

McLean CONNECTION

Elise Edwards of Falls Church and Thomas Linn of Reston play the leading roles of Betty and Vincent in the McLean Drama Company's production of 'Florida Days.'

'Florida Days' Hits McLean Stage

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Route 123
Closes for
Weekend

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Local Teens
Remember Haiti

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PHOTO BY PAUL GILLIS PHOTOGRAPHY

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JUNE 9-15, 2010 ♦ VOLUME XXIV, NUMBER 23

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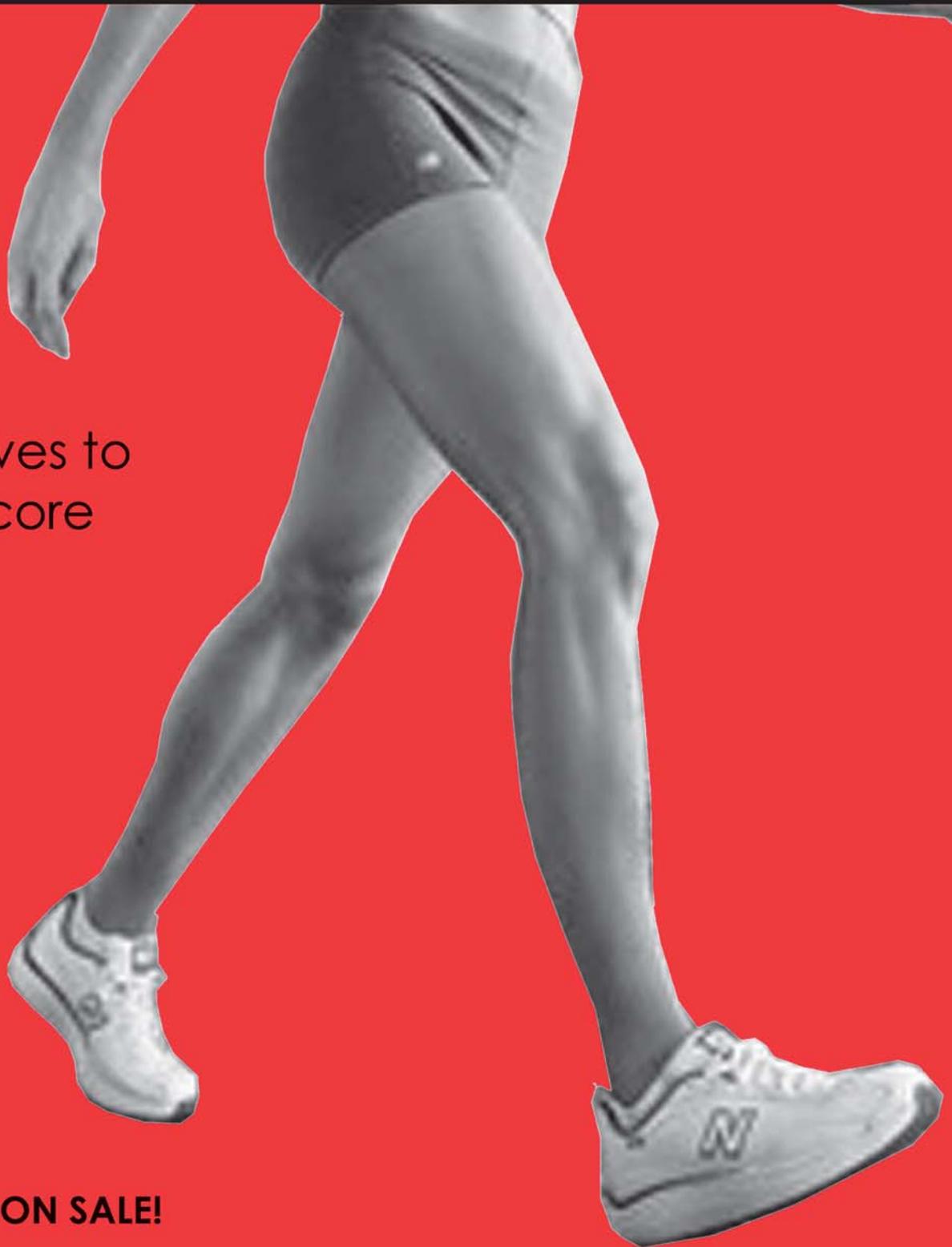
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School Board Closes Alternative High School

Pimmit Hills served many young adults too old to attend traditional programs.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Yannick Simo tried to enroll in South Lakes High School when he first moved to Reston from Cameroon two years ago. But Fairfax County Public Schools told Simo, then 20 years-old, that he was already too old to take classes at a traditional high school.

A good student, Simo had been close to graduating high school before he and his younger brother moved across the world to live with their mother.

Now that he is the United States, Simo plans not only to graduate from high school but also college and medical school. He eventually wants to practice cardiology.

Because of his age, Fairfax school system suggested he enroll in an alternative high school to earn his high school diploma. So, Simo started taking classes at Pimmit Hills Alternative High School in Falls Church.

"When I came to Pimmit, I basically didn't have a chance to enroll in a regular high school so I had to come here. Now I love this school. I am so attached to it," said Simo.

After just 18 months of classes at Pimmit, Simo is on track to graduate from high school in two weeks. The student has also earned scholarships from three local Rotary Clubs to help him pay for school at Northern Virginia Community College next year.

Now, Simo is grateful he was not allowed to enroll at South Lakes, where he might have had to take an additional year of high school classes. He also would have had a harder time finding friends at South Lakes, where many students would have been at least four years younger than he is.

"If I had gone to South Lakes, I would have been very shy. I would keep to myself," said Simo.

PIMMIT HILLS' ability to attract students like Simo has been the school's strength but probably also lead to its downfall.

Last month, the Fairfax County School Board voted to close Pimmit Hills as part of a broader package of cuts to the school system's overall budget for the 2010-2011 school year. The school board expects to save \$1.1 million by shuttering the program.

Fairfax operates three alternative high schools, including Pimmit, that serve a little over 700 students countywide.

Those enrolled in an alternative high school often have had difficulty in one of county's general education programs, perhaps because of pregnancy, bullying or social anxiety. Students who face disciplinary action, including expulsion from a base high school, also attend alternative education programs.

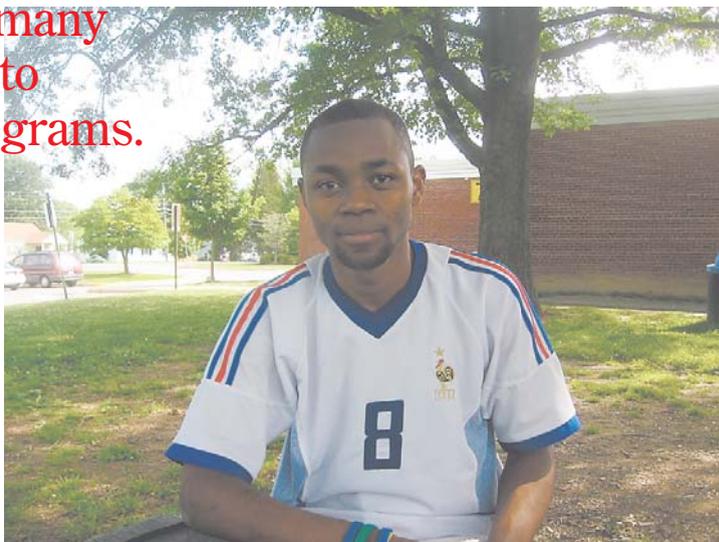


PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Reston resident Yannick Simo is graduating from Pimmit Hills Alternative High School in Falls Church this month and plans to attend Northern Virginia Community College with scholarship money from local Rotary Clubs.

But alternative high schools also cater to adults who are too old to attend a traditional ninth through 12th grade program. Unlike school-age students, adult must pay a fee to take classes in one of the alternative programs.

With only 244 students, Pimmit has fewer students enrolled than Fairfax's two other alternative high schools and made the most sense to close, said Paul Regnier, the school system's spokesperson.

According to information provided on Fairfax County's website, 265 students attend Mountain View Alternative High School in Centreville and 267 students attend Bryant Alternative High School in the Mount Vernon area.

PIMMIT also enrolls the fewest number of school-aged high school students out of the three campuses.

"The majority of our students are adults and the majority of their students are underage I think," said Mike Salaita, a Pimmit math teacher of the differences between his school and the two other alternative high schools.

According to Pimmit's special education coordinator Cynthia Johnson, most of the students at Pimmit fall between the ages of 18 and 22.

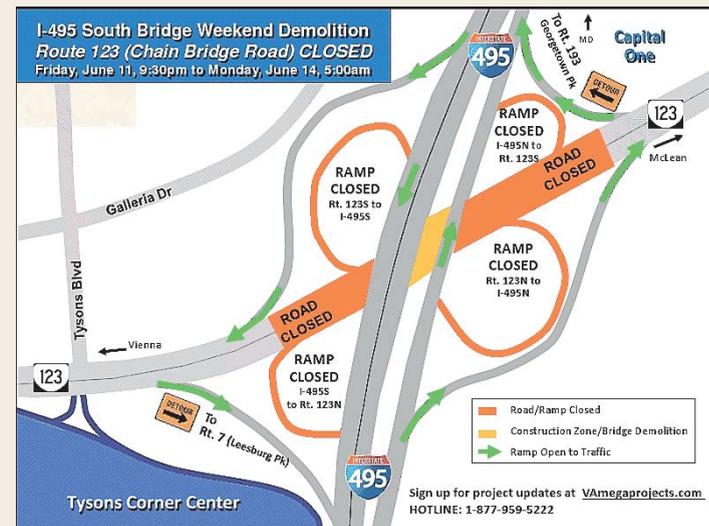
"We are a school that takes older students. Almost all of our students come to class during the day and work in the evening," said Pimmit's principal Beverly Wilson.

Adults who actively sought out a high school education program at Pimmit would be more likely to make the effort to attend classes in another part of the county. School-aged students, like those who attend Bryant and Mountain View, may not be as motivated to seek out other programs if their alternative high school was closed, said Regnier.

Even though she does not support the closing of Pimmit, Wilson agreed with Regnier's rationale.

The adult students who are enrolled in classes at Pimmit are very motivated. According to informa

SEE PIMMIT HILLS, PAGE 18



On the weekend of June 11, Route 123 in Tysons Corner will be closed for the whole weekend as crews demolish the old outer loop beltway overpass.

Route 123 Closes for Weekend

Beltway bridge coming down, delays expected.

In past weeks, the Tysons Corner area has been casually called the "ground zero" site for construction on the High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes and the Dulles Metrorail projects. The beltway is being widened through there, overpasses are being rebuilt, and the metrorail line will cross the highway in that area.

On the weekend of June 11, Route 123 in Tysons Corner will be closed for the whole weekend as crews demolish the old outer loop beltway overpass so construction on the new Beltway bridges and a new HOT Lanes connection into Tysons Corner at the Westpark Drive bridge can begin. Crews will also start construction of Dulles Metrorail guideway piers over the Capital Beltway. "The weekend closure is going to be challenging for motorists in the Tysons area, but when the HOT Lanes are completed, motorists will have transportation options

like never before," said Steve Titunik, VDOT Regional Transportation Program Communications Director.

Starting on Friday night, June 11, traffic on Route 123 north will be detoured to I-495 south, on to the Route 7 ramps to I-495 north and back to Route 123 north. Motorists should expect delays during the weekend closure as well as a left lane closure on I-495 north near Route 123.

Traffic heading south on Route 123 will be detoured to I-495 north to Georgetown Pike (Route 193) and back to I-495 north to Route 123 south, and traffic heading south on Route 123 bound for I-495 south will be routed to I-495 north to Route 193 and back to I-495 south.

Motorists are urged to avoid the whole area if possible. By 5 a.m. Monday morning, all lanes of Route 123 will be reopened in time for morning rush hour.

Later in the summer, the whole process will be thrown into action again while crews rebuild the I-495 northbound overpass. For further information about this closure and Virginia Megaprojects, visit VAMegaprojects.com.

Magarity Road to Close Overnights

Drivers who use Magarity Road in the McLean/Falls Church/Tysons area may experience significant delays some weeknights through the week of June 14 when the road is closed between

Olney Road and Great Falls Street between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., weather permitting. Drivers are encouraged to detour by using Anderson Road, Chain Bridge Road and Great Falls Street.

Officer Thwarts Robbery Attempt

Two men and a woman were arrested Tuesday, June 1, after an alert officer noticed suspicious activity outside a 7-Eleven convenience store. Around 1:54 a.m., the officer pulled into the parking lot of the 7-Eleven store, located at 1355 Chain Bridge Road, and noticed a vehicle parked in a parking lot next to the store. The vehicle was running and one person was in the back seat and the driver's side door was standing open. The officer made contact with the female inside the car and was met by two men who returned from the 7-Eleven store.

An investigation led to the recovery of weapons reportedly stolen during a burglary Monday night in Culpeper County. Narcotics and paraphernalia were also located inside the vehicle. Officers also recovered one handgun hidden inside the store and another one hidden just outside the store. The two male suspects allegedly hid these guns when they saw the officer outside.

A 19-year-old female of King George was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with receiving stolen property. She was also issued a summons for drunk in public and illegal possession of alcohol by a person under 21 years of age. A 28-year-old man of Fredericksburg and a 19-year-old man of Spotsylvania, were each charged with attempted robbery, the use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and receiving stolen property. A 19-year-old was also charged with possession with the intent to distribute marijuana, possession with the intent to distribute within 1000 feet of a school and purchasing alcohol for a person under the age of 21.

Temporary Library To Open June 28

Fairfax County Public Library will open in a temporary location at 6649-A Old Dominion Drive McLean (McLean Square Shopping Center), on June 28 at 10 a.m. The temporary library will serve the McLean community while Dolley Madison Library undergoes renovation. An official opening ceremony is being planned for July.

The temporary library will have a reduced collection of materials due to space limitations; however, customers can request material from other branches for pick up at the temporary library. Six public computers will be available, five with full Internet access; the facility will also have wireless Internet capability. Self-checkout will be available as well as an area for self-pickup of holds. Seating is limited and programming at the temporary library will be limited.

"Everyone on our staff has missed our great customers during the period we have been closed," said Starr Smith, branch manager of the Dolley Madison Library. "We look forward to reuniting with them in our temporary quarters."

When completed in summer 2011, the renovated Dolley Madison Library will include an additional 8,348 square feet, additional parking spaces, multiple meeting rooms with additional capacity, modernized facilities and 24 public access computers. Building design will be based on U.S. Green Building Council design principals (LEED). The renovation is funded through a library bond referendum approved by voters in 2004.

Summer Reading, Sign Up Online

Last year more than 48,000 children participated in Fairfax County library's Summer Reading Program. This year's program will run June 21 to Sept. 4. In addition to encouraging children to read throughout the summer and rewarding them with a coupon book full of great prizes, the program offers activities for every age group, including: theater stunts, anime drawing and crafts for teens; live animals, magic and a sound effects program for ages 6-12. Sign-up, both online and in branches, will begin June 21. For more details, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/srp/>

NEWS

Nourish Market Opens in McLean

New store features organic foods and products.

BY ROSE LEE
THE CONNECTION

On June 4, the McLean community was introduced to a new breed of convenience store featuring organic, vegetarian, vegan and allergy-friendly foods and products. Karen Sherwood, the creator and owner of the Nourish Market on Old Dominion, said she made sure that the food, products, and even the design of the new store all followed the theme of organic and healthy.

As a mother of three, Sherwood was inspired to open Nourish Market when she realized a need for easy access to nutritious and healthy foods for her family. Sherwood never set out to compete with larger grocery stores. Rather, she envisioned a small store that would capitalize on convenience and cater to those looking for an expedient and trouble-free way to eat healthier.

"I think this store will be very well-received," said Fairfax County Supervisor John W. Foust (D-Dranesville), who cut the ribbon to mark the grand opening of Nourish Market. "It will be filling a need that has been in the community for a long time."

Those attending the event seemed to agree.

"I have a son who has type 1 diabetes, and it is so important that I am able to pick up healthy food on-the-go when I need to," said local Joy Mallek. "[Nourish Market] gives me the ability to grab organic food for my son when I need to, food that won't affect his



Karen Sherwood, accompanied by Fairfax County Supervisor John W. Foust and her three sons, cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of her new store, Nourish Market.



Karen Sherwood, creator and owner of Nourish Market in McLean, stands in the store during its grand opening.

blood sugar levels negatively."

The store is lined with healthy food options including freshly

baked goods like gluten- and nut-free brownies and premade meals like organic couscous. The store even boasts a deli and a frozen food section among the shelves stocked with things such as organic milk and gummy bears. Nourish Market also provides organic products such as lipstick, vitamins, candles, hypoallergenic tissues, sunscreen and dog food.

Designed by award-winning architect Randall Mars, the store is made from materials that are environmentally friendly, such as sustainable bamboo floors and locally produced plywood shelves. The store itself has a pending LEED certification, a rating that recognizes the use of environmentally friendly practices in the construction of projects.

"Nourish Market serves the community," said Sherwood. "Although it is difficult to eat organic all the time, it is important to realize that when you do eat healthy, you are giving your body a break."

To learn more about Nourish Market, visit www.nourishmarket.com.

Blood Drive at Spring Hill E.S. To Help Injured Athlete

A couple of weeks ago, a drunk driver nearly took the life of a young athlete. Chris Tate was riding a motorized bike when a speeding car hit him. Although his foot had to be amputated, he was lucky in many ways. He was taken to the hospital quickly. He had many other injuries, but none life-threatening. He has a mother-in-law who mobilized friends and colleagues and organized a blood drive in his honor. Deb Rudd teaches chorus and general music at Spring Hill Elementary School in McLean. She arranged for Inova's Bloodmobile to spend June 1 in Spring Hill Elementary's parking lot, where teachers and parents alike donated from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Tate has a long road of rehabilitation ahead, but as he said to Michelle, his wife of just a few months, "I'm going to run again."



Two fifth grade teachers, Bill Mosher and Deborah Bulford, donate blood at Spring Hill Elementary on June 1.

SCHOOLS

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

Christopher Au of McLean, attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science Technology, is among twenty of the nation's top high school chemistry students, representing 11 states, who will compete for a spot on the United States' team in the 42nd annual International Chemistry Olympiad to be held in Tokyo, Japan, July 19-28, 2010. Historically, the U.S. team, which is sponsored by the American Chemical Society (ACS), the world's largest scientific society, has been a strong competitor at the international event. In 2009, the U.S. team won a gold

medal and three silver medals. In 2008, the team won one silver and three bronze medals. In 1999 and 2000, the American team won the top gold medal.

Luke W. Knepper of McLean has been awarded a corporate-sponsored scholarship from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Knepper, who attends Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and intends a career in computer science, will receive a National Merit CSC Scholarship.

Greyson R. Lewis of McLean has been awarded a corporate-sponsored scholarship from the National Merit

Scholarship Corporation. Lewis, who attends Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and intends a career in applied physics, will receive a National Merit Southwest Airlines Co. Scholarship.

Matthew Thomas Valcourt of McLean was named to the spring High List at Episcopal High School. Valcourt, a sophomore, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffery T. Valcourt of McLean.

Natalie Naab-Levy of McLean, a senior majoring in human development in the Virginia Tech College of Liberal

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 17



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Route 123 closed this weekend.

Route 123 (Chain Bridge Road) under the Beltway in Tysons Corner will be completely shut down from 9:30 p.m. on Friday, June 11th to 5 a.m. on Monday, June 14th. Crews will be demolishing the old Beltway bridge over Route 123 as part of Virginia's I-495 HOT Lanes Project, and a new bridge will be built over Route 123 in Tysons Corner.

Detour Routes:

- Traffic leaving the Tysons Corner shopping areas will be directed to Route 7.
- McLean traffic heading into Tysons will be directed to I-495 North to Georgetown Pike (Route 193) and turn around onto I-495 South back to Route 123 South to Tysons.

Tips for drivers:

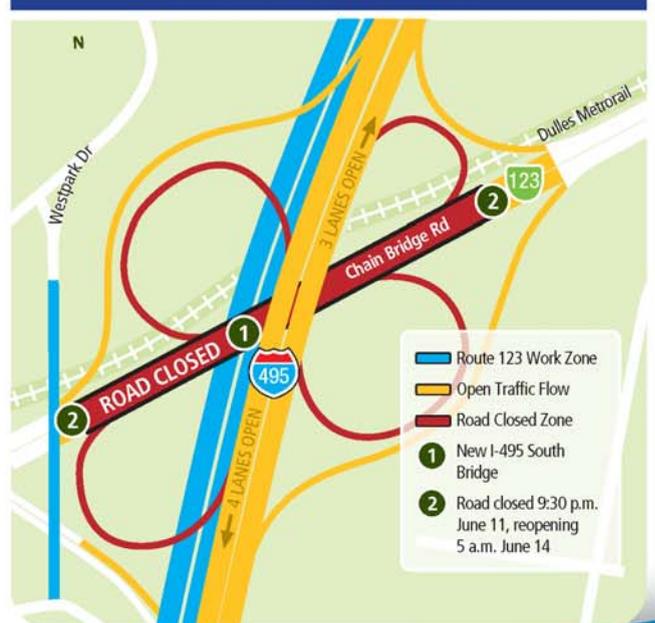
- Expect delays, and consider alternate routes if you're traveling through Tysons this weekend.
- Watch for detours. State and local police will be in the construction area and along detour routes for motorists' safety.

Get help navigating construction: Big roadwork projects like these can be challenging to deal with. But rest assured—when completed, they'll improve traffic flow, business efficiency, and personal mobility for everyone in the area. Until then, you can sign up to receive project updates and helpful information on commuter solutions at VAMegaprojects.com.

The I-495 HOT Lanes construction is part of the Virginia Megaprojects — a series of large-scale transportation improvements designed to ease traffic congestion and provide you with more choices and better transportation options than ever before.



Tysons Corner Construction Route 123 Closure at I-495



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Asset allocation and diversification are not dead

The recent credit crisis has cast an enormous pall over global economies, markets and portfolios.

When events seemed to be at their worst (2008, early 2009) all asset classes/styles, with the exception of US Treasuries, were down, many significantly. This has prompted the question: "What happened to the benefits and risk reduction of diversified portfolios with low correlated assets?"

Please join us for an informative discussion on identifying the factors that may have an adverse affect on an investor's portfolio/performance.

This seminar is geared to investors with household Net Financial Assets of \$1 million+.

Date	Wednesday, June 16 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Location	The Westin Arlington Gateway 801 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22203 Complimentary parking provided at the Hotel.
Host	Nikita Malliarakis, CFP®, CIMA® First Vice President—Investments Wealth Advisor Advisory & Brokerage Services
Guest speaker	Guy Ferrara, Director UBS Global Asset Management
RSVP	At your earliest convenience: UBS Financial Services Inc. 1501 K Street NW, Suite 1100 Washington, DC 20005 202-585-5460 nikita.malliarakis@ubs.com

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NEWS

McLean Revisited

Rotary Vice President shares memories of growing up in McLean.

Rotary International Vice President Eric Adamson was clear about what he wants when he spoke to the Rotary Club of McLean at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer earlier this month — a diploma from McLean High School.

"I have enough credits, but I didn't take one senior English class," said the three-time McLean resident to more than 75 Rotarians, including several members of Rotary District 7610 (Northern Virginia) leadership, on Tuesday, June 1, at the McLean Rotary meeting held at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. "I went to the University of Illinois on a gymnastics scholarship, but I still want my high school diploma. I am willing to fulfill the necessary obligations to walk at graduation."

Adamson, a retired private-practice attorney from Front Royal, and his wife, Linda, were the McLean club's guests at its weekly luncheon.

He reminisced about living in McLean three different times between his father's assignments as a U.S. diplomat. The Adamson family lived in a house on Merchant Lane during their first stay. They moved to a home on Old Chesterbrook Road for the second and third stints. His family attended St. John Catholic Parish and he remembered enjoying fall hayrides on the land that now makes up Tysons Corner Center.

A member of the Rotary Club of Front Royal since 1974 and the second-highest volunteer leader in the 1.2 million-member, international-service organization, Adamson commended the local McLean club for its dedication to serving both the local and global communities. He pointed specifically to McLean Rotary's fund raising and public-awareness campaign at McLean Day last month and its club-wide support of Haiti's earthquake victims.

"The future of Rotary truly is in your hands," he said to the Rotarians in attendance. "Rotary happens in the local clubs,

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/JUNE 11

VTRCC Business 2 Business Trade Show. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Tysons Corner Marriott, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Register at www.vtrcc.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 12

T'ai Chi Beginners' Practice. 8 a.m. on the outdoor basketball court behind Dolley Madison Public Library at 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-759-9141 or www.FreeTaiChi.org.

MONDAY/JUNE 14

College Essay Lessons. 8 p.m. at 6721 Curran St., McLean.
How to start, what to write about, what not to write about, and some practical guidelines. Free.



CONTRIBUTED

Eric Adamson addresses Rotary Club of McLean last Tuesday.

not at the district level, the national level or at Rotary International [headquartered in Evanston, Ill.]. There are four purposes to Rotary: fellowship, ethics, service and peace. Those purposes are evident in the McLean Rotary Club and in the projects your club oversees."

Adamson ended his remarks by previewing a trip he will take next week with other Rotary leaders to Haiti. He said that 1 million earthquake victims remain homeless, 80 percent of the schools have been destroyed and government buildings have been decimated, forcing government officials to conduct meetings outdoors.

"I applaud the McLean Rotary Club for raising funds to underwrite five ShelterBoxes that have been sent to Haiti," Adamson said. "I am encouraged by the \$1.63 million that has been donated to Rotary International on behalf of Haiti. The country is still devastated and there is still plenty of work to do."

Adamson is owner of Dominion Health & Sport, a tennis, swimming, and health club in Front Royal, and is a managing partner of Adamson Land Trust, a family real-estate development firm and rental partnership. He and his wife have four children and eight grandchildren.

Register at frontdesk@prepmatters.com.

TUESDAY/JUNE 15

Body & Soul Strength & Flexibility class. 12 p.m. at McLean Presbyterian Church, 1020 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Exercise led by ACE certified instructor Dana Elsnick. Tuesdays and Thursdays through June 24. Register at 703-847-9814 or great314dane@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY/JUNE 17

Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. 7:30 p.m. at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Jim Thur, Virginia's Wounded Warrior Regional Director and Vietnam War veteran, will discuss the program to assist Virginia military veterans including National Guard and reservists and the new Presumptive Eligibility for Agent Orange benefit. Free, open to the public. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org

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PEOPLE

Officer John Morris and Principal Carole Kihm and faculty celebrate Morris being recognized as Distinguished School Resource Officer.



CONTRIBUTED

Officer Honored for 'Being Everywhere'

John Morris named FCPS Distinguished School Resource Officer.

Master Police Officer John Morris, who serves as the school resource officer (SRO) at Longfellow Middle School, has been named Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) 2010 Distinguished School Resource Officer.

"Longfellow has a special saying: Where is Officer Morris? And the answer is everywhere," said assistant principal Michelle Padgett. She and other nominators said that he can be found serving cookies in the cafeteria, shoveling snow, monitoring the hallways, directing traffic, fixing a flat tire, moving furniture, providing an escort for students needing a safe ride home, organizing the flag football league and playing basketball with students and faculty members after school.

"John Morris transcends job titles because his character is above and beyond anything that can be found in a job description," said math teacher Vern Williams. "His work ethic, sense of responsibility, caring for his community, and boundless energy allow him to not only help educate our children but to help raise them."

AS THE LONGFELLOW SRO, Morris works side-by-side with the administrative team on safety and security issues and disciplinary issues. He has been instrumental in creating innovative bell schedules around school assemblies and to accommodate moving students indoors from trailers due to weather advisories. He created a new Kiss and Ride route to address a traffic flow problem during morning drop-off. He also develops and implements school safety programs for students, including teaching lessons on bullying and harassment. As part of his support for safety drills, he created colorful, professional fire escape and tornado drill maps for each room and

mounted them in each classroom.

Morris was responsible for arresting two individuals who stole money from a teacher's classroom, investigating the incident by tracking down unauthorized credit card charges and examining surveillance tapes. When they returned to the school, he called for backup and apprehended them.

Morris takes his responsibilities at Longfellow beyond his assigned duties. He has stepped in on numerous occasions to ensure student safety, whether it was to escort a student home to ensure his home situation was safe or to intervene at school to keep a student from harming herself. He has volunteered to help out at neighboring elementary schools with emergency issues. Working with a teacher, he helped purchase bicycles for a needy family, transported them to school, and ensured that they were delivered in time for the holidays. He helps attend to injured students in the clinic while waiting for emergency services to arrive. Morris also mentors students and eats lunch outdoors with a group of students when the weather is nice.

"As a public school parent and teacher, I rest a little easier knowing Officer Morris is standing the watch."

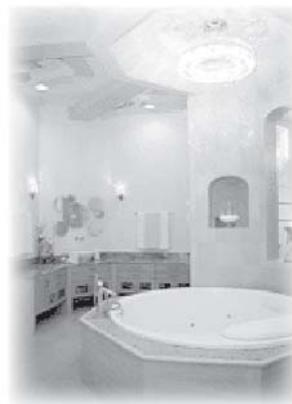
— Chris Holler

IN ADDITION, Morris is a regularly featured actor in the monthly Lancer Life broadcast, using humor to educate students about important safety issues. "He has been willing to film crazy chase scenes, intricate plots between classes, a huge battle scene on the soccer field, and our latest storyline, the missing doughnut caper," said English teacher Andrea Duggan.

"Officer Morris helps create an environment that is safe for all the students through his diligence and his perseverance, and that leads, in turn, to a better learning environment," said English teacher Thomas Grady.

Special education teacher Chris Holler agreed. "He is the complete package — unselfishly taking care of the everyday needs that help the school function, as well as the higher profile safety and security issues faced by public schools these days," Holler said. "As a public school parent and teacher, I rest a little easier knowing Officer Morris is standing the watch."

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OPINION

For Scientists, Start Earlier, Learn Geography

After years of changes designed to increase diversity, Thomas Jefferson this year admitted nine poor students.

Each year, 480 students are admitted to the top high school in the United States, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. Back in 2004, a Blue Ribbon commission recommended a variety of changes to the admission's process to enter Fairfax County's top public school, an effort to boost the diversity at the school. The school's students have been about 90 percent Asian and white.

Many changes later, changes designed to consider students "holistically," the incoming freshman class has dramatically smaller percentages of black, Hispanic and poor students than the student body of the county as a whole. Four African American students were admitted, along with 13 Hispanic students, in a class of 480 incoming freshman.

More telling, there were nine students poor enough to qualify for free-or-reduced price meals admitted to begin ninth grade next year at TJ. That's less than two percent. Children in a family of four with income of less than \$44,000 annually qualify for subsidized meals, and such children make up about 20 percent of all students in Fairfax County.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protect Outdoor Classrooms

To the Editor:

I am a McLean pyramid parent, former Haycock parent, former Haycock PTA president, school volunteer and co-founder of the Haycock Elementary School's Cougar Woods outdoor learning program. I walk by Haycock every morning on a walk through my neighborhood. I revel in the beauty of the schoolyard, thinking back to the day we moved into the neighborhood 20 years ago, when the school was a red brick building in the middle of an expanse of trampled grass. I celebrate the growth of the plantings and the program, as each is quite obvious. Imagine my surprise this morning to see a commercial landscape company in the school yard planting upwards of 50 assorted shrubs and trees in the schoolyard, in our outdoor learning environments. Upon inquiry, I was even more surprised to learn that no one at the school, no principal, no one from the PTA committee that supports the Cougar Woods program, were aware of the scheduled plantings or why they were happening.

In the past 10 years, the Cougar Woods program has succeeded in building a wonderful outdoor learning program that amplifies

the core educational goals of elementary education. Children learn about art, music, math, English, social studies and science in their outdoor classrooms. The creation of the outdoor classrooms is not always obvious to the naked eye, but make no mistake, they have been well designed and planned by professional educators and landscape designers at considerable expense. Every grade level uses these classrooms. They include raised planting beds for growing three sisters gardens, an outdoor chess garden, butterfly gardens to feed the butterflies that are released after studying them, a pond, a bog and a grove of trees, to name a few. Beautiful art, creative poems, challenging math lessons, and scientific inquiry all occur in these spaces.

Intense focus on supporting native species and nurturing them along has been a labor of blood, sweat and tears over many years. As well, a great deal of focus was placed on the significance of each planting and the connections that can be made to curriculum. Things were looking pretty good until today. Today the schoolyard looks as if someone took our outdoor learning areas and defaced them in the form of poorly selected, poorly planned and poorly timed planting of who knows what. There are trees and shrubs and non-native

species too numerous to count, but more importantly too numerous to properly care for. If the plantings at Longfellow are any indication, many of these plantings will die, due to lack of foresight, smart planning and proper care.

I am concerned that no one on any level consulted or considered the Cougar Woods program when planting today. If you look at Haycock's website and read about Haycock, it is easy to determine that the Cougar Woods outdoor learning program is what sets Haycock apart from other schools. Haycock is not just the GT program, great teachers or a strong supportive PTA, it is this program too, as much as those other things. Maybe even of more significance is the fact that this program has been in place, supported by the PTA, various community organizations (McLean Trees, McLean Citizens Association) and numerous grants for nearly 10 years. This robust program has been built through a unique partnership of administrators, parent volunteers, community volunteers, grant money, fund raisers and donations. The property has two very important memorial gardens for two Haycock students lost too early in their young lives. That these families chose Haycock as the recipient of the funds to create these gardens in honor of their

and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to include your town name and neighborhood. Email photos to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com, or mail a disk or prints to McLean Connection, Father's Day Photo Gallery, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Send in photos as soon as possible, including names of everyone in the picture, the date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about what is happening

More than 70 percent of those admitted to TJ had completed geometry in eighth grade. But in some of the poorest and most diverse middle schools in the county, advanced math programs are not even offered.

In the overall state of the county, does it matter how many poor students, or black students, or Hispanic students, get to go to the best high school in the country? It does matter that students from schools with more diversity and more poverty are not getting the opportunity to develop a passion for science and technology.

The school system's failure to prepare more poor students well enough to gain admission to TJ means a huge missed opportunity. It means that tens of thousands of stu-

dents who could be developing a passion for science at an early age that might transform their lives are not getting the foundation they need to go forward in rigorous programs, whether that's at TJ or AP or IB.

FCPS is cutting programs that benefit poor students and schools with a higher percentage of poor students, for example Project Excel and year-round school calendar, even as it is clear poor students have almost no access to the county's top programs.

It's time to add a geographic component to admissions at TJ, reserving some spots for students from every middle school.

This will also require starting earlier with advanced classes so that when those students arrive at TJ, they can succeed there.

EDITORIALS

Last Call for Father's Day photos

Father's Day is Sunday, June 20, and once again the McLean Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Send in photos as soon as possible, including names of everyone in the picture, the date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about what is happening

and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to include your town name and neighborhood.

Email photos to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com, or mail a disk or prints to McLean Connection, Father's Day Photo Gallery, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

lost children should speak to the commitment and dedication the program volunteers have shown to sustain such things.

Julie E. Bryan
Falls Church

Disparity Needs To Be Addressed

To the Editor:

The Connection's report on acceptance rates at Thomas Jefferson High School ["Diversity at TJ?", June 2-8, 2010] raises serious questions about the school's admission policies. Why are the fractions of students accepted from the pools of black applicants (four out of 184) and Hispanic applicants (13 out of 225) so much lower than the fractions of accepted white (166 out of 1,277) and Asian (276 out of 1,243) applicants? Is the disparity a result of inadequate admission criteria? If not, is it the result of inadequate preparation of black and Hispanic children by our elementary and middle schools? I hope the School Board will look into this matter, report its findings to the public and promptly take any necessary or desirable remedial action.

William Shapiro
McLean

THE CONNECTION

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SCHOOLS

McLean High Celebrates Prom 2010

Robin Hinson and Natasha Kersten, both 17, have been friends since they were 4. They celebrated the prom together.



PHOTOS BY DIANE HINSON

A group of McLean High School juniors gathers at the house of Karmi Koen for pre-prom photos before heading off in a limo/bus for the evening's festivities.



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'Florida Days' Hits McLean Stage

Original play debuts at the Alden Theatre this weekend.

By JESSICA LEVINE
THE CONNECTION

The newest original play by McLean Drama Company president Rachael Bail has it all — comedy, drama, tragedy and a dysfunctional family to rival the craziest of kin.

"Florida Days," which will run Friday, June 11 through Sunday, June 13 at the Alden Theatre, tells the story of a family that moves from Pennsylvania to a small town in central Florida.

"This play is about a dysfunctional family," Bail said. "I guess all families are dysfunctional," she added, jokingly.

Bail, a former journalist with Voice of America and the play's author and producer, has written five other plays that the company has presented at the



PHOTO BY PAUL GILLES PHOTOGRAPHY

Caitlin McCormick of McLean plays a disturbed woman, June, in the McLean Drama Company's original work 'Florida Days,' with Trey Ervine of Vienna in the role of her husband, Billy.

Alden Theatre, including last year's "Immoral Combat," a satire on the news industry.

Though Bail described "Florida Days" as the first tragedy that she's written, actors agreed that the 90-minute show has a fair amount of humor as well.

"I really love how there's so much comedy, even in the most dramatic of scenes," said cast member Elise

Edwards, a Falls Church resident and the show's female lead.

Edwards plays Betty, a young woman who moves away from her family to New York to pursue a journalism career. This is Edwards' second show with the company. She also performed in "Immoral Combat" last year.

"I really relate to the young Betty in the play, being bright-eyed and

Times and Tickets

Performances of "Florida Days" will run June 11 and 12 at 8 p.m. and June 13 at 2 p.m. The 10-Minute Play Contest winning entry, a play called "Visiting Anna" about an Alzheimer's patient and her daughter, will follow the final show on June 13. Tickets are available through the Alden Box Office at 703-790-9223 or through Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors, students and McLean Tax District residents. Groups of 10 or more pay \$10 per person or \$8 per person for seniors and non-profit groups.

fresh out of school," Edwards said. "To me, [the show] really talks about lack of self-awareness, how it's so easy to repeat the mistakes of the past. Dysfunctional does not happen in a vacuum."

Director Stephanie Kelly has been involved in most of the company's productions since 2005. She stage-managed "Immoral Combat" last year, and when Bail asked her to direct "Florida Days," she agreed.

Kelly said that audiences will easily relate to the show's

SEE McLEAN DRAMA. PAGE 15

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/JUNE 10

Swing Dance with King Teddy. 7:30 at The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-424-1745 or www.headoverheelsdance.com.
Sally Settmann and Tamarama. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. jamminjava.com.
Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society. 2:30 p.m. at the Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls St., Falls Church. John Capobianco, on 'Styling Your Chrysanthemum Bonsai.' Free. 703-560-8776.

FRIDAY/JUNE 11

Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. 6 p.m.-12 a.m. on the grounds of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Rusted Root performs at 8 p.m. General admission seating is available for all performances at the Bud Light Main Stage. Six stages will be located throughout the festival site. All shows are free with daily tickets to the event. 703-324-3247 or www.celebratefairfax.com.
Cirque Dreams: Illumination. 8:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. \$45-\$245. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.
Summer on the Green: Annapolis Bluegrass. 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Bring chairs or blankets for

seating. No alcoholic beverages allowed. It is recommended that pets be left at home. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov.

Tinner Hill: Portraits in Black and White. 7:30 p.m. at ArtSpace Falls Church, 410 South Maple Ave., Falls Church. Theater based on the stories of local civil rights pioneers. \$15 for Adults, \$10 for students and seniors. www.creativecauldron.org or 571-239-5288.

'Suburban Motel.' 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tysons Corner. A funny cycle of plays with a pack of bizarre characters determined to survive. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageTysons.org/motel.

Old Firehouse Teen Center Dance. 7-10 p.m. at The Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Disc jockey, Chipotle's Burrito Bowls and customized Green Screen photo. For rising 7th graders and all other middle schoolers. \$15, \$10 McLean district residents. Activity No. 5444.410. Register at 703-448-8336 (TEEN).

SATURDAY/JUNE 12

Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. 10 a.m.-12 a.m. on the grounds of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Carolina Liar performs at 3 p.m. and KC & The Sunshine Band at 8 p.m. General admission seating is available for all performances at the Bud Light Main Stage. Six stages will be located throughout the festival site. All shows are free with daily tickets to the event. 703-324-3247 or www.celebratefairfax.com.

Cirque Dreams: Illumination. 8:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. \$45-\$245. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

Dork Diaries Book Signing. 3-5 p.m. at Simply Sparetime, 8310 Turning Leaf Lane, McLean. Meet the author and illustrator. Prizes and giveaways. www.simplysparetime.org or 703-288-9393.

Historic Vienna, Inc. Used Book Sale. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on the lawn of the Freeman House, 131 Church Street, NE, Vienna. Current bestsellers, classics, travel, cookbooks, biography and history. All proceeds support the programs and activities of Historic Vienna, Inc. 703-928-5187.

Commemorate the Confederate Victory at the 1861 Battle of Vienna. 4 p.m. at the historic marker on W&OD Trail at mile marker 11.5, about 100 yd. north of where the trail crosses Park St., Vienna. Frank Stringfellow Camp #822 Sons of Confederate Veterans will host a short talk about the battle. Free and open to the public. 703-250-8705 or stringfellowbuva@att.net.

'Tinner Hill: Portraits in Black and White.' 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at ArtSpace Falls Church, 410 South Maple Ave., Falls Church. Theater based on the stories of local civil rights pioneers. \$15 for Adults, \$10 for students and seniors. www.creativecauldron.org or 571-239-5288.

Fitness Practice. 8 a.m. at the Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Yoga and Pilates. Bring yoga mat and water. Free. 703-288-9505.

Dulcie Taylor. 5 p.m. at the Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Country. Free. 703-288-9505.

'Suburban Motel.' 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tysons Corner. A funny cycle of plays with a pack of bizarre characters determined to survive. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageTysons.org/motel.

Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association, Inc. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North

St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, techniques and advice. 703-293-6227.

SUNDAY/JUNE 13

Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on the grounds of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Josh Thompson and Jimmy Wayne perform at 4:30 p.m. General admission seating is available for all performances at the Bud Light Main Stage. Six stages will be located throughout the festival site. All shows are free with daily tickets to the event. 703-324-3247 or www.celebratefairfax.com.

AR Rahman, Musician and Composer from Slumdog Millionaire film. 7:30 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets are \$45-\$500 at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. www.arrahman.com or www.patriotcenter.com.

Summer on the Green: Kingsley Winter Band - Rock. 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Bring chairs or blankets for seating. No alcoholic beverages allowed. It is recommended that pets be left at home. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov.

Bluegrass Brunch with Dead Men's Hollow. 1:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$8. jamminjava.com.

Into the Great Wide Open: Jammin' Java's Songwriters' Circle. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance, \$15 day of show. jamminjava.com.

Great Falls Summer Concerts 2010. Diamond Alley, a 5 piece Dance/Rock/Funk/Soul band, 6-8 p.m. at the Great Falls Village Centre.

Historic Vienna, Inc. Used Book Sale. 12-5 p.m. on the lawn of the Freeman House, 131 Church Street, NE, Vienna. Current bestsellers, classics, travel, cookbooks, biography and history. All proceeds support the programs and activities of Historic Vienna, Inc. 703-928-5187.

'Tinner Hill: Portraits in Black and White.' 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at ArtSpace Falls Church, 410 South Maple Ave., Falls Church. Theater based on the stories of local civil rights pioneers. \$15 for Adults, \$10 for students and seniors. www.creativecauldron.org or 571-239-5288.

'Suburban Motel.' 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tysons Corner. A funny cycle of plays with a pack of bizarre characters determined to survive. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageTysons.org/motel.

MONDAY/JUNE 14

Uglysuit, Leroy Justice and Little Bigheart & The Wilderbeast. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/JUNE 15

Kina Grannis. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. jamminjava.com.
Courtesan by Sarah Dunant. Adults. 703-293-6227.
Book Discussion. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 16

Josh Hoge, Joe Firstman and Marianne Keith. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 day of show. \$20. jamminjava.com.
Down on the Farm. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

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The McLean Drama Company's 10-minute play contest winner, "Visiting Anna" by Michaeline A. Sweeney, will also be presented after "Florida Days" on June 13. "Florida Days" will also be performed at the CAPITAL FRINGE FESTIVAL

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NEWS

Where 'Something Special' Happens

**1st Stage Theatre
aims to create a
'pride of place'
in Tysons.**

BY NIKKI CHESHIRE

THE CONNECTION

Tyson's Corner has most of the elements required to classify it as a city, including the residential areas, retail, restaurants, businesses, malls, movies and a soon-to-be Metrostations. But one thing is missing — theater.

However, a recently opened establishment, 1st Stage Theatre, is changing that. Opened in the tail-end of 2008, the creators of the small 100-seat theater, two former Fairfax County school teachers along with former students, parents of former students and a singing/acting teacher, had a vision of not only “creating a home for young local artists to launch and nurture their professional theatre careers” but to also “provide the community with some wonderful theatre experiences,” as stated on their website, 1stStageTysons.org.

“I read somewhere that in the daytime, Tysons is one of the largest cities on the East Coast. By night though, it's almost deserted,” said Mark Krikstan, the artistic director at 1st Stage, as well as one of the founders. “One way to build an exciting, thriving, strong city is to ignite the culture. A theater can create a ‘pride of place’ that will make this city thrive. Tysons has to be more than a mall or an office building or a parking lot.”

“I think that [the theater] can survive at Tysons,” said Lori Hardee, a real estate agent for Weichert Realty, adding that its success is based on if it can weather the continuing growth of Tysons Corner and catch on through word of mouth. “It was wonderful and the theater inside is a jewel. I love the way they did the seating and the stage,” Hardee said.

INSTEAD of just simply bringing live theater to Tysons Corner, the founders of 1st Stage wanted to take a step further. One of their



**Carolyn Myers playing
Cathy Hiatt in 'The Last
Five Years.'**



**John Loughney playing
Jamie Wellerstein in the 1st
Stage Theatre production
of 'The Last Five Years.'**

'Suburban Motel' Opens June 11

Onstage: “Suburban Motel.” 1st Stage presents this cult hit, a dark and screamingly funny cycle of plays that introduces us to a pack of bizarre characters with a determined instinct to survive, but without the capacity to think their way out of trouble, bad luck or a seedy motel room. Parental notice: contains strong adult content.

main goals is to provide a place for budding actors to improve upon themselves by performing in a professional atmosphere. “I also thought that ... students ‘emerging’ from theater programs need[ed] a place where they could build a résumé,” said Krikstan.

The small yet charmingly intimate theater, located off a back turn down Spring Hill Road, brings in a “completely different experience” than watching a show in a much larger venue, according to Krikstan. “Something special happens between the actors and the audience in a space such as ours.”

Recently, 1st Stage Theatre presented “The Last Five Years,” which, told through song, “recounts the intimacies of dating and marriage over five years between a young New York couple.” The play unfolds in a way much differently than expected, as the male role, Jamie (played by John Loughney) tells the story chronologically, whereas his spouse, Cathy (played by Carolyn Myers) starts from the end of their marriage and goes backwards to their first meeting.

Only portrayed through two actors and a few instrumentalists,

Performances are Fridays, June 11, 18 and 25 and July 2, at 8 p.m.; Saturdays, June 12, 19 and 26 and July 3, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays, June 13, 20 and 27, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage is at 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tysons Corner. Tickets \$25 adults, \$15 students, at 703-854-1856 or <http://www.1stStageTysons.org/motel>.

the production highlighted the intimacy of the theater. “It's a perfect musical for a small house such as ours,” said Krikstan.

“It was an interesting production of a bittersweet romance,” said Jackie Merz, a member of the audience. “The musical ensemble that accompanied them was particularly astounding, and the two lead characters carried the show with flair.”

THIS RENDITION of the play, which was originally written by Jason Robert Brown and later played off Broadway and in a New York production under Marty Bell, greatly differs from the original. “Certainly, the set is different but, more importantly, our actors have changed the dynamic,” said Krikstan. “I remember taking sides in the New York production. I thought Jamie was clearly to blame for the downfall in the relationship. In our production, I go back and forth as to who to be angry with.”

To learn more about 1st Stage Theatre, purchase tickets or make a donation, visit www.1stStageTyson.org

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OBITUARY
A. DEWEY BOND (AGE 87)
A. Dewey Bond, of Great Falls, VA died on May 25, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Jean Jensen, daughters, Philinda Collins, Laurel Elizey, Carolyn Bannister and Sylvia Donovan, and 11 grandchildren. A Funeral Service will be held at Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066 on Saturday, June 5, 2010 at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Heifer International or Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Arrangements were made by Money and King Funeral Home. www.moneyandking.com

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Part-time Executive Director
The Safe Community Coalition is conducting a search for a part-time Executive Director. The Executive Director will be responsible for continuing and developing relationships within our community, identifying opportunities for collaboration and co-sponsorship, raising awareness of the coalition within the community through enhanced media attention and coalition-building efforts, and providing administrative support to the Board of Directors. This position is 30 hours per week. Resumes, nominations, and inquiries should be submitted to Debbie Wichey, Vice-President at: Debbie.Wichey@safecommunitycoalition.net by June 21, 2010. Website at: www.safecommunitycoalition.net

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A Question of Answers

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



As much – and as hard – as I try, it's difficult to forget that I have cancer. There are reminders everywhere. But the reminders that arrive/appear unexpectedly – thwack, are the worst. Let me give you two examples: my application for Social Security Disability benefits (which is merely a reduced percentage of your retirement benefit paid early, before you're eligible for that retirement, if you are determined to be "disabled," that is, a determination which is not easily or quickly made).

These days, even applying for Social Security disability is an online exercise (hopefully not in futility, but there's certainly no guarantee) and one that is somewhat daunting at that. My joke has been that if an applicant is able to successfully complete their online application for disability benefits, it immediately disqualifies them from receiving those benefits since the applicant has proven he is not so disabled that he can't sit and type at a computer; (the definition of disability according to Social Security is extremely general, so much so that if you can do anything for which you have background, training, education or experience, Social Security can deny your claim). The process is supposed to take 45 minutes, the site advises; it took me two hours, but I did finish and was able to submit my application online.

The questions begin simply enough; the non-medical ones, all the relevant facts; name, address, phone numbers, date of birth, social security number, employer, income, etc. Soon enough, the medical questions follow. About half-way through these questions, (treating physician, facility, medications, symptoms, date disability began), all of which were very reasonable and expected, humdrum even (sort of, given the seriousness of the matter at hand), came the following question which, had I not already been sitting, would have likely knocked me off my feet: "Is this disability likely to result in death in less than two years?" I hesitated then, as I'm hesitating now, writing the next sentence. Try asking yourself that question and then realizing you have to answer "Yes." Heavy doesn't begin to describe the weight I felt. Within a few minutes, I got my bearings and eventually re-engaged and ultimately completed the application. (By the way, when you answer "yes" to that "do you expect ..." question, you are fast-tracked to a special page within the application for extra-special attention.)

The second example of an unforeseen reminder that I didn't need, and one that came totally out of the blue, unlike the application for Social Security which certainly had the potential for such reminders but one that nevertheless I did not anticipate, came in the mail from my HMO. It was an innocent-sounding, customer service-type survey, asking me questions about my most recent visit with my oncologist: courtesy, efficiency, punctuality; did the doctor explain my treatment, discuss options, clarify procedures and so forth. There were maybe a dozen questions with each answer requiring a check mark beside "no experience" to "excellent," with multiple other characterizations in between. It took five minutes to complete.

At the bottom were a few additional questions, more general, summary-type questions about the responder/patient: "Would you recommend this doctor/HMO to another person?" "Overall, are you pleased with your level of care?" Then, the unexpected two by four: "How would you describe your health? "Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent?" Again, I hesitated; gulped and said out loud: "I'm a cancer patient, I guess I'd have to say 'poor.' As much as I'd like to think otherwise, and as "above average" as my oncologist has described my diagnosis-to-date reaction/condition, I'd have to say/think that checking a box other than poor would be naive on my part so I checked 'poor,' stuffed and sealed the envelope and then wrote this column.

In general, I feel fine. My oncologist is "pleased." However, I have stage IV lung cancer. Sometimes, the less said – and the less asked about it, the better.

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

MCA Proposes Tysons Changes

McLean Citizens Association recommends several changes to Tysons Corner Plan.

By ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The McLean Citizens Association has proposed several changes to the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance for Tysons Corner, which the group will testify on at a June 22 hearing by the Board of Supervisors.

The MCA has raised several concerns with the current proposal, including a lack of planning for parks and athletic fields and who will assume costs for the new infrastructure. Although the MCA does have its concerns, Rob Jackson, president of the MCA, said that the Planning Commission's recommendation is much more consistent with the MCA's resolutions than they expected.

In addition to the MCA, the lack of athletic fields was also a concern of Planning Commissioner Jay Donahue (Dranesville), who was the only "nay" vote when the 11-member Fairfax Planning Commission voted on the plan last month. The cause for concern is that the language of the Planning Commission's recommendation does not require parks and athletic fields to be part of the design. This lack of facilities, Donahue worried, will cause the parks in nearby Vienna and McLean to become overburdened with use by an expanded Tysons Corner.

Another major concern from the MCA was the proposed financing for the Tysons Corner development, with taxpayers footing 57 percent of the bill and the land developers paying for 43 percent.

"We'd like them to model the plan off of the Route 28 plan, where landowners paid 75 percent of the infrastructure costs," Jackson said. "After all, they're the ones who will benefit the most from the added density. We feel that Route 28 set a successful precedent, so why do something different?"

According to the proposed Tysons Plan, there are a total of 14 road projects to be completed by 2030 that are needed to "improve access points from the Dulles Toll Road and I-495 and Tysons and to improve traffic flow within the area." These 14 projects would cost \$646 million, of which the taxpayers are required to pay \$436 million, or 67.5 percent.

The MCA also supports a recommendation to limit most commercial density growth to within a quarter mile of the four proposed Metro rail stations.

The Board of Supervisors will conduct a hearing on the final Tysons Corner plan on June 22.

NEWS



PHOTOS BY PAUL GILLIS PHOTOGRAPHY

From left, Sam Simon and Karen Masih of McLean stand with Thomas Linn of Reston and Elise Edwards of Falls Church during a rehearsal for the McLean Drama Company's upcoming production, 'Florida Days.'

McLean Drama Company Presents 'Florida Days'

FROM PAGE 10

themes.

"Everyone has a little dysfunction in their lives," she said. "Whether they're willing to admit it, they do. There's something in everybody's lives that they can identify with in the show."

CAST MEMBER Caitlin McCormick of McLean has been involved in Alden Theatre productions ever since she did a summer theater workshop at age 10.

"I loved being here [as a child]," McCormick said. "The staff here is excellent; they treated us like we were professional actors."

McCormick plays June, Betty's sister, in "Florida Days," her first production with the company.

"It's really a show about an American family and all the dysfunction that goes with that," she said. "It's about what it means to be a woman, to be a wife. It's about a lot of things, but at the heart of it is the family relationships."

McCormick has enjoyed working on the production.

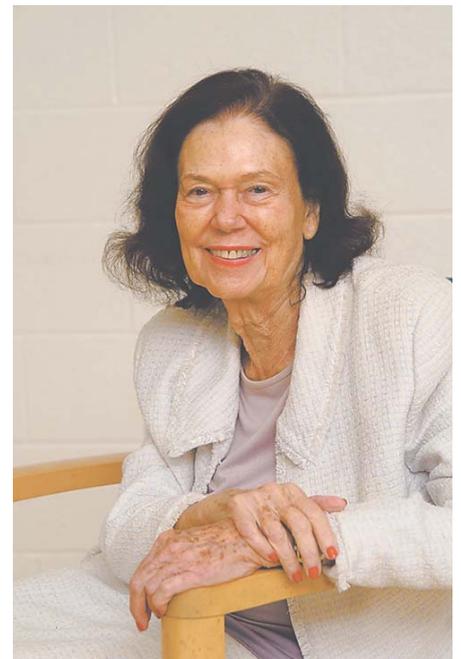
"Stephanie, the director, is really great," McCormick said. "She asks us 'What do you think about this' instead of telling us. It's nice to feel you have freedom ... to explore the character."

Cast member Samuel Simon, another McLean resident, plays the concertmaster, whom he described as "the most officious character in the play."

Simon said that "most anybody" will enjoy the play.

"Anybody who enjoys theatre is going to have a good time seeing something that is new, original and timely," he said.

THE PLAY'S THREE PERFORMANCES are dedicated to Kris Rathjen, lighting designer and founding member of the Com-



Rachael Bail, playwright, president and founding member of the McLean Drama Company, wrote the original work Florida Days."

pany, who died on April 21 at age 54 while recovering from an accident.

Rathjen, a Great Falls resident, was "a wonderful guy" who will be remembered for his many talents and willingness to help out with every aspect of a production, Bail said.

"He did so many things," Bail recalls. "He built sets, and he directed the lighting, designed the lighting. He just stepped in to do whatever needed to be done to help us."

Simon described Rathjen's death as both "sad and inspiring."

"There's two sides to a loss like that," Simon said. "Hopefully it makes the performances more meaningful to everyone and ... to the community."

"It was a great, great loss," Bail said. "We really miss him."

SPORTS



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

McLean's Michael Russo, right, has his sight on the ball as does Stone Bridge player Clay Brothers (12) during last Friday night's Northern Region finals game at Lake Braddock Secondary School.



Rob Maffei comes out to grab the ball in the game against the Bulldogs.

McLean Boys' Soccer Title Bid Falls Just Short

Following region finals loss to Stone Bridge, Highlanders now focusing on states.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

It was a confident, fired-up McLean Highlanders boys' soccer team that went into halftime of its Northern Region championship game against Stone Bridge with a two goal lead on Friday evening, June 4, on goals from Matt Tansseu and Tim Whitebread.

The team, however, was not overconfident in the least, knowing the type of firepower the talented Bulldogs, members of the same Liberty District as McLean, can generate at the blink of an eye. Besides, McLean head coach Mike Anderson, a strict leader who can read his team's emotions better than anyone, would not allow that to happen.

The McLean players knew what was ahead of them in the second half — the challenge of holding off a cornered rival that would give everything it had to get back into the game. The Highlanders still had 40 minutes of game time against the Bulldogs on the Lake Braddock Secondary stadium field. That would tell the tale as to whether or not McLean would realize its dream of winning the program's first region crown since 1980.

In the end, Stone Bridge, under the direction of renowned head coach Randy May, took control of the game in the second half and handed McLean a stunning, 3-2 loss.

"They're obviously an outstanding team and outstanding teams win like that," said McLean senior defender Andrew Hunt. "They earned it tonight. They came back from 2-0."

In a scoring flurry that spanned 16 minutes of the second half, Stone Bridge tallied three goals, the latter score coming with 16 minutes, 53 seconds remaining in the contest, to overtake the Highlanders.

By reaching the title match of the 16-team region tournament, both teams will next advance to the eight-team Virginia state tournament on Tuesday, June 8. The Highlanders play a road game against Battlefield High (Haymarket), the Northwestern Region champion, and Stone Bridge hosts Patrick Henry (Roanoke), the Northwestern Region runner-up.

McLean, the Liberty District champions this season, reached the region finals with

victories over Washington-Lee, Chantilly and Yorktown.

In facing Stone Bridge in the region championship, McLean was going up against a team it had defeated twice before this season — 3-1 in a regular season home contest on May 13, and a 1-0 triumph six days later in a district tournament semifinals affair at Stone Bridge in Ashburn.

In Friday's meeting, McLean had the difficult challenge of defeating its talented rival for a third time. It looked as if the Highlanders might put it off after 40 minutes. But the Bulldogs stormed back in the latter half.

"I thought our first half was magnificent," said Anderson, the McLean coach. "We were

doing fine. But in this game, this kind of thing happens."

STONE BRIDGE, 7 minutes into the second half, got onto the scoreboard when senior forward Michael Herndon pounced after a ball that got behind McLean's defense and moved in for a breakaway score, getting his shot past charging Highlander goalie Rob Maffei, to get his team within 2-1.

"We had two center backs diving for the ball," said Anderson. "Mikey Herndon did a good job getting it [and scoring]."

The goal was a huge momentum boost for the Bulldogs, who were now right back in the game.

Later, Stone Bridge tied things up on a straight-on, header goal by junior defenseman Luke Schierling with 16 minutes, 53 seconds remaining in the half.

Sensing the kill, perhaps, Stone Bridge followed the equalizer goal with the go-ahead score less than two minutes later, this one also coming from Schierling. A crossing pass by teammate Herndon from the right corner of the field set up the goal to make it 3-2 Stone Bridge.

McLean continued to play hard and made a gallant offensive push in the final minute. With less than 30 seconds to play, McLean's Michael Russo set up for a free kick 45 yards away off the right side. His well-directed ball went into the goalie area where players from both teams converged on the ball. During the hectic action, McLean junior Rafael Enriquez-Hesles somehow managed to corral the ball. He immediately got off a strong shot from 10 yards off the right side, which was blocked by goalie Nick Lowrey. Moments later, sophomore midfielder Sophien Djemmal, off the rebound, took a straight-on shot from 12 yards out that was also stopped by the goalie as time ran out.

It was a thrilling conclusion to the game and a heartbreaker for a McLean team that came so close to scoring in the final seconds of play.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Madison Softball Wins Region Title

McLean High softball pitcher Jamie Bell prepares to throw a pitch against Madison during last Friday night's Northern Region title game loss. To read about the game, as well as the Highlanders' semifinals win over South County, go to connectionnewspapers.com, then go to McLean sports.

SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 5

Arts and Human Sciences, has been named to the national list of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Naab-Levy is one of 91 Virginia Tech students that have been named to the Who's Who national list this year.

Sumedha Mohan of McLean, a senior majoring in electrical engineering in the Virginia Tech College of Engineering, has been named to the national list of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Mohan is one of 91 Virginia Tech students that have been named to the Who's Who national list this year.

Spencer Thomas Ong of McLean has graduated with a bachelor of science in international business from Azusa Pacific University of Azusa, Calif.

Jillian Khoo of Spring Hill Elementary has been selected as a music scholar by the David Gordon Louis Daniel Foundation. The fifth grader has been studying violin since she was three years old and also plays piano. Last year, she was named co-concertmaster of the American Youth String Ensemble. Khoo will perform with the D.C. Youth Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on June 5 and will serve as concertmaster when her school orchestra performs on June 7.

Jennifer A. McAdams, a teacher at Langley High School in McLean, has been named as a Certified Journalism Educator by the Journalism Education Association. Journalism certification recognizes teachers who meet national standards of preparation to teach high school journalism classes and advise student media.

Giorgiana Agostini, Claire Rodriguez, Alex Aguilar and Gianna Ridout of Oakcrest School in McLean were named gold medal winners for excellent performance on the 2010 National Spanish Examinations. Other students from Oakcrest School earned a total of 4 gold, 5 silver and 9 bronze medals along with 16 honorable mentions.

Sarah McCoy of McLean has graduated with a bachelor of science degree from Coastal Carolina University.

Jennifer Leigh Regan of McLean has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list at The University of Kentucky. Regan is a junior, studying integrated strategic communication in the College of Communications and Information Studies.

Brendon Charles Ellis of McLean has been named to the 2009-2010 winter term dean's list at Washington and Lee University. He is the son of Daniel L. Ellis and Colleen Sanford of McLean.

Jody Thomas Davis of McLean has been named to the 2009-2010 winter term dean's list at Washington and Lee University. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Davis of McLean.

Benjamin Kenney Belair of McLean has been named to the 2009-2010 winter term dean's list at Washington and Lee University. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Belair of McLean.

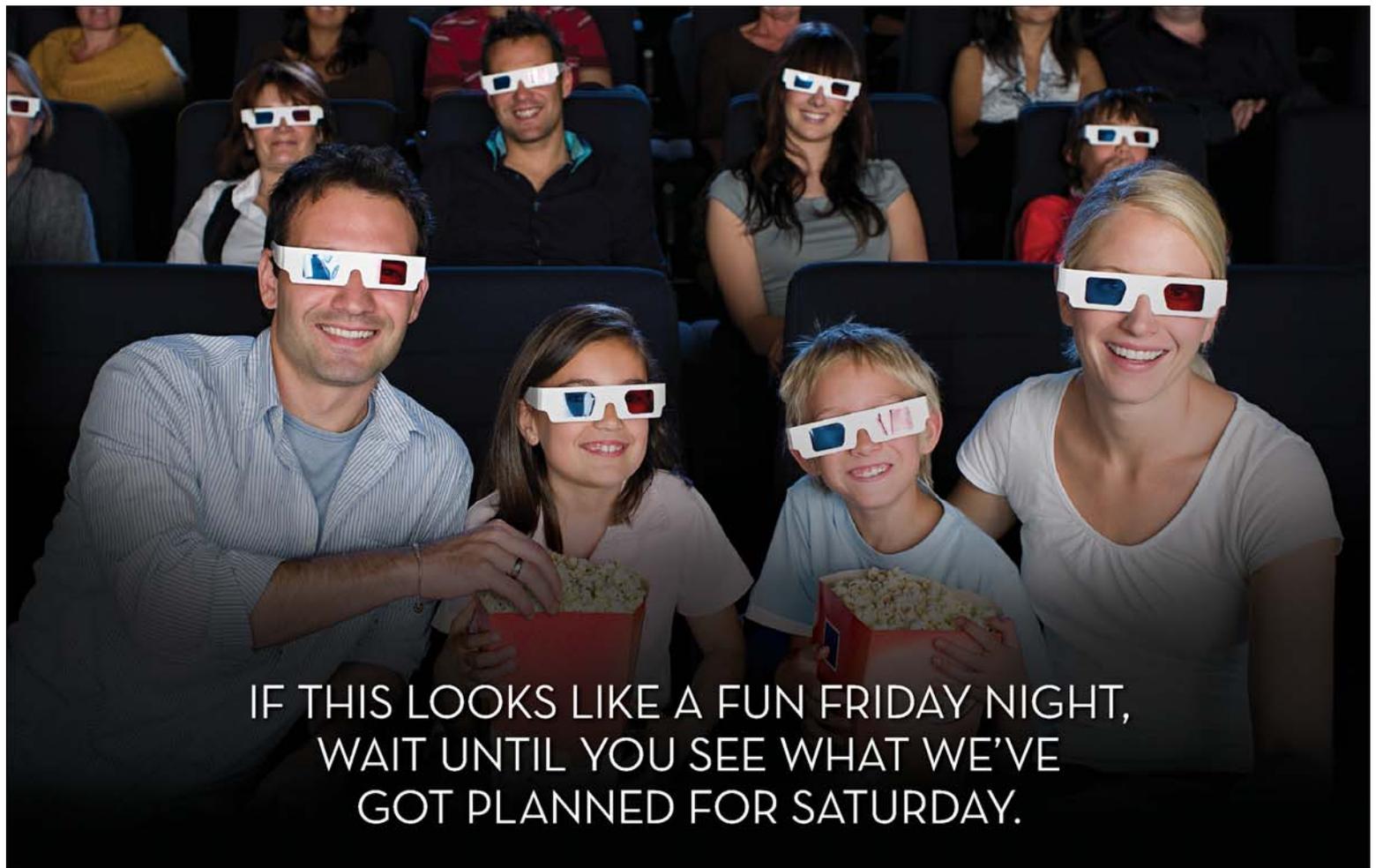
Julianna Ji-Seong Bae of McLean has received a juris doctor degree from Washington and Lee University of Lexington, Va. Bae wrote and edited the Washington and Lee Journal of Civil

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 19

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Participating in Building Block Blitz

Saturday afternoon, May 22, Habitat for Humanity had its second annual Building Block Blitz in the Fashion Centre at Pentagon City Mall. Students at St. Luke's School in McLean, Cullen Flaesch, Simon Ospina and Alexander DeSouza entered the competition as a team. The contest was open to youth in grades 2 through 8. The teams were given 300 Lego pieces and a 15th board and one hour in time to build a house with two windows, a door and a roof.



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Pimmit Hills High Closes

FROM PAGE 3

tion on Fairfax County's Web site, approximately 77 percent of Pimmit students are immigrants. Several have lived through war, famine and other far more serious experiences than the closing of their high school, said Wilson.

"I think [the school closing] will be a little bit of a hurdle but our students have the tenacity and fortitude to keep working at it until they get their diploma," said Wilson.

STILL, many adult students picked Pimmit over the other alternative high schools and the school system's adult education classes because the campus was convenient to public transit.

"We are on a bus route and many of our students don't drive," said Salaita.

Several of the older people also chose to attend classes there because of its proximity to jobs in Tysons Corner.

"A lot of our students work the night shift in Tysons Corner," said Johnson.

Both Mountain View and Bryant are difficult to access for many residents.

Simo has to ride on two different buses for a total of 90 minutes each way to travel to and from his home in Reston to Pimmit Hills. But if he were forced to attend Mountain View next year, Simo would have to ride three buses in each direction to get from Reston to Centreville every morning.

"Many other students work in this area and they will not be able to go elsewhere for school," he said.

BUT the closing of Pimmit has saved some money in the system's building construction and renovation program.

Fairfax schools had planned to add a new gym and cafeteria to the Pimmit facility for approximately \$7.5 million. Virginia high schools can no longer receive accreditation if they do not have a cafeteria and a gym included in their facilities.

Both Mountain View and Bryant have cafeterias and gyms but Pimmit's campus has neither. The schools' chief operating officer Dean Tistadt said he hopes to use the extra money to accelerate existing list of capital projects.

The school system does plan to move an alternative learning center – for students with serious behavioral programs who need to be observed at all times – to current Pimmit site.

Tistadt will also open a new branch office for the school system's maintenance and operations staff at the old Pimmit site. Currently, personnel are not able to respond to calls about facility problems in the McLean and Falls Church area in reasonable amount of time because no maintenance office is located nearby.

"We have guys that lose an hour to an hour and a half of productivity and work just driving to schools in those parts of the county. We have a very difficult time responding to requests there," said Tistadt.

The county senior center and other evening adult education classes that currently operate out of Pimmit will remain at that location, he added.

FAITH NOTES

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

Oakton Church of the Brethren's Family Fun Day will be Saturday, June 12, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the church at 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Painting a peace mural, face painting, crafts, games, a moon bounce, a bake sale and more. Free. 703-281-4411 or www.oaktonbrethren.org.

The Hearts Afire Church Picnic will be at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 12, at The Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road in Vienna. The community is invited to enjoy the picnic and assist assembling 'birthing kits' for Haitian newborns and their mothers. Moonbounce and games, praise band J.C. Reigns, burgers and hotdogs. Donations for church mission projects welcome. www.goodshepherdva.com.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road in McLean, will collect for a Food Drive, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. June 19. Donations can be dropped off outside of music suite A. Volunteer sorters, drivers and special needs shoppers are also needed. dmheier@yahoo.com or 703-573-2969.

Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, invites the community to Vienna Family Fun Night, 6-9 p.m. on Saturday, June 26. Food, activities and games, including

a movie, for all age groups, with prizes for certain events. Free. 703-938-6753 or www.antiochdoc.org.

Church of the Holy Cross, 2455 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, is offering an evening Vacation Bible School at 5:30 p.m. from Sunday, July 18 through Thursday, July 23. Dinner is included. Ages 3-1/2 to 12 are welcome. \$15 includes registration, a t-shirt and a CD. pamnicholson@cox.net or 703-573-0250.

Epiphany United Methodist Preschool, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is now enrolling 3-4 year-old students for the 2010/2011 school year. Contact 703-938-2391 or www.epiphanypreschool.com.

Chesterbrook United Methodist Church is at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for adults and children. Rev. Kathleen Card, Pastor. 703-356-7100 or www.ChesterbrookUMC.org.

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

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

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<p>Baptist Bon Air Baptist Church...703-525-8079 McLean Baptist Church...703-356-8080</p>	<p>Church of God-Anderson, Indiana Church of God...703-671-6726</p>	<p>Churches Lutheran (Missouri, Synod) Our Savior Lutheran Church...703-892-4846</p>	<p>Churches-United Methodist Trinity United Methodist Church of McLean...703-356-3312 Charles Wesley United Methodist...703-356-6336 Calvary United Methodist...703-892-5185 Cherrydale United Methodist...703-527-2621 Chesterbrook United Methodist...703-356-7100 Clarendon United Methodist...703-527-8574 Community United Methodist...703-527-1085 Mt. Olivet United Methodist...703-527-3934 Walker Chapel United Methodist...703-538-5200</p>
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<p>Saint Ann Catholic Church</p> <p>SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE: Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM 1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy 5312 North 10th Street Arlington Virginia 22205 Parish Office: (703) 528-6276</p> <p>DAILY EUCHARIST: Weekdays Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM Saturday, 8:30 AM</p> <p>PARISH WEBSITE: www.rc.net/arlington/stann</p> <p>All Are Welcome!</p> 	<p>Churches- Baptist-Free Will Bloss Memorial Free Will Baptist Church...703-527-7040</p>	<p>Churches- Presbyterian Arlington Presbyterian Church...703-920-5660 Church of Covenant...703-524-4115 Clarendon Presbyterian Church...703-527-9513 Little Falls Presbyterian Church...703-538-5230 Trinity Presbyterian Church...703-536-5600 Westminster Presbyterian...703-549-4766</p>	<p>Presbyterian Church in America Churches Christ Church of Arlington...703-527-0420</p>
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NEWS

Local band, Jetpack Atlantic, plays for a crowd at the Rock to Remember Haiti event.



PHOTOS BY ROSE LEE / THE CONNECTION

Local Teens Remember Haiti

Rock to Remember Haiti raises money for victims of the earthquake.

BY ROSE LEE
THE CONNECTION

On a day when several high school proms were taking place, many students gathered at the Old Fire House in McLean for a much different occasion. Five local bands donated their time to put on a concert, Rock to Remember Haiti, in order to raise awareness and donations for victims of the earthquake that took place in Haiti this past January.

Langley High School sophomore, Sheerin Tehrani, organized the event with the hopes of reminding the local community of the ongoing tragedy in Haiti.

"Many of us donated and helped out right after the earthquake, but a lot of us forgot about Haiti after



Langley High School sophomore Sheerin Tehrani organized the event.

the initial shock wore off," Sheerin said. "I just feel thankful to live life so comfortably, and I think that it's our moral duty to help out in any way we can."

Students from all over the area attended, including two teenagers, Tess Paoletta and Chandra Che, from National Cathedral School in Washington, D.C.

"What happened in Haiti is so devastating and it's important to try and help the victims," said Tess. "This event shows how one person can make a difference."

The bands that played included Ivy Rose, Mad Brenda, Jetpack Atlantic, Life Without Stripes and Meet Me In The Green. Their performances helped raise money for victims of the earthquake that hit Haiti.

All proceeds will go to the AmeriCares Foundation. AmeriCares was chosen in particular due to the fact that it gives 98 percent of the donations it collects to help victims.

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 17

Rights and Social Justice, and participated in the Washington and Lee Tax Clinic and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

Lan Anh Galloway was accepted into the Virginia Department of Education's Governor's Foreign Language Academies, a summer residential program for talented foreign language students. The Madeira School junior is the daughter of George and Lien Galloway.

John Turner of McLean has graduated with a bachelor of arts in psychology and religious studies from Rice University of Houston, Tx.

Brigid Donovan of McLean has been named to the trimester 2 honors list at Saint James School of St. James, Md. The 12th grade student is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Donovan.

Patricia S. Cooper of McLean has graduated from the University of Virginia Law School. Cooper is a 2001 graduate of Langley High School and a 2005 graduate of the University of Virginia, where she was an Echols Scholar and member of Phi Beta Kappa. Cooper is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Cooper.

Gregory R. Epremian of McLean has been named to the spring 2010 dean's list at Bucknell University of Lewisburg, Pa. He is the son of Jeffrey and Annette Epremian, and a 2008 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School.

Ahmed M. Kodouda of McLean has graduated with a bachelor of arts in international relations at Bucknell University of Lewisburg, Pa. He was also named to the spring 2010 dean's list. Kodouda is the son of Samira Amer, and a 2006 graduate of George C. Marshall High School.

Kelsey P. Linebaugh of McLean has

been named to the spring 2010 dean's list at Bucknell University of Lewisburg, Pa. She is the daughter of Craig Linebaugh and Cheryl Person, and a 2008 graduate of Madeira School.

Daniel Steiman of McLean has graduated cum laude with a bachelor of arts in political science with departmental honors at Bucknell University of Lewisburg, Pa. He was also named to the spring 2010 dean's list. Steiman is the son of Cwi and Susan Steiman, and a 2006 graduate of Potomac School.

Douglas Zimmer of McLean has received a bachelor of business administration degree with a concentration in accounting, and a second major in economics from the College of William & Mary. Zimmer competed on the men's varsity track and field team, and was named 2010 Champion in Decathlon at the Colonial Athletic Association Championships. He is the son of D. Brian and Gloria Zimmer of McLean.

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