

17 Cultures Meet at Cooper

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Tyson's Debate Centers on Density

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Highlanders Hoping To Take That Next Step

SPORTS, PAGE 18

Christine Anh Phuong Nguyen of McLean represents the country of Vietnam at Cooper Middle School's International Festival last Thursday. At least 17 different cultures were represented at the event.

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PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

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Fairfax County planning staff recommended that sites closest to the future Metro stations in Tysons Corner have the greatest amount of development potential. But several landowners that own property farther from the planned Metro stations are also lobbying for a greater amount of building density.

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Intensity Map



Tysons Debate Centers on Density

Planning commissioner proposes a more cautious approach to Tysons growth.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Don McIlvaine's family has owned his Tysons Corner property on Tyco Road between Spring Hill Road and Leesburg Pike for decades.

Though he is pleased to see four new Metro stations coming to the area, he is unhappy with the planning language proposed by Fairfax County staff that could govern how Tysons Corner develops over the next half century.

The draft regulations call for landowners to contribute parts of their property for new streets, playing fields, urban parks and the Circulator, a bus or tram system that would provide a transit connection to the Metro stations. Those who want to redevelop must also comply with aggressive storm water management standards.

"Without that private-private partnership, we won't achieve the public facilities we need," said James Zook, director of Fairfax County's Department of Planning and Zoning.

But McIlvaine said the county is expecting too much of local landowners, especially when so many commercial developers are already facing financial woes.

"The perception of the staff is that since the federal, county and state governments have no money, the private sector should finance it all," he said.

"The burden placed on landowners is staggering," said McIlvaine.

SEVERAL TYSONS LANDOWNERS shared McIlvaine's view at a public hearing before Fairfax County Planning Commission's Tysons Corner committee March 11 and 17.

The committee is scheduled to discuss potential changes to the Tysons land-use plan proposed by staff March 23. The full Planning Commission will vote on the new Tysons Corner plan language May 12, which must also be approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at a later date.

Most Tysons Corner property owners who testified urged the planning commissioners to increase the building density allowed on their sites, in part to

make up for the amount of money they were being asked to spend on new public infrastructure.

"For landowners, the decision to redevelop is an economic one, and there must be a real balance between the numerous community-wide benefits sought from developers by Fairfax County and the corresponding density necessary to help provide real risk adjusted financial returns," said Brenda Krieger, representing Dweck Properties, which owns 17 acres in the Tysons area.

As an example, Kreiger said restraints on her clients property included in the staff plan — like property taken for a circulator route, street widening and 1.5 acre park — would make the land redevelopment financially impossible.

"Given the current language in the draft plan, we cannot afford to redevelop. We would have to squeeze all of our redevelopment into a much-reduced space," she said

IN GENERAL, the staff proposal for Tysons calls for those with property closest to the Metro stops to be able to build larger, more intense developments.

For example, those with parcels within one-eighth of a mile of a Metro station entrance would be able to build at least 475,000 square feet of building for every 100,000 square feet of land they own. Those with property located a quarter mile to a half mile from the Metro start with less, 200,000 square feet of building for every 100,000 square feet of land.

Some landowners complained that their properties had not been designated in the correct density tier for development and they should be able to build more by right.

At the hearing, Bob Stoddard said Washington Real Estate Investment Trust, which owns a property at 7900 Westpark Drive, is closer to a Metro stop than reflected in the staff report and should qualify for a higher building density.

Stoddard also asked the planning commissioners to consider an alternate circulator route that did not have such an impact on his company's land.

Another company, Post Properties, which owns a parcel between International and Jones Branch drives, objected to the 2-acre park it would have to host on its property if the staff plan went forward.

"Why should someone not redeveloping their sites get [that park] for free?" said Sara Mariska, representing Post Properties at the hearing.

SEVERAL TYSONS LANDOWNERS also did not

SEE LANDOWNERS, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

The IB Advisory Board baked sweets for the Hope Haiti: We Are the World bake sale on March 18.

Marshall High Helps Haiti

Student groups work together in fund-raising campaign.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

Over two weeks, three George C. Marshall (GCM) High School groups joined forces this month to raise money for Haiti earthquake relief. From "penny wars" to a variety show on March 18, the students hope to raise awareness in the community, as well as funds. Hope Haiti: We Are the World realized their mission.

After the Jan. 12 quake in Haiti, several of Marshall's student clubs were trying to raise money individually. "We thought, if we all got together, it would be more effective if we collaborated to make the most money possible," said Lavanya Yeleswarapu, co-president of the International Club and Hope Haiti coordinator.

"I think it's important that Marshall, as a community, comes together to help another community, one in need," she said.

The International Club, National Honor Society and the IB (International Baccalaureate) Student Advisory Board organized the food sale, speaker presentation and variety show for the fund-raiser finale called Hope Haiti: We Are the World.

For two weeks in early March, the National Honor Society

(NHS) ran a Change for Haiti fundraising campaign. NHS members solicited contributions during lunchtime, raising a little more than \$500 during that time. Teachers participated in fund raising by performing acts that the students called embarrassing. One teacher dressed up 80s-style. NHS raised \$108 by selling pieces of duct tape with which to tape a teacher to the wall, explained David Dziedzic, IB Advisory Board member and Hope Haiti National Honor Society representative. Dziedzic said the duct tape was a big hit with students.

"IB schools are very focused on getting involved internationally, not just locally," said Dziedzic.

THE VARIETY SHOW, a stew of dance and song, featured a dual competition.

The audience voted for its favorite acts by donating money in a bowl designated with the name of each participating act. The act that generated the most revenue won that component of the competition.

In a parallel judging, a panel of judges independently voted on winners.

"Marshall is a talented community," said Taruna Purihella, variety show co-coordinator

SEE HELPING, PAGE 17

Former Pastor Charged with Sex Offences

On Tuesday, March 16, Tommy Shelton, 64, of Marion, Ky., turned himself into Fairfax County Police detectives. Shelton was charged with two counts of aggravated sexual battery, two counts of indecent liberties with a minor and sodomy.

From 1995 to 2000, Shelton was the pastor for the Community Church of God at 2500 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. In March 2008, a 27-year-old man contacted police to report that Shelton had molested him when he was 12-14-years old. In November 2008, a 22-year-old man contacted police to report that Shelton had molested him when he was 8-9-years old.

Following an extensive investigation, detectives secured warrants for Shelton in February 2010.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Accidental McLean House Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a house fire Saturday, March 20, at approximately 4 p.m. in the McLean area of Fairfax County. The single family home is located at 1130 Cedrus Lane.

Firefighters encountered heavy smoke showing from the attic and roof of the two-story home upon arrival. The Incident Commander struck a second alarm and requested a tanker task force, bringing approximately 70 firefighters to the scene. The home is located in a non-water hydrant area of the county. Firefighters quickly brought the fire under control, confining the fire to the attic and second floor. The occupants were home when the fire broke out and escaped unharmed. Smoke alarms activated and provided early warning to the occupants. Two adults and one child have been displaced. Red Cross support was not necessary. Damage is estimated at \$75,000.

According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. The Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) system in the attic caused the fire.

Claude Moore Farm Opens for Season

The Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run welcomes the public for its 2010 season on Thursday, April 1, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Visit this privately operated National Park and working farm to see authentic colonial American history hands-on. The 2010 season features self-guided tours, seasonal Market Fairs, other special events, apprentice and internship programs, colonial workshops, plant and book sales, farm skills educational program and more.

Farm is open Wednesdays-Sundays, from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. through Dec. 12. GateHouse Gift Shop also open. Farm is closed Mondays, Tuesdays, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day and during inclement weather. Regular admission: \$3 adults; \$2 children and senior citizens. Group visits welcome. Farm memberships available.

The Claude Moore Colonial Farm is located at 6310 Georgetown Pike in McLean.

Invasive Plant Removal Day Set

Local sites are available for individuals interested in participating in the third annual, statewide Invasive Plant Removal Day. The program will take place at several locations on Saturday, May 1. The activities at the state level are being coordinated by the Virginia Native Plant Society and the Virginia Master Naturalists and can be found online at www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/invasives/.

In Fairfax County, the Invasive Management Areas (IMA) volunteers and Park Authority staff will target non-native invasive species that negatively affect the quality of our natural areas. Non-native invasive species invade natural areas, threatening

Frank Wolf on Health Care Bill

BY U.S. REP. FRANK WOLF

Wolf made the following statement on the House floor before the vote on H.R. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act:

I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks against this flawed health care bill.

I do not question the need for Congress to find a way for the millions of Americans without health insurance to be assured of quality, affordable health care. The majority of my constituents in the 10th District of Virginia have made clear that they want an open and transparent process in which Republicans and Democrats work together to pass responsible health care reform that lowers costs and offers greater access to affordable health care.

They told me that they don't want more government spending.

They don't want government-run health care.

They don't want a plan that hurts America's seniors, families or small businesses.

What they do want is a plan that fixes what's broken and keeps what's working without adding billions of dollars to an already ballooning deficit.

I cannot support today's bill because it will raise over \$500 billion in new taxes during a recession and times of high unemployment. This will especially



hit small business employers at a time when the federal government should be assisting in job creation, not raising taxes.

This legislation cuts billions of dollars from Medicare, a program that our seniors rely on.

It requires individuals to purchase health insurance. If you don't purchase health insurance, the government will fine you a minimum fine of \$750, up to the maximum penalty of 2 percent of your income.

This provision has drawn the attention of the citizens of Virginia, with the Virginia General Assembly, in a bipartisan vote, becoming the first legislature in the nation to pass legislation opposing this mandate.

This bill mandates billions of dollars in additional Medicaid spending in unfunded mandates for cash-strapped states.

It breaks a promise to members of our nation's armed services, their families, veterans, and employees, with its failure to protect the military's TRICARE system — health care programs provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. This means that, under this legislation, unless an individual has TRICARE for Life, additional health insurance would have to be purchased.

Madam Speaker, I am committed to working with my colleagues to pass real health care reform in a cost-effective manner. This legislation fails that test.



Drivers accessing westbound Tysons Boulevard from northbound Route 123 will be routed onto International Drive.

PHOTO COURTESY DULLES CORRIDOR METRORAIL PROJECT

Left-Turn Lane Closes for Two Months

Turn from Route 123 to Tysons Boulevard will close for station construction.

The left-turn lane from northbound Route 123 to westbound Tysons Boulevard will be closed for approximately two months on or about April 9 as Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project crews start construction of caissons and piers to support the foundation of the Tysons Central 123 Station. The station is being built on the southwest corner of the Route 123 and Tysons Boulevard intersection, across from Tysons Corner Center.

Traffic will be detoured onto International Drive, a block before the Tysons Boulevard intersection, to a right on Galleria Drive. Drivers can then turn left on Tysons Boulevard. Drivers seeking to access Westpark Drive and the Westpark Bridge to Tysons Corner Center should continue on Galleria Drive, which becomes Westpark Drive.

Southbound traffic along Route 123 will still be able to make right turns onto Tysons Boulevard using a modified turn lane.

This detour is immediately adjacent to the project's construction headquarters, where there is a high volume of truck, equipment and auto traffic. Motorists are urged to use extreme caution in this area.

All work will be done weather permitting.

For more information about the Community Champions or to purchase tickets, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.



Maya Huber

Maya Huber Named Community Champion

McLean residents honored for contribution to solving transportation, development issues.

Volunteer Fairfax and Supervisor John W. Foust (D-Dranesville) will honor Maya Huber of McLean with a Community Champion award during the 18th annual Fairfax County

Volunteer Service Awards. The 2010 ceremony will be Friday, April 23, at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church.

Foust nominated Huber for this award on behalf of her countless

hours of service to the community since 1974. Her suggested changes to Fairfax County's Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan were adopted by the Board of Supervisors and have improved transportation options for the residents of McLean. Additionally,

Huber has made other contributions to the Fairfax community, including stream protection through the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance and the establishment of the first Farmer's Market in Fairfax County.

"Ms. Huber is the go-to person for development proposal reviews, and she is always looking for ways to improve the plans to further

enhance McLean as a true downtown," said Foust. "She has worked tirelessly to help transform McLean into a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly, and visually-attractive community, as well as bring about more effective planning to Fairfax County as a whole."

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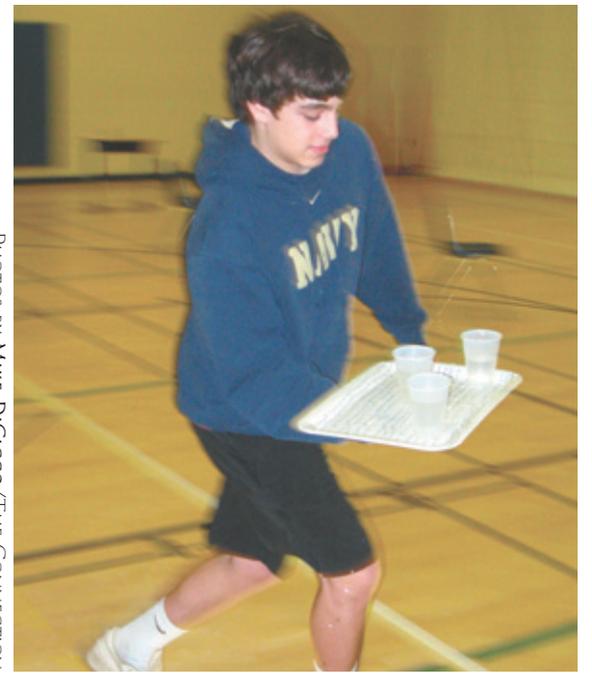
SCHOOLS



From left, seventh-graders Sloane Gillum and Sophie Becker, both of McLean, and eighth-graders Neal Manchanda of Reston and Ross Callaghan of Great Falls try their hands at origami at the Japanese activity station in the library.



Seventh-grader Oliver Nguyen of McLean hurls a beanbag at a target in the Mexican Beanbag Toss.



PHOTOS BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Philip Antypas, eighth grade, of McLean, races with glasses of water on a tray in the café contest.

17 Cultures Meet at Cooper

Cooper Middle School students toured 17 cultures in one night at the school's International Festival on Thursday, March 18. Parents from a variety of backgrounds put together displays of information about their families' countries of origin, as well as examples of food, clothing and

other items, which students could investigate throughout the evening.

Volunteers also ran contests and craft activities, and an ethnic potluck dinner was followed by performances in the cafeteria.

— MIKE DICICCO



Uzma Hayat of Great Falls, representing the country of Pakistan, draws a henna tattoo on eighth-grader Michaela Weiler, also of Great Falls.

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Landowners Ask for Greater Density

FROM PAGE 3

think the trade off for offering affordable housing or constructing an environmentally-friendly building was worth the effort, under the county staff plan.

In the draft proposal, developers receive a 20 percent density bonus for allocating 20 percent of its units to affordable housing. A few property owners who already offer affordable housing would also be required to replace those units on a one-to-one basis if they redeveloped their property.

"It does not differentiate between 'for sale' and rental units ... and penalizes owners of existing affordable housing," said Timothy Smith, whose client, LCOR Incorporated, owns a Tysons Corner apartment complex.

Chris Brigham, of the Dittmar Company, argued more density should be awarded to residential projects than commercial projects who meet the standards set by LEED, which certifies most "green buildings." Brigham, whose company owns property near the intersection of Westpark Drive and Route 7, said it is significantly harder to build a residential building to LEED's qualifications than a commercial building.

IN GENERAL, Tysons property owners wanted the staff recommendations to more closely reflect those put forth by the Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force, an advisory group that presented its broad vision for an urbanized Tysons to the Fairfax County supervisors last year.

The task force, made up of stakeholders including several Tysons Corner landowners, had laid out far more ambitious development plans than the county planning staff included in its own draft.

For example, the task force called for properties within one-eighth of a mile of the Metro station to be able to develop to a ratio of at least 600,000 square feet of floor space per 100,000 square feet of land. The county staff recommendation is far more modest, at 475,000 square feet of floor space to 100,000 square feet of land.

Many of the staff recommendations appear to reflect the concerns of the local residents, who had worried about the effects such development in Tysons, could have on nearby neighborhoods in McLean and Vienna. They were especially concerned about what intense development might mean for the local road network and environment.

Citizens have also made it very clear that they are not interested in footing the bill, which staff estimated to be \$15 billion last for transportation infrastructure alone, to redevelop Tysons Corner.

DESPITE the landowners' request, increasing the current density ratios in Tysons Corner allotted under the staff proposal does not seem like a prudent option, according to Planning Commissioner Walter Alcorn (At-large).

"For Tysons, our current dilemma is that landowners are telling us that they require density levels that, if applied to all equally situated properties, would far overwhelm the most ambitious transportation plan to date," said Alcorn.



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OPINION

Connection Wins Awards

The Connection Newspapers won more than 30 news awards — Virginia Press Association announced at the annual news conference held in Roanoke on Saturday, March 20.

Honors included multiple awards for business and financial writing, education writing, investigative reporting, election coverage, breaking news, public safety writing, editorial writing, photography, design, sports, special sections.

Political and education reporter Julia O'Donoghue won first place for her education writing, in particular three stories which appeared in the Connection's new special section,

A-plus. O'Donoghue also won multiple awards for business and financial writing and investigative reporting.

Reporter Michael Lee Pope won 11 awards in all, including first place for his breaking news coverage of the arrest of Alexandria's police chief for DUI. Pope also won awards for investigative reporting, election coverage, business and financial writing, education writing, government writing, feature writing and in-depth obituaries.

Photographer Louise Krafft won nine awards, including pictorial photo, picture story/essay, news photo and for her contributions to two special sections, HomeLifeStyle and A-Plus

Education, Learning, Fun.

Reporter Mike DiCicco won four awards, including first place for his coverage of a burglary spree that targeted local South Asians' gold jewelry. DiCicco also won for feature writing and education writing.

Mary Kimm won second place for editorial writing for a group of five editorials about education in Northern Virginia.

The Connection's design team also won awards, two for special sections HomeLifeStyle and A-Plus Education, Learning, Fun.

The Alexandria Gazette Packet also won second place in general makeup, a measure of overall excellence.



Winners

The Connection award winners include Mike DiCicco, Mary Kimm, Louise Krafft, Julia Sheehan O'Donoghue and Michael Lee Pope.

Here is a partial listing of stories, photos, special sections and more that won awards in the Virginia Press Association news contests. For a full listing, see www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, or www.vpa.net.

Julia Sheehan O'Donoghue, first place, Education writing. Public School Art Programs, private school facilities and what community college has to offer. Stories written for our A-plus, Education, Learning, Fun section. *Judges' comments:* Good range of sources, including students, in stories, sidebars on transfer data and private school timetables provide good information outside of narrative. Strong story openings focus on individuals. Springfield Connection

Michael Lee Pope, first place, Breaking news writing Police Chief Busted for DUI. *Judges' comments:* "Amazing coverage, lots of voices and comment." Alexandria Gazette Packet

Michael Lee Pope, first place, Feature series or continuing story, Missing Children, Alexandria Gazette Packet

Michael Lee Pope, first place, Personal service writing. Three obituaries, an officer, a gentleman and a savior. *Judges' Comments:* Michael offers a new spin on the obituary by offering the reader an in-depth profile of the deceased. He goes to great lengths to provide an accurate portrayal of his subject, including interviewing family far and wide as well as former colleagues. His work amounts to a tremendous reader service. His writing is exemplary, and he uses skillful techniques to share a complete picture of the person. Alexandria Gazette Packet

Michael Lee Pope, first place, Business and financial writing. *Judges' Comments:* "What a joy to find heavy subjects - unemployment

benefits, obligation bonds, stimulus money - explained in such a way that reader understands the issue. Such clarity, background, I was enticed to read it all." Arlington Connection

Louise Krafft, first place, Pictorial photo, May Dance Recital, Alexandria Gazette Packet

Louise Krafft first place Pictorial photo, Arlington Connection

Robbie Hammer, first place, General news photo, Clinton on the campaign trail, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection

Mike DiCicco, first place, General news writing, Burglary Spree Targets South Asians' Gold Jewelry *Judges' Comments:* "Well written, with strong narratives in every report. Good balance of sources, and well-rounded examination of a public safety issue." Oak Hill/Herndon Connection

Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Laurence

Foong, Louise Krafft, Jean Card, Michael Lee

Pope, second place, General makeup. *Judges' Comments:* "Elegant typography; clean, consistent pages. Well organized & easy to use." Alexandria Gazette Packet

Michael Lee Pope, second place, Education writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet

Michael Lee Pope second place General news writing, Election 2009. *Judges' Comments:* "This reporter's coverage of an ongoing news event - the pending elections - kept readers well informed of the issues and circumstances that affected them, and the nuances of the various local races. Leads are strong and stories show a depth of reporting. Great job of preparing the community for critical election decisions." Alexandria Gazette

Packet

Michael Lee Pope second place Feature series or continuing story, Quackgate, Mount Vernon Gazette

Julia Sheehan O'Donoghue second place In-depth or investigative reporting, local discussion of race and politics. *Judges' Comments:* "Good choice of timely enterprise topic with statistical presentations to show underlying patterns. Story had varied viewpoints and multiple sources for quotes - nice to quote to tie up story at end." Mount Vernon Gazette

Mary Kimm second place Editorial writing, Five editorials about education. *Judges' Comments:* "Crisp writing, well thought through."

Laurence Foong, Louise Krafft, Mary Kimm, Julia O'Donoghue, second place, Specialty pages or sections, A-Plus, Education, Learning, Fun. *Judges' Comments:* "Solid reporting, good writing and a variety of subjects offer readers insights into education issues in their community that any parent would appreciate." McLean Connection

Julia Sheehan O'Donoghue, second place, Business and financial writing, Impact of economic downturn and construction on local business. *Judges' Comments:* "Very comprehensive report on what is going on, especially Tyson Corner story. Well written, well organized. I don't live in McLean but this gave me a good overall picture of the business climate."

Mike DiCicco, second place, Feature writing portfolio, *Judges' Comments:* "Wonderful topics of human interest - making them even better are stories well told. The Groveses seemed like old friends by the article's end - and I was sure I could smell the leather in their

shop." Great Falls Connection.

Ken Moore, Bonnie Hobbs second place Public safety writing. Stories of embezzlement, murder, rampage, and more. *Judges Comments:* "We get a pretty good idea of how the victims of Jeffrey Koger have been impacted by his actions. Their comments give the readers eerie details of what it's like to be shot and survive as well as what difficulties they faced in the aftermath. The Nathan Jones story also reinforces the mental [health] aspects. The wide-eyed Koger mug shot is chilling." Fairfax Connection.

Jason Mackey, second place, Sports writing portfolio *Judges' Comments:* "Any reporter can go to an event and file a story. The good ones have a knack for spotting not-so-obvious stories and developing them. That's what Mackey did with his smartly-reported article on the lengths - literally - families will go to have a child seen by college recruiters. That story was bolstered by a nice feature that tells the story behind a scholarship and an in-depth look at an office manager who, at age 47, still gets in the ring as a regional wrestler." Centre View.

Louise Krafft, second place, Pictorial photo, Arlington connection

Michael Lee Pope, second place, Government writing, Arlington Connection

Michael Lee Pope, third place, Government writing, Perks Pitfalls and Plastic, Alexandria Gazette Packet

Michael Lee Pope, third place, In-depth or investigative reporting, City Misses Potential Threat, *Judges' Comments:* "Clearly written story

SEE AWARD WINNERS, PAGE 9

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McLean

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OPINION

Award Winners

FROM PAGE 8

about a problem many readers would not be familiar with." Alexandria Gazette Packet

Louise Krafft, third place, Picture story or essay, Halloween, Alexandria Gazette Packet

Louise Krafft, third place, General news photo, Mount Vernon Estate celebrates 4th of July

Gerald Fill, third place, Public safety writing. *Judges' Comments: "Good thorough coverage. Interesting material with details that inform readers of all aspects."* Mount Vernon Gazette

Julia Sheehan O'Donoghue third place, Business and financial writing. *Judges' Comments: "Interesting and well-written stories on often forgotten niche businesses. Especially liked the*

story on the private school situation. Liked the sidebar on how to help non-profits." Laurel Hill/Fairfax Station Connection

Louise Krafft, third place, Picture story or essay, HomeLifeStyle, Garden tour of Domaine St Charles, Great Falls Connection.

Louise Krafft, Laurence Foong, Mary Kimm, Julia O'Donoghue, Donna Manz, Mike

DiCicco, third place, Specialty pages or sections, HomeLifeStyle. *Judges' Comments: "Attractive and appealing home section. Nicely written and presented."* Great Falls Connection

Mike DiCicco, third place, Education writing. *Judges' Comments: "Slice-of-life stories about Japanese immersion and case day show what schools are doing. Quotes move stories along nicely."* Great Falls Connection

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Boosting Public Schools Through Private Donations

Private fundraising gives some public schools more resources than others.

By Julia O'Donoghue
The Connection

Vienna resident Michelle Kohl has been helping to raise money for the Madison High School cross country and track programs for the past four years. Her son, now a senior, runs with a Madison team during all three sports seasons. Madison's running program needs the extra money, Kohl says. Some of the more selective events are held at locations several hours from Vienna. "Chartering a bus, the school system doesn't pay for that. Sports teams just take it on themselves to do the extra stuff,"

said Kohl. Last fall, the Madison cross country team was able to attend a meet in New York, in addition to a selective event they go to every year in Delaware, largely because its annual fundraiser was successful. Kohl said the team's local five-kilometer foot race – which benefits both the running program and Madison's All Night Graduation Party – brought in \$6,000 to \$7,000 this year. The road race generated revenue primarily through local businesses – who pay to be listed as a sponsor – and registration fees. "Most of the money we raise usually goes to the [Delaware] meet. This year, we did really

well with our 5K run and so our kids were able to do more invitational meets," said Kohl. "The amount of money we raise largely dictates what we can do," she said. **FAMILIES** with children in local public school systems may not be getting an annual tuition bill but many will tell you their financial contributions to the school go above and beyond what they pay in taxes each year. In addition to paying for things like sports uniforms, prom dresses and musical instruments, parents contribute and help raise hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to fund everything from professional development for teachers to artificial turf fields. According to an audit of local school activity funds, 14 Fairfax County high schools brought in at least \$1 million in private

donations and outside money during the 2008-2009 school year to help pay for everything from sports team trips and equipment to guest speakers and teacher training. "If you didn't have a child in school, you would probably be surprised [by the amount of money raised] but so many fewer things are being funded by the school system now. I am not faulting the school system because these are tough economic times but there are a lot of needs," said Lisa Walsh, a Great Falls resident whose children attend Forestville Elementary School and Langley High School. **DETERMINING HOW MUCH** private money goes to schools can be difficult, since not all of it has to be reported.

In Fairfax, the amount of private money raised for schools is likely to be much higher than what is reflected in an audit, since many school fundraising organizations, including booster clubs, are independent and have their own bank accounts. As such, boosters and other independent non-profits can make some purchases for the school or sports teams themselves, without reporting it to the school system. For example, Thomas Jefferson High School already has one of most prolific fundraising efforts of any school in Fairfax. According to the audit, the science and technology magnet program deposited \$1.67 million into its local school activity fund for the 2008-2009 school year, thanks almost entirely to private fundraising efforts.

See Donors, Page 15

Fairfax County High Schools Money Raised:

An audit shows how much money flowed in and out of Fairfax County's local high school activity funds at the high school level in 2009. This figure reflects some, but not all, of privately-raised money that comes to the school from activities like selling tickets to sporting events, bake sales, charity auctions and business contributions and individual donations. It is used to pay for everything from photography equipment and new theatre lights to sports team travel and sending teachers to education conferences.

School	Population	Private Money Raised	Private Money Spent	Private Money Spent Per Student	Percentage of Student Population Considered Poor
Centreville High School	2,210	\$1.12 million	\$1.14 million	\$514	17.38
Chantilly High School	2,758	\$1.39 million	\$1.36 million	\$492	12.15
Edison High School	1,767	\$612,427	\$548,607	\$310	33.84
Fairfax High School	2,196	\$1.02 million	\$971,992	\$442	21.27
Hayfield Secondary School	2,289	\$1.01 million	\$998,542	\$436*	26
Herndon High School	2,120	\$1.01 million	\$1.03 million	\$487	23
Centreville High School	2,210	\$1.12 million	\$1.14 million	\$514	17.38
Chantilly High School	2,758	\$1.39 million	\$1.36 million	\$492	12.15
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Hayfield Secondary School	2,289	\$1.01 million	\$998,542	\$436*	26
Herndon High School	2,120	\$1.01 million	\$1.03 million	\$487	23
Lake Braddock Secondary School	3,811	\$1.38 million	\$1.41 million	\$369*	14
Langley High School	2,014	\$1.59 million	\$1.47 million	\$730	1.46
Lee High School	1,753	\$584,854	\$557,378	\$317	39.46
Madison High School	1,921	\$1.21 million	\$1.24 million	\$646	6.72
Marshall High School	1,386	\$775,905	\$764,969	\$551	17.6
McLean High School	1,746	\$826,678	\$788,725	\$451	7.79
Mount Vernon High School	1,756	\$730,045	\$740,900	\$421	42.31
Oakton High School	2,352	\$1.37 million	\$1.35 million	\$572	8.97
Robinson Secondary School	3,959	\$1.83 million	\$1.73 million	\$437*	11.28
South County Secondary School	3,010	\$1.46 million	\$1.33 million	\$433*	16
South Lakes High School	1,626	\$765,184	\$798,991	\$491	33
Thomas Jefferson High School	1,797	\$1.67 million	\$1.69 million	\$937	1.73
West Springfield High School	2,259	\$1.09 million	\$1.06 million	\$469	11.07
Westfield High School	3,173	\$1.66 million	\$1.72 million	\$542	14.4
Woodson High School	2,064	\$699,558	\$759,925	\$368	7.22

* Spending per student might appear lower at secondary schools, since both middle and high school students are included



The Spring Hill Elementary team of fifth and sixth graders managed to beat seven of the 11 middle schools teams and three of the four elementary schools teams they faced at the regional tournament.

Science Olympians

Spring Hill Elementary team scores high at regional science tournament.

On Saturday, March 13, the Spring Hill Science Olympiad team participated in the Virginia Science Olympiad Regional Tournament. Competing against the teams from 11 middle schools and four other elementary schools from Northern Virginia and around the state, Spring Hill students earned a sixth place finish. The 15-student team of fifth and sixth graders managed to beat seven of the 11 middle schools teams they faced and

See Spring Hill, Page 12

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NEWS

Wayne W. Sharp, Linda W. Sharp, Fritz McDougall and Suzanne McDougall mingle before the concert. Wayne Sharp, retired vice president of the McLean Orchestra, said he is passionate about the effect that music can have on young children. He and his wife, Linda, are supporters of McLean's Youth Orchestra.



PHOTOS BY SARAH KASHANIAN/THE CONNECTION



Emma Resmini, child prodigy flute player, and her mother, Marlyn Resmini, enjoy the time preceding the brass performance. Emma, 9, has already made her debut playing for the National Symphony back in December. On March 20, she performed a solo at the McLean Orchestra "A Season for All" Concert.

McLean Orchestra Presents Winter Musicale

On Sunday, March 7, the Jan and Elizabeth Lodal hosted the McLean Orchestra Winter Musicale Concert, "Brilliantly Burnished Brass," in the large high ceiling sunroom in their residence.

"My husband and I want to do all that we can in order to support the arts. McLean Orchestra is a wonderful organization full of fine musicians," said Elizabeth Lodal.

The Quintet included Jay Chadwick on the French horn, Rob Mesite on the trombone, Bill Gray on the tuba, Dave Haglund on the trumpet and Charlie Peterson, also on the trumpet. The musicians, with-

out the use of a conductor, patterned their choice of music to a "summer park concert."

"We chose a combination of lighter classical pieces then progressed towards a more pop like repertoire," said Mesite. "A concert like this is geared towards a wide variety of audience, a somewhat 'Whitman's Sampler' of music."

Melodies performed ranged from Beethoven's classics to the more upbeat and modern Buddy Holly.

"Performance's such as these give people a greater appreciation for music," said Wayne W. Sharp, member of the audience.

— SARAH KASHANIAN

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Spring Hill

From Page 11

three of the four elementary schools.

Spring Hill's team effort was bolstered by two first place finishes (William Furlong and Kerry McConnaughay in "Meteorology" and Sneha and Ramya Ravi in "Can't Judge a Powder") and three fourth place finishes (Matt Fox and Justin Sher for "Elevated Bridge", Jack Martin and Katie Pruitt for "Compute this" and Maille-Rose Smith for "Physical Science Lab").

Other strong performances were turned in by remaining team members Susie Kim, Phillip Carr, Jasmine Sher, Shirali Nigam, Ananya Suri and Jake Baker.

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Donors Keep Activities Going

From Page 10

Because of its deep pockets, Jefferson was able to spend far more money per pupil, approximately \$937 for each student, from its local school activity fund than any other Fairfax high school.

The next biggest spender, Langley High School in McLean, topped out at \$730 per student and most high schools range between \$350 to \$550 per student.

But what shows up in the student activity fund does not even come close to reflecting the amount of corporate and individual donations Jefferson receives.

The Thomas Jefferson Partnership Fund, a non-profit that seeks financial support for the school, raised more than \$500,000 for the science magnet school last year, money that was not accounted for in the \$1.67 million student activity fund.

The considerable funding brought in by the partnership was used, in part, to buy a \$25,000 circuit board plotter for the school's robotics, optics, energy systems, prototyping and electronics labs.

"The county basically funds us at the same level as every other school and we require much more equipment in our labs," said Gary Bottorff, the partnership fund's executive director.

ALLOWING TOO much private fundraising for individual public schools raises questions about equity in school budgets.

While Jefferson may be the most successful high school at soliciting private money in Fairfax, the school also has one of the county's wealthiest student bodies.

Only 1.73 percent of Jefferson students are considered poor enough to qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch. In Fairfax County overall, 22.47 percent of the student body receives free or reduced-price lunches.

Approximately \$250,000 of the \$500,000 raised by the Jefferson fund last year came from parents directly. Just one family with a child at the school agreed to give the magnet \$50,000 over the next four years, according to an organization newsletter.

Fairfax's other schools with the largest local school activity funds – those that were able to spend the most per pupil from that fund last year — are also among its most affluent.

Langley, where 1.5 percent of students are considered poor, spent \$730 per student. Madison, where 6.72 percent of students are considered poor, spent \$646 per student. Oakton, where 8.97 percent of students are considered poor, spent \$572 per student.

"A very large portion of the money we raise comes from people who have some

sort of connection to the school," said Walsh, who is in charge of soliciting funds for Langley's "all night" graduation party this year.

THE FAIRFAX COUNTY school board does try to make sure a school's ability to raise money privately does not mean they have an advantage when it comes to instructional programs.

"You can't pay for certain things. People should not think that the PTA is going to be able to fill a \$100,000 difference in the school's budget," said Susan Wisseman, a Madison High School parent.

A booster club or local parent teacher association [PTA] is not allowed to raise money to keep their class size smaller or to implement a full-day kindergarten program for example. In general, private funds cannot be used to hire full-time teachers or coaches, said several officials.

"We are not going to have a situation where rich communities can buy more teachers," said Meir Zupovitz, assistant comptroller with Fairfax County Public Schools.

STILL, MANY OF the things that academic boosters and the local PTA pay for with private funding directly impact the classroom. Langley's parent, teacher and student association has created an entire professional development fund, which is used solely to pay for extra training or courses Langley teachers want to take.

The local parent organization at all three schools Walsh's children attended – Forestville, Cooper Middle School and Langley – has paid for extra SMART boards, which allow teachers to transfer information directly from their computers onto boards at the front of classrooms.

Pam Rawlinson, a Madison High School teacher, has worked with several Fairfax County schools on planning and funding the annual "all night" graduation parties for high school seniors. She said some schools could have an easier time raising money because they are located close to a large commercial district.

Madison, for example, is located right off Route 123 near downtown Vienna and has a very strong relationship with many of the local businesses in the area. Several Vienna business owners contribute to events like Madison's all night graduation party, even if they don't have children that attend the school.

"I think it is much easier for us to find donations from our businesses than, let's say, Marshall High School. We are so closely identified with Vienna by the local business community and close by.

Marshall serves students from all over and it is kind of at the crossroads of Falls Church and Tysons Corner, in a no man's land," said Rawlinson.

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21 Announcements

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-William Van Horne

21 Announcements

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-Werner Heisenberg

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 25

An Evening with Joseph Arthur. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Potomac Rose Society March Meeting and Rose Growing Program. 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. How to prune rosebushes to maximize spring growth. Free and open to all. 301-869-4948.

Opening Reception for Middle and High School Students Art Exhibition. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The art of students in kindergarten through 12th grade in the McLean area. For more information, call 703-790-1953 or visit www.mpaart.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 26

The Hint, Struan Shields and Ever Since Beginnings. 5:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Sarah Borges and the Broken Singles with Memphis 59. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

George Mason University Dance Company's 2010 Gala Concert. 8 p.m. at the GMU Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Humble Boy. 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy about broken vows and bee-keeping. \$25 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or www.1stStageTysons.org/humble.

SATURDAY/MARCH 27

Old-Fashioned Easter Egg Roll. 10:30-11:30 am on the grounds of the Historic Freeman House, 131 Church St. N.E., Vienna. For age 12 and under and their parents. Free, bring your own basket. Visit with the Easter Bunny and listen to a storyteller. Co-Sponsored by Historic Vienna, Inc. and the Town of Vienna Department of Parks & Recreation. 703-938-5187.

Fairfax County Park Authority Watershed Cleanup. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Pick up everything from plastic bottles and bags to discarded mattresses, rusting auto parts, old appliances, rubber tires and other debris illegally dumped in local waterways. Participants are encouraged to wear boots and old clothes. Bring gloves. Trash bags will be provided. Contact www.fergusonfoundation.org/ or call the parks directly.

***Frying Pan Farm Park,** 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. 703-437-9101.

***Riverbend Park and Nature Center,** 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. 703-759-9018.

Open Mic Night. 7 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. Free admission, light refreshments provided. e-mail csalgado@viennava.gov or sollom@cox.net. Six performers are scheduled for each show. 703-255-6360.

Gustafer Yellowgold. 10:30 a.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Children's show with music and moving images. \$8. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.



Ballet students from the Vienna-based Cuppett Performing Arts Center will perform in the Center's annual Spring ballet, 'Gayaneh & Swan Lake,' on Saturday, March 27, at the Kenmore Middle School Theater on Carlin Springs Road in Arlington at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Cary Pierce (Jackopierce). 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

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

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. 8 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Swing revival with the music of Cab Calloway. \$38, \$33 district residents. 703-790-9223.

Slide Program on Piedmont EcoHistory. 3:30 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. www.ecostewardsalliance.org.

George Mason University Dance Company's 2010 Gala Concert. 8 p.m. at the GMU Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Humble Boy. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy about broken vows and bee-keeping. \$25 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or www.1stStageTysons.org/humble.

Celtic Music Concert. 8 p.m. at Cherry Hill Farmhouse, 312 Park Ave., Falls Church. An evening of Irish music by the band Poirt O' Call. \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door. 703-248-5171.

Cuppett Performing Arts Center Ballet, "Gayaneh & Swan Lake." 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 200 South Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door, \$10 seniors and under age 12. 703-938-9019.

SUNDAY/MARCH 28

Music from Oberlin at Oakton: The Ninth Annual Concert by Oberlin Conservatory Students. 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Holly Jenkins and Lauren Manning, violins, DJ Cheek, viola, and Mary Auner, cello, will perform Schubert Quartettsatz and Shostakovich Quartet No. 2. 703-893-9072 or www.uucf.org.

Bill Emerson and Sweet Dixie Band. 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Army of Me (acoustic) and Colleen McCarron. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Humble Boy. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy about broken vows and bee-keeping. \$25 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or www.1stStageTysons.org/humble.

MONDAY/MARCH 29

Scout Day. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Outdoor stations will fill the grounds as Scouts earn badges or achieve electives for Tiger, Bear, Wolf and Boy Scouts, Daisies, Brownies, Juniors and Cadets. Reservations required. \$15, Sully patch available for \$4. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully.

Inova Blood Drive. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Photo ID required. Appointments preferred, call 1-866-256-6372. Adults.

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

Children's Victorian Tea Party. 12-1:30 p.m. at Cherry Hill Farmhouse, 312 Park Ave., Falls Church. Dress in period clothing, enjoy parlor games and a tea party. Ages 8 and up. \$12. 703-248-5171.

TUESDAY/MARCH 30

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in Virginia. Reception at 8:15 a.m. before the 9 a.m. Fairfax County board meeting in the Conference Room at the Government Center, 1200 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. grunt69@gmail.com.

Pink Jams Breast Cancer Benefit with The Dreamscapes Project. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 31

American Life History Camp. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Discover the different lifestyles of the Lee family and the enslaved African Americans. Explore how textiles were woven and dyed. Cook in the 18th century kitchen and slave quarter. Bring a bag lunch. Lemonade and dessert provided. Ages 7-12. \$25 per day or \$70 for three days through Friday, April 2.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully.

An Evening with Pierre Bensusan. 8:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Civil War Soldiers and Spies. 10 a.m. at Cherry Hill Farmhouse, 312 Park Ave. Falls Church. Learn about the lives of soldiers and spies, make hard tack and decode messages. Ages 8 and up. \$8. 703-248-5171.

THURSDAY/APRIL 1

Benjy Davis Project CD Release, Matt Duke and Seth Glier. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 2

Tango Band Cuidado. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Music and dance from a contemporary tango ensemble. Pre-performance discussion at 7 p.m. \$10, tickets available night of performance only at theater box office. 703-993-1380 or www.pghtangoconnection.com.

Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

I am Judas Iscariot. 8 p.m. at the Korean United Methodist Church in McLean, Lewinsville Road at Swings Mill Road. A drama with 70 chorus members and 25 orchestra members; music includes Highlight of Mozart Requiem and Dubois "Last 7 words at Cross."

Humble Boy. 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy about broken vows and bee-keeping. \$25 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or www.1stStageTysons.org/humble.



PHOTO BY JAMIE RICHARDSON

The cast of the McLean High School's 'Twelve Angry Jurors' during one of their rehearsals.

McLean High Drama Presents '12 Angry Jurors'

Just after completing their snowstorm-delayed One-Acts last Tuesday, the McLean Highlanders are diving headlong into their next Theatre Department venture, "Twelve Angry Jurors" by Reginald Rose. Based upon the popular 1950's movie "Twelve Angry Men," this inside look into the deliberations of a murder trial get unpredictable when one lone juror votes "Not Guilty" on a seemingly open-and-shut case.

McLean High School's production will be anything but traditional, mixing a diverse cast with an intimate staging that will include arena seating and a nearly closed-in room with partial walls and ceiling. To see what comes out of this extraordinary jury room, come see "Twelve Angry Jurors" will be presented at McLean High School on April 21-24 at 7:30 p.m. For more information visit www.mcleanhstheatre.org

Helping Those in Need

FROM PAGE 3

and co-president of the International Club. "We thought we should put all this talent together for a good purpose."

The variety show was coordinated by the International Club, while the IB board ran the food sales. All IB Student Advisory Board members participated in the Hope Haiti: We Are the World program.

SPECIAL-EDUCATION TEACHER Julie Nation volunteered in Haiti earlier as a Hope Haiti volunteer. After the January quake, she spoke with the organization again and discussed helping out the country with the three groups that ultimately were engaged. Planning the fundraising campaign began in earnest a couple of weeks after the earthquake.

Yeleswarapu believes that more fortunate people should help Haiti in its trying times. "Be-

cause we have the ability to help them, we should," she said.

Dziedzic thinks that, as one of the wealthiest nations in the world, it is almost a responsibility of the United States to help others, "especially when they're in such great need."

Domino's Pizza discounted the cost of the pizzas that were sold at the Hope Haiti: We Are the World program. Sam's Club donated desserts to the fundraiser, and the IB board baked sweets for the bake sale. The Marshall organizers estimated they made approximately \$1,900 on the two-week fundraiser.

Guest speaker Lenny Teh, former Haiti Peace Corps volunteer and director of Friends of Haiti, spoke to guests in the cafeteria about life in Haiti. A slide show brought the island nation to life.

"The proximity of Haiti and its sheer poverty motivates and inspires a desire to help," said Purihella.

Spring Break Trips

March 29 - April 2
for 5th-8th graders

Join the OFTC on these fun and exciting trips:

Spring Break: All Five Trips Monday, March 29 - Friday April 2, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sign-up for one trip, or all five and receive a discount!	Shadowland Laser Tag Monday, March 29 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Bowling @ Strike in Bethesda Tuesday, March 30 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mission 22 Challenge Course Wednesday, March 31 9 a.m.-5 p.m. National Zoo Thursday, April 1 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Hershey Park Friday, April 2 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
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The Old Firehouse Teen Center
1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean VA 22101
703-448-8336 (TEEN); TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

Looking for activities for your child during Spring Break?

MCC offers Spring Break Camps for ages 4 to 9.

Children enjoy supervised games, arts and crafts, activities, music, and special events throughout the week. Children must bring a lunch and a drink each day and dress in comfortable clothes and tennis shoes. A morning snack is provided.

Camp will be held at a Fairfax County School in McLean.

Spring Break Camp

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

SPORTS

Highlanders Hoping to Take That Next Step

McLean softball just missed making the state playoffs last year.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

A year ago, the McLean High softball team came close to qualifying for the Virginia State AAA playoffs. After reaching the Northern Region semifinals, the Highlanders' season ended with an extra innings loss to South County. A win over the Stallions would have advanced McLean to the region title game and automatically qualified them for the state tournament.

Certainly, 2009, even with the tough, season-ending loss, was a wonderful spring for the Highlanders, who captured the Liberty District regular season title and, at the 16-team region playoffs, won a pair of postseason games. But coming close but not quite making the state playoffs was a tough way to end the season.

Now, McLean is as determined as ever to go at least one step further this spring. With its entire team back from last year, the Highlanders will make for a difficult game for any opponent.

"This year, everybody has the same goal in mind," said veteran McLean coach Maurice Tawil. "We were one game away from going to states."

McLean, which finished 20-5 last year, was scheduled to open up the new season on Tuesday, March 23, with a district game at Marshall. Two days later, on Thursday, the Highlanders will play another district road game at Jefferson.

Marshall, which over the pre-season schedule won games against Robinson and Westfield, while playing South County to a 1-1 tie, will be traveling to Myrtle Beach, S.C. this Saturday to take part in next week's Grand Strand tournament over spring break. From March 29 through April 2, the Highlanders will play teams from South Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and West Virginia.

McLean's first game after its return from the spring break trip will be its home opener against district opponent South Lakes on Tuesday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m.

McLean went 13-1 in district play a year ago. The Highlanders fell to Marshall in the district tournament semifinals for their lone district setback. This season, the Liberty will once again provide plenty of stellar competition. But McLean is strong in all areas of the game — on the mound, defensively in the field and with the bats on offense — and will force opposing teams to have to play outstanding ball in order to beat them.

"We have a multi-talented offense," said Tawil. "At the top of the line-up we have speed and can play small ball."

The heart of the McLean order, with such standout batters as senior outfielder Lauren Sutherland, senior catcher Carolyn Gilbertson and sophomore outfielder Allison Wilhelm hitting third through fifth,



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Maurice Tawil, the McLean High girls' softball coach, led the Highlanders to the Northern Region semifinals last year.

respectively, could fuel one of the better line-ups in the region.

McLean's offense was outstanding last year and will likely be so again this season.

"I can't find very many faults with how we played last year," said Tawil. "We put a lot of people on base."

LAUREN MCCOLGAN, McLean's senior shortstop who has committed to play the sport at George Mason University next school year, will once again be at the top of McLean's batting order. As a junior, McColgan earned All-District, All-Region and All-State accolades and batted in the high .300's for the season.

"She's a fierce competitor and she is like a coach on the field," said Tawil, of his shortstop. "She's eager to be a leader, she's athletic and she's a dynamic hitter. She's also fast and just a complete player. She was our leading hitter last year."

McColgan and teammate Brittany McCray, a senior second baseman, will give McLean a terrific defensive middle of the infield. McCray was an All-District second baseman last year.

"She's very athletic and it's hard to get a ball past her," said Tawil, of McCray. "She covers an amazing amount of ground."

During the preseason game against Westfield, McCray, on a looping pop fly over the second base bag, made a tumbling, shoe-string catch, providing the exhibition contest's fielding highlight.

Another top infielder for McLean this season will be senior first baseman Megan Sullivan, a second team All-District selection in 2009.

In the outfield, Sutherland, who made honorable mention All-State last year, is one of the region's best center fielders.

Sutherland and junior pitcher Jamie Bell will both give the Highlanders outstanding pitching. Both players saw plenty of action on the hill last year and both will do the same this season. Bell was 8-1 last year with an ERA just over one. She throws several pitches and is outstanding at locating the ball to either side of the plate, or in the upper or lower zones.

Bell and Sutherland will be pitching to battery mate Gilbertson, the team's talented catcher and clean-up batter.

McLean is ready for a successful season of district and region softball.

"We're excited about the season," said Tawil.



PHOTO BY KENT ARNOLD/HERO MOMENT IMAGING

McLean sophomore Rummer Bershtein scored four goals in the Highlanders' 14-9 girls' lacrosse victory over Falls Church last Friday night.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The McLean High girls' lacrosse team opened its spring season with a pair of non-district games last week. The Highlanders lost at Yorktown, 10-2, on Thursday, March 18. But they came back strong the following day with a decisive 14-9 triumph over Falls Church.

Leading the Highlanders' offensive drive against the Jaguars was sophomore Rummer Bershtein, who racked up four goals. Two-goal games for the Highlanders came from Sam Lockhart, Hannah Kirby, Jacqueline Rose and Nina Zegler. Notching one goal each were Mackenzie May and Marielena Planas.

"[The girls] learned the value of possession and draw control first hand in their victory over Falls Church," said Anne Inzerello, the McLean head coach. "Rummer Bershtein had an explosive offensive game with four goals, mostly off of draw control fast break situations."

Defensively, McLean goalkeeper Hanna Longwell had six saves and two interceptions in the first half as the Highlanders built an 8-3 halftime lead over Falls Church. In the second half, senior Jessica Donnell posted five saves in her first regular season action in goal as a Highlander.

In the loss to Yorktown, McLean's goals came from sophomores Mackenzie May and Bridget Smith. Longwell, the Highlander goalie who is headed to Colgate University next school year, saw plenty of action with 10 saves, four interceptions and two caused turnovers on the night.

Andie Romness scored three goals and Fueller Overby netted two in McLean High's 9-0 girls' soccer win at Wakefield High School in Arlington on March 15. Single goals for the Highlanders in the non-district victory came from Abby Evans, Melissa Downey, Amy Kochert and Kristina Bettner.

Romness, along with her hat trick, also dished out two assists. Also earning assists were Downey, Kate Hansen and Amy Kochert. Three McLean goalkeepers saw action in the shut-out win — Logan Tapscott, Kaylin Stigall and Malalai Nawabi.

Coached by Tiffani Washington, McLean lost a tough 1-0 contest two days later in a non-district home game against Westfield. The game's lone goal came in the second half when the Bulldogs' Kirsten Miller found the net.

McLean will be home this Thursday, March 25 at 7 p.m. versus Centreville.

HOME SALES

FEBRUARY 2010
\$2,700,000 ~ \$182,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
7426 DULANY DR	6	5	2		MCLEAN	\$2,700,000	Detached	0.88		ELMWOOD ESTS
7523 OLD DOMINION DR	5	4	2		MC LEAN	\$2,385,000	Detached	1.00		LAURELMONT
8718 WOODSIDE CT	5	5	2		MC LEAN	\$1,675,000	Detached	1.77		WOODSIDE ESTATES
7648 BURFORD DR	6	5	1		MCLEAN	\$1,338,000	Detached	0.93		OLDE SWINKS MILL ESTATES
6714 DANFORTH ST	4	3	2		MCLEAN	\$1,315,000	Detached	0.31		MC LEAN MANOR
6500 HEATHER BROOK CT	4	3	1		MCLEAN	\$1,175,000	Detached	0.49		LANGLEY OAKS
2123 BOXWOOD DR	5	3	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$1,130,000	Detached	0.24		CHURCHILL
6513 BELLAMINE CT	4	3	1		MC LEAN	\$1,100,000	Detached	0.55		LANGLEY OAKS
1352 NORTHWYCK CT	5	4	1		MCLEAN	\$1,100,000	Detached	0.15		SPRING HILL
8328 OLD DOMINION DR	5	3	1		MC LEAN	\$999,000	Detached	0.55		GREENWAY HEIGHTS
1217 OLD STABLE RD	5	3	1		MCLEAN	\$965,000	Detached	0.45		MCLEAN HUNT
1457 HAMPTON RIDGE DR	3	3	1		MC LEAN	\$928,000	Townhouse	0.07		HAMPTONS OF MC LEAN
6314 STONEHAM LN	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$925,000	Detached	0.40		EVERMAY
1519 CRESTWOOD LANE	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$880,000	Detached	0.41		CHESTERBROOK WOODS
7137 MERRIMAC DR	4	2	1		MCLEAN	\$875,000	Detached	0.53		MERRIMAC ESTATES
1711 EAST AVE	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$845,000	Detached	0.26		DIVINES CHESTERBROOK
2057 ROCKINGHAM ST	5	4	1		MCLEAN	\$810,000	Detached	0.48		FRANKLIN PARK
8106 FALSTAFF RD	5	3	0		MCLEAN	\$790,000	Detached	0.36		MC LEAN HAMLET
1329 SUNNY SIDE LN	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$739,000	Detached	1.47		WOODSIDE ESTATES
6911 BRIGHT AVE	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$730,000	Detached	0.27		BROYHILL LANGLEY ESTATES
1703 WARNER AVE	4	3	0		MC LEAN	\$646,000	Detached	0.53		WEST LEWINSVILLE HEIGHTS
1744 DUMBARTON ST	3	2	0		MC LEAN	\$620,000	Detached	0.34		WRENWOOD
6440 TUCKER AVE	5	2	0		MCLEAN	\$607,000	Detached	0.23		CHESTERBROOK
2547 OGDEN ST	4	3	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$600,000	Detached	0.24		SHERMONT
1600 WESTMORELAND ST	5	4	0		MCLEAN	\$600,000	Detached	0.55		ROSEMONT
6534 IVY HILL DR	3	1	1		MCLEAN	\$540,000	Detached	0.28		CHESTERBROOK GARDENS
1650 VALLEY AVE	3	2	0		MCLEAN	\$516,000	Detached	0.48		LANES CHESTERBROOK
7706 MARSHALL HEIGHTS CT	4	3	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$507,500	Townhouse	0.04		MARSHALL HEIGHTS
2149 DOMINION WAY	3	3	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$495,000	Townhouse	0.04		MARSHALL HEIGHTS
2607 OGDEN ST	4	2	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$475,000	Detached	0.32		WREN DALE ACRES
6610 ORLAND ST	4	1	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$380,000	Detached	0.24		WESTMORELAND HEIGHTS
7421 PAXTON RD	3	2	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$345,000	Detached	0.25		PIMMIT HILLS
6800 FLEETWOOD RD #717	2	2	0		MCLEAN	\$340,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			MC LEAN HOUSE NORTH
1571 SPRING GATE DR #6214	2	2	0		MCLEAN	\$330,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			GATES OF MCLEAN
8340 GREENSBORO DR #614	2	2	0		MCLEAN	\$312,500	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			ROTONDA
1505 LINCOLN WAY #304A	2	2	0		MCLEAN	\$300,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			FOUNTAINS AT MCLEAN
2230 GEORGE C MARSHALL DR #1017	2	2	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$280,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			RENAISSANCE 2230
2230 GEORGE C MARSHALL DR #227	2	2	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$262,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			THE RENAISSANCE
6800 FLEETWOOD RD #513	1	1	0		MCLEAN	\$255,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			MC LEAN HOUSE NORTH
2230 GEORGE C MARSHALL DR #626	2	1	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$250,500	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			RENAISSANCE 2230
2300 PIMMIT DR #316	2	2	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$250,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			IDYLWOOD TOWERS
2825 LEE LANDING CT	2	1	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$231,000	Townhouse	0.02		LEE LANDING PARK
1580 SPRING GATE DR #4306	1	1	0		MCLEAN	\$229,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			GATES OF MCLEAN
2230 GEORGE C MARSHALL DR #811	1	1	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$226,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			RENAISSANCE 2230
7720 TREMAYNE PL #215	2	2	0		MCLEAN	\$225,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			THE COLONIES
8380 GREENSBORO DR #102	1	1	0		MCLEAN	\$220,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			ROTONDA
1580 SPRING GATE DR #4407	1	1	0		MCLEAN	\$220,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			GATES OF MCLEAN
1524 LINCOLN WAY #423	1	1	0		MCLEAN	\$215,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			FOUNTAINS AT MCLEAN
1504 LINCOLN WAY #302	1	1	0		MCLEAN	\$203,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			FOUNTAINS AT MCLEAN
1954 KENNEDY DR #102	2	1	0		MCLEAN	\$182,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			MC LEAN CHASE

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Claude Moore Foundation Supports Homeless through PACT

Lynn Tadlock, Claude Moore Charitable Foundation's deputy executive director, presented a check for \$10,000 to the Park Authority in support of the Parks and Community Together (PACT) program at the Park Authority Board meeting on Wednesday, March 10. For the past two years, the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation has contributed to ensure children residing in Fairfax County homeless shelters have a chance to attend summer camp.

The Claude Moore Charitable Foundation was established in 1987 by the late Dr. Claude Moore, a successful physician and Northern Virginia landowner. The vision of the Foundation is to instigate programs and partnerships that increase academic competence and encourage leadership abilities, with an emphasis on the underprivileged.

Since 1997, the PACT program, in partnership with the county's homeless shelters, generous private sector sponsors and local grant makers, has provided summer fun and education for 404 children between the ages of 3 and 15. Last summer, PACT successfully



Park Authority Board Chairman Bill Bouie; Lynn Tadlock, representing the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation; and Park Foundation Executive Director Paul Baldino.

integrated 37 children from local shelters into Fairfax County Park Authority camp programs. Program partners include Alexandria's Mondloch House, Falls Church's Shelter House, Fairfax's Bethany

Home, Lutheran Social Services serving local area shelters, Northern Virginia's Nova Family Services, New Hope Housing, and Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, both of Alexandria.

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OPEN HOUSES

Sunday, March 28

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.

McLean					
1527 Brookhaven Drive	\$1,599,000	Sun. 1-4	Mark McFadden	Coldwell Banker	202-333-6100
1718 Baldwin Drive	\$769,000	Sun. 1-4	Tatiana Moody	Weichert	703-760-8880

To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Trisha at 703-778-9419, or trisha@connectionnewspapers.com. All listings are due by Monday at 3 p.m.

McLean Sports Collectibles

Cards, Wax, Supplies & Collectibles

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Blake. He's working out and getting fit so he'll be ready when you are. Attributes: Perfect walking pal!

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