

Location, Location, Location

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Patrons of the Star Nut Gourmet enjoy a morning on the patio. The Star Nut was in danger of being forced to move, but due to community support looks to be staying put.

Burglar Hits The Area

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Browsing Through Old Tomes

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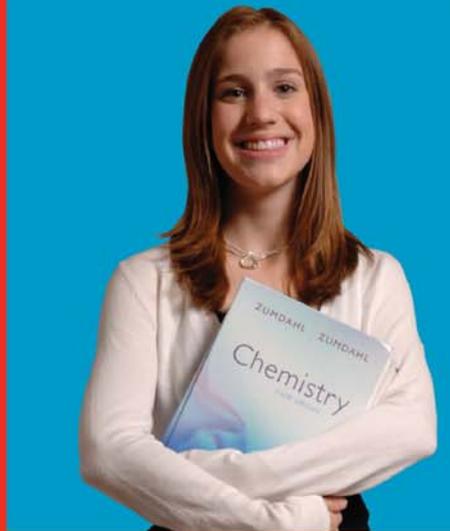
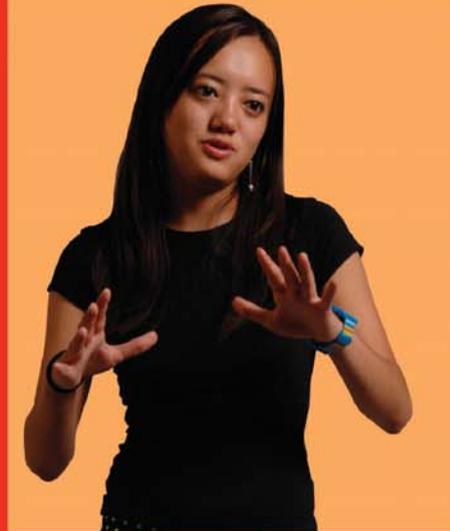
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From left, Christine Dunn, Kaitlin Dunn, 10 months, Pam Culvahouse and Leah Gansler are regulars at the Star Nut Gourmet, and were active in their support to keep it at its current location.



PHOTOS BY
ALEX MCVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Location, Location, Location

Community rallies to keep Star Nut Gourmet in current location.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

When Joe and Denise Shehadeh moved their business to the Palladium complex off Laughlin Avenue in McLean, they thought they had found a home. As owners of the Star Nut Gourmet, an International-style café, they found the setup to be perfect for their community gathering place.



Diners enjoy a morning on the patio at the Star Nut Gourmet. The Star Nut, which is modeled after European and Southeast Asian cafes, offers an international atmosphere for dining, socializing and other community events.

That was five years ago. A few weeks ago, Joe Shehadeh went to the property's owners, the adjacent Chain Bridge Bank, to renew his lease. Chain Bridge Bank purchased the property two-and-a-half years ago from the original developers, who signed the Star Nut to its original lease. When Shehadeh went to renew his lease, he was told that they couldn't, that the space would instead be turned into office space for the bank's expansion.

Since then, the community has rallied around the Star Nut, collecting more than 400 signatures in three days for a petition asking to let them stay. The sudden groundswell of community feedback seems to have worked. Last week Joe Shehadeh was informed that they would allow him to renew his lease.

"The terms of the new lease are a little different than the terms established by the developers, but the important thing is that the Star Nut will stay where it is," said John Brough, president of the Chain Bridge Bank. "We're happy that we can extend the lease, they've been good tenants, and good for this community."

Brough says that an agreement for a five-year extension of the lease — which was set to expire in October — has been reached in principle, and will likely be official soon.

"We were overwhelmed by the support we've gotten from the community, not in my wildest dreams could I imagine something like this," Joe Shehadeh said. "We had accepted the fact that the bank

wouldn't renew our lease."

"The response we got made us feel like we really brought the community together, and that was the goal when we started," Denise Shehadeh said. "I think the community gets it, and it reflects the town we have here. There are local people, as well as visitors from other states and countries, and we welcome them all. We wanted to be the place everyone can come."

THE SHEHADEHS have lived in McLean off and on for the past 34 years. After spending years in the corporate world, which led them to locations across the world, they decided to become entrepreneurs. They recalled the cafes they saw in Europe and Southeast Asia, and the idea for the Star Nut was born.

"McLean didn't have a community gathering place or specialty gift store, and that's what we tried to bring," Joe Shehadeh said.

The Shehadehs are very involved in the local community, they pride themselves on never saying no when it comes to donating to various charitable causes, sponsoring local teams and other community functions. They have twice received beautification awards from McLean, and came in second-place for a Fairfax County beautification award.

The Star Nut hosts a wide variety of community meetings on a weekly basis, everything from book clubs to local student study groups. They serve gelato,

SEE EXTENSION, PAGE 12



PHOTO BY SEAN MCCALLEY/THE CONNECTION

Jane Filerman of McLean browses through boxes of used books.

Browsing Through Old Tomes

Association of University Women conducts 41st Annual Used Book.

All last weekend, thousands of books were sold for \$2 or less at the McLean Community Center at the American Association of University Women's 41st Annual Used Book Sale. The event, which is organized every year in McLean, raises money for their Educational Opportunities Fund, Legal Advocacy Fund and local scholarships. It is the largest provider of funding for graduate women in the world.

"We live in an area that reads a lot of books," said Betsy Reddaway, a chairwoman of the local AAUW branch. Last year, the organization raised about \$57,000 at the Used Book Sale. This year's tally is estimated to be \$40,000. Buyers could walk through three rooms and explore, looking through boxes of every genre from children's books to travel.

"Some people come in and buy their yearly supply of romance novels in one purchase,"

said Reddaway.

According to Reddaway, volunteers logged 1,333 hours over the summer. In that time, the AAUW conducted five book drives to collect donations. From there, the books are boxed and kept at the SunTrust bank in Vienna.

"Our volunteers are very dedicated," said Reddaway. For instance, Laurie Warhol drives from Leesburg every Saturday to help the northern Virginia branch.

The AAUW's annual sale is an important tradition in McLean. It is an opportunity for middle school students to earn volunteer hours, book dealers to gather rare treasures and, most important for the AAUW, raises thousands of dollars for female graduate students. The sale takes place every year around the first or second week of September.

— SEAN MCCALLEY

VIEWPOINTS

What were you looking for at the book sale?

"There's some good children's books to help my nephews and nieces learn how to read." Linda DaRocha, Great Falls

"It's about half and half between exploring and looking for specifics. There's lots of options to look at." Michael Greene, McLean

How often do you attend the book sale?

"How many years have they been doing this? Forty-one? This is my fifth time. It's great." Jane Filerman, McLean

Do you prefer buying used books instead of new books?

"I definitely do. I really like how used books are low cost and are part of a recycling process." Linda DaRocha, Great Falls

"They're cheaper." Jane Filerman, McLean

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NEWS

Burglar Hits the Area

String of burglaries and larcenies hits McLean, Great Falls area.

How To Help

Anyone with information about these incidents or the suspect is asked to contact Fairfax County Crime Solvers by phone at 866-411-TIPS (8477), online at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, or text TIP187 and a message to CRIMES (274637) A \$1,000 cash reward will be paid for information that leads to an arrest. Tipsters do not have to give their names or appear in court.

By ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Police Department is investigating a series of burglaries and larcenies throughout the county. There have been 44 reported incidents that police have linked to the same suspect.

Of the 44, 24 were burglaries, 13 were larcenies from vehicles and two were unlawful entries. Police believe the first such incident was Aug. 24 in Clifton.

The suspect is attempting to enter homes through unlocked doors or windows, taking cash, purses and other property from inside. Residents have reported finding purses in their yards that were taken from neighboring homes with all of the cash missing. So far, no violence has been reported.

On the morning of Sept. 7, on the 300 block of Walker Road, north of River Bend Country Club, police responded to a 911 call about an intruder coming out of a residence. The residence was equipped with a security system, which was tripped when the suspect opened the garage door.

The security system featured cameras, which captured a suspect dressed in all black, wearing a mask and gloves and carrying a flashlight and a bag. Upon hearing the alarm, the suspect went down the road to another house and tried to force entry into the front door.

After finding that front door locked, the suspect moved to the back door of another home, whose resident was awakened by the intruder on her back deck.

A K-9 unit tracked the suspect's path between the houses, and police dispatched a helicopter unit to search the nearby area,

but were unable to find anyone.

Fifteen burglaries have been reported in McLean in the past two weeks, including three Sept. 15, said Capt. Steve Thompson, commander of the McLean District Police Station.

Residents in the McLean neighborhoods of Summerwood, McLean Hundred and Timberly among others, have reported a man riding a bicycle through the neighborhood, looking into car and home windows.

While the suspect is still on the loose, local residents say they have been reassured by the police's response to the incidents.

"On [Sept. 7] they responded with several police cars, the K-9 unit and their helicopter, and spent almost two hours searching various properties trying to locate the person," said Michael Malesardi, a Great Falls resident whose home the suspect tried to enter. "It makes me feel much better about safety in this area when I see that they take these incidents very seriously."

The suspect has been described as a male, between 5'8" and 5'10" and 150 to 175 pounds. All incidents have taken place between 10:15 p.m. and 4:15 a.m.

"Residents are encouraged to ensure their doors are locked while unattended and that no personal items of value are left inside or in plain view," said the Fairfax County Police Department in a press release. "In addition, make sure doors and windows are closed and locked at home; this includes garage doors. When returning home, try not to leave purses, wallets or keys near an entryway."

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the McLean police department through Sept. 17.

DEER MANAGEMENT

A new Archery Program was implemented last year as part of the Fairfax County Deer Management Program. The Archery Program was developed with the recognition that archery is a safe, efficient, and sustainable deer management tool in urbanized regions such as Fairfax County. The Archery Program will be implemented from Saturday, Oct. 16 until Saturday, Feb. 12. Selected parks will not be closed to park patrons during this time and signs will be posted on trails informing visitors of this deer management activity. All hunting will be conducted from elevated tree stands and located at least 100 feet from park property lines and 50 feet from trails. The Archery Program is conducted at selected park sites by a qualified archery group selected via archery hunt lotto. For more information contact Victoria Monroe, Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist at 703-246-6868 or email victoria.monroe@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit the Fairfax County website for more information about local wildlife species and wildlife management at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals/wildlife.

DISTRACTED DRIVING CAMPAIGN

If you're texting, eating, applying make up or getting dressed while behind the wheel, you may want to reconsider: Fairfax County Police will be watching. They're kicking off a new distracted driving campaign aimed at keeping motorists and county roadways safer. A recent study by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute points out that nearly 80 percent of all crashes and 65 percent of all near-crashes involved driver inattention due to distraction. The new campaign combines public education and awareness with strict, innovative, enforcement techniques. Officers will be posted at intersections and along roads where there is high volume and high number of crash incidents, such as the Route 28 corridor and the Tyson's Corner area. The online survey is now posted for public participation at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police. School resource officers are also encouraging teen drivers to participate. In partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools, police will distribute a new texting-awareness poster throughout schools across the county as well. The campaign is slated to run through June 2011; with updates on education and enforcement efforts to be shared with the public. For more information on the new campaign or distracted driving issues, contact the Traffic Safety Division at 703-280-0500.

NEWS

Chamber Extravaganza to Benefit Claude Moore Farm

The Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) will host its first "Suits & Sneakers Extravaganza" on Thursday, Oct. 7, 6-9 p.m. at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm.

The event will benefit the Claude Moore Colonial Farm's facilities and activities as well as programs of the GMCC.

McLean area restaurants, including Assaggi Osteria, Café Oggi, Evo Bistro, Fluffy Thought Cakes, J. Gilbert's Wood Fired Steak and Seafood, JR'S Custom Catering and the Pavilions of Turkey Run, La Sandia, and Wildfire, will provide the gourmet fare.

The evening will also feature live music from the McLean Orchestra, a cigar-tasting tent, and the opportunity to sample fine wines recommended by a sommelier. Sponsors of the event will have the chance to imbibe cocktails by Todd Thrasher, the celebrity mixologist famed for his innovative cocktails at Restaurant Eve in Alexandria.

"Chamber supported events such as this serve to bring together members of the community to support one another – by showcasing what McLean has to offer," said

Marcia Twomey, President of the GMCC. "We anticipate a great turnout for this excellent event – for a great community treasure."

The GMCC, which strives to build community by offering professional development opportunities, is encouraging guests to pair business attire with sneakers for the festivities. Local retailers have donated door prizes and silent auction items.

Additionally, the GMCC will collect donations of new and gently used sneakers for local children and adult charities.

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (VA-10th) and his wife Carolyn Wolf will serve as honorary chairs.

Members of the McLean Fire and Police departments, the McLean Community Center and the McLean Project for the Arts also will be on hand to provide information about their activities.

Tickets are \$125 per person, and can be purchased by visiting www.mcleanchamber.org or by calling 703-356-5424. Sponsorships are still available; contact Marcia Twomey or Leigh Bowes at the GMCC for more information.

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One Strike, They're Out

Some call the school system's polices 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.

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."

Tim and Sue Anderson took Josh's first marijuana offense seriously as a mental health matter. After the incident at Langley, 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.



PHOTO BY GILIAN ANDERSON/CONTRIBUTED

South Lakes Junior Josh Anderson died of suicide the night before he faced expulsion from the school system in 2009.

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 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.

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

School officials cannot comment on individual students' records, which makes it difficult for the school system to defend its approach to cases like Josh's, or respond publicly to complaints like the Andersons', said Paul Renier, spokesperson for Fairfax County Public Schools.

JOSH ANDERSON 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 faced expulsion. The second most frequent offense — an umbrella category called "prohibited conduct" that includes fighting, causing a disruption and defying staff — resulted in 84 recommendations for expulsion during 2008-09.

The vast majority of students recom-

mended for expulsion are not kicked out of the school system entirely, though those charged with 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. Some 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 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 was intimidated by the situation, they said.

Tim Anderson called a school official the

Consequences: Marijuana verses Alcohol

The consequences for Fairfax County Public Schools' students caught with alcohol are not as severe as those related to marijuana in many cases. According to the Fairfax County Public Schools website, students who are caught:

- ❖ **in possession of alcohol and nonalcoholic beer**, must serve a minimum suspension of five days and a maximum suspension of 10 days; prohibited from participating in student activities, including sports, clubs and the performing arts, for 30 days; must participate in a substance abuse prevention program.
- ❖ **in possession of alcohol and nonalcoholic beer for the second time in 12 months**, serve a suspension of 10 days and prohibited from participating in student activities, including sports, clubs and the performing arts, for one year.
- ❖ **distributing or manufacturing alcohol**, serve a suspension of at least 10 days and automatically recommended for expulsion from the school system.
- ❖ **under the influence of marijuana but not in possession of the drug**, serve a minimum suspension of five days and a maximum suspension of 10 days; prohibited from participating in student activities, including sports, clubs and the performing arts, for 30 days; must participate in a substance abuse prevention program.
- ❖ **under the influence of marijuana (without possession) for the second time in 12 months**, serve a 10-day suspension and removal from student activities for one year. They are also automatically recommended for expulsion from the school system.
- ❖ **in possession of marijuana or imitation marijuana**, serve a 10-day suspension and an automatic recommendation for expulsion.
- ❖ **distributing marijuana or imitation marijuana**, serve a 10-day suspension and recommended for expulsion from the school system.

What Happens?

SOURCE: Fairfax County Public Schools website.

❖ If school administrators catch a child engaging in behavior that warrants a disciplinary hearing, they contact Superintendent Jack Dale's office. The school principal then forwards a packet of information, including details about the incident concerning your child and the student's overall disciplinary record, to the hearing office.

❖ If a child has been recommended for expulsion from the school system, he or she will have to serve an automatic 10-day suspension in the days leading up to the disciplinary hearing.

❖ A child recommended for expulsion cannot set foot on any Fairfax County public school campus and cannot attend school functions while they are serving their suspension.

❖ The school principal and assistant principal usually attend disciplinary hearings. The parents and child are permitted to bring one other witness, such as a clergy member, psychiatrist or family friend, to the event. Families are discouraged from bringing a lawyer.

❖ The school system notifies the family about a child's punishment through a letter following the disciplinary hearing.

❖ If the hearing officers have endorsed the expulsion recommendation, then the student's case is automatically forwarded to the school board for consideration.

❖ Panels of three school board members typically hear and vote on individual disciplinary cases. In cases where all three school board members vote in favor of expulsion, the family is not allowed to appeal the decision. However, if the school board panel voted in favor of expulsion though not unanimously, the family can request that the full school board hear the case.

next day to express concern. "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.

SEE PUNISHMENT, PAGE 7

Weighing Punishment

FROM PAGE 6

School Board members denied that the outcome of student disciplinary cases are predetermined. "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.

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 for 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). ... "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."

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

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.

Last year, a student from a public school in McLean who admit-

Recommended for Expulsion

Fairfax County school administrators recommended 683 students for expulsion during the 2008-2009 school year. Only 161 were expelled in the end, but students who are initially recommended for expulsion often face other types of sanctions. About 84 of these were transferred to another high school, about 94 moved to an alternative high school and 99 were placed on long-term suspension. Several students are also enrolled in an alternative learning center or program, including those at juvenile facilities.

Reasons students were brought up for expulsion during the 2008-2009 school year:

Violation	Number of Cases
Possession of Marijuana	154
Prohibited Conduct (disruptions, fighting, and defiance of staff)	84
Possession of a Knife, Blade More Than 3 Inches	59
Possession of Other Drugs (Heroin, Cocaine, Prescription, Ecstasy)	38
Assault Against Student As Part Of A Mob	37
Assault Against Staff	30
Threatening Staff	28
Distribution Of Marijuana	27
Assault Against Another Student As An Individual	26
Possession Of A Razor Blade	25
Possession Of Other Weapon	25
Distribution Of Other Drugs	19
Sexual Assault	17
Possession of Drug Look-A-Like	17
Inappropriate Sexual Behavior	13
Possession Of A Pneumatic Gun	13
Gang Activity	9
Outside-Of-School Court Charges Or Convictions	8
Theft	8
Vandalism	6
Threatening Another Student	5
Found Under The Influence For The Second Time	4
Distribution of Alcohol	3
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	3
Arson	3
Possession Of A Chemical Substance That Could Be Used As A Weapon	3
Distribution of Over-The-Counter Drugs	2
Bomb Threat	2
Possession Of A Firearm	2
Possession Of Nonprescription Drugs	1
Robbery	1
Possession Of A Taser	1

ted 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 transfer 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 information about their son.

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

This is just another indication that the process disenfranchises students and parents, said Caroline Hemenway, founder of Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform, a community group.

"The hearings themselves are a kangaroo court. Principals call the hearing officer and make a recommendation for expulsion or suspension way before the hearing. Right from the beginning, the students don't get the same opportunity to present their case," said Hemenway.

And there are few positive outcomes that appear to derive from having harsh consequences for

marijuana use in particular, Hemenway said.

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.

Removing a child from their friends and support network and sending them to a different school is not going to help those who might have depression, low self-esteem or other mental health issues, she said.

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 approximately 72 percent of 12th graders who answered the 2008 Fairfax County youth survey reported using alcohol at least once in their lifetime.

Twice as many 12th graders (43 percent) said they had used alcohol over the past month when compared to 12th graders who said they used marijuana during the same time period.

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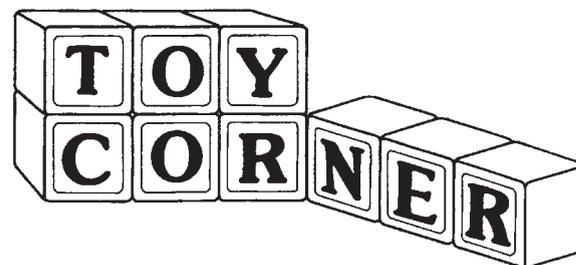
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OPINION

Vote Nov. 2

In an unpredictable year, all the more important to turn out to vote, no matter what your beliefs.

With political extremes on all sides getting most of the attention in this run up to midterm elections, most voters in Northern Virginia are far more moderate. It would be easy to decide that this election really isn't for you if you're not way out on one side or another. (We suspect that there are more than two extremes at play this year.)

There isn't too much on the ballot, how much can it matter if you just decide you're tired of the hyperbole and you'll just sit this one out?

It matters more now than ever that elections actually demonstrate the priorities of the electorate. If voters who feel very strongly about a few issues turn out strongly to vote, and voters whose views are more general stay home, the results could be quite surprising, even here in Northern Virginia.

Mark your calendar. Absentee ballots are already available, so if you think Nov. 2 that you might not be available to vote, you can vote absentee, or you can vote early. See your local elections board website or call for details. There is no excuse for not voting.

Every year is an election year in Virginia. This combined with a bevy of special elections in some areas can result in voter fatigue.

This year, every voter in Virginia will vote for a candidate for U.S. House of Representatives plus vote yes or no on three statewide constitutional questions.

EDITORIAL

Voters in Fairfax will also vote yes or no on a transportation bond referendum.

Voters in Arlington will also choose one member of Arlington County Board, one member of the Arlington School Board and vote yes or no on four bond questions, one for Metro funding, one for "county infrastructure," one for schools and one for parks.

Sportsmanship

OK, it's not a standard local issue. But it had local implications on Sunday.

If Roger Goodell is serious about improving the reputation of the NFL, one place to start might be to stop icing the kicker at the last millisecond, and promote good sportsmanship instead.

OK, maybe this is more about the having an excruciating time-out taken by the Houston Texans negate Graham Gano's beautiful 51-yard field goal in overtime that would have won the game.

Gano missed on his next attempt, which should not have been necessary. The Texans went on to win, in case you've been in isolation since Sunday.

Time to change the rules on this one. Time-outs should come with time enough to stop play before the snap.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

VIEWPOINTS

Concert for Clemyjontri Park: Great Event for a Great Cause



Wayne Winston Sharp

President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the McLean Orchestra, Wayne Winston Sharp said he was "delighted to support the community and the 'musical treasures' of greater McLean." With the proceeds going both to Clemyjontri and to the McLean Orchestra, Sharp hopes to use the money going to the Orchestra to expand the program. "We only perform five times a year right now," he said. "We want more, and to hopefully extend across the county or nationally. We'd like to go on tour and perform at Wolftrap, and maybe perform at the Kennedy Center," he said, smiling.

"It's all a question of funding."



Alan Sierichs

A professional conductor for the past 25 years, USAF Lt. Col. Alan Sierichs said it was a special treat for him and his wife to attend the Concert in the Park, adding that it was his first time conducting the McLean Orchestra. "It was great meeting the musicians," he said. He described the fundraiser as being a "glorious reason for us all to get together this evening."



Alan G. Merten

Alan G. Merten, president of George Mason University and an attendee at the event, described the importance of the event as the mix of art with purpose. "The key is to bring arts into the center of community life," he said. "Northern Virginia does the arts in the right way. It's the center of any infrastructure, and it's important to continue to support the arts in good times or bad. In the midst of economic downturn, we still managed to open a performing house in Fairfax and an opera house in Prince William."

— NIKKI CHESHIRE

Register by Oct. 11

You must be registered to vote at least 22 days before the General Election.

The deadline to register to vote or update your address for the Nov. 2 election is Monday, Oct. 11. To register to vote, download a form from: www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Forms_Publications/Index.html

Fill it out and mail it to your local elections office. You can also register in person at the elections office during business hours, or pick up a form in a library or other public places.

After you register, you will receive confirmation and a voting card in the mail. You can call the elections office to verify that you are registered. If you are already registered to vote at your current address, you do not need to register again.

To find your polling place, go to www.sbe.virginia.gov and click on "voter information." Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check with your local elections office for information on absentee and early voting. Absentee ballots are available now.

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Fairfax County Office of Elections
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323
Fairfax, VA 22035-0081
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/>
703-222-0776 phone
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703-324-4700 for 24-hour recorded information

SCHOOL NOTES

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

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. \$15 for students, \$20 for adults. Register at www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS or chasse@fcps.edu.

Gillian R. Hunt of McLean will attend St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, as a member of the class of 2014.

Kevin Cameron Wade Jr. of McLean has enrolled at Hampden-Sydney College as a Venable Scholar. The McLean High School graduate is the son of Kevin and Andrea Wade of McLean.

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

Rachel Burger of Great Falls was awarded a Charles A. Dana Scholarship for the 2010-11 academic year at Agnes Scott College of Atlanta, Ga. Burger is the daughter of Eric Burger and Deborah Spear.

THE CONNECTION

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Newspaper of
McLean

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

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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WEEK IN MCLEAN

Guilty Plea in 37 Gold Burglaries in Northern Virginia

Melinda Marie Soto, 34, of New York, N.Y., pled guilty to conspiring to steal at least \$500,000 worth of gold and other valuables from 37 residences in Northern Virginia, and to transport that stolen property to New York.

Soto was indicted on July 15, 2010, by a federal grand jury for conspiracy. She faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison when she is sentenced on Dec. 3, 2010.

According to court records, from January to November 2009, Soto and at least two others — her husband, Dagoberto Ramirez-Soto and Francisco Gray, 40, both from New York — agreed to travel to Northern Virginia to burglarize residences belonging to South Asians, whom they believed kept large amounts of gold in their homes. Soto admitted she was a member of the conspiracy by booking motel rooms for the conspirators to stay in while in Northern Virginia, helping to locate names and residences of potential victims, and monitoring police scanners while her co-conspirators carried out the burglaries.

Soto admitted in court that she and her conspirators burglarized 37 residences in Fairfax and Loudoun counties during 2009, stealing property worth more than \$500,000. They then transported that property to New York, where they sold it.

Ramirez-Soto and Gray were also indicted with Soto on July 15, 2010. Ramirez-Soto is scheduled for trial by jury on Oct. 4, 2010, and Gray remains a fugitive at large.

This case was investigated by the Fairfax County Police Department, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, and the FBI's Washington Field Office. Assistant United States Attorney Michael E. Rich and Special Assistant United States Attorney Paul Rosen are prosecuting the case on behalf of the United States.

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Harris Andrews, playing John Andrews and Carol Kregloh, playing Mrs. Fox, look into the distance at Claude Moore Farm.



Interpreters Adam Fukimitsu and Emily Webb pose dressed in colonial fashion.

Tying the Knot 1770s-style

Timeless wedding takes place at Claude Moore Farm.

A large public wedding took place last weekend. The ceremony, however, did not have a ring, the bride was not wearing white and some ribbons were handed out for good luck.

At the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, visitors entering the farm are submerged into 1770s America. Costumed interpreters attend to the farm, living on and working the land throughout the day to demonstrate the intricacies of colonial life.

Over the weekend, guests were treated to a wedding that included the ceremony, dancing and food. All were provided, of course, in 1770s fashion.

"Colonial-era weddings seem to be an analogue to modern-day weddings," said Tom Cole, a visitor from McLean. In other words, while the customs and traditions were different, the ceremony was still vaguely familiar.

Michael Cedrone and his family enjoyed their first visit to the Claude Moore Farm. "There's lots of stuff to get the kids interested," he said, as his children gazed into the goose pen. Off in the distance, a large pig munched on his feed.

According to Richard Webb, one of the interpreters, Claude Moore Farm "is the only national park owned and operated by a non-profit organization."

Take a stroll around the orchard. Listen to "John Andrews" tell stories in the shade. Enjoy some fresh cider, or play ninepins along the path. With the sun shining, a gentle breeze blowing and plenty



Suzanne Cole of McLean experiencing Claude Moore Farm hands on.



Michael and Lucy Cedrone with their children Timothy and Elizabeth enjoy the day at Claude Moore Farm.

of fun activities to do.

— SEAN MCCALLEY

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/SEPT. 23

Mark Olson CD Release and Vandaveer. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 24

'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/mauritus or 703-854-1856.

Dia, Mista Forty and Socz. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Chamber Music Concert. 8 p.m. at the Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street, Vienna. Clarinetist Jean-Francois Bescond, cellist Igor Zubkovsky, pianist Diane Winter Pyles and soprano Danielle Talamante perform works by Beethoven, Schumann, Franck and D'Rivera. Donations accepted. 703-255-2576.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 25

'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/mauritus or 703-854-1856.

Think Outside the Breadbox. 10:30 a.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Learn how to evaluate different types of breads, sample up to eight types of bread with accompaniments such as spreads, veggies and fruit to evaluate scent, color, texture, taste, complexity and aftertaste. \$22 per person. Register at 703-759-2771. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm.

Caroline Herring at 7 p.m., **Jason Reeves and Trent Hancock** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Propagating and Growing Salvias. 10 a.m. at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9570 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Join Tammy Burke, Horticulturist, as you tour the extensive Salvia Collection and learn about their care, propagation and use in the garden. \$5. Reserve at 703-255-3631.

Dulles Day Family Festival and 18th Annual Plane Pull. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Washington Dulles International Airport. The Plane Pull pits teams of 25 people in a game of "tug of war" against a FedEx jet. Proceeds benefit Special Olympics Virginia. Kids' Bus Pull, a similar event where teams of children pull a yellow school bus; \$10 donation per kids' pull. Children's games and activities. Live music. Car show, including top 30 and "Best in Class" people's choice awards for classic, street rod, truck, motorcycle and import. Military, civilian and World War II-era aircraft on display. Free admission and parking. 703-359-4301 or www.planepull.com.

Fairfax County Master Gardeners. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information,



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 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.

techniques and advice to home gardeners. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Artists' Reception. 6-9 p.m. at Applegate Gallery & Custom Framing, 101 Church St. N.W., Suite C, Vienna. Works by students of Sunset Hills Montessori School. Proceeds benefit The Reading Connection. info@applegateframing.com.

McLean Community Center's Harvest Happenings. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With children's music group Rocknoeros, amusement and carnival games, arts and crafts projects, face painting, temporary tattoos, a moon bounce, prizes and more. \$5 per person, free for age 2 or younger. 703-790-0123 or www.mcleancenter.org.

The Optimist Club of Greater Vienna's 5th Annual Walk for Growing Hope. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. along the W&OD trail near Church & Dominion Streets N.E. in Vienna. A 3-mile walk and fundraiser for the Childhood Cancer Campaign. Moon bounce, balloonist, "The Story Lady", fortune teller, silent auction, live music, refreshments, raffle and more. All proceeds support Growing Hope and Johns Hopkins University & Medical Center. Register at info@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org or 703-281-1335.

Concert on the Lawn. 12-3 p.m. at New Life Christian Church, 1988 Kirby Road, McLean. Classic rock band Natural Selection and free food. annamarig@newlife4me.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 26

BlackDiamondSkye, Alice in Chains, Deftones and Mastodon. 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$49.50-\$59.50, available at ticketmaster.com. www.livenation.com.

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.

'The Frost/Nixon Tapes'. 2 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 703-790-0123.

'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.

Joe Brooks. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com. Virginia Chamber Orchestra 40th Anniversary Season **Opening Concert.** 4 p.m. at Ernst

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Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Themes from the British Isles, including "Enoch Arden" by Richard Strauss in the premiere of an arrangement for chamber orchestra by Music Director Emil de Cou. Tickets \$10-\$15, students free. 703-758-0179.

Amadeus Orchestra and Pianist Sara Daneshpour. 4 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 (K. 466), Gluck's "Overture to Iphigenia in Aulis" and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7. Admission \$25, age 17 and under free. Tickets available at the event or online at www.amadeusconcerts.com.

Birding in the Gardens. 2 p.m. at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9570 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Search the Gardens for migratory birds. Led by Casey Pettrizzi, Naturalist for the NVRPA. Bring field guides and binoculars. Free and open to the public. 703-255-3631.

MONDAY/SEPT. 27

Math, Music & Mayhem Tour with Score 24 and Eleventyseven. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Rock-a-Bye Baby. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Rhymes, stories and songs. Birth-12 months with adult. 703-938-0405.

Game On Afternoon Edition. 3:30 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Wii Mario Kart or Super Smashbros. Age 6-16. 703-938-0405.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 28

Maria Muldaur and Her Red Hot Bluesianna Band. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Great Decisions Seminar. 2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Roundtable discussion of U.S. foreign policy. The subject of this session is the U.S. and the Persian Gulf. Adults. 703-938-0405.

Drop-in Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Drop-in storytime. All ages. 703-790-8088.

Personalized Internet Training. 2:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. A 45-minute one-on-one Internet training session with a technology volunteer. Call for appointment. 703-790-8088.

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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!

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 24



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BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/SEPT. 24

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With artist Rachel Collins, a realistic painter of nature's abstract forms. 703-790-0123.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 25

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

MONDAY/SEPT. 27

Northern Virginia Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Meeting. 7 p.m. at First Christian Church, 6165 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. 703-256-2908.

Pilates Mat Class. 7:45 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Learn to engage core abdominal muscles, improve posture and create a longer, leaner, stronger body. First of ten weekly sessions. \$230, \$170 McLean district residents. 703-790-0123.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 28

McLean Community Players, Inc., Annual Meeting. 6:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Elect directors and more.

Extension Likely

FROM PAGE 3

homemade sandwiches and soups, as well as Belgian chocolate and a variety of candies. They also sell gifts from places across the globe, from Italy to Poland.

They strive to provide an atmosphere that appeals to a wide range of people, and they have collected quite a following.

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Why Me?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"Why not?" is the short answer. The long answer is the rest of this column, and it's not what you think.

I have never, in my cancer-affected life, asked this question of myself or anybody else. Nor have I ever "woe is me'd." I have accepted my circumstances and attempted, through my treatment and miscellaneous health and fitness, lifestyle and diet changes, to fight this fight and try not to get bogged down by the physical and emotional toll a terminal disease can take.

Moreover, my mental approach in dealing with all the medical tests, scans, appointments, chemotherapy (which continues still, every three weeks) has been to roll with the punches; take the good with the bad and more importantly, take the bad with the good. I have tried to maintain a balance in my life believing that it is nothing until it is something, rather than being something until it's nothing. Anyone who knows me would say I've mostly succeeded in this effort over the past 18 months. I can't do much, but this I can do.

As you regular readers know, or presumably have determined, I am a rather thoughtful and introspective person. I think through my decisions - and assessments, rarely "knee-jerking" a decision but certainly trusting my instincts. If certain options seem reasonable, all things considered, I can decide quickly. As a result, my care has not been about fits and starts or changes in direction; it has been fairly routine and predictable, a pattern that sort of suits me.

Part of my regular, recurring role as a cancer patient has been to be diagnostically updated quarterly; to include a CT scan, an MRI and a bone scan, to give my oncologist a current picture, "radiologically" speaking, as to what my cancer is doing - or hopefully - not doing.

And amazingly, I am here to report that, according to my oncologist, my most recent scans showed no growth and no movement, in effect: no activity. Dumbfounded - and incredulous - by what my oncologist was telling us, and what we (my wife and I) were hearing, especially after the mention of scar tissue and my sternum, we asked him for a simpler, more straightforward explanation, something us lay persons might understand. Which led me to ask the doctor my "Am I still in the woods?" question (as opposed to out of the woods, meaning safety, to me; metaphorically speaking). Sensing our confusion - or non-belief, my oncologist said the following: "Let me summarize for you: partial stable remission. You may be one of the lucky ones and live five years."

WHAT?! I thought. Why is this happening to me? What did I do? Now what? As odd as it may sound, it was a little difficult to process what we were hearing. But for the moment, I was given a reprieve. In three months, when I'm scanned again, I could be writing a very different column. But for the present, at least, I'm off the endangered species list. Now, as my publisher joked, I have real problems. Everything else in life that I had "back-burnered," - for obvious reasons, I may have to reposition.

And one of those problems is, I now find myself saying something, or not being able to stop myself from saying, something, that I had never said the previous 18 months: "Why me?" Yet I can't stop from saying it now. And it feels like a betrayal of sorts, a betrayal of the self-discipline I've maintained since Dec. 31, 2008 when I first went to the Emergency Room due to the pain in my side. There's a Yiddish word that explains perfectly the confusion I feel: "farmisht," meaning "mixed up emotionally."

Certainly the news could have been worse. Still, I'm struggling a bit, and I find myself asking, of all questions: "why me? Why me?" I don't mean to look a gift horse in the mouth, but apparently, I need an explanation.

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

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MPA Finance Director Lori Huffman receives payment from Ellen Rosenblum who won all three of her bids.

Art Auction Nets \$30,000 For MPA Programs

McLean Project for the Arts has announced that \$30,000 was raised for MPA programs and exhibitions from the auction of the art collection of John Deardourff, political consultant and late husband of recently retired Madeira Head of School, Dr. Elisabeth Griffith. The distinguished collection of paintings, ceramics and sculpture was donated to MPA to auction as a fundraiser. Five items remain: a painting by Willy

Heeks, one clay sculpture by Jeff Shapiro, a pink granite sculpture by Jesus Moroles, a low-fired clay ceramic vessel by Piero Fenci, and a pastel by Leon Berkowitz. These will be sent to public auction, but are currently still available for sale from MPA. The art may be viewed at www.mpa.smugmug.com. For more information contact Dabney Cortina at 703-790-1953 or info@mpaart.org.

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McLean Field Hockey Team Shocks Saints

Vanni's Highlanders are playing solid across the board.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

In an incredible week for the McLean High girls' field hockey team, the Highlanders won overtime games over private school power St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School (Alexandria) on Tuesday, Sept. 14, as well as local Liberty District rival Madison on Wednesday, Sept. 15.

Going into this week, the Highlanders carried an impressive 8-3 overall record.

"We have 11 good players on the field who really trust each other, as opposed to a few superstars who contribute a majority of the time," said McLean head coach Summer Vanni, of her squad.

"We have a lot of depth and experience with our starters this year."

— McLean head coach
Summer Vanni

Vanni was not able to be at either of last week's games as a result of having minor surgery. She was proud of her team's success in the wins over the Saints and the Warhawks, and credited both her players and assistant coaches.

"The girls pulled off the wins with my assistant coaches," said Vanni, who will return to the sidelines this Wednesday evening, Sept. 22 when the Highlanders travel to South County Secondary to meet the Stallions in a non-district game. "I was very proud, of course, that they were able to win, despite my absence. They said, of course, that they won for me."

IN THE TUESDAY GAME, McLean pulled off a come-from-behind, 3-2 upset win over St. Stephen's & St. Agnes. The Highlanders dominated play throughout the first half, but were unable to finish numerous chances in a contest that was scoreless at halftime. At the beginning of the second half, the Saints took charge and quickly scored two goals. The Highlanders called a timeout to re-group.

With 10 minutes remaining in regulation play, McLean's Charlotte Parkhurst scored a goal to pull the Highlanders within 2-1. Shortly after that, with only a few minutes remaining, Jordan Walker tied the game at 2-2 with a goal. That put the game into a seven versus seven, 15-minute sudden death overtime session.

The Saints, in the OT, tried to aggressively run down the field, but the Highlander defense of Mary D'Alesandro, Alison Wilhelm and goalie Malalai Nawabi (six saves) ended those efforts. With attacking speed coming from Walker, Kristina Bettner, Kristen Ahearn, Tina Anwyll and Leandi Venter, the Highlanders quickly put the pressure on the Saints. At the ninth minute of overtime, a long run by Walker and Bettner ended with Walker beating the goalie and ending the game with a score.

McLean, for the game, earned 14 offensive corners to St Stephens' three.

The following day saw McLean win an exciting 4-3 decision over district rival Madison. The Highlanders received two goals from Leandi Venter and one apiece from Tina Antwyll and Jordan Walker in the triumph. Goalie Malalai Nawabi, meanwhile, had 10 saves.

MCLEAN OPENED the season on Aug. 26 with a 4-1 home loss to perennial Northern Region power Lake Braddock. But the Highlanders came back strong with a strong showing at the early season Virginia Beach Sundevil Tournament where they won three of four games and finished second place overall in a field of 16 teams.

McLean reached the Sundevil tournament finals by defeating region opponent W.T. Woodson, 3-1. Then, in the finals, the Highlanders lost a tough 1-0 game to Lakeland High (Suffolk).

"We had great success at the beginning of the season at the Sundevil Virginia Beach Tournament," said Vanni. "We have a lot of depth and experience with our starters this year."

Other wins this season have come over visiting opponents Wakefield, 11-0, and Herndon, 4-0.

The Highlanders have a mix of older and younger players within their program. Juniors Becca Latimer (forward) and Leandi Venter (midfield) are both third year varsity lettermen. McLean starts eight juniors and three seniors.

McLean is fielding a freshmen squad this season, along with the varsity and JV teams. Having a ninth grade team should add more depth to the program and give the Highlanders a building foundation for the future.

"I think the addition of our freshman team has created more competition within the program itself," said Vanni.

One of the keys to McLean's varsity success has been its defensive play. The Highlanders have allowed just 12 goals over 11 games. Vanni credited assistant coaches Brooke McKean and Marcus Smith with directing the successful defensive unit.

The Highlanders' offense has found the net 31 times this season.

"Our offense is strong like it always has been and the girls click on their passing and seem to be playing with a lot more maturity than in previous years," said Vanni.

The coach is ever optimistic at her team's chances to make a strong run in the district and regional playoffs later this season.

"I always 'hope' this is our year," she said. "But this year, I am thinking it might be."

McLean's next home game is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 29 at 4 p.m., versus Marshall.



The Jefferson girls' varsity cross-country team is made up of athletes from throughout Fairfax County, including Reston, McLean and Vienna.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The Thomas Jefferson High girls' cross country season got off to a great start on Saturday, Sept. 11 by winning the Monroe Parker Invitational at Burke Lake Park. Jefferson squad, made up of numerous local runners, scored an impressive victory with its first place finish in the 23-team field of Northern Region schools.

The Colonials placed five runners among the top 16 and scored a meet-best 44 points to finish well ahead of second place West Potomac (86 points). Four Jefferson runners earned top 15 individual medals - Lisa Junta (third place) of Fairfax Station; Sarah Stites (fourth) of Reston; Stephanie Marzen (seventh) of McLean; and Rekha Schnepf (14th) of McLean - while the team collected the championship trophy. Other competitive times for Jefferson came from Kelly Rogers (16th) of McLean, Taylor Reffet of Oak Hill and Sarah Neilsen of Reston.

Meanwhile, the Jefferson girls' JV team won its respective team title by placing nine of the top 11 runners, including Elizabeth Ellor (Reston), Charlotte Sheridan (Vienna), Nalini Singh (Vienna), Katie Bailey (Vienna) and Jamie Kim (McLean).

The 2010 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics opened on Saturday, Sept. 18 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington to an excited crowd of participants and supporters. NVSO chairman, Jack Hobbs, of Alexandria opened the ceremonies, which included a flag ceremony by the George Mason University Police Honor Guard, the national anthem sung by Arlington's Noel Williams and remarks by Arlington County Board vice chairman, Chris Zimmerman.

Hobbs recognized Fauquier County as a new Senior Olympics jurisdictional sponsor. Representing Fauquier County was Clayton Lescalleet, of the Fauquier County Parks and Recreation Board.

The opening ceremonies were followed by seven track events. More than 25 other events were scheduled to take place through Sept. 28 at various venues throughout Northern Virginia.

Track events began with a 3-mile walk. Gold medals were awarded to the following: Arthur Skaer (men ages 50-54) of South Riding; Rob Aaront (55-59) of Centreville; Victor Litwinski (65-69) of McLean; James W.C. Chang (75-79) of Oakton; Carol Banks (women's 60-64) of Springfield; Rosemary Hallenbeck (65-69) of Burke; and Naoma Hesser (85-89) Fairfax.

Gold medal winners in the 800 meter walk were: Rob Aaront (men, 55-59) of Centreville; Gerald Cantor (60-64) of Springfield; Brian Forst (65-69) of Reston; Maryann Schwab (women's 60-64) of Fairfax; Rosemary Hallenbeck (65-69) of Burke; Jeanie LaBudie of Vienna.

Winners in the 1600 meter walk were: Brian Forst (men, 65-69) of Reston; James W.C. Chang (75-79) of Oakton; Dante Simbulan (80-84) of Burke; and Joseph Peters (85-89) of Great Falls.

In the 60 meter dash, gold medallists were: Ronald Sarson (men, 75-79) of Oak Hill; and Mike Lowe (90-94) of Springfield. Robert Eaheart Jr. (60-64) of Springfield won a gold medal in the 400 race.

Gold medal winners in the 800 run were Arthur Skaer (men's 50-54) of South Riding; Robert Eaheart Jr. (60-64) of Springfield; and Hyung Park (75-79) of Springfield.

The World Comes to Wolf Trap

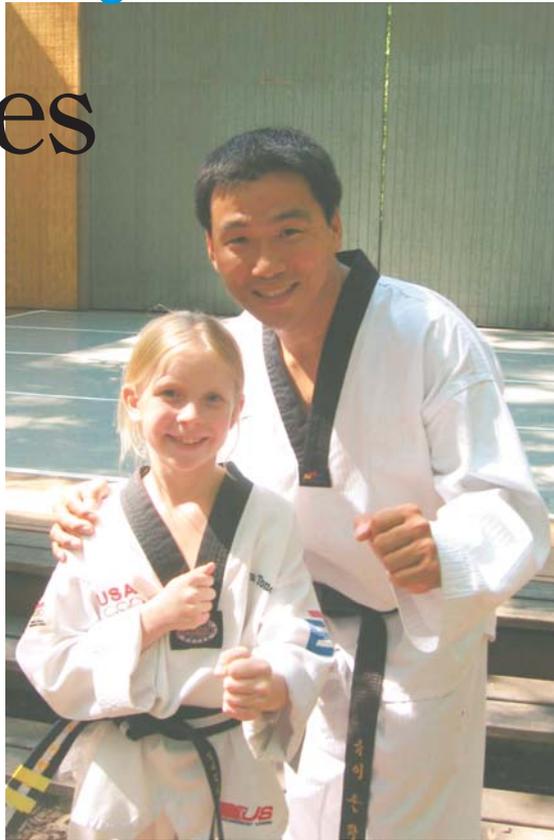
Arts Council of Fairfax County produces 40th International Children's Festival.

The 40th International Children's Festival, produced by the Arts Council of Fairfax County, took place on Sept. 18 and 19 at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts. Performers came from local cultural and dance academies, from the east coast and from as far away as Poland and Mexico. Stages were set up under tents, in the meadow pavilion, patio pavilion and in the Theatre-in-the-Woods. Families watched modern dance, classical dance, ethnic dance, tae kwan do set to music, puppets, and Mariachi musicians. There were hands-

on activities for children, from an instrument "petting zoo" to screen-printing art. The weather was the kind of weather that gives September its good name. The sky was blue, the sun strong, the temperature comfortable. Five stages set throughout the park featured all-day music and culture. From jazz to Asian sounds to the Latin beat and European melodies, the festival offered programming for every cultural taste.

For more information on the Arts Council of Fairfax County, see ArtsFairfax.org.

— DONNA MANZ



Eight-year-old second-degree black belt Sara Toner of Reston has studied with the H.K. Lee Tae Kwan Do Academy in Herndon for three years. Sara said she is learning tae kwan do to protect herself should she ever be attacked. With Sara is Master Jun Hak Lee who choreographed the school's program at the Children's Festival.



Eva Varghese, a Wolf Trap Elementary School sixth-grader, has danced with Center Stage of Fairfax since she was three years old. Said Eva, 'it's really fun and I love being with the people and learning new stuff.'

PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION



Victoria and Lily Yacobucci of Great Falls said they had a lot of fun at the children's festival. They made tissue paper flowers and screen-printed poster art.

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REAL ESTATE

To have real estate information listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

The Belt Team, led by CEO Terry Belt of Keller Williams Realty's McLean office, was just named one of America's top real estate teams for 2009 by the Wall Street Journal and REAL Trends. The Belt Team ranked in the Top 100 Residential Real Estate Teams by Sales Volume which is a component of the "Top 400 Real Estate Professionals," a prestigious national awards ranking sponsored by

the two respected publications. The Belt Team is now ranked #95 out of more than 1.1 million realtors nationwide.

"Being a member of such an elite group as the Top 100 Teams by Sales Volume is an incredible accomplishment," said Ron Cathell, Operating Principal of Keller Williams McLean. "The Belt Team continually demonstrates that it is possible to deliver the highest level of customer service in one of the toughest real estate markets on record."

The Belt Team was also named as a Top Ten Team for Keller Williams Realty in North America for the first half of 2010. Keller Williams Realty has more

than 78,000 associates in North America.

The Belt Team includes Terry Belt (CEO), Gail Belt (Founding Partner), four additional Realtor Partners (Pauline Knipe, Kevin Kleifges, Mary Jane Perry, Susan Hussey), Christy Grossman (Chief Operating Officer), Jerry Belt (Special Services) and Tara Miller (Client Care Manager). The Belt Team serves all of Northern Virginia and specializes in Vienna and Oakton where it has sold more homes than any other Realtor since 1972. For more information, visit <http://www.TheBeltTeam.com> Phone: 703-242-3975 Email: Sales@TheBeltTeam.com

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NEWS

First Lady Comes to Vinson Hall

Michelle Obama commemorates 9/11, Day of Service in McLean.

On the ninth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, First Lady Michelle Obama joined approximately 150 volunteers for a day of remembrance and participated in a day of community service at Vinson Hall Retirement Community in McLean.

The volunteers provided support including assisting in cleaning and maintaining the grounds and building, washing cars, and refurbishing and painting a loading dock. After greeting the volunteers with high fives, Mrs. Obama grabbed a paintbrush and contributed to the efforts while chatting with volunteers. Later, she moved to a shaded area where Vinson Hall residents were waiting to speak with her.

Retired Col. Bruce Gibson was delighted to receive a quick kiss on the cheek from the First Lady, and Retired Navy CDR Verner Utke-Ramsing shared Gibson's enthusiasm, saying he was "thrilled" to meet the first lady.

CDR Ramsing also praised the volunteers saying, "They're doing a wonderful job. I'm so very proud of our young people. These GWU students have spent many hours on projects here at Vinson Hall, beyond



First Lady meets Vinson Hall residents, volunteers.

the Day of Service." He continued to marvel at the day's project. "It's beautiful – veterans helping veterans."

September 11 was officially recognized as a National Day of Service and Remembrance when the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act was signed into law in early 2009. Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, helped promote the mission and vision of the National Day of Service and Remembrance and placed an emphasis on bringing together civilian and military communities through service and volunteerism.

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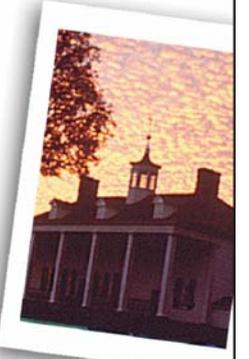
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