

Great Falls CONNECTION

Cross Country Ride

From left, William, Alexander and Hae-Chan Park of Great Falls pose at the California border during their trip. The two brothers, along with their father, took 58 days to bike from Yorktown, Va. to San Francisco, Calif.

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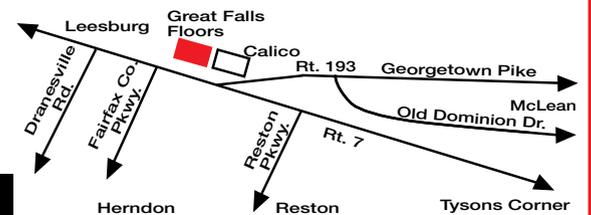
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From left, Alexander, William and Hae-Chan Park at the base of the Golden Gate Bridge at the conclusion of their 58-day bike trip across the country.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Cross Country Ride

Great Falls trio rides from Virginia to California to raise bike awareness.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Brothers William and Alexander Park have been biking most of their lives, having been taught by their father Hae-Chan at a young age. Last week all three returned from the most challenging ride of their lives, a 58-day, 3,800-mile trip across the United States.

The trio started in Yorktown, Va. June 26 and returned home from San Francisco Aug. 23. William, who just graduated from Langley High School and Alexander, a rising sophomore at Langley, were inspired by shorter trip they took last summer.

"We got into biking early in life, and we wanted to all do a trip together before my brother left for college," Alexander said. "We wanted to promote the idea of commuting by bike and just biking in general."

Both brothers enjoy biking, but Great Falls isn't always the best place for bikers. Winding two-lane roads, many of them well-traveled, aren't the safest ways to get around by bike. William says they have also gotten their fair share of comments from drivers.

"We'll occasionally get drivers who shout 'get off the road!' as they pass by," he said.

THE PARKS are very active in the biking community, they held a fundraiser at their homes last week to collect bicycles to donate to the Red Cross. Alexander says he "would bike to school if I could, but my mom says it's not safe."

The Parks spent much of their time on the TransAmerica Trail, which was built from Yorktown, Va. to Reedsport, Ore. in 1976 in commemoration of American's bicentennial. They biked 70-80 miles per day and spent their nights in motels or camping. Alexander estimates they spent a little less than half of their nights camping.

"Everything we had was on our bikes, it was a self-supported bike trip," Alexander said. "We carried everything, food, water, clothes, extra tire tubes with us."

Once they got to Colorado, they shipped some of

their supplies back. Hae-Chan says it's a good thing they did before they hit the stretch of Nevada desert, which was a tough one. They rode along Highway 50, the "Loneliest Road in America" which has stretches as long as 70 miles with no access to water.

"We were afraid of the Nevada desert, we were told there was no water supply for a while," Hae-Chan said. "We had only seen the desert on the Discovery or Travel Channel, and they usually show scorpions, snakes, all the scary stuff."

THE TRIO ran into several groups making the cross-country trek as well, most of them from Europe. They were able to swap notes with the groups going West-to-East.

When they got to the West Coast, they immediately noticed that it seemed to be a more friendly place for bikers.

"I thought D.C. was pretty biker-friendly, but in the 100-mile stretch around Folsom, Sacramento and San Francisco, you really feel biking is a way of life," Hae-Chan said. "They have bike lanes on main streets, and the commuter trains have bike cars so you can easily get on and off with your bike and do your entire commute with a bike."

Though spending almost two months on bikes, in motels or camping could be exhausting, no one in the group seems to have any regrets.

"Out of the three of us, I was probably the most reluctant going in," William said. "But it turned out better than I thought. The Monarch Pass in Colorado, right at the continental divide was fantastic scenery."

Hae-Chan says that seeing the country by bike was a great way to appreciate the diversity, history and beauty of the country.

"America is really big, and it's different region by region, state by state. Sometimes there are big changes every 20-30 miles," he said. "You miss a lot of things when you're driving by them, in a car it's a pain to pull over and stop. When you're biking, it's a welcome rest to take a break, and you really can see a lot."

Alexander said that if he didn't have to go to school, "I would have biked back, maybe a different route, but if I had the time I definitely would. It was one of the best eight weeks of my life."

William, Alexander and Hae-Chan kept a blog running during the entire trip. The blog, as well as photos from every phase of their journey, can be found at www.thegreenwheel.org.



PHOTO BY SHAWN SMITH

Great Falls native John Quale, aka Prince Poppycock, is in the final ten for the current season of America's Got Talent. Quale sings opera while dressed up in elaborate costumes, and has been a hit with judges and audiences alike.

A Hard Act to Follow

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls native John Quale has been finding himself in millions of homes on a weekly basis for the last few months. Few people know him as John Quale though, the millions of viewers of "America's Got Talent" know him as Prince Poppycock. With his powdered wig and makeup, he looks torn from the audience of a 15th century opera, but he's making waves in modern times, having made it through to the contest's top ten.

Quale was raised in Great Falls and he attended Great Falls Elementary School and Village Green Day School. By the age of 11, he was singing at the Kennedy Center as part of the Washington Opera Children's Choir. As he grew older, he toured with various musicals and choirs throughout the country.

IN 2006, while performing in Los Angeles, he was asked to sing an aria at a friend's club, but he was required to wear a wig. He chose a tall, powdered wig, since the song was about a hairdresser, and Prince Poppycock was born.

"When he went to L.A., there were so many dark, edgy singers, but he always wanted to keep things light," said Kathleen Quale, his mother. "His idea has always been to make people laugh and smile, that's what poppycock is."

His debut on America's Got Talent was June 8, and his talent immediately struck show

judges and the audience. Wearing a green frock and prancing about with a pair of mirrors, combined with a classically-trained voice made quite the impression. A standing ovation broke out less than a minute into the performance.

"I honestly adore Prince Poppycock, underneath the makeup, the wigs, the clothes, he does have a great voice," said Sharon Osbourne, a judge for the show.

For John Quale, the act of putting on the make-up is like stepping into a role, a role that seems to be winning fans all over.

"I don't have the most self-confidence, so during the day I work at a metal shop, just trying to scrape by and support myself," he said. "But at night when I put on the makeup, Poppycock seems to seep through and I enter into this world of fantasy and assume this new sense of confidence."

KATHLEEN QUALE says she is happy to see his dream coming true, as he has been working for an opportunity like this his entire life.

"It's wonderful to see this dream he's had coming to reality, for him to find such an audience has been amazing," she said. "I never really gave up on him."

Prince Poppycock was scheduled to perform Sept. 7 at 9 p.m. on America's Got Talent, and the results will be announced Sept. 8. Voting information can be found at: www.nbc.com/americas-got-talent/vote/rules.

Local Art School Offers 'Free-for-Fall' Series

Special events to promote art as a community experience.

The Great Falls School of Art is offering a series of free fall workshops and demos, open studio time, networking opportunities and children's events designed to promote art as a shared experience in our community. The "Free-for-Fall" program complements the art school's full, diverse calendar of fall classes, workshops and special programs for all ages and ability levels.

❖ **Watercolor Demo and Workshop:** Local artist Bob Gilbert headlines the fall series, and will share his talent and tips in a free watercolor demo and workshop from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 11. The free demo and workshop is open to adults and teens of all ability levels; prior experience in watercolor is not necessary. Those who have a schedule con-



Great Falls School of Art students at work in an adult portrait class.

flict or want to learn more, can register with the art school for Gilbert's Oct. 9 plein air watercolor class in Riverbend Park. To learn more about Bob Gilbert's work, visit www.robertgilbertsart.com.

❖ **Open Studio Time:** Looking for a painting partner? Open studio time is an important element of the "Free-for-Fall" series. Pack up your paints and join fellow artists to share energy and insights. On two Wednesday eve-

nings from 7-10 p.m., artists will work on a project of their choosing. During each session, art school teachers will be on hand to offer tips and feedback. On four Friday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. a still life will be set up; a \$25 fee will be charged for the Friday sessions. Open Studio Time will be offered Sept. 24; Oct. 8, 13 and 22; and Nov. 12 and 17.

❖ **Networking Opportunities:** On Wednesday evenings in

September and October, art school director Terri Parent will host the ArtPartners networking group, a free, fun and informal meeting designed to support, mentor, inform and connect anyone with a love of art. The topic for Sept. 22 is "Using what's New in Social Media and on the Web to Boost your Art Career." On Oct. 20, the group will tackle "File It to Find It: Organizing for the Creative Mind."

❖ **For Kids Only:** Two free Saturday sessions will provide children time to experiment and be creative. On Sept. 25 participants will work in clay to create their own personal gargoyle. On Oct. 30 they will design their own Halloween mask, just in time for trick-or-treating. These events are open to children ages 6-12.

An extensive and diverse selection of classes, workshops and special programs is offered each quarter. To learn more about the art school or GFFFTA, visit www.greatfallsfoundationforarts.org.

Great Falls Foundation for the Arts, 1144-D and 1144-G Walker Road (The Great Falls School of Art; The GFFFTA Gallery; The Artists' Atelier)

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/SEPT. 11

The Smart Split. 10 a.m. McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Legal aspects of separation and divorce. Register at 703-281-2657 or www.thewomenscenter.org.

Attacking the College

Application Essay. 10 a.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park Street, N.E., Vienna. Writing tips and worksheets along with actual examples of essays written by students who were accepted into their first-choice schools. Register at 703-281-2657 or www.thewomenscenter.org.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 14

Great Falls Citizens Association General Session Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Beginning of a five-part seminar series on waste water issues and the future of the Great Falls commercial center. GFCA will also present its agenda and budget for the upcoming year. www.gfca.org.
Tyson's Corner Kiwanis Club Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at George C. Marshall High School, Room 229A 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Meeting is public and Individuals looking to volunteer in their community welcome. www.tysonscornerkiwanis.org.

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NEWS

Clemyjontri Park in McLean is one of a small but growing number of parks in the nation designed to allow children with and without disabilities to play side by side. However, maintenance and construction is expensive.



PHOTO COURTESY FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK FOUNDATION

Clemyjontri Park to Hold Fundraiser for 'Liberty Swing'

Clemyjontri Park, a local playground specially built to accommodate both children with and without disabilities, is holding a fundraiser to make the park even more accessible and fun. On Sept. 10, from 5:30 to 8:30p.m., the park is holding an event to promote its newest initiative: to provide an innovative Liberty Swing, one of only seven in the US, which will allow children and adults who use wheelchairs to experience the joy of swinging.

The fundraiser, called "Concert in the Park 2010," is hosted by the Friends of Clemyjontri and the McLean Orchestra. The McLean Orchestra will be playing "A Musical Salute to Our Military" at the event. Donations to the park are welcome, and can be made through Friends of Clemyjontri.

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CONTRIBUTED

Drew Smith's Eagle Project was to enhance the St. Francis Episcopal Church's new entrance sign.

Troop 55's New Eagle Scout

Douglas Andrew (Drew) Smith, son of Robert C. Smith and Sandralee V.M. Smith of Great Falls, officially became an Eagle Scout on Aug. 15. Smith is a member of Boy Scout Troop 55 and joins the 74 Eagle Scouts inducted since the Troop's inception in 1978 and is the fifth Eagle Scout inducted in 2010, the Boy Scouts of America's 100th anniversary. His Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony was held at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls.

St. Francis Church sponsors Boy Scout Troop 55. In the spirit of giving back, Drew Smith's Eagle Project was to enhance the Church's new entrance sign by landscaping and installing an attractive garden bed around the sign. To fulfill his project goals, Smith contacted Denny Sisson of Sisson's Landscaping in Great Falls, who agreed to donate a variety of plants and shrubs to the project and worked with Smith on the landscape design. Smith assembled a group of volunteers including Sisson, other Scouts and Eagle Scouts, school friends, and church members to fulfill his project goal. While working on this project, Smith realized that the surrounding church grounds had sustained significant winter damage. Going beyond his project parameters, he mobilized the volunteers to repair damaged trees and to remove fallen trees and branches, in the process collecting and disposing four trailer loads of debris.

One of the highlights of Smith's Eagle Court of Honor was his special guest speaker and uncle, Dr. Joseph Kasputys, the Founder and Chairman of IHS Global Insight. Kasputys has served in various government posts including White House appointments, has led major companies as chief executive officer, and has been an entrepreneur. In his talk to the Scouts, he posed the question, "Why do these words, Eagle Scout, resonate with me? They say that this is a person who has been tested, indeed many times, and has met all these tests. This is a person of good moral character who can be counted on to do his best under all circumstances."

Smith is a 2010 graduate of Langley High School and will be attending Marymount University in the fall.

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McLean Chamber to Host 'Extravaganza'

The Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) will host its first ever "Suits + Sneakers Extravaganza," Thursday, Oct. 7, 6-9 p.m. at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm. The event will benefit the Farm as well as programs of the GMCC. This community event will showcase international gourmet foods prepared and served by McLean area restaurants, a coffee and dessert bar, fine wine samples with a sommelier on site, local musicians. Tickets are \$125 per person. Dress is business attire and sneakers are encouraged. Throughout the evening GMCC will give away door prizes and silent auction items will be available from lo-

cal retailers.

"Why sneakers and business attire?" said Twomey. "Sneakers are fashionable, comfortable and toward the end of the week, you've earned the right to be a more casual. But we're also expecting some people to wear black tie with their sneakers. We anticipate a great turnout for this excellent, fun event – for a great cause."

Claude Moore Colonial Farm is located at 6310 Georgetown Pike in McLean. For more information, visit www.mcleanchamber.org. To RSVP, call the chamber at 703-356-5424. Sponsorships are available.

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SCHOOLS

Chinese Language, Expanded Kindergarten Offered at The Langley School

The Langley School has announced the addition of two new programs for the 2010-2011 school year. In an effort to prepare its students to succeed in an increasingly global world, Langley will introduce Chinese as a language offering this year for its Middle School students in grades 6 and 7. These students will have the option to take Mandarin Chinese instead of Spanish or French. Based on interest levels, a similar Chinese class may also be offered to other grade levels as an after-school enrichment class.

Langley has hired Dr. Xiaoli Wang, a Chinese specialist from

Princeton University, to develop and teach the new Chinese program. Students will learn practical language skills including listening, speaking, reading, and writing, along with an appreciation of Chinese culture.

"As part of the global initiatives in Langley's current strategic plan, we wanted to redesign our language offerings to include a non-Western language," says Head of School Doris Cottam. "Many high schools are now offering Chinese, so introducing our students to the language at an earlier age will help them be better prepared when entering higher grade levels."

This year, The Langley School is

also introducing a new extended junior kindergarten program which replaces its previous three-hour program which ran in morning and afternoon sessions. The new expanded program – operating from 8 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. daily – nearly doubles the instructional time students receive and features two concurrently running sections.

"We feel this new structure is more developmentally appropriate for 4-year-old children," says Cottam.

"The additional classroom time will allow Langley's junior kindergarten team to further enrich their curriculum with in-depth lessons and projects.

Megan Robson of McLean has been named to the spring 2010 dean's list at Clemson University of South Carolina. She is majoring in bio-engineering and is the daughter of Geoff Robson.

Martin Brown of McLean has been named to the spring 2010 dean's list at Ithaca College's School of Humanities and Sciences. He is the son of Garry and Melissa Brown.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Patrick Bardsley of Great Falls has been named to the 2010 dean's list for both semesters at John Paul the Great Catholic School.

A Mad 5K Run and One Mile Walk is scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday,

Sept. 18, at James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive in Vienna. The race will benefit the James Madison High School track team and raise money for a new track/cross country facility. Awards will be presented to the top 3 male and female finishers, as well as age group awards. Entry fee is \$15 for students, \$20 for adults. Register at www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS or chasse@fcps.edu.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOPS On Proposed Updates to Phase 2 Design of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project will hold two public information workshops to update the public on the latest design plans for the 11.6 mile section of Phase 2 of the Dulles rail project from Wiehle Avenue on the eastern edge of Reston in Fairfax County to Route 772 in Ashburn in eastern Loudoun County. Information will be provided on the six new Metrorail stations in Phase 2, including an alternative option for the Washington Dulles International Airport station. The other Phase 2 stations will be located near Reston Parkway, Herndon-Monroe, Route 28, Route 606 and Route 772. The meetings will be held:



- **Monday, September 13 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
Sheraton Reston, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston VA 20191
- **Tuesday, September 14 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum, Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 21668 Heritage Farm Lane, Sterling VA 20164

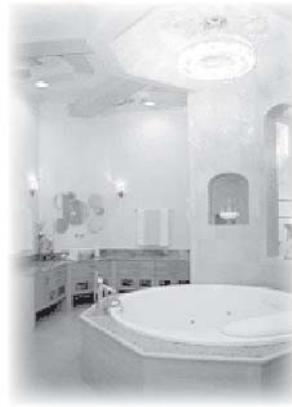
The meetings will be held in open house format and will provide an opportunity to learn about and comment on the changes. If you need special assistance, including a request for an interpreter, please call 571-265-2658 or TDD 711 by Friday, September 10.

Information on the latest plans for Phase 2 will be available on the Dulles Metrorail Project website www.dullesmetro.com on September 2. Comments on these plans can be made online by visiting the website www.dullesmetro.com after September 2 by clicking on the "Phase 2 Information" section. Written comments can also be emailed to Phase2Comments@dullesmetro.com or mailed to: Dulles Corridor Metrorail – Phase 2, c/o Cordell & Crumley, PO BOX 2562, Reston, VA 20195.

The comment period ends **October 1, 2010.**



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OPINION

Readiness, Preparation for Emergencies

Back to school a good time to check on backups, supplies, record-keeping.

There are some basic rules of self protection that sometimes escape us.

I got a reminder a few weeks ago of a few simple things: Always lock the car. Don't leave valuables in the car.

I always lock my car, but the one night I forgot (distracted at a key moment) was the night every open car in my neighborhood was rifled and stripped of anything potentially valuable. While overall, the losses were in the thousands of dollars, my losses were small, an antique iPod and a battered camera made up most of the loss.

The next lesson was from the detective who dutifully followed up on the police report filed online. Stolen items are recovered all the time, and returned to their owners if their owners knew and reported the serial number of the stolen item. His recommendation was to record every new item purchased, especially electronics, including serial number, price, make, model, date and place of purchase, and to store that list by either uploading it as a "Google Document" or attaching it to an email. That way even if the computer you used to make the list is stolen or your house burned down, you would have a record for police and insurance.

September might be hurricane preparedness month, but it was August that left so many of us in the Washington area without power for days, on two different occasions. Last winter's blizzards reminded us that you can be without power and without an easy route to leave

your home at the same time. Both experiences argue for some home safety checks.

Can you find the flashlights in the dark? Do you have what you need to hunker down at home for a few days? Do you have a plan to gather all the members of your family, or how to contact each other, in case of an emergency? If you put together an emergency kit, has it been updated lately? See the attached list, plus www.ready.gov, for good, basic information.

Don't forget your pets in your emergency planning. Whether you were to decide to stay put in an emergency or change locations, you need to make

plans in advance for your pets. Do you have enough food, pet carriers, etc.? Some emergency shelters will now accept pets, and the American Red Cross in the National Capital Region, with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) recently took delivery of eight regional animal shelter trailers for pets in times of disaster, each with the capacity to set up a shelter for up to 200 pets. (These appear destined for Maryland and D.C.) This comes from the experiences after Katrina and other disasters when it became apparent that many people would not evacuate without their pets.

The recent meltdown of Virginia's networks can also serve as a reminder to the rest of us: Have you backed up your computers this week? Are your critical documents backed up in multiple places, including offsite? The governor is correct to call for an investigation. With an

Emergency Supplies

THE BASICS

- ❖ Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- ❖ Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- ❖ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both (some versions will also charge your cell phone)
- ❖ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ❖ First aid kit
- ❖ Whistle to signal for help
- ❖ Dust masks, to help filter contaminated air
- ❖ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ❖ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ❖ Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- ❖ Local maps
- ❖ Cell phone with chargers

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO CONSIDER

- ❖ Prescription medications and glasses
- ❖ Infant formula and diapers
- ❖ Pet food and extra water for your pet
- ❖ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- ❖ Cash or traveler's checks and change
- ❖ See www.ready.gov for more.

investment of billions of dollars, the commonwealth's systems should be better protected from a crash. But after a crash, there should be a much faster response time. But don't let this happen to you, mind your backups.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Route 7 – Georgetown Pike Realities

To the Editor:

The question posed in this ongoing discussion is whether things should be kept as they are, or reconstructed as designed by VDOT – characterizing the choices as a grand dialectic between history and progress.

The realities of the proposed project are much more mundane. The record of public meetings and a web-based computer model of the existing and proposed intersection are factual, specific, and quite clear:

The purpose of the Route 7 Widening Project (from Rolling Holly to Reston Avenue) is to eliminate traffic back up along Route 7. Traffic is backing up on Route 7 heading east, as drivers get in line to turn onto Georgetown Pike, then change their minds and dart out into the next lane, causing rear-end collisions. Or too many cars wait for the light to turn, causing

a back up that extends into the main through-traffic lanes, backing up cars that chose to remain on Route 7. This is a "make-ROUTE-7-work-better" project, not a "make-Georgetown-Pike-work-better" project. The VDOT designers told us at two different public meetings several years apart that the scope of the project stopped in front of the Animal Hospital near Seneca Road on Georgetown Pike. Since Georgetown Pike is already at 100 percent capacity, no improvement in traffic flow would occur.

One Project impact is to move a lot of cars off of Route 7, clearing through-traffic lanes: creating traffic jam #1 on Georgetown Pike. The project is referred to as a "double-turning lanes" project. In fact, after you depart from Route 7 heading northeast, making the turn in one of the two lanes from Route 7, the mouth of Georgetown Pike converts into nine lanes. The nine lanes at the end of Georgetown Pike then converge down to the two lanes we recognize as Virginia's Historic Byway – one heading east, one west. In

effect, a traffic accumulation area will be created to divert traffic off of Route 7 onto Georgetown Pike at Seneca Road where cars will have more room to accumulate, wait, and merge, enabling a better flow on Route 7.

The second Project impact is a result of the very short distance that Route 7 is widened from Rolling Holly to Reston Avenue: creating traffic jam #2. While cars begin to stretch out into more lanes at Rolling Holly, they must converge down to the original number of lanes at Reston Avenue – causing a second traffic back up.

These two traffic jam constructions will cost Federal, Virginia and Fairfax County taxpayers \$36 million, of which \$8 million is Fairfax County's contribution. Do you know that Fairfax County has less than \$1,000 in its budget to address secondary road repairs and fixes over the next five years? Is this the best use of Fairfax County tax dollars?

There are alternative solutions that are much less costly. More than 150 residents of Great Falls participated in the 2009 public

hearing in Reston, offering possible solutions to the problem that the VDOT project was trying to solve: How to keep the traffic flowing smoothly along Route 7?

Here are just a few of their suggestions:

- ❖ Close the turn at Route 7 and Georgetown Pike during rush hour. (This would have the added benefit of enabling people who live in Great Falls to turn out of their neighborhoods onto Georgetown Pike and get to work on time.)

- ❖ Hire a police officer to manage the traffic at the intersection of Route 7 and Georgetown Pike during rush hour.

- ❖ Construct a concrete divider on Route 7 so that drivers who choose to make the turn cannot change their minds and jump out in front of moving cars. This solution is used on Route 7 at Dranesville Road, a short distance away.

- ❖ Extend the turning lane on Route 7 further back so that there is no overrun into the main traffic

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 17

THE CONNECTION

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The paintings to be auctioned include the one by Willy Heeks (above).

Private Art Collection Will Be Auctioned to Benefit MPA

McLean Project for the Arts is the recipient of the art collection of John Deardourff, political consultant and late husband of recently retired Madiera Head of School, Dr. Elisabeth Griffith. This collection of paintings, ceramics and sculpture has been donated to McLean Project for the Arts to auction as a fundraiser.

MPA will hold a silent auction on Sunday, Sept. 12, 4 – 6 p.m. The forty-seven pieces of art will be on display at a private home in McLean and the bidding will include a wide range of minimum bids.

There are quite a few outstanding pieces, including three encaustic paintings by Robin Rose, three ceramic pieces by Otto Heino, and six clay sculptures by Jeff Shapiro. Sculptures include cast glass by



Sculptures to be auctioned include cast glass by Rick Beck.

Rick Beck, a bronze and copper maquette by Jon Havener and a pink granite sculpture by Jesus Moroles. In addition there are paintings both large and small by artists such as Shahla Arbabi, Willy Heeks and Leon Berkowitz. The entire proceeds from purchases benefit McLean Project for the Arts. For those who would like to take a Sneak Peek and have a chance to “Buy It Now,” there will be an opportunity to stop by on Friday, Sept. 10 from 6 – 8 p.m.

Reservations are a must. Your name must be on the list at the door to attend the Sneak Peek and/or Silent Auction. You will get the address when you RSVP. McLean Project for the Arts will take checks, Master Card and Visa.

RSVP by Wednesday, Sept. 8, to info@mpaart.org or call Sandy Treanor at 703-790-1953.

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/SEPT. 9

Life Rocks! Benefit Concert to Support Youth Suicide Prevention. With Berret & Harrison and Reedo. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Experimenting With Color. 4 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Hands-on experiments help explain why the sky is blue and leaves are green. Learn to split light, create color and create secret messages. Ages 6-12. 703-757-8560.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 10

"Mauritius," 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Estranged sisters discover a book of rare stamps after their mother's death, then three seedy collectors arrive. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageTysons.org/mauritus or 703-854-1856.

Lord of the Rings: Return of the King - Movie and Orchestral Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$44-\$471. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

McLean AAUW 41st Used Book Sale. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Free admission. 703-356-8364 or www.mcleanaauw.org.

Grand Prix Lightweight MMA Tournament. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 University Drive, Fairfax. An eight-man, single-elimination tournament taking place in one night. Tickets \$24-\$350, available at ticketmaster.com.

Dreaming Of Eden, Madrone and Get Up Texas at 6 p.m., **SNRG Fireday** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

17th Annual Koi Show. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9570 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Exceptional fish, vendors, bonsai and more. 703-255-3631.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 11

Artist's Reception. 4-6 p.m. at Red Caboose Gallery, 138 Church St., N.E., Vienna. "Yield" with painter and illustrator Norman Grandstaff. The exhibition will continue through Oct. 3. 703-349-7178.

Lord of the Rings: Return of the King - Movie and Orchestral Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$44-\$471. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra 54th Season Opening. 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With music director Christopher Zimmerman and pianist Philippe Bianco, performing Tchaikovsky's Tempest Fantasy-Overture, Schumann's Piano Concerto and Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 3. Pre-concert discussion free to ticketed patrons at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55, available at 1-888-945-2468 or tickets.com.

Marc Anthony Live. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$79-\$129, available online at www.ticketmaster.com or at 703-573-SEAT or 410-547-SEAT. www.marcanthonyonline.com or www.patriotcenter.com.

McLean AAUW 41st Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at McLean



PHOTO COURTESY 1ST STAGE

Leigh Taylor Patton (as Mary) tries to sell her rare stamps to Roger Payano (as Phillip, left) and Edward Daniels II (as Dennis) in the 1st Stage production of 'Mauritius,' Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from Sept. 10 through Oct. 3 at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. Contact www.1stStageTysons.org/mauritus or 703-854-1856 for tickets.

Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Free admission. 703-356-8364 or www.mcleanaauw.org.

"Mauritius," 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Estranged sisters discover a book of rare stamps after their mother's death, then three seedy collectors arrive. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageTysons.org/mauritus or 703-854-1856.

Sam Cooper & The Sleepwalkers, Half Brother, Shrine Of The Silver Monkey and Rocknocoeros Family Happy Hour at 1 p.m., **drumfish CD Release** at 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

National Capital Model Soldier Society 49th Annual Show. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at NoVA Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike in Annandale 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Model soldiers by US and foreign artists, sci-fi/fantasy crafters, plastic modelers, and vendor tables with figure kits, toy soldiers, Russian-painted figures, fantasy figures, plastic models, military history books and more. Adults \$7, children under 12 free. 571-203-0945 or www.ncmss.org.

Gardening with Butterflies. 10 a.m. at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9570 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Horticulturist Laurie Short tours the Butterfly Garden as she describes its function. Participants receive tips to help increase the butterfly populations and learn types of plants to grow and their upkeep. \$5. Reserve at 703-255-3631.

17th Annual Koi Show. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9570 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Exceptional fish, vendors, bonsai and more. 703-255-3631.

The Brethren. 7 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Professional male vocalists perform traditional hymns, patriotic standards and contemporary popular music. Reception to follow. www.bridgpointconnections.org/brethren.html

Fairfax County Master Gardeners. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Friends of the Virginia Room Book Sale. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. U.S. history, biography and Virginia-related topics. 703-293-6227.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. 703-242-4020.

McLean Community Center Yard Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. MCC, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 703-790-0123, TTY 711.

Sunday/Sept. 12

Butterfly Garden Guided Tours. 3 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9570 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. An introductory guided stroll. Learn how the gardens attract butterflies. Members free, non-member adults \$4, seniors and age 7-17 \$1.50, under age 6 free. Rental binoculars available at the Visitor Center. 703-255-3631, ext. 0 or www.nvpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens.

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Bingo. 7 p.m. at the VVFD, 400 Center St. South, Vienna. Games held every Sunday in the Flame Room. www.vvfd.org.

McLean AAUW 41st Used Book Sale. 12-4 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Free admission. 703-356-8364 or www.mcleanaauw.org.

Teddy Bear Collectible Show and Sale. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Center, Chantilly. With teddy bear artists from across the country, bear making supplies, collectible items, books and more. Adults \$8, students and seniors \$7, age 12 and under free. 717-993-3041.

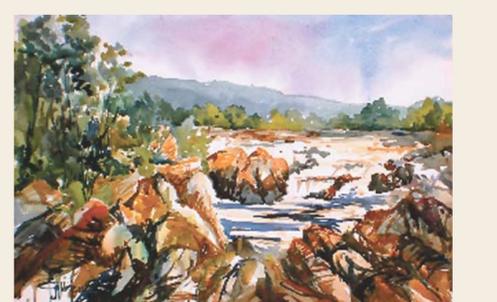
"Mauritius." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Estranged sisters discover a book of rare stamps after their mother's death, then three seedy collectors arrive. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageTysons.org/mauritus or 703-854-1856.

Congenital Heart Walk. At George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Registration at 9 a.m., Walk at 10 a.m. A joint effort between the Adult Congenital Heart Association and the Children's Heart Foundation. www.congenitalheartwalk.org.

17th Annual Koi Show. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9570 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Exceptional fish, vendors, bonsai and more. 703-255-3631.

Soprano Michelle Schulman and Pianist Alex Ramirez. 4 p.m. at Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Rd., Vienna. A tribute to 'Great Voices of the Hollywood Films'. Free, donations accepted. 703-281-4411 or www.oaktonbrethren.org.

Barking Brunch. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Weichert, Realtors, 731 Walker Road, Great Falls. Paw Pageant, raffle prizes and more. Dogs must be on leash. 703-759-6300.



Bob Gilbert will share tips and techniques at a free watercolor demo and workshop from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Great Falls School of Art.

Free Demo and Workshop with Artist Bob Gilbert

Local artist Bob Gilbert will share tips and techniques at a free watercolor demo and workshop from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Great Falls School of Art. This special event will kick off the school's fall semester of classes and workshops, and reservations are suggested to reserve a spot. The demo and workshop "headline a series of free programs planned by the school to promote art as a community experience," said director Terri Parent.

The free demo and workshop is open to adults and teens of all ability levels; prior experience in watercolor is not necessary. Those who have a schedule conflict or leave hungry for more can register early with the Great Falls School of Art for Gilbert's Oct. 9 plein air watercolor class in River Bend Park. To learn more about Bob Gilbert's work, visit www.robertgilbertart.com. To learn more about what the art school has planned for fall, visit www.greatfallsfoundationforarts.org.

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WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Great Falls to Honor Sept. 11 Victims

On Saturday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m., the Great Falls Freedom Memorial Committee will hold its annual 9/11 Ceremony at the site of the Freedom Memorial, behind the Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike. This ceremony especially remembers the six citizens of the Great Falls community

who died when Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. The Fairfax Urban Search and Rescue Team, part of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, was among the First Responders at the Pentagon and a member of that team will speak at this ceremony.

This ceremony is open to all and ample parking is available in the Library parking lot. In case of rain, the ceremony will move into the Library's meeting room.

GFCA to Hold General Session Meeting

Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) General Session Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike. Open to all citizens with an interest in the community. At the meeting, GFCA will kick off a five-part

seminar series on waste water issues and the future of the Great Falls commercial center, with Fairfax County Health Department speakers setting the stage for a detailed and informative discussion on the status of the existing sanitary systems. GFCA will also present its agenda and budget for the upcoming year. www.gfca.org.

Bread Tasting at Colvin Run Mill

Let your taste buds venture beyond your favorite leavened loaf to savor the breadth of breads enjoyed around the world during a tasting program at Colvin Run Mill in Great Falls on Saturday, Sept. 25, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Following a briefing on bread basics, learn how to evaluate different types of local and ethnic breads with the skills and vocabulary of a professional food taster. Then sample up to eight types of bread with accompaniments such as spreads, veggies and fruit to evaluate scent, color, texture, taste, complexity and aftertaste. Participants will receive a detailed handout with a glossary of bread-related terms, information on

bread varieties, and a scorecard to note their impressions as they assess each sample.

The cost is \$22 per person. To register, contact Colvin Run Mill Historic Site at 703-769-2771. For more information about the park, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm.

AAUW to Hold 41st Annual Used Book Sale

The McLean Area AAUW will hold its 41st Annual Used Book Sale at the McLean Community Center on the following days:

Friday, Sept. 10, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 11, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 12, 12 p.m.-4 p.m.

AAUW volunteers collected and sorted over 40,000 used books, videos and CDs this summer. There is an exceptional collection of art books donated by a retired museum curator. AAUW also has the biggest collection of children's books in years.

For more information, please call 703-356-8364 or visit the AAUW Web site.

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Photo Credit: Christopher E. Robin

The Arts Council of Fairfax County presents the 40th Annual International Children's Festival at Wolf Trap on Sept. 18 & 19, 2010 — featuring exciting youth performers from Mexico and Poland; dozens of local performing arts groups representing a diverse range of art forms, genres, and cultures; plus interactive arts and education tents!

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FAITH

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

2nd Saturday of Prayer, 9 a.m. on Sept. 11 at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road in Vienna. A morning of centering prayer will be offered by Contemplative Outreach. These will continue to be held each 2nd Saturday through May 2011. org/events.html or imjrobinson@yahoo.com.

The Rt. Rev. Michael Creighton, retired Bishop of Central Pennsylvania, will visit St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, on Sunday, Sept. 12. Services will be held at 7:45, 9, and 11 a.m. Children's Chapel will be offered during the 9:00 service. The church will also begin the Sunday School year, with classes for children of preschool age through high school held at 10 a.m. During the Sunday School hour, a reception will be held for Bishop Creighton in the parish hall. A ministry fair will also take place, highlighting the education, music, youth activities, and outreach programs. 703-759-2082 or www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org.

Emmaus United Church of

Christ, 900 Maple Ave. in Vienna, will hold Friends and family Day 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 12. An inspirational service for parents and two hours of fun for children ages 2-12 years old. Face painting, carnival games, and a water relay. marybarrino@hotmail.com.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike in McLean, Homecoming Sunday Celebration will be Sunday, Sept. 12, after the 10 a.m. service. Food, friends and a moon bounce. Church School registration will also take place. At the picnic on the lawn, Subway sandwiches and beverages will be provided. 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

Good Shepherd Preschool, a new outreach ministry of the United Methodist Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road in Vienna, opens on Sept. 14. The Preschool will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact 703-281-3987 ext. 18 or www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

Vienna Presbyterian Church, on the corner of Maple Ave. and Park St. in Vienna, will host Passages, for those experiencing the pain of separation or divorce. 7-9

p.m. on Tuesdays beginning Sept. 28. Cost of materials is \$20, scholarships available. 703-938-9050 or Passages@ViennaPres.org.

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.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, would like to announce that beginning Sept. 11 they will offer services on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m., in addition to Sunday services at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Classes for children and youth begin Sept. 18/19. www.uucf.org.

Vienna Assembly of God has a ministry to children on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Center N and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E. Children's Church on Sundays also available. 703-938-7736 or www.ViennaAG.com.

Vienna Christian Healing Rooms, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com.

English classes at McLean Baptist Church on Mondays, including beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Advanced electives are Literature, U.S. Government, World Religions, and current events. Free class and registration, but students must buy their own books. 9:30 a.m. at 1367 Chain Bridge Road. 703-356-8080 or www.mcleanbaptist.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean. The third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. Nursery is available at the 10:15 a.m. service. 703-356-7533.

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.

Charles Wesley and Chesterbrook United Methodist Churches invite the community to a 20-minute weekly service of prayer and Holy Communion in the Charles Wesley sanctuary, 6817 Dean Drive in McLean, at 12 p.m. Thursdays. At the conclusion of the service, there is a time of individual blessing, anointing and healing prayer. 703-356-6336.

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

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

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or www.meditation-dc.org.

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MASONRY

McLean Wins, Saxons Fall in Football Openers

Local cross country teams compete at Monroe Parker meet this Saturday.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Behind a potent running attack, the McLean Highlanders' football team opened the new 2010 Northern Region high school season with a 14-6 non-district home win over Washington-Lee last Thursday night, Sept. 2.

McLean, which two years ago went winless before turning its fortunes around dramatically last year with a 6-5 overall record and an appearance in the Div. 5 region playoffs, rushed the football for over 200 yards in the win over Washington-Lee, an Arlington school and a member of the National District.

THE HIGHLANDERS got touchdowns in both the first and fourth quarters. The team's first score came on a four-yard run by junior Ryan McColgan (10 carries, 48 yards), and the fourth quarter touchdown came on a one-yard run by Chase Mills (9 carries, 89 yards). Another big contributor to the Highlanders' running effectiveness was Jimmy Ludwick (76 yards on 15 carries). McLean sophomore Chris Rosenbaum converted both of his extra point kicks in the win. Washington-Lee's lone points came



McLean High running back Ryan McColgan picks up yardage off a block from teammate Scott Lafoon during the Highlanders' season opening football game versus visiting Washington-Lee last Thursday night.

in the second quarter on a two-yard run by Anthony Taylor.

Overall, it was a big night for both the McLean offensive line, which supplied the running holes for the Highlander backs, and the Highlander defense, which allowed just the six points.

McLean, under third-year head coach Jim Patrick, is a member of the Liberty District. The team will again be at home this Friday night to take on the Herndon Hornets, members of the Concorde District. The Hornets were 41-0 winners over visiting Jefferson last week.

While McLean began the football season in strong fashion, cross-town neighbor Langley lost its opener - falling to defending Div. 6 region champion Lake Braddock, 49-10, last Friday night, Sept. 3, in Burke.

THE SAXONS, who were 4-6 a year ago under head coach John Howerton, fell behind 14-0 after one quarter. Saxon quarterback Braden Anderson (20-of-39 for 243 yards) connected with Troy Scharfen (13 catches, 201 yards) for a 58-yard touchdown pass play to get Langley on the scoreboard in the second quarter. Langley's lone

points thereafter came on a 29-yard field goal by Farhun Khan, who had earlier converted his team's extra point attempt.

Lake Braddock, last year's State AAA runner-up, took control of the game in the second half.

Langley, members of the Liberty District, will travel to Chantilly High this Friday night for a 7:30 p.m. meeting versus the Chargers, who are part of the Concorde District. Last Thursday night, Chantilly, under head coach Mike Lalli, opened its season with a 28-13 victory over visiting South County out of the Patriot District. The Chargers rushed for nearly 270 yards in the win.

THIS SATURDAY MORNING, both the McLean and Langley High boys' and girls' cross country teams will be competing at the annual, early season Monroe Parker Invitational competition at the 2.98-mile Burke Lake Park.

The McLean boys are coming off a 2009 postseason, which saw them finish fifth place at the eight-team Liberty District championships. The Saxons will look to better last year's last place standing in the district.

On the girls' side a year ago, Langley finished second place at the district championships while McLean was fifth. Langley went on to finish a solid seventh place at the 16-team Northern Region championships last November.

Gifford Krivak is back as the Langley program's head coach this fall season, while Jason Simoni is at the helm of the Highlanders.



Great Falls Cheetahs Win Summer League Championship

The Great Falls Cheetahs, 10 & Under basketball team, recently won the "Fairfax Stars Summer League Championship." The Cheetahs finished with a record of 12-1. Front Row: Max Trautwein, Maguire Dilenge, Jamie Keeler, Tommy O'Donnell, Kyle Novak, Nash Lougee, Cooper Davis. Middle Row: Iain Muir, Deacon Grubbs, John Margraf, Chase Beckett, Timmy Conforti, Colter Carton. Back Row: Coaches Ryan Novak, Steve Trautwein, and Bruce Carto.n

Chloe Grishaw Wins Scholarship

Chloe Grishaw, a graduate of The Potomac School in McLean, is this year's Northern Virginia Swim League (NVSL) MacDuff Scholarship winner. The MacDuff Scholarship honors the memory of George MacDuff, longtime NVSL parent, official, and supporter, and his daughter Melinda. Additionally, the scholarship honors swimmers, divers, and volunteers.

Grishaw, while at Potomac School, was a member of the swim and dive team (serving as team captain her senior year). As a sophomore she was Potomac School's lone dive team member and captured the Independent school state dive championship that same year.

In addition to swimming and diving, Grishaw participated in track and field - where her specialty was the triple jump - and also was a member of the Potomac School tennis and club gymnastics teams. Sports were not her only interests, however, as Grishaw was

a member of the school orchestra, numerous other clubs, and community service organizations. She also found time to be an honor student.

In addition to her volunteer activities this summer, Grishaw has coached diving at her home pool, Sleepy Hollow Bath and Racquet in Falls Church. "Chloe has a strong sense of individual responsibility and the need for teamwork," said her dive coach. "She has been a role model for not only the divers, but the swimmers at Sleepy Hollow Bath and Racquet."

Her guidance counselor at the Potomac School wrote that, "Chloe balances home life, school commitments and academic responsibilities with kindness, civility and generosity of spirit (part of Potomac's mission statement)."

Grishaw, the daughter of Letitia Grishaw, will be attending the College of William and Mary this fall where she plans to major in health sciences.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

lanes. Again, this solution is used on Route 7 at Dranesville Road, a short distance away.

❖ Start the widening of Route 7 at Tyson's Corner and work back to Rolling Holly, so that once cars widen out at Rolling Holly, they have an open flow all the way to 495, Route 66, or Tyson's Corner.

Our elected officials have it right: By asking that any widening of Route 7 begin at Tyson's Corner, they are making sure that any investment in Route 7 will result in a more open corridor for through traffic, rather than additional bottlenecks. Given our budgetary constraints, I applaud the decision of the Board of Supervisors, whose request of VDOT is timely and very wise.

There is a lesson for us in the Lincoln Tunnel – the only other place I can think of that has four-to-nine lanes merging into two lanes. Recently, I drove through the Lincoln Tunnel heading into Manhattan at 8 a.m. one morning. It struck me that there was not just a two-lane tunnel, but four two-lane tunnels. The middle tunnel was saved exclusively for buses, with both lanes heading into Manhattan - this reverses in the other

direction in the evening. There was one bus after the other, with no space in between – like an endless train - filled with commuters heading for their jobs in Manhattan. The buses originated in villages and towns throughout northern New Jersey. Commuters ride the same bus at the same time every day. They meet their neighbors. They work from their laptops and cell phones along the way. They enjoy the daily march to the metropolis – a predictable social event. There are only so many tunnels you can build. At a certain moment, buses and other shared transportation modes become essential, as the availability of additional land to add more lanes to accumulate, wait, and converge becomes completely exhausted, and the costs to add yet another tunnel along the riverbed exceed any possible revenue that can be garnered from users. Efficiency of throughput becomes the only way forward.

This brings us to a larger question:

Do we, the residents of Great Falls, have a part to play in the grand paradigm shift of our times – our weaning off the automobile? Can we wean ourselves off single-occupant auto travel for every

movement we make all day long in time to preserve some open fields and country roads in Northern Virginia? Can we shift to more diverse ways of moving about? Can we walk or use our bikes to get around town? Can we car pool to work or after-school activities? Can our children ride the school bus all the time? Can a late bus pick late children up at the Library instead of parents driving their children all the way to McLean because they overslept? Can we try to uncover our patterns of movement and see if we might introduce or invent some new ways to get around, maybe even some new modes of transportation?

Hey, you never know! We saw the array of great thinking our community is capable of at the VDOT public hearing in Reston. Don't you think we just might be able to redefine local transportation – possibly raising the bar on transportation efficiency? Yes, that would require that we brainstorm together – and who knows if there are viable alternatives – but it sure would be fun to give it a try, don't you think?

Kathleen Murphy
Great Falls



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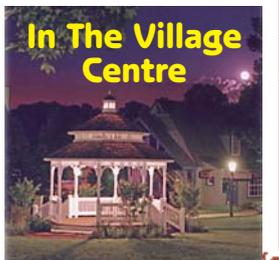


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The Market will be held Weekly on Saturday mornings from 9 A.M.-1 P.M. through Nov. 20.

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NEWS

Clash of the Titans

**McLean
 Community Play-
 ers prepare to
 open season with
 'Frost/Nixon.'**

BY ALEX McVEIGH
 THE CONNECTION

The McLean Community Players are gearing up for their Fall season with a performance of "Frost/Nixon," a play based on the interviews between talk show host David Frost and former President Richard Nixon.

The play covers the events leading up to the interviews and behind the scenes of the taping sessions, as well as the interviews themselves. It paints the picture of two men trying to redeem themselves at the expense of the other, and the mixture of history and character personality is what drew director Zina Bleck to the project.

"I like shows that have a lot of personal interaction and where the energy and flow keep going," Bleck said. "I want to make sure the pacing works out well, but without ruining the parts."

Bob Sams, who plays Nixon, said his main goal when preparing to play the disgraced ex-president was trying to be him without impersonating him.

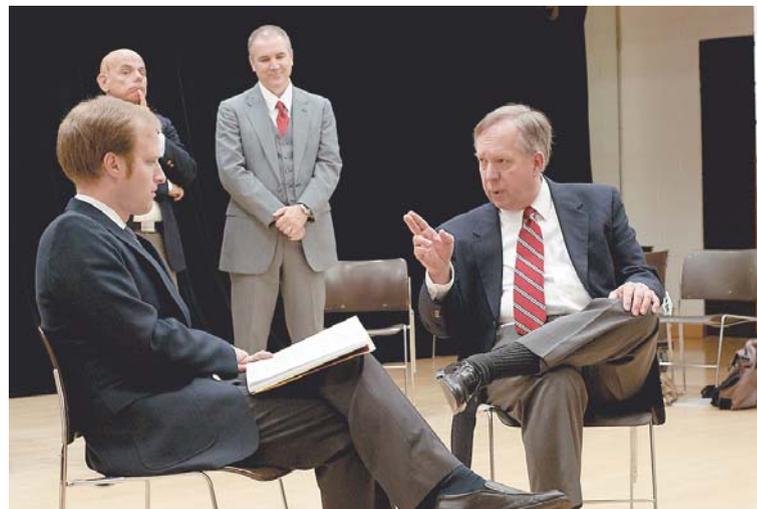
"The challenge of doing a well-known historical figure is to not impersonate Nixon. Almost everyone knows who he is, so it's usually easier to play someone who's been gone a long time," Sams said. "I'm seeing him through the eyes of the playwright, and trying to find the essence of Nixon as a character."

SINCE THE VIDEOS of the actual interviews are available online, Sams did his due diligence and studied them, but he admitted that they weren't too helpful.

"They shot him close up and only showed his head and shoulders," he said. "The audience will be seeing much more of me since I'm onstage not on a TV screen. I tried to get some of his mannerisms down, but to also show the private side of Richard Nixon, which not a lot of people saw."

Derek Bradley, who plays Frost, says he was intrigued by the role because Frost was risking so much with the interviews.

"This was his last shot at fame, he was swinging for the stands,



From left, Derek Bradley as David Frost listens to Bob Sams playing Richard Nixon during the interviews as Mario Font and Marshall Henderson, playing Swifty Lazar and Jack Brennan respectively, listen.



Bob Sams, as Richard Nixon, contemplates an answer, as Mario Font and Marshall Henderson, playing Swifty Lazar and Jack Brennan respectively, listen.

completely invested in these interviews," Bradley said. "It's not an emotional role on the outside, but the character is fully developed, and I liked that about him, I tried to think the way he was thinking. It has to be my version of Frost, and I think that's what makes it real."

Like his counterpart, Bradley studied the interview tapes themselves, but said that to do an impression of Frost would be "boring." He did pick up the Frost's British accent for the role, the third time he has done so in a play.

"His voice is lower, almost static during the interviews, I tried to make it much more expressive," Bradley said. "I wanted to make sure the accent wasn't distracting, so I didn't want to do a vocal imitation."

During the interviews, the audience knows what is at stake for Frost, despite the spotlight being mostly on Nixon. Bradley says he

found it interesting to watch the power shift of the interviews as they went on.

"Nixon comes out as a pro, Frost as underestimating him, and it's interesting to watch the arc as it goes on, as Frost is able to get the upper hand," he said. "It's been fantastic to work next to Bob, he's really brought his own version to Nixon, I think we've got a nice pairing."

Though much of the plot revolves around Frost and Nixon, the supporting cast have their moments to shine, particularly as they try to coach Frost or Nixon in how to upstage the other.

Stage manager Douglas F. Yriart is treading on unfamiliar ground with this play as well, musicals are usually his forte.

"There's a huge amount of administration in musicals, not just acting, but the choreography, dancing and the sets are usually more complex," Yriart said. "But this has been interesting to watch the play as it's created, watching the director get the performances out of the actors, and watching the actors create their characters."

BLECK says she has been pleased with the chemistry of the 11-member cast as they came together over rehearsals, and that the creative process has been better for it.

"They're really awesome as a cast, they've really clicked," Bleck said. "Every time we've added stuff they've taken it really well, and it has added another layer to the performance. We've all participated in the creative process."

"Frost/Nixon" will open Sept. 17 and run to Oct. 2 at the Alden Theatre, which is at the McLean Community Center. Tickets, showtimes and more information are available at www.mcleancommunityplayers.org.

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