

Park Teaches About Potomac And its Natives

NEWS, PAGE 3

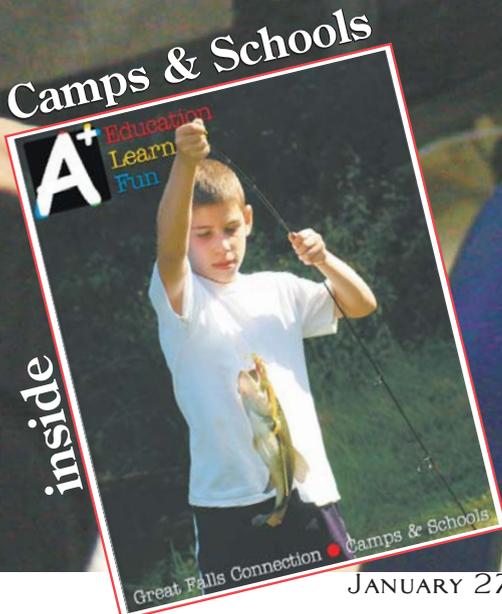
Honk For Haiti

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Job Creation As Job #1

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PHOTO BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/THE CONNECTION
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Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) discusses the General Assembly session at Town Hall meeting at the Longfellow Middle School last Saturday. In this week's Connection, Comstock writes about her first week in Richmond.

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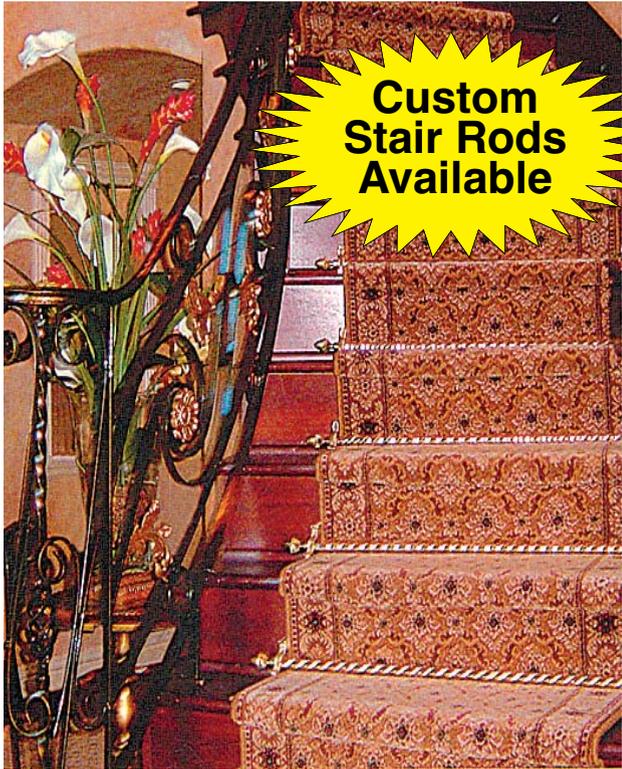
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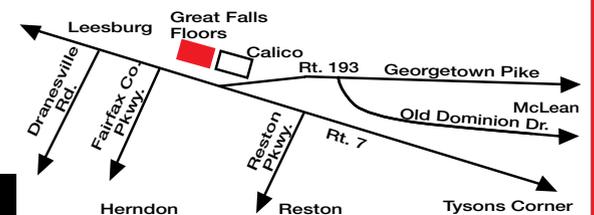
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Artist Rose Powhatan, a descendent of Northern Virginia's Pamunkey and Tauxenent tribes, poses with the totem pole she made and donated to the new Riverbend Park exhibit.



Riverbend Park manager Marty Smith poses with the mannequin of a Tauxenent warrior, whose clothes and accessories he fashioned himself.

Park Teaches about Potomac and its Natives

New exhibit at Riverbend features local tribes, flora and fauna.

River Bend Park manager Marty Smith made the clothes, jewelry and accessories for the mannequin of a Tauxenent warrior now on display in the park's visitor center by himself. "I've been making my own moccasins since I was 20 years old," he said, noting that the stitching was authentic.

The exhibit teaching visitors about native Northern Virginia tribes and the ecology and geology of the Potomac Gorge that they inhabited, which opened last Saturday, Jan. 23, has been in the works for about three years, Smith said. But, faced with budget cuts, park staff members ended up having to create some of the exhibit themselves.

DRAWING on their own knowledge, as well as examples from Smithsonian collections, staffers recreated artifacts and scenes from the daily lives of the tribes that inhabited the Fairfax County area hundreds of years ago. "We're very fortunate that we have some really talented staff," Smith said. Among the staff's creations is a full-sized dugout canoe that chil-

"When it comes to my paintings, I've always seen them complete in my dreams."

— Rose Powhatan, artist

dren are encouraged to climb aboard.

Many other artifacts in the new exhibit are actual Native American relics found at the park, dating as far back as 12,000 years. These include pieces of pottery, pipes, weapons and other items. "Riverbend has more Native American sites at the park than any other spot in Fairfax County," Smith said.

Few exhibits have dealt with the native tribes of D.C. and Northern Virginia, but Smith said Riverbend was a natural location to explore the subject. Until budget cuts became prohibitive a couple of years ago, the park was home to the annual Virginia Indian Festival.

A centerpiece of the exhibit is a totem pole created by Rose Powhatan, a descendant of the local Pamunkey and Tauxenent tribes. Pictographs on the pole's shaft tell the story of the annual journey that members of the Pamunkey and Mattaponi tribes make to the Virginia Governor's Mansion to commemorate the 1646 treaty between Virginia tribes and the king of England.

Initially, the tribe members brought 20 beaver pelts, Powhatan said, although deerskins are now more commonly used. "Sometimes, the governor might ask for wild turkeys," she said.

The illustrations would not have appeared on a traditional totem pole, but the upturned face on top would have, she said. Totem poles were used to designate areas of the village that were used for ceremonies, and the faces on top represented people being honored or remembered.

Powhatan made the 8-foot piece as part of a set of six totem poles that she and her husband entered in a tri-state competition for art for the Vienna Metro Station when it was built in the 1980s. They were on display at the Metro station for about a year. "Since that time, they've been used ceremonially at powwows and I use them educationally," Powhatan said. The pole is now on permanent loan to the park.

POWHATAN said she always prepared for an art project by fasting and praying, never by making sketches. "When it comes to my paintings, I've always seen them complete in my dreams," she said.

Also on display are rocks, animals and other specimens from the Potomac Gorge, which Smith said was "one of the most biologically diverse areas on the East Coast." The exhibit emphasizes the importance of flooding that happens

SEE HISTORY, PAGE 9



PHOTOS BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Mark von Keszycski presents Sandra Diefenderfer with the gift basket she won in the Great Falls Business and Professional Association's first 'Shop Local' campaign.

First 'Shop Local' Campaign Wraps Up

Business and Professional Association looks for ways to expand effort this year.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Locally owned, "mom-and-pop" businesses are what determine much of a community's character, said Mark von Keszycski of the Great Falls Business and Professional Association (BPA), after the association wrapped up its first "Shop Local" campaign last Wednesday morning, Jan. 20.

Michael Vandergrift, also of the BPA, added that supporting local businesses resulted in an "economic trickle effect," as those businesses employed local residents and bought from other local companies. And, he said, shopping locally saves

time and money and is better for the environment than driving to distant shopping districts.

In July, members of the BPA began discussing the coming holiday season, Vandergrift told the 15 or so people at the association's morning meeting last week. The result, he said, was a six-week campaign to draw residents into local businesses during the shopping season. Residents could bring entry forms into any of more than two dozen participating local businesses for chances to win gift baskets that those companies were helping to fill.

SEE SHOP LOCAL, PAGE 9



Sara Darnell was one of four residents to win a gift basket, presented by Mark von Keszycski, center, and Michael Vandergrift, in the BPA's 'Shop Local' campaign.

Job Creation as Job #1

Freshman delegate reflects on first week in Richmond.

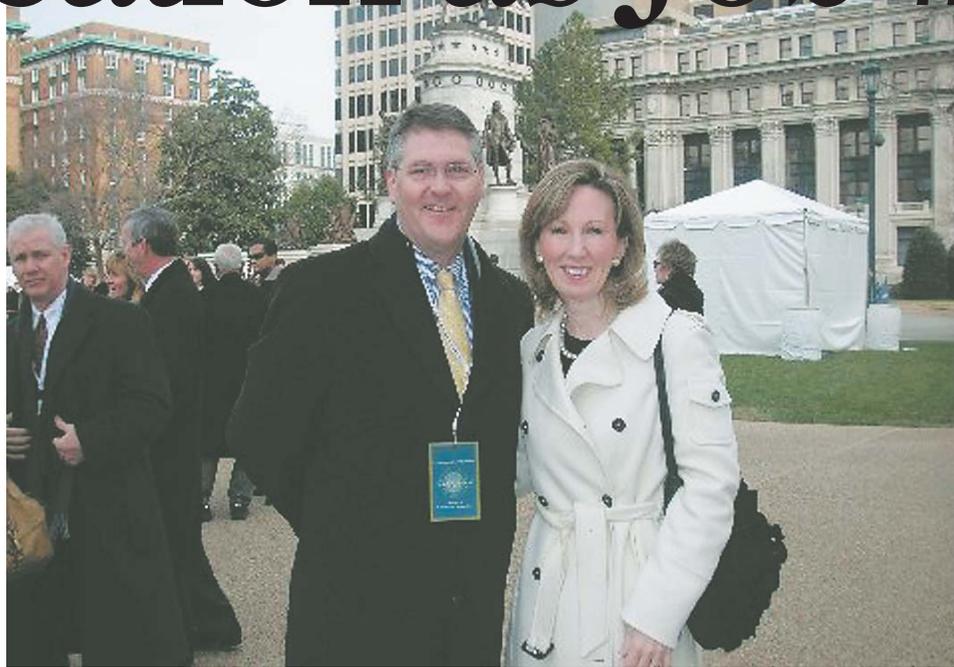
BY BARBARA COMSTOCK
STATE DELEGATE (R-34)

It was an honor to join the oldest continuous legislative body in the New World on Wednesday, Jan. 13 when I was sworn in to the Virginia House of Delegates as the representative for the 34th District of Virginia. On Sunday, Jan. 17, we were able to have a second ceremonial swearing in for family and friends in the House Chamber. I was honored to have, as our special guest, our former Del. Vince Callahan, who provided 40 years of distinguished service as our delegate before his retirement in 2007. Over the Inaugural weekend, we were delighted to join with so many of our Northern Virginia friends and neighbors who came to Richmond.

STANDING inside our Commonwealth's Capitol, a building designed by Thomas Jefferson, with the cornerstone laid by Patrick Henry, you can't help but see and hear the echoes of our past. The hardship we face today is put into perspective by the history and tradition of this institution and the challenges faced by our founding fathers.

In Gov. Robert McDonnell's (R) Inaugural Address on Jan. 16, as well as in his address to the General Assembly the following Monday, he made clear that job creation and the economy will be Job #1. Strengthening Virginia's economy and expanding our job-friendly environment will in turn ensure that we have the resources to adequately fund education, transportation, health care and core services. The governor made clear that he does not want to further add to the state tax burden during this tough economy where families and businesses have to do more with less. This sentiment was reinforced last week by a 97-0 vote by the entire House of Delegates, against the large tax hike that former Gov. Tim Kaine (D) included in his final budget.

Gov. Kaine's budget bequeathed a dire financial situation with a \$4 billion shortfall. The budget has many structural imbalances that have developed over the years and many of the cuts made to date have been one time cuts or budget gimmicks such as pushing payments from the end of December to January, instead of fundamental budgetary and government reform and reprioritizing of our budget. However, what I believe is the worst item imposed by Gov. Kaine on Fairfax County was the unexpected and unprecedented freeze on the education formula. This formula determines how much state funding Fairfax County receives



Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) with husband Chip in Richmond for the Gov. Robert McDonnell's (R) swearing in.



On Sunday, Jan. 17, family and friends attended the second ceremonial swearing-in in the House Chamber. Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34), middle, is pictured with her daughter Caitly Comstock; mother and father Sally and John Burns; and son Peter Comstock.



Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34), third from left, poses with Caren Merick of McLean, niece Megan Rapuano and Lisa Gable of Middleburg, Va.

for our schools based on ability to pay and his budget exacerbated this already unfair formula resulting in a loss of \$60 million for Fairfax County in order to save \$30 million for the state. Most, if not all, of the Northern Virginia delegation support reversing this freeze and support budget amendments for that purpose. The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and a business coalition have joined us in this bipartisan effort and we will be working with them to fight this proposal. Sunday night, Jan. 24, I joined many of our active and involved parents at Churchill Road Elementary School along with Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) to discuss their concerns about this issue.

ADDITIONAL EFFORTS I will focus on include: helping small business with tax relief and providing tax incentives and investments to attract top jobs to Virginia; making Virginia the energy capital of the East Coast; providing transportation solutions that prioritize congestion relief and protect Georgetown Pike; protecting the weakest among us who depend on institutionalized care or at home care, and finding better solutions for treating and tracking the growing and debilitating incidents of Lyme Disease.

My committee assignments include the Transportation Committee, the Science and Technology Committee and General Laws Committee. These assignments will help me address many of the pressing needs of our area. I am particularly pleased that Northern Virginians have important seats at the table of the new Cabinet including two constituents I am honored to represent:

- ❖ Secretary of Technology, Jim Duffy (34th District resident)
- ❖ Secretary of Trade and Commerce, Jim Cheng (34th District resident)
- ❖ Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Dr. Bill Hazel
- ❖ Secretary of Transportation, Sean Connaughton
- ❖ Secretary of Natural Resources, Doug Domenech

This past Saturday morning, Jan. 23, many of you joined Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), Del. Jim Scott (D-53) and me at a Town Hall meeting at Longfellow Middle School. I would like to thank what was a very active and vocal group of citizens who discussed and debated the challenges facing our Commonwealth and our budget.

I appreciate hearing your concerns and encourage you to contact my office at any time. I can be reached during the General Assembly session at 804-698-1034 or Del. Barbara Comstock, P.O. Box 406, Richmond, VA 23218 or you can e-mail me at delbcomstock@house.virginia.gov. Also please visit my Web site at www.DelegateComstock.com where you can fill out our online 2010 Legislative Survey.

SCHOOLS

Forestville E.S. Receives Governor's Award

Forestville Elementary School has just received the Governor's Award.

"This year we are one of two Langley Pyramid Elementary Schools so honored along with Churchill Road. For the past few years, Forestville has been honored with the State Board of Education Excellence Award in Education, the second tier VIP award given by the state of Virginia," said Matt Harris, principal, Forestville Elementary.

Thirty-six Fairfax County Schools received Governor's Award for Educational Excellence. The award is the highest honor under the Virginia Index of Performance (VIP) incentive program created by the Board of Education in 2007 to advance former Gov. Tim Kaine's "competence to excellence" agenda promoting advanced learning and achievement.

To qualify for the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, schools and school divisions must meet all state and federal achievement benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and achieve applicable excellence goals for elementary reading, enrollment in



PHOTO BY KRISTINE NASH

Forestville Elementary School principal Matt Harris and Assistant Principal Kathleen Quigley.

Algebra I by grade 8, enrollment in college-level courses, high school graduation, attainment of advanced diplomas, increased attainment of career and industry certifications, and participation in

the Virginia Preschool Initiative. Schools and school divisions also earn bonus points for other performance measures, including the Governor's Nutrition and Physical Activity Scorecard.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

The 2010 Liberty District Theatre Festival begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30 at George C. Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church. Eight schools will be allotted 45 minutes each for a one-act performance: Langley HS at 10 a.m., Thomas Jefferson HS at 10:45 a.m., South Lakes HS at 11:30 a.m., Stone Bridge HS at 1:15 p.m., McLean HS at 2 p.m., James Madison HS at 2:45 p.m., Fairfax HS at 3:30 p.m. and Marshall HS at 4:15 p.m. Contact 703-336-2134 or joe.swarm@fcps.edu.

Langley High School Wind Symphony has been invited to perform at the Music for All National Festival in Indianapolis in March. High school and middle school instrumental ensembles around the country audition for the festival via a taped audition sent to Music for All, one of the nation's largest and most influential organizations in support of active music making. The Langley High School Wind Symphony is under the direction of Andrew Gekoskie. Only sixteen high school concert bands were accepted into this year's festival, to be held

March 4-6. The bands will perform at Clowes Memorial Hall in Indianapolis. www.musicforall.org/programs/mfanf/.

Tips on Trips and Camps Fair. Saturday, Jan. 30 at The Potomac School, 1301 Potomac School Road, McLean. Camp Fair 1 p.m.; Panel Discussion on Foreign Language Programs 12:30 p.m. Summer overnight camps, travel, language or cultural immersion programs, community service, internships and more for children 8-18. Directors of various programs will attend. 703-345-0722 or meg@tipsontripsandcamps.com.

Corey Lynch of Great Falls was named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Conn.

Michelle Bovee of Great Falls has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at James Madison University. Bovee is a graduate of Langley High School.

Julia Korzeniewski of Great Falls has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Muhlenberg College of Allentown, Pa. Korzeniewski, a theater major, is a graduate of Flint Hill School and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Korzeniewski.

Mary Jean Stack of Great Falls has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Muhlenberg College of Allentown, Pa. Stack, a dance and Russian studies major, is a graduate of Langley High School and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Stack.

Catherine E. Brennan of Great Falls was named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Saint Michael's College of Colchester, Vt., where she is a senior sociology/anthropology major. Brennan is the daughter of John and Paulina Brennan, and a graduate of Ramstein High School.

Steven A. Christopher of McLean has been named to the headmaster's list at Virginia Episcopal School. Christopher is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew M. Christopher.

Four Marymount University students from McLean, including history education major **Charles Abel**, business administration major **Sedinam Asem**, interior design major **Rebecca Leon** and fashion merchandising major **Julia Rouse**, have been named as national outstanding campus leaders and included in the 2009 edition of Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

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Our medical volunteers are in Haiti now. Please help.



www.cchaiti.org

Partners with CCH in the Haiti relief effort include: MedAssets; Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children; Missionary Flights International; and MTS Services.



"In addition to our prayers, the people of Haiti are in great need of our compassion and assistance."

— Charles Mann, Inova Health System Board Member



"Luciana and I have worked with the Community Coalition for Haiti and we ask you to join us in supporting the humanitarian efforts that are under way."

— Robert & Luciana Duvall



"We all need to take swift action to make sure that relief reaches the people of Haiti as quickly as it can."

— Darrell Green, NFL Hall of Fame

Photo by © Cameron Davidson



**'Embracing the Dream' at
McLean Community Center**

'Embracing the Dream, Celebrating Our Blues Heritage,' presented by the McLean Community Center on Sunday, Jan. 17, brought a diverse crowd together to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Program participants included, from left, Dr. Ed Jackson Jr., executive architect of the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King Jr., National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc.; Rev. Dr. Robert F. Cheeks Jr., pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, McLean; Rev. Todd A. Brown, pastor of First Baptist Church of Chesterbrook, McLean; Julie Rasmussen, executive director of the McLean Community Center; Michael Hill, bandleader of Michael Hill's Blues Mob and Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), posing around a rendering of the Martin Luther King Jr., National Memorial's Stone of Hope.

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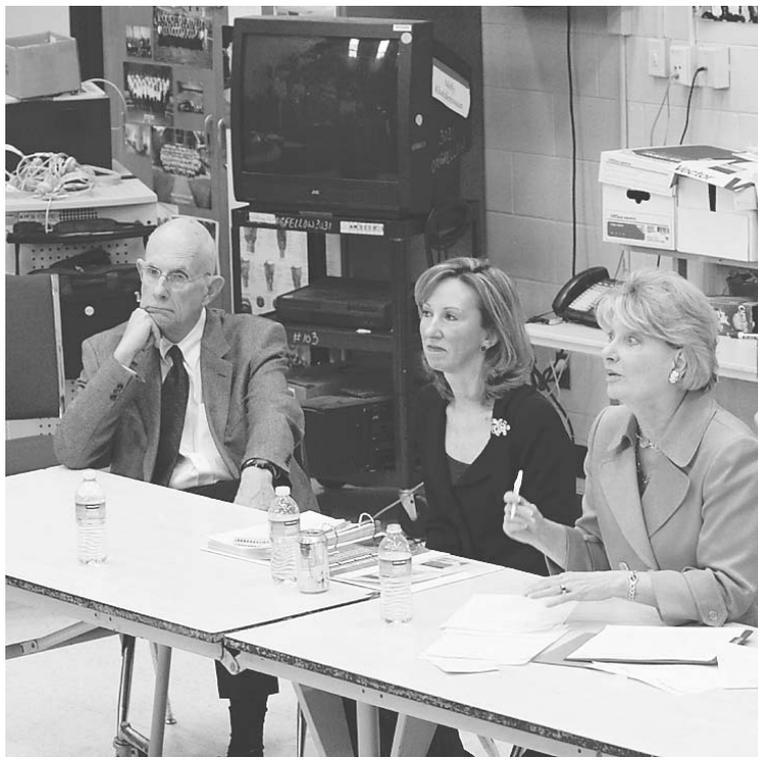


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PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/THE CONNECTION

Area residents meet state legislators at the Longfellow Middle School last Saturday



Delegates Jim Scott (D-53) and Barbara Comstock (R-34) and State Sen. Janet Howell (D-32) discuss the General Assembly Session.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

TUESDAY/FEB. 9
National Association Active and Retired Federal Employees Monthly Meeting. 1:30 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Stories of Yesteryear: Members Profile with Don Wiesnet, Elaine Fitzpatrick and Gayle Reed. 703-698-1838 or shirleykeyes@aol.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 11
VTRCC Valentine's Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. at the Maplewood Grill, 132 Branch Road, Vienna. 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org.

TUESDAY/FEB. 16
VTRCC Monthly Mixer. 5:30 p.m. at the Lebanese Taverna, Tysons Galleria, 1840G International Drive, McLean. 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 19
VTRCC Brown Bag University. 12 p.m. at the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, 8300 Boone Blvd. #450, Vienna. 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org.
Republican Club of Greater Reston Annual Lincoln-Reagan Dinner. Hidden Creek County Club, Reston. 703-406-9740.

State Legislators Meet Constituents

School Budget Dominates Agenda

The area legislators — Virginia Dels. Jim Scott (D-53) and Barbara Comstock (R-34) and State Sen. Janet Howell (D-32) — met area residents last Saturday at the Longfellow Middle School to present their legislative agenda and hear citizens' concerns and ideas for this year's Virginia

General Assembly Session. A range of issues, from off shore drilling to snow piled in handicapped parking spots to raising cigarette taxes, was discussed. A major issue on many people's minds was the concern of budget

cuts in public schools. A student from McLean High School came to explain the negative ramifications of these cuts, noting that the schools' indoor track program was proposed to be cut next year.



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OPINION

Time for Civil Redistricting

Governor campaigned on non-partisan redistricting; now is time for proposals in General Assembly.

The U.S. Census is underway, an every-10-year process that attempts to count every single person in the United States at their home address. From the results of the count come a nearly infinite number of critical decisions. The way those decisions are carried out have consequences for every one of us.

One of those decisions is the redrawing of political lines for all political offices, including the General Assembly, U. S. Congress and local offices. In Virginia, the current process allows the political party in charge to draw the lines.

Proposals in the Virginia General Assembly could lead to a change in politics and democracy here. The measures would establish the Virginia Redistricting Commission to redraw Congressional and General Assembly district boundaries without the bitter partisan hatchet that has characterized Virginia's process under each party in the past.

Tradition in Virginia holds that the ruling

party decides how to redraw the lines around political districts after each census. The process in the past has involved the majority party using its power without any checks or balances to create districts that protect incumbents of the majority party and try to force out incumbents of the minority party.

EDITORIAL

The losers in the process are the citizens of Virginia, who first find themselves in political districts that make little sense geographically or in terms of communities of interest. They then find that even if they are unhappy with their elected officials, the gerrymandering has created districts that have killed any competition between parties, and that each party strongly discourages any primary challenges.

The result: most voters have far less choice in who represents them than they should.

There are probably hundreds of ways to set up a commission or non-partisan board that would take the politics out of the process.

House Bill 323, introduced by Del. Ken Plum

Summary of Redistricting Bill

"Bipartisan Redistricting Commission created. Establishes a seven-member temporary commission to prepare redistricting plans in 2011 and each tenth year thereafter for the House of Delegates, state Senate, and congressional districts. Appointments to the Commission shall be made one each by the four majority and minority party leaders of the House and Senate and by the state chairmen of the two major political parties. Those six appointees shall appoint the seventh member and chairman of the Commission. If they cannot agree, they shall submit the names of the two persons receiving the most votes to the Supreme Court for the Court to select the chairman. The Commission will prepare plans and submit them as bills to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall then proceed to act on the bills in the usual manner. The bill provides for Commission comments on plans as they change in the legislative process. It also spells out the standards and process to be followed by the Commission in preparing plans, including limitations on the use of political data and opportunities for public comment on the plans."

SOURCE: <http://leg1.state.va.us/lis.htm>

(D) of Reston, and Senate Bill 626, introduced by Sen. Jill Holtzman Vogel (R) pave the way for real reform and integrity in the political process.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Taking a High Road to 2020

The time is right to form a special tax district for Great Falls.

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY

I wrote a column here a few weeks ago about the importance of examining the platform on which we engage in conversation with various constituencies on behalf of the Great Falls community — using the recent experience regarding the turning lanes at Route 7 and Seneca Road as an example of our being disregarded — and calling us to building a more effective platform going forward.

Over the last year and a half, I have had the honor of taking the results of our Vision for Great Falls in the Year 2020 forward through the North County Area Plans Review process in an attempt to incorporate as many of our wishes for our community as possible into the Commonwealth of Virginia's Comprehensive Plan for Fairfax County. It was amazing to participate with an esteemed panel of task force members from throughout the Dranesville District under the astute leadership of John

Ulfelder, chairman. Through the responses of the task force members, it was possible to see how things work, where things "stick" jurisdictionally and where the process of master planning falls short.

"Jurisdictional authority" seems to vary from one domain to another and no one governing entity seems to have authority over everything that matters to residents of Great Falls. For example, our community wants the overhead wires buried. Language is being added to the Comprehensive Plan to require buried wires on all new projects, but the Comprehensive Plan process does not have jurisdiction over existing wires. The electrical commission and/or communications commission would need to be approached to get existing wires buried. Transportation is another challenge. Our community knows that traffic congestion is second only to over-development as a major threat to our quality of life. Yet Fairfax County does not have full jurisdiction over roads in the county. VDOT, a Com-

monwealth-wide authority can override any plan prepared by Fairfax County. Water is under the jurisdiction of Fairfax Water. As we saw with the waterline that runs along Walker Road, they seem to think that their agenda is the agenda.

Our 2020 Vision results enabled us to articulate the wishes of our community with great clarity before the Dranesville Task Force and Fairfax County Planning Commission and all of our nominations were accepted. Our nominations were unique in that they were a collection of non-site-specific nominations related to preserving and protecting the semi-rural character of Great Falls. Nevertheless, we are much less effective than McLean, Vienna or Herndon in translating our vision into tangible action steps.

It is my belief that our inability to take effective action to realize our vision of Great Falls by the year 2020 is due to our ineffective method of self-governance. Establishing a special tax district such as McLean's or becoming a town such as Vienna or Herndon are vital methods of gaining political clout with all jurisdictional entities. If each household within

Great Falls were to agree to be taxed just \$100 per year, we would have a capital base of \$500,000 per year from which to fund building those trails, hiring lawyers to negotiate getting those overhead wires grounded, lining our main streets with trees, conducting traffic studies that look at things from our vantage point so as to provide analytic counterpoints to the VDOT gang from Richmond, etc.

It is time for us to put some modest resources together to form a community core that can play the jurisdictional game on our behalf with the best of the best. It is time to move beyond our Zip code identity toward taking command of the high ground through diligent and effective planning and negotiation. The time is right to form a special tax district for Great Falls.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail:
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

THE CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Newspaper of
Great Falls

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

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Long Term Care Report Presented to Foust

Citizens representing Fairfax County's Long Term Coordinating Council (LTCCC) recently paid a visit to Supervisor John W. Foust's (D-Dranesville) office in McLean to present a report entitled 'Creating Partnerships and Building Community' authored by The Long Term Care Coordinating Council. The report highlights the accomplishments of the 45 member Council in 2009. Pictured, from left, are Christine Hyland, executive director, Life Circle Alliances (LCA); Kay Larmer, board vice chair, LCA; Foust; Myles Nienstadt, executive director, Evergreen Senior Care, Inc; and Roscane Rodilloso, member of the Long Term Care Coordinating Council Health Care Advisory Board. For more information www.lifecirclealliances.org.

History on Display at Riverbend Park

FROM PAGE 3

regularly at Riverbend Park and creates globally rare plant communities. Children are invited to touch rocks found around the park that were once part of the ocean floor or the earth's mantle. Some

rocks contain pyrite — "fool's gold" — or were warped by geological forces. Stuffed animal specimens, as well as live fish, snakes, a frog and a toad, offer examples of local fauna.

"The exhibits were purposely

made to be as engaging as they could be with the kids," Smith said, noting that children were encouraged to interact with and answer questions about the items on display.

— MIKE DICICCO

'Shop Local' Effort Continues

FROM PAGE 3

ENTRY FORMS were available through the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) Web site, in local shops and in this newspaper. "You couldn't enter online. You had to physically take the entry form into a business to enter," von Keszycski said, noting that the idea had been to draw residents into businesses in town. "It resulted in 86 entries during that period of time," Vandergrift said. "I was really excited because it was a nice mix of newspapers, printed sheets of paper and our forms."

He said a similar campaign would be carried out this year, and he requested that members return a survey asking how the effort could be improved and expanded.

"We got some feedback from businesses that they want to see something like this in the spring," Vandergrift said. He said no such campaign was being planned for this spring, but one might be held next year.

Wayne Foley, who is a member of both the BPA and the GFCA executive board, said he thought both organizations needed heavier participation in the campaign. He noted that the citizens association had a regular booth at the Great Falls Farmers Market. "This is right in line with shop-local," he said, suggesting that the market would provide an opportunity for the two organizations to work together on outreach.

VANDERGRIFT agreed. "We

need to work closely with the Great Falls Citizens Association. They need to be our power partnership in this community," he said.

Foley suggested that the BPA make a special effort to reach out to new businesses, encouraging them to get involved in the community and buy from local companies. "I think the new people are the real targets we can bring into the fold," he said.

The association distributed the winning gift baskets, laden with hundreds of dollars' worth of items, cash and gift certificates. Winners were Sandra Diefenderfer, Sara Darnell, Brad Webb and Lauren Castner, although Webb and Castner were unable to attend the meeting.

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MILITARY

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

Army 2nd Lt. Roman A. Terehoff has graduated from the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. He is the son of Alex G. and Irina P. Terehoff of Borge St., Oakton, Va. Terehoff graduated in 2001 from Oakton High School, and received a bachelor's degree in 2008 from George Mason University.

Jennifer E. Fulco has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader's Training Course at Fort Knox, Ky. Fulco is a student at George Mason University, and a 2007 graduate of James Madison High School. She is the daughter of Bruce R. and Judy A. Fulco of Podium Drive, Vienna.

Jerard M. Paden has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. Paden is a student at Norwich University, Northfield, Vt., and is the grandson of Eleanor Clark of Carrhill Road, Vienna.

Air Force Airman **Kimberly J. Werman** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. She is the daughter of Frank Werman of Silverstone Court in Oakton, and sister of Kyle Werman of Plum Run Court in Fairfax. Werman is a 2005 graduate of James Madison High School.

Air Force Airman **Kristen N. Farmer** graduated from basic military

training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. She is the daughter of Robert Farmer of Gosnell Road, Vienna, and Michelle Farmer of Fairview Heights, Ill.

Coast Guard Seaman **Nicholas C. Pfautz**, son of Terry Pfautz of Warrenton and Richard Pfautz of McLean, recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N. J.

Army National Guard Pfc. **Nathaniel A. Rausch** has graduated from the Infantryman One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. The training consists of Basic Infantry Training and Advanced Individual Training. He is the son of Charlotte Rausch of New Providence Drive, Falls Church, and brother of Craig Johnson of Westwood Drive, Vienna. Rausch graduated in 2004 from James Madison High School, and received an associate degree in 2007 from Jefferson County Community College, Louisville, Ky.

Air Force Airman **Hyun H. Jeong** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Jeong is the nephew of Sunny Chung of Spring Gate Drive, McLean.

Army 2nd Lt. **Andrew S. Oh** has entered the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., as a first-year medical student, to be trained as a physician. He is the son of Dai H. and Soon M. Oh of Falstaff Court, McLean. Oh is a 1997 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, and he received a bachelor's degree in 2003 from James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

FAITH NOTES

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

McLean Presbyterian Church is holding the worship service at 9:15 a.m. and 11a.m. During these services, the church also offers a variety of adult education classes, as well as children's ministry program and student ministries gatherings. The church also invites the public to informal and more intimate Saturday Night Service, which meets in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. every Saturday. The worship music is provided by Saturday night band and the message is the same as Sunday morning but with opportunity for more interaction with the pastor. Childcare and children's programs are provided for infants through 2nd grade.

McLean Presbyterian Church is located at 1020 Balls Hill Road in McLean. For more information visit www.mcleanpres.org or call church office at 703.821.0800.

Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, will show 'Until The Violence Stops' at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29. The film is a documentary about how the play The Vagina Monologues grew into an international grassroots movement called V-Day to stop violence against women and girls. Donations accepted to benefit V-Day Oakton 2010. 703-716-0150 or www.uucf.org.

Maggie Page, of Vienna, is beginning a one-year service assignment with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in southeastern Europe as a teacher's assistant. Page has a bachelor's in studio art from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. She is associated with Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Shoreview, Minn. Page is serving through MCC's SALT - Serving and Learning Together - program for young adults from Canada and the U.S. who volunteer outside both countries. MCC is a relief, development and peace organization of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches in Canada and the U.S. For more information on MCC, visit mcc.org. For more information on the SALT program, visit mcc.org/salt.

Episcopal Church Women of St. Thomas Episcopal Church Lace & Grace Tea, 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13. With a variety of tea delicacies and sweets, and live music by local instrumentalists, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Hudson Hall, 8991 Brook Road, McLean. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Alternative House in Vienna. \$30 per person. Reserve tickets at 703-442-0330. Group sales welcome. 703-272-7796 or mollieregans@verizon.net.

Emmaus United Church of Christ will offer the lecture series "Nurturing the Body through Nutrition." Classes will be 7 p.m. in the parlor of Emmaus Church, 900 East Maple Avenue, Vienna. Free and open to the public. Contact Dana Krauskopf, 703-272-8675 or hamanasi@bellsouth.net, or Marsha Komandt, 703-938-1264 or mgkomandt@verizon.net.
 ♦ Monday, Feb. 8. Learning to Reconnect to Your Body in Healthy Ways: Weight Management.
 ♦ Monday, Feb. 22. Learning to Reconnect to Your Body in Healthy Ways: Energy Enhancement.
 ♦ Monday, March 8. Sugar: The Unsweet Truth.
 ♦ Monday, March 29. Food is Medicine.

Visit These Houses of Worship Join A Club, Make New Friends, or Expand Your Horizons...

Assembly of God
Vienna Assembly of God ... 703-938-7736
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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
Koroon Central Presbyterian ... 703-698-5577
Vienna Presbyterian ... 703-938-9050

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

Seventh-Day Adventist
Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ... 703-242-9001
Vienna Seventh Day Adventists ... 703-938-6383

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/JAN. 28

Five Local Chefs, Five Local Wines, Five Local Farms, One Local Cause: Loudoun Interfaith Relief. 6:30 p.m. \$150 all inclusive, with sparkling wine and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a five course menu with wine pairings. Live Music by Olivera Music Entertainment. Reserve at 540 822-9017 or info@patowmackfarm.com.

Al di Meola. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$35. 703-938-2404 or wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 29

Turner to Cézanne: An Evening with Corcoran Director, President and Exhibition Curator Paul Greenhalgh. 7 p.m. at Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

The Kennedys and Maura Kennedy's Solo CD Release. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$18. www.jamminjava.com.

Aspen Ensemble: The Discovery Series. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$35. 703-938-2404 or wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 30

Sing Me Insomnia, The Goodnight Anthem and Struan Shields. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. www.jamminjava.com.

An Evening with Charlie Hunter. 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. www.jamminjava.com.

Ingrid King, author of Buckley's Story: Lessons from a Feline Master Teacher. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Seneca Hill Animal Hospital Resort and Spa, 11415 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-450-6760.

John Eaton. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25. 703-938-2404 or wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 31

Martina McBride and Trace Adkins. 7:30 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets are \$49.75-\$69.75, available at all Ticketmaster locations or Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

Learn to Predict the Weather During the Groundhog's Day Out. 2-3:30 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road in Herndon. Appropriate for all ages, with a puppet show, crafts, games and hot chocolate. \$5 per person. Registration required at 703-437-9101. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fpp.

Pianist Audrey Andrist. 3 p.m. at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Free. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/aldenconcerts.

MONDAY/FEB. 1

Weeping Weeds & Veils: Victorian Mourning Customs. 7 p.m. Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association meeting,

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

'Still Life Images' on Display

"Still Life Images," featuring original works by the 16 members of the Artists' Atelier, opens at the Great Falls Foundation for the Arts Gallery on Friday, Feb. 5, 7-9 p.m. The show, which will include a variety of media, continues through Feb. 28. View the exhibit and meet Atelier artists and other art enthusiasts. Similar events are sponsored in the GFFFTA Gallery on the first Friday of each month. The Atelier and Gallery are also open Saturdays, 12-4 p.m., and by appointment. The Gallery is located at 1144-D and 1144-G Walker Road, Great Falls, in Leigh Corners. www.greatfallsfoundationforarts.org.



'White Flowers and Clementines' by Atelier Artist Elaine Elinsky, 16-inch X 16-inch oil on canvas.



Naz Akbar, Bread and Pottery

Naz Akbar Exhibits at the Katie's

"Food for Life," an art exhibit by Naz Akbar, will be on display at the Katie's at The Old Brogue from Jan. 27 to Feb. 26.

All the paintings at the exhibit focus on food, starting with the most basic of all — bread and water. Most are still-life paintings, primarily in oil. Naz's interest in food as sustenance for people stems from observations during trips around the world, from her native Iran to Turkey, France to Mexico and South East Asian countries. As a result, the paint-

ings depict food in a cultural context, the food juxtaposed with implements and symbols. Naz lives with her husband in Great Falls. She is a member of Great Falls Studios, a network of 88 local artists. "It's especially fitting to have an exhibit of mostly food subjects hanging in a restaurant where people can enjoy the paintings while they are eating," she said.

For more information, visit <http://web.me.com/nazakbarart/Site/Welcome.html>.

City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Free. 703-322-1811.

TUESDAY/FEB. 2

Alternative House: Open Door at the House. 8-9 a.m. at 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna. Alternative House offers counseling, shelter, neighborhood support and after school programs. Space is limited; contact Gina Cocomello at gina_cocomello@TheAlternativeHouse.org or 703 506-9191 or www.TheAlternativeHouse.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 3

Gals in the Gallery. 7-9 p.m. at

McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With jewelry artist J.J. Singh. Donations accepted. 703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

Buckwheat Zydeco, General Admission Dance. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

Anger Awareness for Women. 7 p.m. Wednesdays through March 17 at The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. With Paula Donova, MSW, LCSW, TWC Therapist. \$175 non-members, \$155 members. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or call 703-281-2657.

OPEN HOUSES

Sunday, Jan. 31st

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, click the Real Estate links on the right side.



Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.



GREAT FALLS

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

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SPORTS

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Langley's Catherine Plunkett (23) and her Saxon teammates will be home versus Stone Bridge this Friday night.

Wilson's Scoring Show Leads McLean Girls

In night of local basketball, Highlander girls and Langley boys come out victorious.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Melissa Wilson, a senior forward on the McLean High girls' basketball team, put on scoring exhibition during the Highlanders' 55-34 Liberty District home win over Langley Friday night, Jan. 22. The contest was the first part of a girls-boys' double-header between the cross-town rival schools. Langley won the nightcap boys' game, 56-35.

The bulk of the large crowd began entering the McLean gymnasium during the second half of the girls' game. That was good timing because that is when Wilson scored all 17 of her points in leading the Highlander girls to victory. By game's end, the place was nearly filled and fans had gotten a good look at a McLean team that is steadily improving as the season moves on.

"I think the past few games we've been playing much better and much more consistent," said McLean coach Mike O'Brien, whose team improved to 9-6. "The Langley game was another example of that."

It was McLean's third win over its last four games. The Highlanders, earlier last week, had won at district opponent Fairfax, 45-37, on Jan. 19 before winning again three days later over the Saxons.

Along with Wilson's big night against Langley, McLean also received a strong game from junior guard Andie Romness, who scored all 12 of her points in the first half as the Highlanders built a slim 22-20 halftime advantage. McLean outscored Langley 16-8 in the third quarter and 17-6 in the fourth quarter in a stellar second showing. Brittany McCraty, Erin Mundy and Caitlin Baker scored eight, seven and six points, respectively, in the win for McLean.



McLean girls' head coach Mike O'Brien will see his team host Marshall this Friday night.

"From the tip-off, we were consistent," said O'Brien, of his squad. "We dealt with some foul trouble in the first half but got through that."

Langley (5-11), under coach Tim Anderson, had good nights from senior forward Alexis Doherty (11 points), senior guard Kristen Kody (10) and senior forward Mary Riley Pembroke (8).

O'Brien said the environment, with the large, energetic crowd, made things extra exciting. He had concerns that his team might be hurt by nervous energy, but that was not the case.

"It's a great environment for kids to play in," said O'Brien, of the rival game against Langley. "We had good intensity and that helped our defense."

IN THE BOYS' GAME, Langley (13-2) remained unbeaten in district play with their 21-point win over McLean (6-10). Colin Jones led the Saxons with 17 points. Also for Langley, David Adams (9 points), Joey Kiffe (8) and center Austin Kriz (7) had good games. For the Highlanders, Phil Bouchard scored 12 points, Gordon Rogo had eight and Sango Amolo six.

The Saxons led 24-14 at halftime before outscoring the home team, 17-7, in the third quarter to pretty much put the game away. It was the sixth straight win for Langley, which improved to 8-0 in district play. The Saxons' last loss came to Centreville on Dec. 30.



PHOTO COURTESY/TEAM AMERICA

Team America's U16 boys' soccer team, which includes players from McLean, won a title in Philadelphia two weekends ago. On the front row, from left, are Danny Hinojosa and Robby Maffei. Second row, from left, 'Ohjay' Porteria, Edgar Zepeda, Bernardo Majano, Damaro DaCosta, Brandon Siles and Tyler Braxton. Third row, Brian Castellon, Mickey Belay, Hatzael Diaz Flores, Amardo Oakley, Ezra Williams and Zac Galiani. Back row, Coach Larry Dunn, Clinton Black, Branko Picavia, Jonathon Dunn, Franco Ponce de Leon, Martin Lopez and Coach Patrick DaCosta.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Team America's U16 boys, an NCSL Division 1 soccer team comprised of players from McLean, Annandale, Arlington and Mount Vernon, captured a title at the 2010 National Indoor Soccer Championships, which took place over the weekend of Jan. 16-17 in Philadelphia. On Saturday morning, Jan. 16 Team America won preliminary round games against teams from New Jersey and Delaware, 16-1 and 12-1, respectively. On Sunday, the semi-finals round game against a formidable team from Michigan went down to the wire, with Team America coming out on top, 4-3. Later that same day, the locals enjoyed a sensational finals game against a well prepared and skillful team from Chicago, FC Gordito. The game went into sudden death, golden-goal overtime with two field players and one goal keeper for each team on the playing field. After a player on each team was removed from the game leaving a keeper and a field player per side, Team America persisted and was able to place a ball into the back of the net, just out of the reach of the Gordito's keeper. Team America won, 5-4, in the breathtaking finish.

The McLean Highlander boys' swim and dive team lost to Fairfax, 181-131, in a meet at Lee District on Jan. 8. Meanwhile, the McLean girls were victorious, 160-152, over the lady Rebels. McLean's Charlie Putnam was a triple winner for the Highlander boys,

while Colin Fitzgibbon and Bill Kim both won two events each. For the McLean girls, Eva Greene was a quadruple winner, Margaret Harlowe was a triple winner and double winners were Annie Springstein, Katie Yensen and Adrienne Harlowe.

The McLean girls prevailed over South Lakes, 184 to 124. Margaret Harlowe was a quadruple winner. Double winners were: Katie Yensen, Sarah Wilcox, Ellie Springstein, Annie Springstein and Adrienne Harlowe. The McLean boys' team fell to South Lakes, 160 to 145. McLean winners included Bill Kim, Ben Southern and Ed Lee. Highlander Ian Clark finished first in diving.

McLean Youth Soccer (MYS) Spring 2010 registration has begun on MYS' web site at www.mcleansoccer.org. Returning players as well as new players are welcome to register. MYS offers various programs for children ages 4 through 18. MYS programs include recreation, travel, McLean Premier Soccer Travel, U5 for Pre-K players and TOP Soccer for children with special needs. The season will begin the week of April 5 and extend through mid-June. Be sure to register no later than Jan. 30 to take advantage of the early discounted registration fees. Contact the MYS Administrator at admin@mcleansoccer.org. For more information, call the MYS office at 703-506-8068.

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Cancer Can, Or It Can't (Me, Too)



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I can mostly handle this cancer stuff. However, there is one area I can't totally manage – emotions. Specifically when certain things – physical, mental, spiritual – happen. I never know if what I'm feeling is attributable to the cancer, and thus worthy of a phone call/email to my study nurse and/or oncologist, or more a function of simply being who I am, independent of the cancer business; meaning a middle-aged, slightly overweight ("Slightly?" Be quiet, Dina.), out-of-shape, -collar worker bee. I don't want to overreact to symptoms, nor do I want to be stubborn and stupid and underreact either. For all I know (and it's not really very much), whatever I'm feeling might actually matter, or it might not. Ergo the problem.

It's hard, make that impossible (for me anyway) to separate fact from fiction, cancer-related from normal wear and tear, the beginning of the end from the end of the beginning. I am encouraged by the medical staff to call with any concerns (real or imagined) that I may have. Still, when I called last week to report a non-stop runny nose that required constant blowing and tissue use (which ultimately lead to a very chapped and sore nose, inside and out) I felt funny. Here I have stage IV lung cancer and I'm worried about a runny nose. Even the description "runny nose" sounds insignificant and not nearly as serious many of the other symptoms familiar to cancer patients: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of sleep, loss of appetite, weight loss, nose bleeds, tingling and loss of use/control of your extremities and so forth that might warrant a cancer-call. Runny nose! What am I going to call about next? A skinned knee? A boo-boo on my buttock? A pimple on my poopik? Finding that line between compulsively obsessing over my symptoms to accepting what's happening to me as normal, given my age (and thus not particularly worthy of cancer-induced worry/anxiety/fear/depression) has been most difficult for me.

This difficulty has manifested itself because my coping mechanism diagnosis-to-date, has been not to consume myself (or try not to) with everything that is happening to me medically (or could be in the future). That's not to say that I'm ignoring what's occasionally been happening, but more so attempting to keep it in perspective/context: try not to overreact to the things (side effects, symptoms, deficiencies), that typically happen to cancer/chemo patients and conversely, try to react positively to the things that don't happen. My concern is that I'm taking too much in stride, attributing too much of what cancer stuff I think I feel to the inevitability of the underlying health situation in which I find myself immersed (and thus not unique or worth mentioning) and instead go with the proverbial flow and not fight this rising tide.

I don't want to be swept away and drowned by these waves of emotion and end up in a sea of non-tranquility. Somehow I need to, as Katie Winter of Secret Deodorant marketing fame once made famous, "Keep myself cool, calm and collected." I don't imagine that being in denial would help, but neither do I think proactively pursuing pathology reports (as but one example of the endless amount of information available from your health care provider) would provide the solace and balance I seek. I am open to suggestion.

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

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Brittany Tholan

My Grandpa's 'Caliphate'

By BRITTANY THOLAN

Just the other day, I was walking through the bookstore, looking for the calendars, when I found myself face to face with a book that had my grandfather's name written across the top in large, capital letters, "André Le Gallo" and under it, "The Caliphate".

When I was little, my grandfather would tell me stories, true stories, of his adventures as a spy in the CIA. The stories my mother didn't hear until

she was 16. Like how they received a death threat under the door of their house, how he had to get through checkpoints without being recognized as an American and how when he finally left the country, he disassembled a gun and hid the pieces in different furniture in his house, just in case he had to come back. And now my grandfather has gathered up all his knowledge and laid it out magnificently in a book, fictional, but attention grabbing, even for me, a teenage girl who was just in the bookstore to finally buy her 2010 calendar.

Of course I bought "The Caliphate." I went home and turned to a random page and read it, I was so drawn into it that I flipped to next page and read on. I got a good four pages into it when my mom snatched it and told me to read it from the beginning. I flipped to Chapter 1 and read,

"In the darkness of Neuilly-sur-Seine on the outskirts of Paris, Farid stood on the ladder leaning against the wall separating the Saudi ambassador's and the American's back gardens. Wearing designer glasses and dark silk slacks, he looked more like an aging poster boy for the business-casual look than like the typical second-story man ..."

The book's main character, Steve Church, is based on André's son, Christopher, to whom the book is dedicated to, and who lived in McLean as an adult, but died in 2002 at age 33. Steve's personality and mannerisms are modeled on Christopher's family say that through this book he has been brought back to life.

Andre Le Gallo's "The Caliphate" can be found in bookstores under "New in Paperback". Go to www.andreleгалlo.com to read more.

The writer is a 14-year-old Vienna resident who recently moved from California and now attends Langley High School.



PHOTO BY VERONICA GARABELLI/ CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Del. Mark Keam (D-35), center, at the General Assembly session.

School Funding Formula Angers Fairfax Delegates

'Legal action' under consideration.

BY VERONICA GARABELLI
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Gov. Bob McDonnell's (R) plan to continue using an education funding formula that takes money from more affluent school districts and gives it to less affluent ones has so upset Fairfax County supervisors that they are considering legal action.

"This is really a cut-and-dried issue," said Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay (D-Lee). "It's outright discrimination against Northern Virginia."

McDonnell's decision will cut \$61 million from the Fairfax County Public Schools' budget, said Paul Regnier, a spokesman for the school district.

According to the school system's Web site, Fairfax County's school budget for the 2010 fiscal year is \$2.2 billion, so the funding cut amounts to 3 percent of the budget. Regnier said that could mean larger class sizes, the elimination of full-day kindergartens or the curtailment of foreign language emergence services.

McDonnell's office confirmed Friday, Jan. 22, that he would uphold the use of the school funding formula proposed in December by then-Gov. Tim Kaine (D).

Details will be given to agency heads next week, McDonnell's press secretary, Stacey Johnson, said in an e-mail to Capital News Service.

Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) said he was furious when he heard the formula would be frozen at the level set by Kaine.

Petersen noted that because the real estate market had fallen in Northern Virginia, Fairfax, Prince William and Loudoun counties received lower scores on the scale than they had in the past.

Ordinarily, the lower scores would have resulted in more money from the state for basic education.

"Now, thanks to the plan that was put forward by Gov. Kaine, the rules are being changed on us," Petersen said.

On Jan. 12, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted 10-0 to look into legal action if the McDonnell administration upheld the freeze in the school funding formula.

The formula is called the Local Composite Index, or LCI. It determines which localities can pay the most for basic kindergarten-through-12th-grade education and which ones cannot. It is calculated using adjusted gross income, taxable retail sales and true value of real property.

This year, Fairfax's score went from .76 to .71; Loudoun fell from .67 to .58 and Prince William dipped from .44 to .40.

That should have meant more money for those school districts. However, Kaine — and now McDonnell — decided to freeze the formula at the previous scores.

That decision will please some localities, such as Russell County, in the southwest corner of Virginia.

Dr. Lorraine C. Turner, superintendent for the Russell County Public Schools, said her school district would benefit from the LCI freeze.

"If it's frozen at last year's rate, the state will give us more money, as opposed to asking the locality to pay for it," Turner said.

In December, Kaine proposed freezing the LCI until the 2012 fiscal year. He said this would help protect 97 school divisions that would lose money if the formula were re-calculated.



PHOTOS BY LAURA FRIBERG

Seventh graders Nikki Lockwood, Courtney Gistaro, Kate Garrow, Marry Geren and Kathryn Karnaze from The Langley School conducted a bake sale outside of the Giant in McLean to raise money for Haiti Relief. The group of about dozen 12- and 13-year olds raised about \$1,600 for Doctors Without Borders.

Honk for Haiti

Group of Langley School seventh graders raise \$1,600 for Doctors Without Borders.

BY JENNA PUGRANT
THE CONNECTION

Staked outside the Giant in McLean, The Langley School seventh graders waved their handmade signs displaying the words "Honk for Haiti" and listened as cars of shoppers showed their support for Haiti by honoring their requests.

"I was shocked at how much damage the earthquake had caused and how many people had been killed from it," said Laura Perskinski, The Langley School seventh grader.

Her classmate, Kate Garrow, said, "I found it extremely ironic that an earthquake had hit one of the poorest countries in the world. If a crisis like this one had happened to a country like the United States, we could have dealt with it, but with Haiti, it is a lot harder to handle."

The crisis hit even closer to home for the students of Langley's seventh grade class when they found out their language arts teacher's neighbor was trapped in Haiti. "We all wanted to take some form of action," said Kathryn Karnaze, 13. "We thought a bake sale would be a great way to raise money."

About a dozen Langley seventh graders organized at Kathryn Karnaze's home in McLean on Sunday, Jan. 17 to bake for their anticipated bake sale the following day. On Monday, the group of seventh graders set up their bake sale tables outside of Giant in order to put all the money

they sold from their baked goods towards Haiti relief. "The boys and girls started out a little shy when they were asking for donations," said Christal Karnaze, the Langley School mom who helped organize the bake sale. "But their confidence grew when they found out how supportive everyone was of their cause."

The seventh graders stayed outside of Giant to accept donations from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. "A lot of people did not even buy food," said Laura. "They just donated money. I was surprised by their generosity and it seemed like everyone just wanted to help anyway they could."

"I also think we were able to get a lot of donations because we chose to do a bake sale as opposed to simply asking for money," Kate said. "It showed everyone that we had worked hard and really made an effort to help."

Christal Karnaze helped organize the entire operation with the intent to empower the students to take actions. "They all did not know how they could make impact and help the people of Haiti. The bake sale was an opportunity that let them turn their helplessness into hopefulness."

The boys and girls from The Langley School raised over \$1,600 for Haiti and donated all of the money to Doctors Without Borders, an international medical humanitarian organization.

Langley seventh grader Courtney Gistaro holds up one of the signs her fellow classmates made to try to get people to buy their baked goods for Haiti.



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