

Great Falls CONNECTION

Students put out 2,977 flags as part of the memorial. Each flag represented someone killed in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/THE CONNECTION. OPINION 8 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 11 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 13

Act of Remembrance

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One Mistake,
Out the Door
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Local Victims
Of 9-11
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Dedicated to Freedom

Great Falls Freedom Plaza hosts annual 9/11 ceremony.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls Freedom Plaza was the site of the community's annual 9/11 Memorial Ceremony on Saturday night, Sept. 11. More than 80 people, including a dozen firefighters, attended to pay their respects for the thousands who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, including six Great Falls residents.

Guests included Chairwoman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34).

As the sun went down behind the American and Virginia flags at half-mast, guests took seats in chairs around the plaza, or stood facing the large stone in the center of the plaza. In front of the stone was a stand with six candles, to be lit for each of the residents who were on American Airlines Flight 77, which hit the Pentagon.

Master of Ceremonies Andy Wilson started off the ceremony by reflecting on his visit to the plaza earlier that morning, which was the first time he had been there by himself.

"I was reminded of the symbolism, the powerful symbolism that attends this memorial."

— Andy Wilson

"I was reminded of the symbolism, the powerful symbolism that attends this memorial," he said. "The people who put this together wanted it to be a place where we could come and reflect."

The keynote speaker was Paul Torpey, who is a member of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team, which was deployed to the Pentagon a few hours after the plane hit. The group is deployed around the world to help assist with earthquakes, hurricanes and other disasters. Despite their preparation and experience, Torpey said they were all a little shocked with the attack right in their own backyard.

"Despite all the experience on the team in being in all these difference places with these different disasters, we weren't ready to pull up and see fire and smoke coming from the Pentagon and a fairly good section of the building collapsed," he said.

Torpey described his team's role that day, and the days to follow as they helped shore up damaged sections of the building so search and rescue operations could keep going.

"Working in an environment with heat and smoke, we're not equipped to deal with that, we don't have the breathing apparatus the fire department had, and we don't have the special gear that can take heat conditions," Torpey said. "If you know anything about the Pentagon, it's a very difficult facility to navigate when the lights are on and there's

SEE DEDICATED TO FREEDOM. PAGE 7



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Ed Heberg lights a candle during the ceremony at the Great Falls Freedom Plaza in recognition of one of the six Great Falls residents that died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

One Strike, They're Out

Some families call the school system's policies on marijuana punitive and ineffective.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Under different circumstances, Josh Anderson would have been headed to college this fall, likely joining a college football team.

His parents, Tim and Sue Anderson, had been looking forward to this time in their lives. Josh was the youngest of their four children, leaving Tim and Sue Anderson as empty nesters.

Instead of planning trips to watch Josh play his first season of college football, the Andersons are left with sadness and despair.

One morning in March 2009, Sue Anderson went to rouse her son from bed and found him dead in their Vienna home. Josh, then a junior at South Lakes High School, died of suicide the day before he was to face expulsion from the Fairfax County school system at a disciplinary hearing.

EARLIER THAT MONTH, Josh and his friend smoked marijuana on a car ride back to school from lunch at Taco Bell. A South Lakes assistant principal

smelled marijuana on the students when they arrived back on campus and Josh was immediately placed on home suspension.

This was Josh's second violation. In 2008, he had been kicked out of Langley High School when a school official found a small amount of marijuana in his bag.

Given that this he was a repeat offender, a lawyer told Josh and his mother that it was unlikely Fairfax County Public Schools would allow him to return to South Lakes or another general education program.

His best hope was to be offered a program at one of the county's alternative high schools. Otherwise, his parents would have to consider moving, sending him to a military academy or enrolling him in another type of private school, said Sue Anderson.

In a statement written immediately after the incident, Josh wrote:

"I'm honestly going to try my hardest to fix this, help my parents, they haven't raised me to be like this in any way. I'm so scared for the future, this wasn't worth any of it at all. I've only recently been thinking I could make college football and I've gotten so excited about it and now everything is ruined."

IN ADDITION TO being suspended, Tim and Sue Anderson prohibited Josh from using his computer, iPod, cell phone, car or video games.

They took Josh's first marijuana offense seriously as a mental health matter. After the incident at Lan

SEE WEIGHING PUNISHMENT. PAGE 15

GREAT FALLS CONNECTION ♦ SEPTEMBER 15-21, 2010 ♦ 3



PHOTO BY CILLIAN ANDERSON/CONTRIBUTED

South Lakes Junior Josh Anderson died of suicide the night before he faced expulsion from the school system in 2009. His death has raised questions about the way Fairfax County Public Schools handles disciplinary matters.

Supervisor Foust Hosts Public Meeting on Lewinsville Road

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) will host a public forum Tuesday Sept. 21, at 7 p.m. at Spring Hill Elementary, about changes to Lewinsville Road. The meeting will review the project changes that will be implemented to address those issues and concerns.

Changes are coming that will impact traffic patterns and improve pedestrian safety along Lewinsville Road. These changes will result from projects that relocate the entrance for Spring Hill Rec Center and construct a median and pedestrian crossing in front of Spring Hill Elementary School.

Over the past 18 months, Foust and staff from Fairfax County's Transportation Department, Park Authority, Fairfax County Public Schools and Virginia Department of Transportation have addressed numerous issues and concerns raised by the community and the Schools related to the projects.

Spring Hill Elementary is located at 8201 Lewinsville Road. For more information contact Julie Ide at 703-356-0551 (TTY 711) or by e-mail at julie.ide@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Saint Luke School Sponsors 5K

The 3rd annual Wildcat 5K and Family Fun Run, will be Saturday, Sept. 25 at 8:30 a.m. The 5K course is shady and scenic, going through gently rolling hills in McLean. The half-mile Family Fun Run takes runners around Saint Luke Church and Saint Luke School and then across the finish line, where they are awarded with commemorative finisher medals. T-shirt and fabulous post-race festivities are included.

The cost is \$25 for the 5K, and \$12 for the Family Fun Run ages 5 and up, children under 5 are free.

DocTalkers

To Host Informational Session

DocTalkers, an award-winning family medical practice whose patients can access their medical team 24/7, will host a presentation Saturday Sept. 25, from 10-11:30 a.m. at its Great Falls sales office, 1025-P Seneca Road in Great Falls.

DocTalkers offers patient access that includes nights and weekends with regular on-site visits, house or work place calls. They offer both primary and urgent care and can treat 80 percent of issues that end up in the ER, saving hours of waiting, anxiety and stress, and often much of the cost of an emergency room visit.

This information program by our strategic partner is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by Sept. 24 at 703-421-0690 or e-mail at sfields@greatfallsassistedliving.com.

Starshine Theater Hosts Open House

Starshine Theater will host an open house Saturday Sept. 18 at The School of Theatrical Dance in the Great Falls Village Center. A series of free demo classes will run from 2:30-5:30 p.m.

Offerings will include: guitar improvisation, voice/guitar combo, how to audition for a stage show, how to write a script for stage production and improvisation activities for all ages.

RSVP by Sept. 15. All children should be accompanied by an adult. Time slots for Demo classes will be scheduled according to interests and availability, and will be posted by Sept 16.

For more information, call 703-790-9050, or e-mail StarshineTheater@aol.com.

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 Saturday, Sept. 25, from 10:30 a.m.-12 noon.

SEE WEEK IN GREAT FALLS, PAGE 9

NEWS



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/THE CONNECTION

The words 'Never Forget' are emblazoned on a rock in front of Langley High School.

Langley Students Remember

Langley High School unveils Never Forget Project.

Experts say that a person will always remember where he or she was and what they were doing when they heard the news about the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. But what about those who were too young at the time of the attacks to remember that day? This is the issue that Langley High School students wanted to address with their "9/11, Never Forget" memorial.

Incoming freshman at the school were very young on Sept. 11, 2001. They do not have the vivid memories that adults have of that day in history.

So students in the LHS Young Republicans Club decided to make a memorial in front of the school.

Their hopes were to keep the deep patriotism Americans felt that day alive for future generations.

"That is why we've decided to place 2,977 American flags in front of Langley, in order to remind students at Langley of the victims of 9/11, so that we do not let the deep patriotic spirit so prevalent in the wake on the attacks ever fade away," said Will Mannon, LHS class of 2011.

Students placed the 2, 977 flags in the ground in front of the school. Each flag represents a person who died in the attacks nine years ago. The rock in front of Langley High School was painted with the words "9/11, Never Forget."

The McLean community funded this project. Sponsors include the McLean Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8241 and Chain Bridge Bank.

— STEPHANIE KNAPP



Students at Langley High School put up a memorial in front of the school to commemorate the ninth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Fairfax County Ecologist Joe Sanchirico, Tom Wasaff of the Virginia Department of Transportation and Takisha Cannon of Fairfax County, discuss watershed projects for the Nichol Run and Pond Branch watersheds at Herndon High School Sept. 9

Planning for the Future

Watershed plans for Nichol Run and Pond Branch are being constructed.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County is in the process of making plans to improve each one of its 30 watersheds, and the plan for the Nichol Run and Pond Branch watersheds, which are located in the portions of Great Falls closest to the Potomac River, is reaching its final phase. The plans are being created in an attempt to mitigate poor stream quality that has been prevalent in Fairfax County.

"We conducted a complete assessment of the condition of the streams across the county, and it turned out that most of the streams were considered impaired, over 70 percent," said Fred Rose, chief of the Watershed Planning and Assessment Branch of Fairfax County. "We knew we had to do something to reverse that trend, so the next logical step was to develop plans on how we would achieve the restoration."

The Nichol Run watershed is an area of approximately 8.2 square miles, and has about 31.8 miles of perennial streams. A 2005 physical assessment studied 13.7 miles of stream in Nichol Run, and more than half were places in the good category.

The Pond Branch watershed is 8.5 square miles and has 23.8 miles of perennial streams. The same 2005 study assessed 17 miles of streams in Pond Branch, and large portions were rated poor, very poor

and good, giving the watershed an overall "fair" assessment.

The Watershed Advisory Group for Nichol Run and Pond Branch has met five times so far, and has identified project areas and restoration strategies, and has begun looking at projects that will help improve the watersheds.

The projects could involve construction, such as the retrofitting and modification of storm water ponds or stream restoration. Some involve public outreach programs, such as a rain barrel program, which encourages residents to place barrels at the end of their downspouts, which reduces the amount of storm water runoff, as well as provides chlorine-free water for plants, lawn and fish tanks.

Fairfax County has been sending postcards to property owners that are nearby projects that are planned, and they are looking for feedback from those residents.

"Just because a project is in the plan doesn't mean we're about to start digging," said Joe Sanchirico, an ecologist with Fairfax County. "We'd like to get to them all, but we're just not sure which projects will be moved to the top of the priorities list."

The proposed projects are being prioritized using a series of factors, and they are being grouped into 10-year and 25-year implementations groups.

"Right now, we're in the planning phase, when we get to the ground, that's when we make decisions on how to proceed," said

Sajan Polcharel, an engineer with the county.

One of the reasons the county is trying to improve its watersheds is to get a head start on what could be mandated with the study of the Chesapeake Bay that is currently going on. Polcharel said he believes that it behooves the county to start working on the

SEE WATERSHED, PAGE 6



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NEWS

Watershed Planning Now

FROM PAGE 5
projects now.

"We wanted to step forward with the implementation of these projects, so that when the time comes that we'll be mandated, we're already at the forefront of watershed improvement," he said.

While the plans for Fairfax County watersheds are in various stages of completion, there is a timetable for their completion. Rose said the goal is "to, by the end of the year, have these documents finalized and sent to the board [of supervisors] for adoption."

The next step in creating the plan for the Nichol Run and Pond Branch plans will be a public forum on Thursday, Sept. 23, from 7-9 p.m., at Herndon High School. Anyone who lives near a proposed project or just wants to provide input on the proposed projects is encouraged to attend. The draft of

Get Involved

Fairfax County is currently seeking feedback on proposed projects for the Nichol Run and Pond Branch Watersheds. A public forum will take place Thursday, Sept. 23, from 7-9 p.m., at Herndon High School. Those who cannot make it to the forum can comment on the projects from Sept. 23 to Oct. 23 by going to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/nicholrun_docs.htm or e-mailing watersheds@fairfaxcounty.gov. Call 703-324-5500, TTY 711 or Fax 703-802-5955. Send mail to Stormwater Planning Division, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449, Fairfax VA, 22035.

the plan is currently available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds, then clicking on "Nichol Run and Pond Branch."

Operation Care 5k Funds Care Packages for Troops

The Neighbors Foundation will hold a 5K run/walk Oct. 2 to raise money for care packages sent to troops serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The family-friendly event will be held at Fountainhead Regional Park in Fairfax Station. It will kick off at 8:45 a.m. with words from a service member who was the recipient of Neighbors Foundation care packages while serving in Afghanistan, followed by the race start, rain or shine, at 9 a.m. The entry fee is \$27 per adult and all proceeds from this event will cover the postage cost to send care packages overseas.

Soldiers regularly reach out to Neighbors Foundation to demonstrate their appreciation for receiving the care packages by sending pictures and thank you letters.

Runners may register on Active.com. Neighbors Foundation will staff a tent where children can write letters to soldiers.

For more information, contact Heather Rainey at OperationCarePackage@gmail.com, or visit www.neighborsfoundation.org. Fountainhead Regional Park is located at 10875 Hampton Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039.



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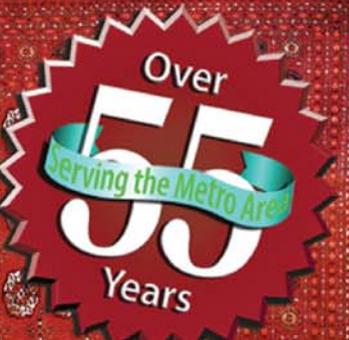
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PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Members of the Great Falls Fire Department hold their hands over their hearts during the national anthem.

Dedicated to Freedom

FROM PAGE 3

no smoke.” Patti Flowers sang several patriotic tunes throughout the ceremony, including “America the Beautiful” and “God Bless America.” After Torpey spoke, and in between songs, Bob Pattavina read the names of the six Great Falls residents and Ed Heberg lit a candle as each name was called.

“It was a really moving ceremony, it’s nice to see 9-11 remembered on a local level in addition to all the big ceremonies,” said Hugh Davison, a retired Air Force pilot who lives in nearby Vienna. “I heard about this ceremony and knew of the memorial here, and figured it would be a worthwhile experience.”

The Great Falls Freedom Plaza was opened in 2004 and serves as the site for the annual 9/11 ceremony, as well as ceremonies on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. It is also the starting point for the annual Fourth of July 5K race.

Ed Heberg lights a candle during the ceremony at the Great Falls Freedom Plaza in recognition of one of the six Great Falls residents died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.



Guests at the Great Falls Freedom Plaza for the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony hold candles at the conclusion of the ceremony, in memory of those who lost their lives that day.

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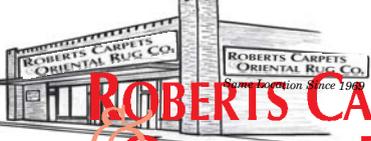
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NEWSPAPERS

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OPINION

One Thing Commonwealth Is Doing Well

This is no time to trade \$240 million a year for uncertainty.

“Government is supposed to do a couple of things well, and selling Jim Beam and Grey Goose isn’t one of them,” Gov. Bob McDonnell was quoted as saying this week.

Consider how well-endowed Virginia’s transportation infrastructure could be if only it were run like the state-owned liquor stores.

When you buy a bottle of spirits from a Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control store, 50 percent or more of what you pay goes directly to the state, funding schools, public safety and other key state functions. Other states collect less than 10 percent. This system delivers more than \$240 million a year to fund core state functions.

By contrast, Virginia has privatized the widening of the Beltway, turning over 100 percent the toll revenue to a private company more or less forever (50 years). And the tolls will likely amount to more than \$10 per car to ride in the “High Occupancy Toll” lanes during rush hour. (To be fair, the private company is widening the Beltway, building the new HOT lanes and rebuilding the aging bridges along and

over the Beltway in the process, although the state could have done that by selling bonds based on projected toll revenue.)

Instead of collecting tolls, or at least writing a contract that shares the revenue, from public-private highway partnerships to provide a long-term stream of revenue for transportation, or raising the gas tax, Gov. Bob McDonnell wants to use the money from selling off the state’s very lucrative liquor business. (To be fair, McDonnell’s Democratic predecessors signed off on the public-private transportation deals.)

But turning the liquor business over to private companies won’t generate nearly the same revenue for Virginia, won’t generate more than a drop in the bucket for the state’s transportation needs, and will take away critical funding for other services, including education and public safety.

McDonnell wants to trade the annual revenue of \$240 million-plus for a one-time infusion of \$500 million by auctioning off 1,000 retail liquor licenses. That will be an increase of more than 600 stores selling liquor. Most of

the money that now goes into the state coffers would be turned over as profit for the private businesses.

McDonnell proposes to make up some of the difference by adding fees to alcoholic beverages served in restaurants, which any restaurant owner can tell you is about the last thing they really need in this economy.

And any one large business would be allowed to buy as many as 25 percent of the total number of licenses, meaning the market could be dominated by a few big box stores.

The Virginia Federation of Retailers say that McDonnell’s plan doesn’t allow enough opportunity for small retailers, and the Virginia Wine Wholesalers oppose the plan because they expect large retailers will bypass local wine.

For McDonnell, his single term in office will be a success no matter what the consequences.

Here are his goals: Shrink the size of state government. Lower taxes, or at a minimum, don’t raise them. Privatize, privatize, privatize.

Will there be adequate funding to provide an education worthy of the state that is “home of the internet?” For public safety, for neediest citizens, for people with disabilities, or even for some transportation relief? Not his problem.

— MARY KIMM,
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

No, Not Yet Americans should not support sect that led to death of thousands of our countrymen.

BY JIM POPPLETON
GREAT FALLS

It is an undisputable fact that a handful of callous and unconscionable extremists hijacked the oft-honorable doctrines of an extremely popular belief system, then proceeded to carry out horrendous and well-pondered schemes which slaughtered thousands of innocent Americans.

The painful but ever-cherished memories of those who once were, but are now obliterated, perpetually lingers in the hearts, minds and souls of surviving loved-ones, as well as in our nation’s collective psyche.

We will forever carry so deep within us unspeakable scars inflicted as a result of the horrific and cold-hearted plot perpetrated by these sick, depraved and shameless men.

Though some may forgive, what these truly evil men did can never be forgotten.

We are now asked to open our still-fragile hearts and allow others of this same belief system — perhaps less extreme — to create monuments to honor and help perpetuate the very sect that sacrificed the blood of our brothers and sisters in the name of their god.

The pain is still too fresh. The outrage is still too strong. Such deep gaping wounds can only begin to heal with time and acceptance, and until that tomorrow which we all so direly seek arrives, monuments of glory for such a twisted sect should not be built.

The actions of those few men were born of a belief system that is either inherently flawed or incapable of policing itself. Unquestionably,

this organization, knowingly or not, harbored a radical, extremist and despicable group of wicked men. Whatever the reason, it is only natural and reasonable for the group that gave birth to such evil to suffer consequences. It is natural and desirable that irresponsible actions bring undesirable consequences.

All Americans — and all people of honorable character — have no choice but to refuse to be silent on this matter. Our hallowed ground must not be defiled, and we must not permit the sanctity of our loved-ones’ memories, which is all we have left of them, to be desecrated.

Thus, it is righteous, just, admirable and necessary for all to take a principled stand and refuse to allow any Republican campaign buildings or

offices to be placed anywhere on our sacred lands — the very same land which now eternally blankets the remains of the 4,400 brave and honorable soldiers which the extremist Bush Administration deceitfully and needlessly sacrificed in the of name of their all-mighty god of corporate greed and war profiteering. All of these innocent men and women suffered their abrupt and heart wrenching fate only because evil and despicable men such as Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Powell, Wolfowitz, Libby, Perle, Card and Rove, through blatant lies, forgery and deception, defrauded America into a totally needless war.

These unconscionable extremists were not merely members of their extremely popular belief system, they were, rather, its very backbone, the most-high priests and pope of this political sect. It was this most-senior leader-

ship who schemed together purposefully, recklessly and unforgivably to march our soldiers to their graves.

Before this November, however, many others belonging to this very same belief system will symbolically jab millions of signs proclaiming the alleged nobility of their principles into the very same earth which now eternally blankets the stone-cold remains of their victims, spears of victory driven towards the hearts of those which the leaders of this very same group sent off to be slaughtered.

If others within this same belief system — the sect of social conservatives whose priority, unabashedly, is maximization of corporate profits — are reasonable and rational, they should freely acknowledge that their organization gave birth to, harbored, then chose to be led by this evil group of men and thus willingly “pay the price” and accept the natural consequences of their irresponsible actions.

There should not be, and all Republicans with any sensitivity or empathy should accept and understand, any buildings, shrines, offices or halls of victory, funded directly by we Americans, to honor Republicans, standing this November — no, not yet.

The scars are too deep and too fresh. The deceit was too vile and repugnant. The deceit is unforgivable, but some will eventually forgive. No shrines so proudly displaying and shoving such a twisted belief system of priorities in our faces should stand just yet.

And we of honor and principle must stand as one to allow all some time to heal. For no less than the honor of those whom the evil men sent to death.

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NEWS

FROM PAGE 4

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.

Great Falls Schools of Art Offering Fall Classes

The Great Falls School of Art is offers more than 50 classes and workshops between mid-September and mid-December. Registration is ongoing. Those who need to miss a class should note that pro-rated

course fees may be an option. A number of choices are free.

The art school's fall semester was planned with busy schedules in mind. Escape for just a few hours in one of the more than 40 workshops offered or enroll in a weekly class for more concentrated work in specific medium and techniques. Day, evening and weekend times are available. All classes and workshops have been designed to accommodate a variety of experience levels.

If you are interested in oils, way into watercolor, curious about collage, partial to paper, mad about mosaics or eager to experiment with acrylics, check out these and other fall class and workshop options at www.greatfallsfoundationforarts.org.

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PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Tap dancers from South Riding Dance Academy please the crowd with their festive costumes and routine.



Fraternidad Cultural Pachamama, a Bolivian folklore group was, founded in Washington, D.C. in 2000.

Rhythm of the Globe

International Children's Festival comes back to Wolf Trap.

On Saturday, Aug. 28, The Arts Council of Fairfax County gave a preview of the upcoming International Children's Festival, Sept. 18 -19. The audience was treated to dances from around the globe, from Bolivian Folk Dance and Indian Classical Dance to Egyptian and Persian Dance, to a classic cancan. Children in the audience tried to mimic the moves of the performers – while some of the more enthusiastic tried to join the groups performing on the stage.

Families from the Washington Metropolitan area will be able to enjoy the art of music, dance, performance and crafts at the Festival held at Wolf Trap. Youth performers from Mexico and Poland, as well as more than 60 local cultural groups, will display beautiful costumes, breathtaking performances and

40th annual International Children's Festival

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 18 and 19, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Rain or Shine!

WHERE: Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna

WHO: The event is open to the public. The Festival is produced by the Arts Council of Fairfax County in cooperation with the National Park Service and the Wolf Trap Foundation for Performing Arts.

COST: Free for children 2 and under, \$8 for children and seniors and \$12 for adults, weekend passes available

an appreciation of traditions and customs from around the world. The diversity of the Washington region will be reflected in the performers, shows, arts, crafts, hands-on learning experiences, audiences, and all the activities throughout the Park.

For more information about the International Children's Festival, go to internationalchildrensfestival.org.



Dancers from the Virginia Ballet Company and School stretch before their performance. From left: Jessie Strong of Springfield, Gwynneth Lau of Springfield, Layna Lamons of Burke, Sarah Friedlander of Fairfax, and Courtney Johnson of Burke.

The Fairfax Corner Grand Plaza is full of people enjoying the modern dance routine of dances from South Riding Dance Academy.



CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 15

McLean Antique Association

Meeting. 10 a.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A program on the Titanic Disaster and its impact on the Washington, D.C. area. With Michael Kelly, an expert on the history of the RMS Titanic. Why the Titanic was built, for whom it was designed, how it exemplified the Gilded Age, and the fate of the prominent Washingtonians who were passengers on the Titanic's fateful maiden voyage. 703-444-4470.

Peter Bradley Adams and Matthew Perryman Jones.

7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Book Discussion.

10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

Lunch Bunnies.

11 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Bring a snack and enjoy stories and songs. Age 1-5 with adult. Register at 703-938-0405.

Toddler Tales.

10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Stories and activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-242-4020.

English Conversation Group.

12 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for adult non-native speakers. 703-242-4020.

Model Investment Club of Northern Virginia.

7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Learn more about investing. This group will meet on the third Wednesday all year. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Personalized Microsoft Office Training.

7:15 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. A 45-minute one-on-one Microsoft Office training session with a technology volunteer. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-790-8088.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 16

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227 Meeting.

7:30 p.m. at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Vietnam veteran LtC. James Zumwalt (USMC Ret.) will speak about his book "Bare Feet, Iron Will". All veterans and the public invited. Free admission. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

The Pimps of Joytime and Mojo.

8:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Falling for Stories.

10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Afternoon Reading Group.

1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Women of the Silk by Gail Tsukiyama. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Book Discussion.

7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

OK Book Discussion.

7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Professor and the Madman by Simon Winchester. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Music Together.

11 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Join other families in sharing songs, instrument play, movement, dance, and rhythm activities in a

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Harvest Happenings!

Saturday, Sept. 25

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

\$5 per person; free for children age 2 and younger. Register in advance or pay at the door.

Special Musical Guests: RocknocoS & Kidsinger Jim

- Food Concessions
- Free Popcorn, Cotton Candy & Snow Cones
- Facepainting
- Arts & Crafts
- Tot Games
- Inflatable Amusements
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A great afternoon of fun for children ages 3-7 and their families.



The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
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www.mcleancenter.org

Sunday Afternoon Soiree Series

3-5 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 19

Tribute to Artie Shaw and Buddy Rich

Sunday, Nov. 21

Cab Calloway, His Highness of Hep



\$5 per person
Pay at the door.
Cash only, please.

Dance or just listen to the music of **The Wayne Tympanick Trio.**

Refreshments will be served.



The McLean Community Center
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McLean Community Center
The Center of It All

Here's What's Happening at MCC

Fall Class Registration

Open a world of new possibilities by learning something new. MCC is offering a wide variety of exciting classes this fall—one of them is sure to be perfect for you!

Jammin' Juniors

Groovy Nate

Wednesday, Sept. 22

RocknocoS

Wednesday, Sept. 29

Concerts begin at 12:30 p.m.

McLean Central Park Gazebo

Free lunchtime concerts for ages 2-5. Bring your lunch and listen to some tunes!

Sunday Soirée Series

"Tribute to Artie Shaw and Buddy Rich"

Sunday, Sept. 19

3-5 p.m. both dates

Admission: \$5 at the door

Dance or just listen to the music of **The Wayne Tympanick Trio.** Refreshments will be served.



Oktoberfest Dinner

"Munich in McLean"

Friday, Sept. 24

Two seatings: 6-7:30 p.m. or 8-9:30 p.m.
Advance tickets: \$18 per person; \$9 under age 9.
\$25 at the door

An authentic German Oktoberfest dinner for the whole family! Advance Tickets available Sept. 8-18 at the Alden Theatre Box Office.

Harvest Happenings!

Saturday, Sept. 25

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

\$5 per person, register in advance or pay at the gate free for children 2 and younger.

For ages 3-8. A fun and exciting day for your whole family is right in your backyard. Bring your family to this indoor/outdoor festival and enjoy face painting, live entertainment, fun snacks and games, and arts and crafts.

The McLean Community Center

1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101

703-790-0123, TTY: 711

www.mcleancenter.org

ANTHEM Great Pumpkin 5k



Oktoberfest Reston

The 3rd Annual Oktoberfest Reston, produced by the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, will be held at beautiful Reston Town Center on Friday, October 8 through Sunday, October 10. For additional information regarding Oktoberfest Reston visit us online at www.OktoberfestReston.com.

Saturday, Oct. 9
Reston Town Center

Kids Pumpkin Dash

The Kids Pumpkin Dash will take place between 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM on race day! We encourage all participants to come dressed in their favorite Halloween costume! The Kids Pumpkin Dash is FREE!

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

We invite all families to participate in a pumpkin decorating contest during the event! Pumpkins and decorating materials will be provided!

Open to Runners, Walkers, Joggers and Families!

The Anthem Great Pumpkin 5k offers fun for the entire family. Enjoy food from local eateries and sample a selection of fine wines and classic German beers. See Virginia's "Greatest Pumpkin," join in the Pumpkin Decorating Contest, and much more. Proceeds from the race benefit research at Inova Heart and Vascular Institute.

www.thegreatpumpkin5k.com



MUNICH IN MCLEAN



Advance Sale Tickets:
\$18 adults; \$9 under age 9
(on sale Wed., Sept. 1-Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Alden Theatre Box Office)

At the Door:
\$25 per person
Catering by Euro Bistro
Live Music by Alte Kamaraden

Two seatings available:
6-7:30 p.m. or 8-9:30 p.m.

An authentic German Oktoberfest party for the whole family! Beer, wine and soft drinks will be sold by the Friends of the McLean Community Center.



The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
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FRIDAY, SEPT. 24

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McLean Community Center
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Don't hang up! We want to hear from you! If you are a resident of Small District One A-Dranesville and receive a telephone call from George Mason University's Center for Social Science Research asking you to participate in our survey, please participate. The survey begins the week of Sept. 26 and only takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete. It will help us find out how to better meet your needs. You may also self-select to take the survey online at our Web site.

Help Keep our Connection Clear--Participate in the MCC Survey!

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

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

developmentally appropriate setting.
703-790-8088.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 17

'The Frost/Nixon Tapes'. 8 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 703-790-0123.

"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/mauritius or 703-854-1856.

Luke Brindley CD Release and Chelsea Lee. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

ABBA: The Music. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$38 in-house, \$25 lawn. 703-255-1868 or www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 18

'The Frost/Nixon Tapes'. 8 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 703-790-0123.

"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/mauritius or 703-854-1856.

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.

Golden Dragon Acrobats from China. 7 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna.

Tickets \$15-\$38. 703-255-1868 or www.wolftrap.org.

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.

Baby/Kids Consignment Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Chantilly High School Cafeteria, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly.

Children's clothing, books, sports and games, CDs and DVDs, furniture, car seats, maternity wear, toys and more. Free admission. Sponsored by Fairfax County Mothers of Multiples. www.fcmmom.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 19

Super-H 5K Run, Walk & Wheel. At Tysons Sport and Health in Tysons Corner, 8250 Greensboro Drive, McLean. Registration at 7 a.m., the race at 8 a.m. Includes post-race party and food. Proceeds support National Rehabilitation Hospital's adaptive sports programs which enable those with disabilities to play wheelchair basketball, soccer, sled hockey, rugby and more. \$25. Register at 202-877-1774 or www.nrhrehab.org.

Butterfly Garden Guided Tours. 3 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 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.nvrpa.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.

"Not a Problem"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I hear it all the time when I decline some kind of offer, invitation, solicitation. Of course, it's not a problem – for me. But why impose on me the inference that somehow it's a problem for you? Again, that's not my problem. (I have my own problems, and I'll try and not make this a cancer-column – for a change.) What I should be hearing back to my usually polite decline, is an expression of gratitude for my having given the person the opportunity to talk/listen to their pitch, rather than be told, somewhat presumptuously, that my not responding/being interested in their say-so, is not a problem – for them.

Conversely, does that also mean, for some vendors/solicitors/sellers that my not being interested in what they have to say/sell could be a problem for me? What, am I no longer allowed to not be interested, not open, to what someone who I don't know and who I have never met, has to say to me? It's still a free country, right? He (or she) can say whatever he wants (except yelling "Fire!" in a movie theater). Therefore, shouldn't it be equally true – without fear of consequences, that I don't have to listen? Regardless of whether some other parties think that my listening would be for my own good, I am entitled, dare I say constitutionally protected (sort of) to not listen? And my not listening (not being open) shouldn't be characterized negatively, as in "Not a problem."

Now I may be splitting hairs here (or maybe it's an infinitive I'm splitting), but telling me how something might benefit me would interest me a whole lot more than how my response – or lack thereof, might be a problem for you. You need to take the high road and say, "Hello, ..." not travel the low, circuitous road and try to get in by the side door or maybe even the back door. You want my attention, you want my interest; you have to earn it, you have to work for it. And working for it doesn't mean invoking a negative just because the initial feedback you're receiving from me isn't positive. Of that I'm sure. (As my father so often said, "I'm very seldom wrong, but this time I'm right.")

And you know what else I'm sure of: I matter more to me than whatever something I don't do matters to somebody else. And likewise, I don't expect anything I say or do to matter more to you than something you may say or do. It's human nature. The three most important people in my life are me, myself and I. I'm sure you also know who's most important to you. Therefore, I already know what is or is not a problem for me. I don't need – or expect, quite frankly, a third party (and an unrelated party at that) to advise me of what problems I've caused them. Whenever I hear "Not a problem" from some person in response to my lack of interest in something they said or asked me to do or want me to buy, I think of something Capt. Hawkeye Pierce replied to Major Frank Burns during a M*A*S*H episode when Frank asked/wanted Hawkeye to do something (that he was disinclined to even consider): "The instrument to measure my indifference to that remark has yet to be invented."

Amen!

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

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21 Announcements

CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Weighing Punishment

FROM PAGE 3

gley, he also enrolled in drug counseling and attended regular appointments with a therapist and psychiatrist.

The Andersons agreed with the school system on some levels. What Josh did was wrong. His actions should have had consequences.

But Josh's parents also thought the severity of their son's likely punishment – removal from attending Fairfax County Public Schools — far outweighed the offense.

Josh may have used marijuana, but he was not accused of trying to sell or distribute it to other students. Yet the Andersons' son was treated as if he was a dangerous criminal, they said.

The South Lakes athletic director had to request special permission from the school system for Josh to play an away game with the South Lakes football team on Langley's field. Otherwise, Josh was barred from attending any event – including prom, a school play or graduation – held on Langley's campus.

"The school system doesn't distinguish between a bad kid and dumb kid when it comes to these types of cases. Josh was a dumb kid making a dumb mistake," said Tim Anderson, who thought obligatory community service, perhaps cleaning the cafeteria at school for awhile, would have been a more appropriate punishment.

Several school administrators considered Josh an asset, not a threat, to the school community, said the Andersons.

For example, the South Lakes assistant principal who reported Josh for smelling like marijuana had also nominated the teenager to be named the "coolest junior" in the school the month. Among his staunchest advocates was the South Lakes guidance counselor, who had worked with Josh regularly.

"The guidance counselor and the football coach, even the guy who caught him, were totally devastated," said Tim Anderson.

JOSH was among 154 students who faced expulsion from Fairfax County Public Schools for marijuana during the 2008-09 school year alone.

Possession of marijuana was, by far, the most common reason students face expulsion. The second most frequent offense — an umbrella category called "prohibited conduct" that includes fighting, causing a disruption and defying staff — resulted in only 84 recommendations for expulsion during 2008-09.

The vast majority of students recommended for expulsion are not kicked out of the school system entirely, though those are charged violations related to drugs almost always face stiff consequences.

Violators frequently are removed from their base school, subjected to random drug tests and required to attend counseling, said School Board members familiar with the process. A few parents believe that punishment, particularly for those students who are caught with marijuana for personal use and not intending to sell it, is too harsh and

more consideration should be given to the student's overall conduct and community support.

CHARACTER REFERENCES, personal accomplishments and endorsements from the community appear to have little bearing on the outcome of disciplinary hearings, particularly in matters related to drugs, according to the Andersons and some other families who have encountered the process.

The cases of students facing serious consequences, like a long-term suspension or expulsion, are typically reviewed during a disciplinary hearing, when members of the school system's central administration staff recommend a punishment for the student. The School Board also reviews and votes on all expulsions individually.

But some parents complain the recommendation for the student's punishment is predetermined before his or her disciplinary hearing takes place. They said the hearing officers largely ignore the testimony of the student and his or her supporters.

When Josh first faced removal from Langley High School, the Andersons worried their son had given a bad impression at his hearing because he had "shut down" when officials asked him questions. Josh, who was taciturn and prone to shyness, had been intimidated by the situation, they said.

Tim Anderson called a school official the next day to express concern that the panel may not have gotten the correct impression of his son. "We had the hearing and we felt like Josh hadn't been heard," he said. The official told him not to worry about the impression Josh made on the officers because it was essentially a "done deal" once a student was caught on school grounds with drugs.

"His fate was determined before the hearing," said Tim Anderson.

SCHOOL BOARD members denied that the outcome of student disciplinary cases are predetermined and that individual circumstances are not considered.

"In my experience as a School Board member, every case has been decided on the individual facts of that case," said Stuart Gibson (Hunter Mill), who has presided over 1,000 different disciplinary proceedings.

"What happens in each case is unique to each case," he said.

But Gibson and other School Board members said they also try to be consistent when it comes to consequences for student violations. They make an effort to dole out the same punishment to students who commit similar offenses.

"I cannot remember a situation where a kid was caught with drugs at school when they were not sent to another school," said School Board member Dan Storck (Mount Vernon).

FAIRFAX COUNTY Public Schools used to take a more lenient approach to some drug

Saxon Girls Impressive at Monroe Parker

Langley finishes fourth at 23-team cross country event, while Highlanders take 12th place.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

If last weekend's showing was an indicator of how successful a season the Langley High girls' cross country team is going to have, then Saxon fans should be optimistic about good things ahead this autumn.

Langley, among a field of 23 schools, took fourth place overall at last Saturday's annual Monroe Parker Invitational meet, held on the hilly 2.98 mile course at Burke Lake Park.

"I was impressed with the way the girls ran," said Langley coach Gifford Krivak. "We have had a good August training session, and it showed in their performance."

Most of the Northern Region's schools took part in the annual showcase event that gives teams an early season sense of where they stand among their region foes and respective district opponents. Saturday's races began at 8 a.m. with the freshmen boys' race, followed by the freshmen girls. Next was the JV boys' and girls' races during mid-morning. Then, to cap off the festive day of high school cross country, the varsity races — first the boys' race at around 11:15 a.m., followed by the girls' race at 11:45 a.m. — took place.

It was an outstanding late summer day for the running extravaganza with comfortably warm temperatures and lots of sunshine spreading across the beautiful racing course and park grounds. A large crowd

turned up to take in the morning's competition.

Because Saturday's races took place on the ninth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, special tribute was paid to those Americans who lost their lives on that morning. Prior to the varsity races, a moment of silence took place, allowing all of those on hand — the athletes, coaches, spectators and race organizers — to briefly reflect on the day's solemn meaning.

On hand for the Sept. 11 tribute was the Lake Braddock Secondary School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, led by Lt. Col. Dwight Lomax, a senior Army instructor from Woodbridge. The four-student group, attired in their handsome military uniforms, raised high both the United States and Virginia flags for the ceremonies. The playing of the national anthem followed.

Then it was time for the morning's main event — the varsity races.

THE LANGLEY GIRLS' team (137 points) received an outstanding outing from sophomore runner Courteney West, who finished eighth place overall with a time of 19 minutes even. West was thrilled with her team's top notch showing at the Monroe Parker event.

"We were real proud," said West, who a year ago as a freshmen finished sixth overall at the district championships. "We didn't expect to do quite as well as we did [on Saturday]. We stayed together and worked as a team."

The three teams finishing ahead of the Saxons were first place Thomas Jefferson (44 points), second place West Potomac (86) and third place Lake Braddock (122).



Langley's Courteney West earned a top 15 medal with an eighth place finish at Saturday's Monroe Parker Invitational at Burke Lake Park.

Langley finished ahead of fifth place West Springfield.

The individual girls' champion was sophomore Sophie Chase of Lake Braddock, who won with a time of 17:32. Edison's Myah Hicks finished second and Jefferson's Lisa Junta was third.

By finishing eighth, West earned a top 15 medal. Also earning a medal for the Saxons was Esther Jeong, a junior transfer student from Blacksburg who finished in 15th place.

"Courteney West had a solid run, and Esther Jeong gave us a big lift," said Krivak. West ran a good race, battling through fatigue down the stretch.

"I felt good until the end," said West. "I didn't want to give up and wanted to stay strong. I said [to myself], 'You're almost done, just push.'"

West was part of a Langley team last year that finished second at districts behind champion Jefferson before finishing a respectable ninth place at the Northern Re-

gion Championships. She said the Saxons can do even better this season.

"As a team we're hoping to go further this year and make it to states," said West.

Other strong outings for the Saxons at Monroe came from sophomore Elissa Purdy (24th place); juniors Mary Fouse, Allison Brady and Devon Clark; senior Bridget Chesney; and sophomore Jessica Miles.

"Elissa Purdy had a good first race," said Krivak. "Her season ended in October last year when she broke the growth plate on her foot, but she ran well without any hesitation to finish 24th."

The coach was extremely pleased with his girls' overall showing.

"It's a very competitive group of girls, yet they are incredibly supportive of each other," said Krivak. "Fourth place is a good place for us to start out, knowing that the top four in the region [later in the season] will go to states. There are a lot of good teams in the region, and the fourth place finish lets us know if we work hard and stay healthy we're right in the mix."

The McLean High girls finished in 12th place overall on Saturday. The Highlanders' top finisher was sophomore Madalyn Harper (45th overall). The next five McLean runners to cross the finish line were senior Laura Baker, sophomore Nancy Eveleigh, junior Samantha Downey, junior Meredith Bloom and junior Alexa Tabackman.

The Langley and McLean boys' teams finished 12th and 18th, respectively, among a field of 30 schools.

The top Saxon boys' finisher was junior Michael Meyer (40th overall), and the top Highlander finisher was junior Jason Richards (47th).

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL WRAP-UP

Behind a powerful rushing game that accounted for all four of its touchdowns, the McLean High football team powered its way past visiting Herndon, 27-14, Friday night, Sept. 10 in a non-district matchup.

McLean, which two weeks ago opened the season with a 14-6 home win over Washington-Lee, improved to 2-0 with the victory over the Hornets.

A year ago, McLean had lost, 28-21, in a road game at Herndon. But on Friday, playing its second consecutive game at home to begin the season, the Highlanders were able to defeat a Herndon squad that, one week earlier, had overwhelmed Jefferson, 41-0.

McLean, which led 20-7 at halftime, rushed for over 280 yards in the win over the Hornets. The Highlanders got touchdowns on the ground from senior Jimmy Ludwick (2), junior Ryan McColgan and senior Rafi Enriquez.

Ludwick, who scored on runs of 14 and one yard, finished the night with a game-high 165 yards on 15 carries. McColgan contributed 65 yards on 13 carries. Meanwhile, the Highlanders also used the passing

game effectively as quarterback Chase Mills completed six-of-nine passes for 68 yards. Four of his completions went to senior wide receiver Bruce Beatty (45 receiving yards).

Herndon's top ground gainer was junior running back Josh Schow, who scored a third quarter touchdown to get the Hornets within 20-14 and finished the game with a team-high 78 yards on 14 carries.

Herndon's first touchdown of the game came in the first quarter when sophomore quarterback Ky Parrott connected with senior wideout Leeth Aaron (3 catches, 23 yards) for a nine-yard scoring toss.

McLean will play at Wakefield High in Arlington this Friday night while Herndon will host cross-town rival South Lakes.

LANGLEY HIGH quarterback Braden Anderson tossed for 257 yards and three touchdowns in a losing cause as the Saxons lost in a high-scoring overtime affair at Chantilly, 42-35.

Anderson, who completed 19-of-35 passes, tossed a pair of touchdowns to Colin Pitts from 11 and 12 yards out, and also found Troy Scharfen (9 catches, 123 yards) for a 9-yard scoring play.

But Chantilly's ability to run the football with success proved to be the difference as the Charg-

ers (2-0) rushed for 450 yards. Jimmy Hicks was the Chargers' leading ball carrier with 192 yards and four touchdown runs on 27 carries. The junior scored on touchdown runs of nine, 14, 3 and 1 yards away. The 1-yard score came in overtime and proved to be the game-winner.

Also for Chantilly, William Hill-Pensamiento rushed for 168 yards and a touchdown (38 yard score) on 24 attempts. Cory Donovan (35 yards rushing) and quarterback Carson Romine (49 yards, one TD) also contributed to the prolific ground game.

Langley, which led 21-14 at the half, scored its first touchdown in the first quarter when junior running back Marcus Harvey returned a kickoff 93 yards for a score. Later in the half, the Saxons got a 1-yard scoring run from AJ Holtberg.

Langley will be at home on Thursday night to take on 0-2 Madison, which lost big at Yorktown last week, 42-0. Chantilly will travel to the Route 1 South corridor of Alexandria to take on 1-1 West Potomac, which lost a 28-24 overtime contest to Westfield last week.

POTOMAC SCHOOL opened up its private league schedule with a resounding 44-0 home win

over Randolph-Macon Academy (Front Royal) last Friday. The Panthers jumped out to a 42-0 first quarter lead. Top ball carriers for the home team were Brandon Arvanaghi (106 yards) and Michael Duffy, who gained all his yardage on a long touchdown run. Conor McNerney ran for two touchdowns and caught another. The scoring pass play, on a toss from quarterback Edwin Kuhn, came from 15 yards out. McNerney also returned a fumble 49 yards for another score. That was one of two defensive touchdowns for the Panthers — the other coming on a fumble recovery in the end zone by junior linebacker Andre Peterson. Potomac School's only points in the second half came on a safety. Junior Ryan Eckert converted all six of his point-after kicks in the win.

On Thursday evening of this week, Potomac School will be at home against Bullis (Md.). Kickoff is scheduled for 4:45 p.m.

— RICH SANDERS

FCPS Expulsion Policy Questioned

FROM PAGE 15

violations. Until 10 or 12 years ago, students caught with a small amount of marijuana at school were only subjected to a five-day suspension and then allowed to return to their base school, said Gibson.

Then, Virginia enacted a new law that required schools to automatically expel students for a variety of offenses, including the possession of marijuana. While waiting for the disciplinary hearing to take place, he or she is also subjected to a mandatory out-of-school suspension for at least 10 days.

The local School Board does have leeway when it comes to drug offenses and expulsion. There are special circumstances School Board members can use to justify a "modified expulsion," where the student is allowed to stay in the school system with a less severe punishment.

In fact, the Fairfax County School Board rarely expels students outright for drug offenses according to data provided by the Virginia Department of Education. From 2004 to 2009, 905 Fairfax County students caught with drugs at school for personal use received "modified expulsions." Only nine students were expelled from the school system entirely.

"I can count on one or two hands the number of times we voted for a student not

to receive services. The vast majority of students stay in the system," said Storck.

IN SEVERAL CASES, both the accused student and administrators agree on the facts of a case and the violator admits to having had drugs at school. The difference of opinion often occurs over what consequences are appropriate, said Gibson.

"There are people who think students are being punished far more severely than the offense merits," he said.

But Gibson said allowing a student to return to their classes after he or she has been caught with drugs on campus could send the wrong message to other teenagers and children.

"I don't think there is any question about whether learning can go on in an environment that is infused with drugs," he said.

Some parents think community support and opinion about whether a student poses a threat to others should be taken into consideration.

Last year, a student from a public school in McLean who admitted to smoking marijuana on a school trip garnered support from teachers, coaches and other students' parents.

According to the student's family, many members of their school community did not think the teenager should be forced to trans-

fer schools for a first-time offense.

Several people wrote letters of support on behalf of the student to the hearing officers presiding over his case but the school system still removed the student from his base school. According to the student's family, the hearing officers appeared to ignore or disregard public opinion about their son.

Families who appeal to the School Board and hope the members will depart from the decision of the hearing officers and consider a wider range of factors are typically out of luck. It is rare for a School Board panel to reject a recommendation on a disciplinary matter forwarded from staff.

"Over 90 percent of the time, we accept what the hearing officer has sent us," said Storck.

The strong correlation between the hearing office recommendation and School Board decision is just another indication that the process disenfranchises students and parents, said Caroline Hemenway, founder of Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform, a community group that advocates for changes to Fairfax's approach to disciplinary matters.

"The hearings themselves are a kangaroo court. Principals call the hearing officer and make a recommendation for expulsion or

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 18

SCHOOL NOTES

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.

McLean residents **David Pate** (bachelor of science in economics with finance applications) and **Andrew Briscoe** (bachelor of business administration in real estate finance) have graduated from Southern Methodist University of Dallas, Texas.

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.

McLean residents **Mariana Avvacumova** and **Victoria Avvacumova** have been named to the spring 2010 president's list at Illinois Central College of East Peoria, Ill.

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

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Heights School
Holderness School
Holton-Arms School
Hun School
Hyde School

Kent School
Kents Hill School
Kingsbury Day School
Lake Forest Academy
Landon School
Lawrence Academy
Linden Hall School for Girls
Loomis Chaffee School
Madeira School
Maret School
The Masters School
The McCallie School
McLean School
Mercersburg Academy
Middlesex School
Miller School
Milton Academy
Miss Porter's School
National Cathedral School
Northfield Mount Hermon
Oakcrest School
Oakwood Friends School
Oldfields School

Olney Friends School
Perkiomen School
Phillips Exeter Academy
The Pomfret School
Portsmouth Abbey School
Potomac School
Randolph Macon Academy
Ridley College
The Ross School
Sandy Spring Friends School
School for Tomorrow
The School at Church Farm
Sidwell Friends School
The Siena School
Solebury School
St. Albans School
St. Andrew's School (DE)
St. Andrew's Episcopal School
St. Andrew's-Sewanee School
St. Anselm's Abbey School
St. James School
St. John's College High School
St. Margaret's School

St. Mark's School
St. Stephens & St. Agnes School
St. Timothy's School
Stuart Hall
Taft School
TASIS Schools
Tilton School
Vermont Academy
Virginia Episcopal School
Walnut Hill School
Washington Christian Academy
Washington International
Washington Waldorf School
Westover School
Westtown School
Wilbraham & Monson Academy
Woodberry Forest School
Worcester Academy
Wyoming Seminary
Yang Academy

Host Schools:

Alexandria Country Day School
Barnesville School
Browne Academy
Butler School
Capitol Hill Day School
Christ Episcopal School
DC Preparatory Academy
Grace Episcopal Day School
Green Acres School
Green Hedges School
Langley School
Norwood School
St. John's Episcopal School
St. Patrick's Episcopal School
Sheridan School
Washington Episcopal School
The Woods Academy

Directions to:

Norwood School,
8821 River Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

From the Capital Beltway (I-495) take exit 39, River Road. Take River Road towards Potomac. The school entrance is on the right approximately 1 mile past the Beltway and just before the intersection with Bradley Boulevard.

OPEN HOUSES

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 18th & 19th



11095 SAFFOLD WAY, Reston • \$425,000 • Open Sunday 1-4
Pat Orend, Long & Foster. 703-407-3300

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

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Great Falls

10423 Artemal Lane.....\$699,000...Sun 1-4...Beth Putnam.....Long and Foster.....703 759 9072
 633 River Bend\$849,000...Sun 1-4...Lyons & McGuire Team...Weichert.....703-406-9009
 9567 Edmonston DR.....\$1,495,000...Sun 1-4...Virginia Clark.....Long & Foster.....703-254-3866
 836 Nethercliffe Rd.....\$1,700,000...Sun 12-4...Andre Amini.....Weichert.....703 759 6300

Reston

12124 PURPLE SAGE CT...\$260,000...Sun 1:30-4:30...Candace Woodson.....Weichert.....703-264-0000
 1577 Church Hill Place.....\$289,500...Sun 1-4...Nancy Burke.....Weichert.....703.863.3337
 1415 Church Hill Place.....\$290,000...Sun 1-4...Peter Burke.....Weichert.....703.786.3334
 2352 Horseferry CT.....\$325,000...Sun 1-4...Virginia Clark.....Long & Foster.....703-254-3866
 11095 SAFFOLD WAY.....\$425,000...Sun 1-4...Pat Orend.....Long & Foster.....703-407-3300
 11760 Sunrise Valley Dr...\$459,000...Sun 1-4...Peter Burke.....Weichert.....703.786.3334
 11926 RIDERS LN.....\$699,000...Sun 1-4...Christine Oberhelman...Weichert.....703-941-0100

Oak Hill/Herndon

2857 FOX MILL RD.....\$785,000...Sun 1-4...Joe Facenda.....RE/MAX.....703-281-2785

Oakton

11119 Tattersall Trail.....\$769,000...Sun 1-4...Ann Shirey.....McEneaney.....703- 868-1396

McLean

1828 Rupert Street.....\$619,000...Sun 2-4...JD Callender.....Weichert.....703-606-7901
 1020 Union Church Rd...\$1,450,000...Sun 1-4...Carol, Leslie & Tracy Wilder...McEneaney.....703-789-7226

Sterling

104 Juniper Avenue.....\$334,900...Sun 1-4...Kathy Colville.....Long & Foster.....703-444-1559

Vienna

1320 Colvin Forest Dr.....\$819,000...Sun 1-4...Scott Koval.....Samson Properties...703-625-3446
 8761 Cedar Meadow Ct.....\$899,900...Sun 1-4...Lillian Jorgenson.....Long & Foster.....703-407-0766

**To add your FREE Realtor represented
 Open House to these weekly listings,
 please contact Salome Gaibler
 at 703-778-9421 or
salome@connectionnewspapers.com
 All listings are due by Monday at 3 p.m.**

CAMPS & SCHOOLS

School Expulsion

FROM PAGE 17

suspension way before the hearing. Right from the beginning, the students don't get the same opportunity to present their case. Then, almost 100 percent of appeals are denied since the school board never reverses a hearing office recommendation," said Hemenway.

Hemenway said there are few positive outcomes that appear to derive from having harsh consequences for marijuana use in particular.

In 2008, approximately 38 percent of 12th graders responding to the Fairfax County Youth Survey reported that they had used marijuana at least once. Seventeen percent said they used it at least once in the last 30 days.

"You cannot claim that a child caught smoking a joint is a danger to the community when something like 40 percent of seniors have used it," she said.

For the most part, the harsh consequences for marijuana use only traumatize students who happen to get caught, said Hemenway. Recently, the Andersons heard from the family of a lacrosse player at Chantilly High School who was emotionally devastated, said Tim Anderson.

Though Josh, a good-looking and athletic boy, had a positive experience when he was forced to move from Langley to South Lakes in the middle of his high school career, other students are not so lucky, said Hemenway.

Removing a child from their friends and support network and sending them to a school in a different part of the county is not going to help those chil-

dren who might have turned to drugs because of depression, low self-esteem or other mental health issues, she said.

The process also places a tremendous burden on parents and other family members.

It fell on Hemenway to shuttle school assignments and monitor her son's classwork at home when the teenager, who is now a physics major at James Madison University, was caught using marijuana and removed from South Lakes High School for several months one spring.

When her son was allowed to attend a regular school again, the family also had to get him to and from their home in Oak Hill to Marshall High School in Falls Church every day. The school system does not provide transportation for students who have been removed from their base school for disciplinary reasons.

According to Storck, students caught with alcohol at school are just as likely to be removed and sent to another campus as those caught with marijuana.

But during the 2005-06 school year, the Fairfax County hearing office considered 154 students for expulsion related to the possession of marijuana and just one student for the possession of alcohol, despite the fact that far more Fairfax County students report using alcohol than marijuana. Approximately 72 percent of 12th graders who answered the 2008 Fairfax County youth survey reported using alcohol at least once in their lifetime. More than twice as many 12th graders (43 percent) said they had used alcohol over the past month than those who said they used marijuana during the same time period.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/SEPT. 9

Beulah Road Al-Anon Group. 7:30 p.m. at the Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. Practicing the Twelve Steps, welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics, and giving understanding and encouragement to the alcoholic. revku@cox.net.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 11

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.
Brinker Toastmasters. 9:30 a.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Meets second and fourth Saturday of the month. brinker.wordpress.com.
The Smart Split. 10 a.m. McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Legal aspects you need to know about 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 St., 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.

MONDAY/SEPT. 13

Lunch N' Life. 12-2 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. For people age 50 and up. Speaker, Mimi Clark Gronlund, daughter of late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark. \$10, reservation and prepayment required by Sept. 3. 703-281-5038 or www.scov.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.

Improve Communication Between Parents and Teens. 6 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. "How to talk to your Teenager, or how to get them to put down the electronics and listen", a free seminar led by clinical psychologist Dr. Melissa Sporn. Open-ended communication models, boundary setting and more. Register at 703-255-5721 or bwyatt@viennava.gov by Sept. 10.

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.

NARFE Chapter 1116, Vienna-Oakton Area. 1:30 p.m. at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna. With speaker Sally Harvey,

Dulles Airport Travelers Aid. 703-281-5123 or 703-205-9041

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 15

Prevention of Blindness Society of Metropolitan Washington. 10 a.m. at Vinson Hall, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Low Vision Group, "What's New in Low Vision" with speaker. Suleiman Alibhai, O.D. Free. 202-234-1010.

The Advisory Board of the Northwest Center for Mental Health Services. 7-9 p.m. at Northwest Center for Community Mental Health, 1850 Cameron Glen, Reston. Volunteers are needed to serve and act as advocates for women's shelters, homeless shelters, etc. The Board meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Contact Cleveland at 703-435-0868 or leaderwilliams@gmx.com.
VTRCC and Falls Church Chamber of Commerce Speed Networking Breakfast. 7:30 a.m. at The Westin, Tysons Corner, 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. \$30 members, \$40 non-members. www.vtrcc.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 16

Fall ESL Class Registration. 7 p.m. at St. Mark Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. Classes will meet 8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. New students must purchase the appropriate book. An optional basic computer skills class is offered to intermediate and advanced students. \$20 for the 10 week semester. 703-424-1046 (English), 703-477-2389 (Spanish) or 703-505-0123 (Korean).

FAITH

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

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.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sunday nights, 6 - 7:30 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 12 p.m. 703-356-3312 or umtrinity.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.

First Baptist Church of Vienna, 450 Orchard St. N.W. in Vienna, will celebrate its Annual Homecoming Services on Sunday, Sept. 19, with guest ministers for the 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. Rev. Dr. Leonard Smith, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Arlington will be the guest speaker for the 3 p.m. program. Dinner will be served immediately after the 11 a.m. services.

Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, is hosting a training event for Altar Counselors, 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 29, led by Terry Wigglesworth of the Wigglesworth Company. The training will be for all lay people who help with altar counseling of individuals who may want to make a salvation or baptism decision, rededication or membership decision and more. Reserve at revku@cox.net.

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. Kathleene 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.

A Centering Prayer Group meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. E-mail Martha Thomas at mmthomas211@hotmail.com or call the church at 703-759-3509.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

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**Dr. KENNY SMITH,
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10:25 a.m. Sunday school/Music: grades 3 - 12
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