warhawks, Albert Schultz (119) earned third place honors, while teammate Robert Dooley (112) battled for a fourth place standing. Daniel Feldman (103) finished sixth, Alex McSween (130) was seventh and Andrew Reinhard (heavyweight) was eighth.

From McLean, Marvin Garcia (130) and Andy Chung (119) both took sixth place in their respective weight divisions, while Highlander wrestlers Billy Dvorkin (189) and Ethan Arkin (135) both finished eighth.

Oakton's Wade Kostkan (152) took seventh place.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The Vienna Little League (VLL), which provides baseball programs for boys and girls in the greater Vienna area, is now accepting registrations for its Spring T-ball and baseball seasons. Children born between May 1, 1997 and April 30, 2005 are eligible to participate. The VLL Web site [www.vll.org] has extensive information on the League's programs, as well as comprehensive details on the VLL spring season fee schedule. All registrations must be made online. Vienna Little League will also have a Challenger Program, designed for children with disabilities who want to play baseball in a supportive environment at no cost to their families. Contact information is available on the Web site.

Fire and Ice Girls Fast Pitch Teams, ages 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U,

and 18U have limited openings for experienced players on their spring travel teams. For more information, call Mother Ice at 703-980-9951.

The Northern Virginia Softball Umpires Association (NVSUA) is seeking new umpires. The association is responsible for umpiring softball (fast-pitch and slow-pitch) recreation league games, VHSL-sanctioned high school games and tournaments in the Northern Virginia area. Umpires can earn \$23-plus an hour. Schedules are flexible based on ability and availability during the week and weekends. NVSUA uses a Web-based scheduling program. In-depth training is provided and begins in January. Contact Judy Cole at JudyUIC@cox.net or at 571-236-5744.

Madison Boys Get Feet Wet in the Varsity Game

Kuhblank's hard-working Warhawks are short on experience.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Craduation losses last June hit the Madison High boys' basketball squad hard. Just one current player, senior guard TJ Ehram, saw varsity playing time a year ago.

So, it was no real surprise that the Warhawks, under veteran head coach Chris Kuhblank, had lost their first four games to start the new season. The last of those defeats came on Tuesday, Dec. 15 when Madison fell to visiting South Lakes, 54-42, in both teams' Liberty District opener.

"We're a team that's very inexperienced," said Kuhblank, whose more experienced Madison team a year ago went 13-7 during the regular season with a 9-5 district mark. "TJ is the only player who had varsity playing time last year. We graduated a lot."

Ehram, the Madison team captain, scored four points in the loss to South Lakes (2-1). Madison's top scorers in the game were senior wing Ray Howard (10 points) and junior post player Dan McNerney (8). Junior guard Kavan Ranasinghe added six points.

Madison's first three games were setbacks to Chantilly, 64-25, local private school power Bishop O'Connell (Arlington), 74-34, and Forest Park (Dale City), 60-42. The O'Connell game took place at Madison, with the other contests were on the road.

Over time, Madison will certainly gain experience in the varsity game and show improvement.

Ehram, who scored nine points in the loss to O'Connell, fills several roles for the Warhawks in their

backcourt. He received good playing time as a backup last year.

"TJ's a great leader for us," said Kuhblank. "He's playing all guard positions, depending on who's in the game. He brings toughness and grit and finds a way to get it done. He's our defensive stopper."

The coach believes Ehram will be one of the district's top defensive players this winter.

Ranasinghe, who played point guard for the Madison JV last year, could develop into a solid varsity player, and freshman power forward Patrick Devens, who is 6-2, brings lots of potential to the line-up.

Kuhblank is impressed with his team's hard work ethic and all-out hustle in practices and games.

"We're practicing hard every day, working hard and getting better," he said.

The Warhawks will continue to play hard and try to pick up some wins along the way.

"We'll take our lumps early, keep plugging away and by tournament time we'll no longer be inexperienced," said the coach. "We're going to have to score by committee. We're small, young and inexperienced."

Madison will travel to Orlando, Fla. to take part in the KSA Holiday Basketball Tournament at Disney's Wide World of Sports facility, Dec. 27 through Jan. 1. Madison also competed at the Florida showcase event in both 2004 and 2007. Sixty-plus boys' and girls' teams will take part in the KSA tournament. Madison will compete in an eight-team boys' bracket.

"It's a great tournament," said Kuhblank, whose 2007 Madison team captured first place in Florida.

Prior to its holiday trip down south, Madison was scheduled to play home games against Northern Region opponents Oakton on Friday, Dec. 18 and Stone Bridge on Tuesday, Dec. 22. The Stone Bridge game is a district affair.

Tibetan History and Music Come to Brookfield School

BY CATHERINE PASCHAL
THE CONNECTION

Students at Brookfield School had reason to dance Monday morning, Dec. 14, and it wasn't Miley Cyrus that got them moving, but snippets of a Tibetan Opera performed by a native musician who paid a visit to the McLean school.

The school's Anthropology Express Program, with its focus on Tibet this year, hosted guests Tencho Gyatso, special assistant for advocacy for the International Campaign for Tibet, and Tibetan musician Karma Gyaltzen.

Bringing Tibet's culture, architecture and people to life through photographs, Gyatso related the attachment nomads feel for their colorfully adorned yaks and explained that, although a herd might consist of 50 to 60 of the animals, nomads know them all by name and can tell instantly if one is missing.

The conversation also turned to the Chinese invasion and the origins of the conflict that drove Tibetans into exile, with Gyatso noting that her people were unprepared for the unprovoked attack of their

country 60 years ago.

"You can't fight with stones against guns," she said.

Today, 130,000 Tibetans are living in exile worldwide with between 7,000 and 8,000 living in the United States and a small community of approximately 200 in Northern Virginia. Brookfield students learned that Tibetan children in the U.S. attend schools that teach them the language and culture of their native country.

Professional musician Karma Gyaltzen had the students and staff on their feet and dancing as he demonstrated instruments native to Tibet and explained the musical and dance customs of his country. He performed a fraction of an eight-hour-long Tibetan opera noting that such performances in Tibet are interactive and interwoven with symbols of the culture.

Brookfield's Upper School students then performed for their guests, led by Performing Arts Specialist Sandra Kammann. Kammann decided to make Tibet the focus of this year's Anthropology Express Program after partaking in an international delegation of women who visited India and Nepal to work with the Tibetan Buddhist commu-



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Professional musician Karma Gyaltzen demonstrated instruments native to Tibet and explained the musical and dance customs of his country.

nity-in-exile.

"Students are exploring traditional nomadic life among yak herders and the twin challenges of a desolate landscape and harsh weather conditions," Kammann said.

"Through stories, geographical maps and group discussions, students have come to understand the movement of many Tibetans across the borders into India and Nepal." The class will culminate with a performance this May at Brookfield.



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

McLean residents and Sweet Stuff owners Sherry, Andre and Arita Matini recently opened the Sweetleaf eatery in downtown McLean.

Stuff but had become a regular at Sweetleaf since it opened. "I'm so ecstatic that we finally have a restaurant that has healthy food and is delicious," she said, adding that her favorite dishes were the yogurt — loaded with raspberries — and the chicken pesto sandwich. She said the restaurant's location, reasonable prices, attitude toward the environment and friendly, personal atmosphere made it a favorite for her and her family. She noted that the owners even knew her dog by name.

"Rarely a day goes by that one of my family members is not going to Sweetleaf, and usually, it's me," Reid said.

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Updated, But Still Sweet

Sweet Stuff owners open Sweetleaf downtown, emphasizing 'green' and fresh.

After McLean resident Sherry Matini's son and daughter finished college, they decided they wanted to stay in their family's restaurant business. So, while the Matinis still own their Sweet Stuff carry-out restaurant at Old Dominion Drive and Spring Hill Road, they relinquished the restaurant's operations and, earlier this year, opened Sweetleaf at the old Moorenko's location in downtown McLean.

"The difference in the menu is just the way the food is prepared," said Matini's son, Andre, noting that salads are now made to order, rather than prepackaged, and sandwiches are available hot. This was his idea, and he summed up the sandwich and salad concept on the staff's T-shirts: "Guys like it hot, girls like it fresh."

MINOR DIFFERENCES include the addition of cupcakes to the menu and a change in yogurt flavor. "You can get anything you want, healthy or unhealthy," Andre Matini said.

The restaurant opened in early June. Primarily a lunchtime establishment, Sweetleaf's menu also includes soups, frozen yogurt, smoothies, pastries, a variety of coffees and 15 flavors of ice cream. The food is made fresh from scratch each day and the produce comes from local growers.

The family also embraced a "green" concept for the new restaurant, springing a little

extra for wind power and recycling diligently. The cups and flatware, however don't need to be recycled. They're made from corn and are biodegradable. "Everybody's trying to be a little more environmentally friendly, but we didn't want it to cost too much to operate," Andre Matini said, noting that the family had not wanted to make the operation so "overly green" as to drive up prices.

"We wanted to stay in the neighborhood because my mom knows a lot of people here," he said, adding that he knew about half the new restaurant's customers from Sweet Stuff. To support the community, Sweetleaf entertains the chorus from neighboring McLean Baptist Church on the church's chorus nights, and students get free wireless access between 3-6 p.m. during the week. And if they're studying, they get free coffee. "We had a couple of kids bring it up and we thought it would be a great idea," Andre Matini said.

His sister, Arita, took care of the interior design for the new eatery, which uses earth tones and lets interior beams and ducts remain exposed. Seating, indoor and outdoor, consists of tables with chairs or benches. There are no booths. She said she wanted to create a homey, country feel.

MCLEAN RESIDENT Sarah Richmond Reid said she had been familiar with Sweet

'Tis the Season...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

To be thankful. Let's be realistic; I'm a stage IV lung cancer patient/survivor, eight months into a treatment protocol with a life expectancy initially projected out to between 13 months and two years, so jolly isn't really in the discussion – or in my vocabulary any more. Still, I'm not complaining, just providing a little context for the rest of this column.

It's post-Thanksgiving Sunday and now that the food and festivities are mostly finished (and work looms tomorrow, Monday, for many), reality has once again reared its ugly head. Life goes on (for me, Thank God!) but to not be thankful every day for the "above average"/relative good medical fortune I've experienced (since receiving my quite unexpected diagnosis last March) would be disrespectful to those very Gods who likely control my fate.

Whatever mental exercises in futility I employ to defeat these death-defying cancer demons, I do so without their expressed written consent. It is a battle royal every day (more so the nights) and no doubt it will be a battle to the end, or at least that's my intention. And one of my unique weapons in this war against attrition is my attitude. Inherited from my parents, I guess, programmed somehow into my DNA, I can fight this fight with positive – and realistic optimism, good humor and good sense. But "jolly" I can no longer be, regardless of the season. Thankful though, at every opportunity, I can and will be this holiday season.

And not that I think this "holiday season" will be my last. Hardly. But as a cancer patient, one of the attitudes you are encouraged to embrace is "today." I can still remember Team Lourie's first meeting with my oncologist (how can I forget?) when, after listening to the doctor's reading/reviewing of all my medical reports/scans and biopsy, ending in the diagnosis with which many of you regular readers are intimately familiar, I replied, "Wow, it doesn't sound like I should be working any more;" to which the doctor added, "And you might want to consider taking that vacation you've always wanted to." ("WHAT!?", in my head.) From that moment (the beginning, if you will), it was communicated to me/us (my wife, my brother and me) that tomorrow (the future) has now left the building. At that point, the word "jolly" also left and went right out of my brain for evermore.

But it's eight months later, almost nine in fact, much has transpired in my treatment. I have "tolerated" (a semi medical term commonly used, in my experience, anyway, to describe the body's reaction to whatever the doctor/medication is doing to it) extremely, maybe even exceptionally well, all that my oncologist has "protooled." What happens next? What scenario might play out? It depends on everything that it is dependent upon. Meaning, death and taxes – as they say, are all that's guaranteed, as opposed to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. One is a declaration, the other is a decree, almost.

Every day presents new challenges, mentally and physically. My attitude remains good, great even. "Jolly" it will never be, though. Thankful, it most certainly is.

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

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4 RE for Sale	21 Announcements	26 Antiques	The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition. -William Van Horne
Attention Investors !! Properties For Sale MD, VA and DC Area Properties Go Fast CALL TODAY 301-534-7772 www.PillarProDeals.com	ABC LICENSE Assaggi Osteria, LLC trading as Assaggi Osteria, 6641 Old Dominion Drive, Mclean, VA 22101. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Domenico Cornacchia, Managing Member	We consign/pay top \$ for antique/semi antique furn. including mid century & danish modern Teak furniture, sterling, mens watches, painting/art glass, clocks, jewelry, costume jewelry, etc. Call Schefer Antiques @ 703-241-0790.	

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21 Announcements	21 Announcements	21 Announcements	21 Announcements
OBITUARY Christal Ann Sudduth, 77, of Oceanside, CA passed away on November 25, 2009. Mrs. Sudduth was born on July 1, 1932 in Los Angeles, CA. She earned a Bachelor's degree from UCLA in 1954 and later taught pre-school for many years. Christal married then-Lt. JG Roger Sudduth on June 5, 1954. They travelled the world together, both in the Navy and as civilians, with Roger retiring as a Captain in 1977. She is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Roger of Oceanside, CA; daughter, Lesley Barnard of San Diego, CA; son, Lawrence Sudduth of Arlington, VA; sister, Joy Denman of Washington D.C.; grandchildren, Devin Elliott of Ft. Myers, FL, Allyssa Sudduth and Robert Sudduth both of Marlborough, CT. She was preceded in death by a son, Darryl Sudduth, in 2001. A Memorial Mass was celebrated at 5:00pm, on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at Saint John Vianney Catholic Church on Balboa Island, CA. The Committal will be held on Tuesday, April 13 at 11:00am at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA. Arrangements are by Poway-Bernardo Mortuary.			
Nothing is too small to know, and nothing too big to attempt. -William Van Horne			

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Back row, from left, are Bill Shackelford, first vice president of the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) of NARFE; Bob Miller, secretary of the VFC; Bill Martin, president of the VFC; Jane Seeman, mayor of Vienna; Joe Beaudoin, national vice president of NARFE; Pierce Johnson, Area IX vice president of the VFC; and, front row, Shirley Keyes, 2010 Chapter 1116 president and Kathy Arpa, 2009 Chapter 1116 president and Area X vice president of the VFC.

Vienna-Oakton NARFE Chapter Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Chapter 1116 (Vienna-Oakton) of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) celebrated their 40th anniversary on Dec. 9 at the Marco Polo Restaurant in Vienna. Members and guests enjoyed lunch following by an awards ceremony and installation of officers for 2010. Among those attending the celebration were Jane Seeman, mayor of Vienna; Joe Beaudoin, national vice president of NARFE; Bill Martin, president of the Virginia Federation of Chapters (VFC) of NARFE; Bill Shackelford, first vice president of the VFC of NARFE; Sharon Stark and Steve Jerry from U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly's (D-11) office; and Del.-elect Mark Keam (D-35). Past chapter presidents in attendance were Andrew Prokop (1985-87), Donald Wiesnet (1993-94), Shirley Martin (1995-97), Robert Stankey (1998-99), Carolyn Buttolph (2001-02) and 2005-06) and Kathy Arpa (2007-09). The chapter was chartered in 1969 with 42 members. Today, the chapter has 682 members. NARFE was formed in 1921 by 14 federal employees with the specific objective of protecting the interests of federal retirees and particularly their federal pensions and health benefits. NARFE is open to all current and retired federal employees. Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of the month at the Vienna Community Center at 1:30 p.m. For information, contact Chapter President Shirley Keyes at 703-698-1838.



Gift Bags for Children Afflicted with Lyme Disease
Middle school students from Dominion Christian School in Oakton assembled 50 Christmas gift bags for youth afflicted with chronic Lyme disease.

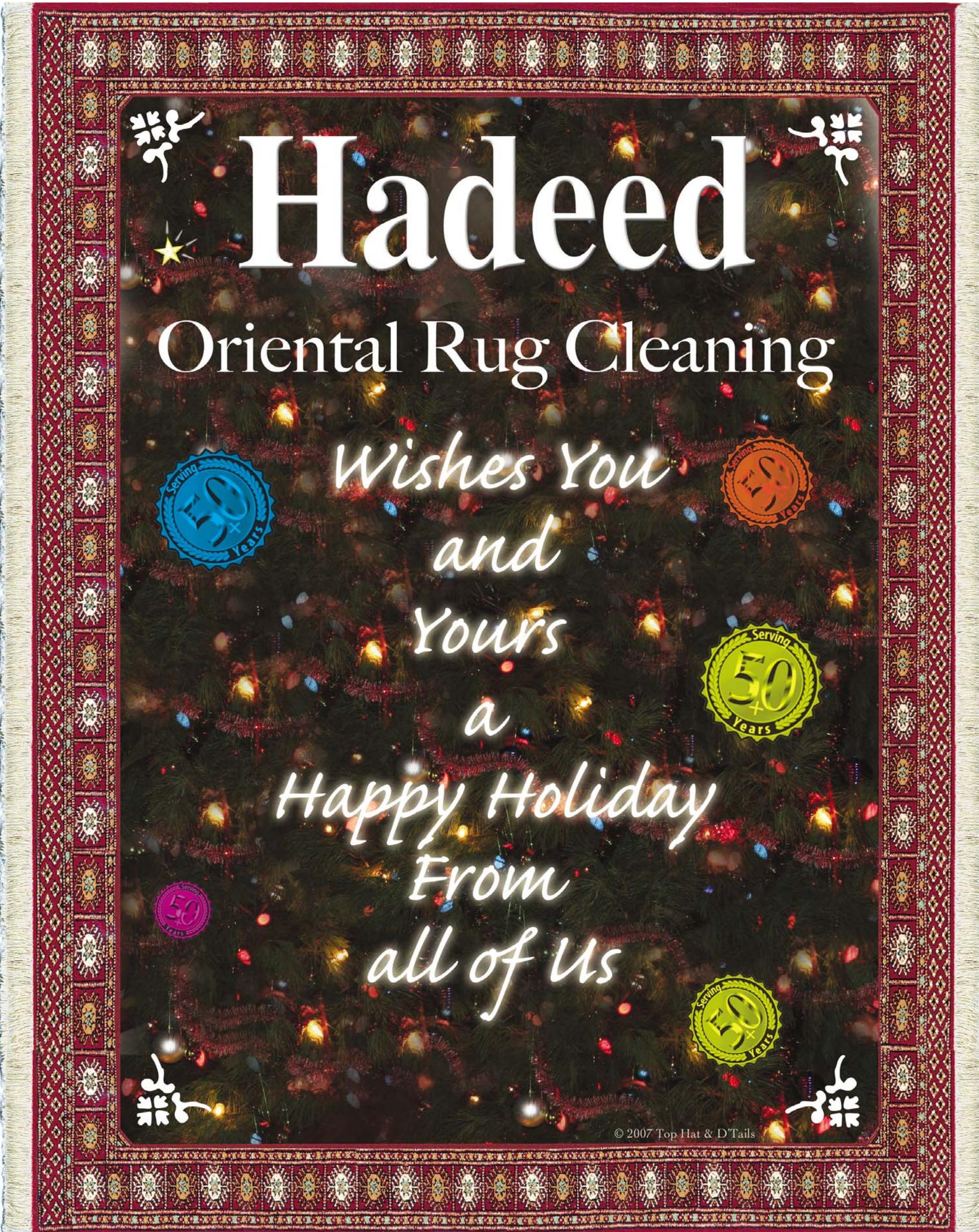
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