

Former Virginia First Lady Susan Allen, First Lady Maureen McDonnell, Jill's House co-founder Brenda Solomon and Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) greeted guests at the First Ladies Christmas Brunch for Jill's House held on Dec. 8.

PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

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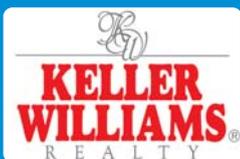


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Remembering Matthew Shepard

Langley High School presents *The Laramie Project* on play's 10th anniversary.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Five weeks after Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old gay man, was lashed to a fencepost in Wyoming and left to die in 1998, playwright Moisés Kaufman and his colleagues at the Tectonic Theater Project went to Laramie and conducted more than 200 interviews with community members. The result was *The Laramie Project*, a play chronicling the life of the town and those closest to Shepard.

In 2000, *The Laramie Project* debuted to critical and popular acclaim. Considered a bracing examination of the brutal murder of Shepard, and a thought-provoking inquiry of homophobia across the nation, the play is one of the most produced plays by theater students in the U.S.

On the play's 10th anniversary, Langley High School's Theatre Department presents its production of *The Laramie Project*, directed by senior Lauren Stewart. In the process of producing the play, the students have explored how the issues examined by Kaufman, such as tolerance and bigotry, apply to their own school and community.

"I think *The Laramie Project* is as relevant today as it was when it premiered," said Stewart. "I think its message of erasing hate is extremely important in high school communities today. Also the play promotes equality and acceptance, which is valuable for all ages to embrace."

STEWART said she hopes the play will spark discussion within the community, and help families talk openly about gay marriage and homosexual rights.

Senior Jay Mamana, who plays Shepard's father, Dennis, said he thinks the play is "definitely a unique production, and it's especially poignant now with what's happening in all areas of human rights. I don't think it's meant to be political, but this is about a basic human rights issue."

Much of the play is considered "found text," because the dialogue and monologues which make *The Laramie Project* are taken from interviews, news reports, courtroom transcripts, and journal entries.

"The show is incredibly powerful and the fact that the script is a compilation of quotes from actual people make it more real than any other show I have seen or script I have read," Stewart said.

Stewart, who carries herself with a poise and maturity beyond her years, is only the second Langley student to direct a full-length production.

"Lauren approached me about doing this play this summer, and I have every confidence in her ability to do this," said Phylliss Jaffe, Langley's theatre arts



PHOTO BY LANGLEY STUDENT CASEY MALONE

First row, from left, Katie Jones, Kathleen Welch, Rachel Mayman, Vanessa Strahan; second row, Cyrus Kingdom and Ryan Poyner.

The Laramie Project at Langley High

Langley High School's Theatre Department will present *The Laramie Project* on Friday, Dec. 17 and Saturday Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Langley Auditorium. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. All proceeds from the play will be donated to the Matthew Shepard Foundation, whose goal is to "replace hate with understanding, compassion and acceptance."

During opening night, Dr. Thomas Howard of the Matthew Shepard Foundation will conduct a Q&A with the audience following the performance.

In addition to the play, the Thespian Honor Society is hosting a Silent Auction on Dec. 17 to benefit the Matthew Shepard Foundation. "Many retailers, theaters, hair salons and parents have generously donated items and gift certificates for this event. Come prepared to bid and buy," said parent Susan Stewart, who organized the auction.

- Items include:
- ❖ Theater Tickets to many D.C. venues, including The Kennedy Center, Signature Theater, Roundhouse Theater and more
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 - ❖ Professional services, such as two hours of SAT or ACT prep with a private college prep tutor
 - ❖ Tickets to sporting events, such as Washington Capitals and Washington Wizards games

chair and director. "She's been passionate about this play for a long time, and she's earned the respect of the other students with her diligence," Jaffe said.

Both Jaffe and Stewart credit principal Matt Ragone and assistant principal Tommy Meier with giving the green light to produce a play that deals with such sensitive issues.

"They both felt it was an important play, and they

SEE PLAY, PAGE 12



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Larry Humphries, VDOT Transportation Operations manager, speaks to McLean residents at Chesterbrook Elementary Thursday about improvements to VDOT's snow removal program in the wake of last winter's blizzard.

Snow Big Deal

VDOT pledges improvements in snow removal in McLean area.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

As last February's blizzard dumped more than 40 inches on the Washington, D.C. area, McLean resident Henry Brixton still remembers the uphill battle he faced just to be able to get out of his house.

"I remember shoveling my driveway every few hours for a few days, but even when my driveway was clear, there was nowhere to go because the roads [in my neighborhood] hadn't been touched," he said. "Then once they came, they put a big line of snow right at the end of my driveway, meaning I had to shovel myself out yet again."

Brixton's story was a common one last winter, as many remember not being able to get out of their neighborhoods, and some don't remember ever seeing a snowplow. But the Virginia Department of Transportation pledges that last year's storm has led them to make radical improvements.

Larry Humphries, VDOT Transportation Operations Manager, says that last year's storm helped VDOT learn their weaknesses, and he says VDOT has fixed them in time for this winter, saying "that blizzard taught us a lot."

Last year, Fairfax Loudoun and Prince Williams Counties

had more than 1,800 pieces of equipment, Humphries said, but now Fairfax has more than 1,800 by itself.

He said one of the major problems with the snow was, once it's plowed, it's hard to dispose of that much now.

"The biggest thing in the neighborhoods is, we had nowhere to put the stuff. If you're not taking it out of the subdivision, there was nowhere to put it, and we ended up covering yards, fire hydrants, we broke concrete ... there's still a lot of damage out there we have to fix," he said. "Once we got into position where the snow is freezing on us, these trucks couldn't push it, it became ice and started just bouncing over top of it."

Humphries told a crowd of several dozen at a meeting at Chesterbrook Elementary school about the changes VDOT was making to help clear the snow faster and more efficiently.

Additional improvements include: complete training by VDOT for the contractors used for plowing, rather than voluntary training from the contractors themselves, pre-treating roads with a saltwater solution, particularly bridges and ramps which tend to freeze first and better equipment monitoring to determine functionality.

Humphries said the goal for

SEE SNOW, PAGE 5

First Ladies Honor Supporters of Jill's House

Christmas Brunch recognizes donors, volunteers.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

Virginia First Lady Maureen McDonnell and former First Lady Susan Allen joined 250 supporters and guests at the Dec. 8 First Ladies Christmas Brunch for Jill's House. The holiday celebration honored donors and volunteers, as well as Jill's House co-founder Brenda Solomon, whose 18-year-old daughter Jill inspired the birth of Jill's House.

Jill's House opened its doors in October as a weekend respite facility for families of special needs children. A state-of-the-art facility, on property owned by McLean Bible Church, Jill's House was designed expressly for exceptional children aged 6 to 17 and is the first of its kind in the nation.

"As a parent, I know how important it is to spend time with your children," McDonnell said. "With special needs children, the attention is more intense, especially when a family has other children. These parents can't just leave a special needs child with a babysitter.

"This place provides an option that these families might never have had otherwise."

"Respite changed our lives ... It gave us hope."

— Jill's House co-founder
Brenda Solomon

Brenda Solomon and her husband Lon, senior pastor at McLean Bible Church, had three sons when a perfect daughter was born to them in 1992. At three months old, Jill suffered seizures that damaged her brain. And on Jill's first Thanksgiving Day, the baby suffered 19 Grand Mal seizures. Bit by bit, the child lost language skills until the only words she had left were mama and daddy.

For the family, life was a challenge caring for a child needing 24 hour a day care. When Jill was two-and-a-half, a stranger, Mary, contacted Brenda Solomon, making arrangements to give respite to the Solomon family.

"Respite changed our lives," said Brenda Solomon. "It gave us hope.

"We built Jill's House because we wanted to

build an exceptional place for these exceptional children."

To Brenda and Lon Solomon, Jill's House extends the gift that Mary gave to them.

"Private donors really are the backbone of making Jill's House happen," said Jill's House President and CEO

Cameron Doolittle. "There's been such a generous outpouring of support on behalf of children with special needs and their families."

While a stay at Jill's House costs the organization \$600 per night per participant, Jill's House charges qualified children \$75 only for a one-night stay. The respite program runs from Friday night through Sunday night and children – and their siblings – are eligible to stay either one night or both. The plan, said Development Director Lee Vaughn, is to add a night of respite per quarter in 2011. "Our ultimate goal is to get the whole place going 24/7," he said.

Among the challenges a weekday schedule produces is transportation from community schools to Jill's House. Currently, Jill's House is talking with Kilmer Middle School and George C. Marshall, both of which have centers for special needs students.

Sponsors of the First Ladies Christmas Brunch absorbed one hundred percent of the cost of the event. A harpist played and church musicians sang Christmas carols as waiters passed around finger snacks and beverages. A buffet table offered sweets and savories. Mostly, though, it was an opportunity for supporters and donors to mingle and discuss the future of Jill's House. Some guests came to learn more about the ACCESS program at McLean Bible Church and Jill's House. Some, like Joy Zorn, are MBC members who volunteer with ACCESS.

"We get to see these kids as individuals with their own personalities and strengths," said Zorn, wife of former Washington Redskin coach Jim Zorn, who volunteers along with her 23-year-old daughter.

"These kids are amazing and so are their parents. It makes you cry when parents come to pick up their children."

Jill's House, an integrated auxiliary of McLean Bible Church, is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, serving children with intellectual disabilities and their families. The 42,000 sq. ft. facility, with lodging areas, play areas, sensory room, indoor swimming pool, arts rooms and gym, is located at 9011 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, adjacent to McLean Bible Church. For more information, see www.jillshouse.org or call 703-639-5660.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Co-founder of Jill's House Brenda Solomon spoke of the challenges facing parents of special needs children and the life-changing value of respite for the children's caregivers. Jill's House was named in honor of Solomon's daughter.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) presented fifth-graders at St. Luke's with a certificate of appreciation for their "Treats for Troops" program, which collected 35 boxes worth of items to send to troops deployed overseas for the holidays.

Sending Treats to the Troops

Students at St. Luke collect holiday gifts for troops overseas.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Fifth graders at St. Luke's School in McLean were recognized by Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) for their "Treats for Troops" program, which collected 35 boxes of items to send to troops overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The program, now in its second year, is led by the fifth graders, but students throughout the school participated. They saved their Halloween candy, toiletries, sundries, boxed soup and other non-perishable items.

"It was an idea by our room mother two years ago, and the students have really gotten behind it,"

said fifth grade teacher John Farnham. "We plan to do it every year, as long as there are troops overseas."

Foust presented the students with a certificate of appreciation at their weekly advent assembly Monday.

"This school already has a tremendous reputation, and they have added to it with what they've done," he said. "This is a great service to men and women overseas, including some that are away from home during the holidays for the first time."

The boxes were shipped by the Neighbors Program, which is a nonprofit group that ships packages to military personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Spring Hill ES Chorus Performs at McLean Winterfest

On Dec. 5, thirty members of the Spring Hill Chorus sang at the McLean Winterfest Celebration. They performed to kick off a community parade and holiday tree lighting ceremony. The stage was decorated with poinsettias; it was located at the Virginia Commerce Bank. Deborah Rudd is shown conducting the students in one of their many holiday songs.

NEWS

Snow Removal Discussed

FROM PAGE 3

snow plowing was to get the roads "passable," but said that passable doesn't necessarily mean bare pavement.

"Our definition of passable is: If you have a two-wheel drive vehicle, you can pull it out of your driveway and get it to a main route without slipping, and without danger," he said. "That is passable."

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) urged residents to contact his office if there were issues with the plowing of streets. He recalled getting a call from a friend who had never, not even before the storm, had their street plowed, and it turned out the road was not on VDOT's list.

"This storm brought out all the real bad things," he said. "We got hundreds, and I think it's safe to say thousands, of calls."

Humphries also mentioned several things residents could do to make the plowing easier. He said VDOT will plow from curb to curb, but only if possible. When people park along the side of the road, they can't plow there, he said.

He urged homeowners associations to coordinate before storms to have everyone park on one side of the street, which will allow for a wider path to be cleared.

"Our goal is to plow as wide as you will allow," he said.

Julie Ide, a staff aide in Foust's office also recommended that homeowners shovel their driveway and deposit the snow on the right side of the driveway, if facing the road.

"When the plow come by, they'll move the snow to the right of the driveway, and if you've put your snow to the left, it will just be pushed back across the driveway," Ide said.

Humphries had one last request for the community: give VDOT a chance to show them just how well they've adjusted their snow removal program and procedures.

"I would like everyone to clear your mind of that 40 inches of snow, and just give us a chance to show you how our program is going to work," Humphries said. "Help us any way you can. Any suggestions you have, we're willing to work with you, the school board, we'll work with anyone to make this thing better. We're not going to be perfect, but I think you're going to see major improvements."

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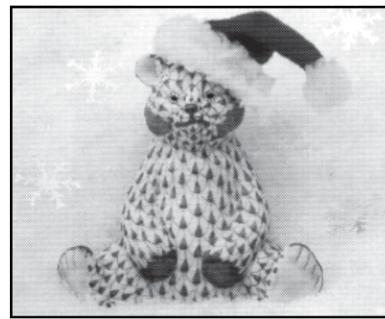
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THEATRE REVIEW

Delightful Mystery

'The Mousetrap' at the 1st Stage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL

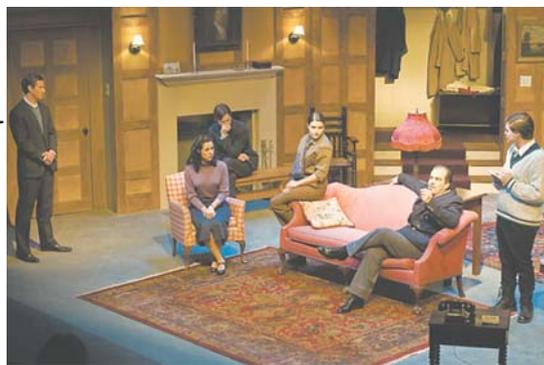


PHOTO COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

Patrick Smith (far left), Jennifer Weinreich (left), Karl Bittner, Abby Wood, Luke Tudball (right), and Arden Moscatti (far right) in the 1st Stage production of 'The Mousetrap.'

Cold and blustery it is outside. So, do head off to 1st Stage in Tysons Corner for an affectionate, comfy rendering of the world's longest running theatrical show, Agatha Christie's 1952 mystery who-dunnit, "The Mousetrap." You will find enjoying a satisfying evening trying to solve the puzzle whether you already know the outcome or are partaking for a first time.

Director Jessica Lefkow has created an evening for audiences to "perk up...and enjoy." The mystery set-up is straight forward, but with delightful complications as a newly married English couple opens a guest house in an old country manor. A major snow storm closes in on them and their expected and unexpected guests. A crackling radio reports news of the murder of a woman in a nearby town. A policeman arrives, on skis no less, to investigate and hunt down the killer. It seems that every one of the guests and even the owners have some darkness made visible with possibly a connection to the murder victim.

The eight-member cast is solid, performing especially well as an ensemble. Standouts include Suzanne Richard as the overbearing older Mrs. Boyle showing absolute disdain for all others with the flip of a hand and arch of an eyebrow. Jennifer Weinreich is a cheery new bride, a fluffer of pillows who putters serenely but with a deep well of emotions that ap-

pear over time. John Stange is her somewhat condescending husband who can boil over at mere trifles.

Joining them are a stiff bearing, ram-rod Major (Patrick Smith) and a very taut, unbending investigating sergeant (Arden Moscatti). Less enjoyable are characters that perhaps as written would be considered naughty arch-types played a bit too fey by Karl Bittner, a bit too hard by Abby Wood and a bit too inscrutable by Luke Tudball.

The uncredited detailed set is a joy with high paneled walls resplendent with doors, niches and alcoves. Large windows show signs of the winter storm. Jennifer M. Allevato's costumes are muted grey and brown tones with hints of color giving some characters pizzazz.

Listening to some in the audience as the lights went up, it was apparent they had not guessed who did it. Go see for yourself. Promise not to tell who did it.

Performances are 8 p.m. Fridays, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sundays through Jan. 9. Information at www.1stStageTysons.org. 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner.



New MPA Board officers Nyka Jasper Feldman (Treasurer), Karen DuVal (Chair), and Bill DuBose (Vice-Chair). Not pictured is Karin M. Gifuni (Secretary).

MPA Elects New Board Members, Officers

The Board of Directors at McLean Project for the Arts elected five new board members and new officers. New members are Howard Forman, Charlotte Cameron Marshall, Ed Shahin, Margi Vanderhye, and Joe Wetzel. Karen DuVal was elected Chair; Bill DuBose, Vice-Chair; Karin M. Gifuni, Secretary; and Nyka Jasper Feldman, Treasurer.

MPA is a non-profit visual arts center founded in 1962. Its mission is to exhibit the work of emerging and established artists from the mid-Atlantic region; to promote public awareness and understanding of the

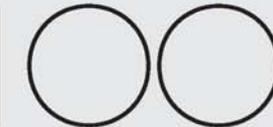
concepts of contemporary art; and to offer instruction and education in the visual arts.

MPA/Corcoran, an educational partnership, offers art classes for children and adults taught by instructors from the Corcoran College of Art and Design. MPA also presents the Art Reach program for area schools, gallery talks, MPAartfest and day trips to area museums and galleries.

McLean Project for the Arts is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave. in the McLean Community Center; www.mpaart.org.

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OPINION

Counting Your Blessings? Don't Forget Nature

Free gifts to all in Northern Virginia from nature include drinking water from the Potomac River.

The holiday season offers many opportunities to count our blessings and give something back to those who enrich our lives. In the process, we may realize that we've been taking for granted something, or someone, very dear to us. I suspect nature often falls into that category.

From rivers winding through forests to oyster reefs rising from coastal bays, our ecosystems provide us with clean water, fertile soils, food, fuel, beauty, flood control, storm protection and many other benefits. So this year, I encourage you to join me in showing your appreciation for all that nature does to enhance and sustain our lives.

In the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region, whether a faucet runs in the White House or in your house, that water almost certainly comes from the Potomac River. When you fill your coffeepot before breakfast or your children wash their hands before dinner, you are among more than 4 million other people in our area who depend on the Potomac River

for water.

In addition to household water, the Potomac provides many other natural services. It creates habitat for fish and wildlife, offers opportunities for recreation and tourism, supplies water for irrigation, absorbs wastewater generated by communities, and supports industry and economic development.

GUEST
EDITORIAL

And if we extend our view to take in the whole Potomac watershed, including tributary streams such as Turkey Run and Cabin John Creek, then we see the critical roles that forests play. While some forest benefits are obvious — wildlife habitat, recreation, wood products and forestry jobs — services such as preventing erosion and filtering runoff often go unnoticed.

Now here's the clincher: Nature's services are absolutely free.

But perhaps that fact has been part of their undoing. Many natural systems around the world, from tropical coral reefs to our own Chesapeake Bay, are seriously degraded. This reality begs a question: If humans can't put a

price tag on it, do we really value it?

Even professional conservationists sometimes struggle to describe all the benefits we derive from nature, much less determine an economic value. But scientists from The Nature Conservancy are working with conservation and university partners to do both through our Natural Capital Project. In the near future, we will offer practical tools for factoring natural systems into decisions about how humans interact with our world.

This we already know for certain: Nature is the life-support system for every animal, plant and person on Earth. So for all that nature has given to you in 2010, I hope you'll consider giving something back. One way you can show your appreciation is to be a good neighbor to the Potomac River. To find practical tips for protecting water quality, visit our website and download our guide to river-friendly living, the Good Neighbor Handbook: www.nature.org or www.nature.org/where/where/maryland/files/goodneighborhndbk_web.pdf

— MICHAEL L. LIPFORD

Michael Lipford is Virginia executive director of The Nature Conservancy

Kicking the Can Down the Road

BY MARGARET
VANDERHYE

The number one priority issue for Northern Virginia has been and continues to be the critical shortfall in transportation funding. In his first year in office, Governor Bob McDonnell fulfilled his campaign promise to reopen rest stops on Virginia highways. His audits of VDOT commendably identified funds that were not being applied to projects as efficiently as they could be. He established operations to streamline the delivery of services and public private partnership opportunities. McDonnell also made a categorical pledge that he would not raise taxes during his term.

These proposals involved better use of existing revenues and programs. The Governor also invested considerable time and political capital promoting the flawed ideas that if only we could privatize liquor stores and drill for oil offshore, our transportation funding picture would be significantly improved. His recently announced \$4



billion Transportation Plan relies largely on debt to provide funds for projects. Repaying the debt will make the current \$1 billion annual transportation funding "hole" even deeper by 2013. In Richmond, this is called

"kicking the can down the road" because the bill for these policies will come due after the current Administration departs. The project list in his Plan includes the 195-395 HOT lanes in northern Virginia among the number of statewide improvements. The Governor promises more details before the legislature convenes in January, but the bottom line is this: our short term transportation gains will be offset by the lack of sustainable revenue behind them.

Other elements of the Plan include a Transportation Infrastructure Bank that draws on General Fund revenue to sustain it. The Plan relies on the expectation that the federal government will approve tolling on I-95, and that the revenue from future tolls will be more substantial than audits suggest is likely. The Governor seeks

to double the current annual sales of transportation bonds from legislation passed in 2007, without specifying how bond payments will be financed. The GARVEE bonds he identifies as a main component of the Plan rely on future anticipated federal highway funds to repay investors. His call to pass a constitutional amendment to permanently protect the Commonwealth Transportation Fund from transfers to the General Fund is a perennial favorite bill that always generates wide bipartisan support in the House. It fails each year because the Senate wants the lock box to work both ways.

Governor McDonnell is right to assert that "right now is the best opportunity to get roads built in modern Virginia history." Contractors are hungry for work and construction materials are priced below previous market levels. Virginia has a long and proud tradition of fiscal prudence. We take our Triple A bond rating and our reputation as a well-managed state very seriously. The successes from the current \$4 billion plan will be undermined by the lack of dedicated, sufficient and sustainable new revenues to address our

annual \$1 billion transportation funding shortfalls. The Governor knows this to be true. But the rural House leadership has dictated the terms for funding proposals for a decade, and they continue to call the shots today. With state level elections, redistricting and a restless Tea Party heading for Virginia in 2011, the chance is almost nonexistent for passing funding legislation with the kind of ongoing revenue stream we need.

Without it, our transportation problems will continue to get worse no matter how much we tell ourselves that we are efficient, creative, optimistic, and business friendly about infrastructure. By 2013 when we elect a new governor, all Virginians, regardless of party affiliation or label will be carrying more debt. We will be scrambling to protect general fund programs even if the economy improves. And we will still be sitting in traffic, wondering how we got to this point and dismayed that no one has the courage to do something about it.

Margaret Vanderhye, of McLean, is a former Virginia state delegate (D-34).

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PHOTO BY KIM MORAN

Pictured is CRS Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart co-sponsor (and PE teacher) Jordan Craig-Kuhn, the top Churchill Road student fundraisers, Brian Feinstein, Matthew Feinstein, Annie Blair, Laura Johnston, and Isabelle Cooper, American Heart Association representative Kirsten Baier, and co-sponsor and PE teacher Jason Mastaler.

American Heart Association Recognizes Churchill Road ES

On Thursday, Dec. 2, Kirsten Baier of the American Heart Association awarded a plaque to Churchill Road Elementary for its fundraising efforts. Churchill was the top school in the state of Virginia for the American Heart Association's 2010 Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart Campaign. CRS was fourth in the region, and 32nd

nationwide. The top fundraisers in each grade include: Brian Feinstein, Matthew Feinstein, Annie Blair, Laura Johnston, and Isabel Cooper for their efforts in the fight against heart disease. The CRS alumni and current 7th graders, Maggie Kelley and Zach Yazdani, were also among the top fundraisers in the school last year.



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ENTERTAINMENT

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/DEC. 16

McLean High School Orchestra's Winter Concert. 7 p.m. in the Auditorium at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The concert will feature Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite and other holiday and classical favorites. elizabeth@tstrategies.com.

Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035.

Decenbersongs with Dan Navarro, Amy Space, Sally Barris and Jon Vezner. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

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

Langley High School Choral Department Winter Concert. 7:30 p.m. in the LHS auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Schubert's Mass in G with student soloists and a professional string quartet, the Madrigal choir singing a capella Renaissance holiday music and more. Free admission, open to the public. 703-404-5502 or gendelle@aol.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 17

"The Laramie Project." 7:30 p.m. Langley High School Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A play about the reaction to the 1998 murder of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard. All proceeds from ticket sales and a silent auction will be donated to the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes. 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035.

Bill Kirchen's Honky Tonk Holiday Show. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap". 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1ststage.com or 703-854-1856.

2010 Graduating Artist Showcase. 6-9 p.m. George Mason University Art and Design Building, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Fall 2010 Senior Exhibition Reception. Exhibits of over 60 graduating artists including paintings, sculpture, animation, graphic design, drawing and more. Live music and refreshments available. Free admission. 703-993-8898 or hmiller@gmu.edu.

The Brothers Grimm Spectaculation. 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Comedy in the style of Monty Python. \$5-\$8. sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Vienna Arts Society Reception. 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. Works by local artists selected to display their pieces in Delegate Mark Keam's Capitol Office. Free admission, open to the public. 703-219-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 18

"The Laramie Project." 7:30 p.m. Langley High School Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A play about the reaction to the 1998 murder of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard. All proceeds from ticket sales and a silent auction will be donated to the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes. 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035.

4th Annual Rocknoceros Holiday Singalong with The Barbershop Quartet. 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Vienna Boys Choir. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Holiday music from Gregorian chant to favorite Christmas carols. \$24-\$48, youth through grade 12 half price. 888-945-2468 or cfu.gmu.edu.

Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap". 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1ststage.com or 703-854-1856.

Vienna Choral Society Concert. 4 p.m. at the Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road, Vienna. Celebrate the season with favorite and familiar holiday songs at "Come in from the Cold: A Fireside Concert." Adults \$20, students and seniors \$15, family \$35. 703-255-5508 or www.viennachoralsociety.org.

The Brothers Grimm Spectaculation. 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Comedy in the style of Monty Python. \$5-\$8. sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Meltdown Dance Party with DJ Lova, DJ Nick@Nite and Beetkeepers. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Colvin Run Schoolhouse Holiday Dance. 10:30 a.m. 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Bosa Nova lesson at 8 p.m. and music by The Family Band from 9-11:30 p.m. All are welcome. Lesson \$5, dance \$12 per person. Sodas and snacks available for purchase. 703-705-2003 or www.colvinrun.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 19

Old Firehouse Teen Center Dance: Winter Ball. 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Friday night dance for 7th-8th graders. Semi-formal. www.mcleancenter.org.

Glorious Sounds of Christmas. 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 NE Park St., Vienna. Choirs, orchestra and bells perform Christmas music. Free. 703-778-9422.

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. **Breakfast With Santa.** 9:30 a.m.



The Langley High School Choral Department Winter Concert will be Thursday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the LHS auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The concert will feature Schubert's Mass in G with student soloists and accompanied by a professional string quartet. The Madrigal choir will perform Renaissance period holiday music sung in the traditional a capella style. All of the Langley choirs will perform holiday favorites that mix traditional and jazz arrangements. Free admission, open to the public. 703-404-5502 or gendelle@aol.com.

McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Breakfast, live entertainment, crafts, photos with Santa and more. \$15 per person, \$10 McLean district residents, age 2 and under free. Space limited and registration is required, no walk-ins. www.mcleancenter.org. **Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes.** 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. **Vienna Boys Choir.** 4 p.m. at George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Holiday music from Gregorian chant to favorite Christmas carols. \$24-\$48, youth through grade 12 half price. 888-945-2468 or cfu.gmu.edu. **Agatha Christie's "The**

Mousetrap". 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1ststage.com or 703-854-1856.

Live Nativity. Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Beginning at 6 p.m. with three repeating 20-minute acts. 703-759-5949 or 703-759-3705

Theatre IV Presents "The Tailor of Gloucester." 3 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A musical version of Beatrix Potter's classic tale. Appropriate for age 4 and up. \$8-\$12. sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov.

My Favorite Highway's Finale. 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 20

V.I.P. Vienna. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Support group for visually impaired persons. Adults. 703-938-0405.

TUESDAY/DEC. 21

Bliss FM, JUSTI and Ced Hughes. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 22

Todd Wright's 8th Annual Christmas Spectacular (acoustic). 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 23

Santa Jam Benefit Concert. State Theatre, 220 N. Washington St., Falls

Church. To raise money for Northern Virginia's Doorways Women and Families Shelter and non-profit 'Music to Give'. Featuring Tommy Lepson, Soul Gravity and Linwood Taylor. \$10. An unwrapped child's Christmas gift also suggested. Purchase tickets at www.theatretickets.com.

Todd Wright's 8th Annual Christmas Spectacular. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 24

Good For The Jews: Putting The Ha! In Hanukkah Tour with Rob Tannenbaum and David Fagin. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 26

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.

Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap". 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1ststage.com or 703-854-1856.

Poor Man's Lobster, Funkmknz and The Arctic Groove. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 27

Movie Matinee. 11:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Short movies based on popular children's books. Bring a lunch and have a picnic. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-757-8560

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NEWS

Play Aims to 'Erase Hate'

FROM PAGE 3

were very supportive. I've gotten amazing positive responses from people outside the community who are anxious to see it," Jaffe said.

Una Higgins, president of Saxon Stage on Cue, the booster group of Langley parents dedicated to supporting theatre arts, said the organization is very supportive of the project. "We are delighted to support this student-directed project and to promote the message it embraces, 'Erase Hate.' In light of recent events in the national news, the themes of this transformative play are timely and expose a complex issue—intolerance," Higgins said.

Shepard's murder triggered a flood of media coverage and reaction from activists, celebrities and many lawmakers. A 1998 Time magazine cover story called the murder "society's wakeup call ... to prevent homophobia and hate crimes," and noted that three days after Shepard died, so many members of Congress showed up to voice their grief and anger at a candlelight vigil on the steps of the Capitol that then-House minority leader Dick Gephardt had time only to read their names.

Stewart is aware of the irony of producing the play in the wake of recent hate crimes against gays, gay teen suicides and the political controversy swirling around the effort to end the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

"We didn't plan it this way, but the timing is important, because I think people have stopped talking about the incident," Stewart said.

HER INTEREST in the play and its themes has grown since she first saw The Laramie Project when she was a sophomore.

"This is the issue I'm most passionate about. Everyone should be treated equally, and be able to get married. This summer, I read Matthew Shepard's mother's book. It gave me a more well-rounded version of Matt and his family's struggle. The ultimate goal for me is that the play will open some minds," she said.

Caroline Callahan, a junior at Langley who plays Shepard's friend Romaine Patterson, said the play has made her more aware of issues such as homophobia. "My hope," Callahan said, "is that people realize how hurtful words can be...If you're walking around saying 'you're so gay' now, what will you be like in 20 years when your hatred grows?" Callahan asked.

Stewart said one of the most affecting scenes in The Laramie Project occurs when Callahan - portraying Patterson - shows up at the courthouse in a flowing white angel costume with 10-foot wings.



PHOTO BY LANGLEY STUDENT CASEY MALONE

Romaine with her three angels (from left) Taylor Goodson, Kathleen Welch, Vanessa Strahan and Caroline Callahan in black.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

The ultimate goal for me is that the play will open some minds."

— Director Lauren Stewart

Patterson and other "angels" are there to counter the neon hate signs by preacher and anti-gay activist Fred Phelps. They use their "wings" to block Phelps' signs from the view of passersby.

Stewart said she hopes the audience is also moved by one of the final scenes, when Mamana, as Matthew's father Dennis Shepard, addresses his son's murderers during the death-penalty phase of the trial. The monologue is one of the play's most famous scenes.

"I would like nothing better than to see you die, Mr.

McKinney. However, this is the time to begin the healing process. To show mercy to someone who refused to show any mercy. Mr. McKinney, I am going to grant you life. You robbed me of something very precious and I will never forgive you for that. Mr. McKinney, I give you life in the memory of one who no longer lives. May you have a long life and may you thank Matthew every day for it."

"That scene still makes me cry," Stewart said.

Give Together



A Family Volunteer Day
 Monday, January 17, 2011
 Shift 1: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Shift 2: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
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BY MIKE POTASHNIK AND
DON WINKLER
INTERNATIONAL WINE REVIEW

The Holidays are the time for Champagne and sparkling wine and what incredible choices. In France alone there is Champagne, of course, but also another 38 regions producing sparkling wines in the Loire, Burgundy, Alsace and elsewhere. Italy makes Prosecco and Asti Spumante. Spain produces Cava. In the US, excellent sparkling wines are made in California, New Mexico, and Virginia. Canada even makes really exotic sparkling icewine. And we've tasted excellent sparklers from Australia, New Zealand, Greece, and South Africa.

We've selected what we think are sparklers of excellent value and then organized our recommendations by price level: Inexpensive (around \$10), Moderately Priced (under \$30), and Luxury Cuvées (above \$30). We've limited our recommendations to mostly, very dry Bruts, and included some rosé sparklers.

INEXPENSIVE. We suggest you stick to Spanish Cavas, Italian Prosecco and Asti, and American Sparklers. Many of these wines are non-vintage or produced in a way that minimizes year-to-year variations in quality. Most have a lovely mousse with good fruit flavors and are lively and crisp. Some widely distributed Cavas we recommend are **Conde de Subirats NV Brut Cava** (\$13), **U Mes u Fan Tres NV 1+1+3** (\$16) and the **Cristalino Brut Cava** (\$9). Italian Prosecco is made from the Prosecco grape grown just north of Venice. We recommend **Bisol, Canella** and **Zardetto**. Asti comes from the Piedmont, and we like those spritzzy wines made by **Cinzano Moscato d'Asti**.

Finally, if you wish to buy American, we would especially recommend the sparkling wines of Gruet, which come from, of all places, New Mexico! Look for the **Gruet Demi-Sec** (\$14) if you prefer an off-dry wine.



Mike Patashnik and Don Winkler of International Wine Review recommend champagne and sparkling wine for holiday season.

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MODERATELY PRICED. Since there is such an abundance of moderately priced sparkling wines from all over the world, we limit our recommendations to those you may not know. As with inexpensive sparklers, the vintage date isn't important on most of these wines. We recently returned from Austria and found some excellent Champagne-style

Winter Break Trips

Dec. 27-29

For 5th-8th graders

During the Fairfax County Public School's Winter Break, 5th-8th graders can join in on one of these fun-filled trips! Registration is required.

The Old Firehouse Teen Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for trip participants.

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Sportrock

Tuesday, Dec. 28
10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

\$40/\$35 McLean district residents
Activity No. 8108.210

Ice Skating at the Kettler Capitals Iceplex

Wednesday, Dec. 29
10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

\$30/\$25 McLean district residents
Activity No. 8109.210



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Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

Name of Event:

Day of the Week, Date and Time:

Name of the Place Event will Be Held:

Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:

Name and Phone Number for More Information:

Three Sentences Describing the Event:

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Calendar, Connection Newspapers
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102 Instruction **21 Announcements** **21 Announcements** **21 Announcements**

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21 Announcements **21 Announcements** **21 Announcements** **21 Announcements**

LEGAL NOTICE
AT&T intends to file an application to modify an existing wireless communications facility at 1125 Patrick Henry Drive, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia 22205. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Kentucky Drive" will consist of the collocation of three new Kathrein LTE antennas on existing stealth mounts within the steeple and the installation of equipment in the AT&T equipment room. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 12900 Park Plaza Drive, Cerritos, California 90703 or c/o theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com.

LEGAL NOTICE
AT&T intends to file an application to collocate cellular telecommunications antennas and install new equipment at 2650 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "National Airport" will consist of the collocation of antennas on existing mounts on the building roof and equipment in the building garage. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 12900 Park Plaza Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com.

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Not So Much "Fun" Anymore



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Closer to "Minis" or "Bite Size" is more like it – and I don't like it, if you want to know my candy-eating truth. To what am I referring, specifically? I am referring to the "snack size" candy bars ("Items not for sale," in bags) most of us know and love, especially before, during and after Halloween and on through to the next Halloween when the eating/buying frenzy continues unabated to infinity (at least it does for me). Has anyone noticed the shrinkage in the size of M&M/Mars' brand "Fun Size" Milky Ways, Three Musketeers, Snickers and M&M varieties (my brand-area of expertise)? The "Fun Size" as they are still labeled, used to require two bites to finish – when I was in mixed company; alone, they were gone in just one bite, in my mouth, anyway. Now, however, one bite is sufficient – alone or in mixed company (and the ounces are less, too).

And as disappointing and inevitable as that shrinkage is, it's certainly not unique to M&M/Mars or "snack-size" candy bars. It appears to be a relatively common/recurring phenomenon among many pre-packaged items with which I'm familiar (not that I've done a study but I know what I buy): Half gallons (64 oz.) of Breyers ice cream are now 48 oz., bags of Utz potato chips have shrunk from 11.5 oz. to 10 oz., jars of the Classico pasta sauce have been reduced from 26 oz. to 24 oz., cans of Bumble Bee tuna fish I buy for my wife are now 5 oz. instead of 6, the 1 lb. bag of M&Ms are now 11.4 oz give or take (depending on the specific variety), bags of Oreo cookies (my formerly long-time favorite) which used to be 21 oz. are now as low as 15.25 oz (again depending on variety) and on and on. Moreover, not only is there shrinkage in the package/volume itself; where applicable, the individual items in those packages have been reduced as well. However, I wouldn't say this shrinkage has led to any reduction/discount in price. Hardly. From what I'm buying, mostly, I am definitely getting less and paying more.

But I am consuming less calories as a result; 80, to be specific (like it's a good thing, not an obfuscating thing), per this product anyway: according to the starburst featured prominently on the bag of Milky Way "Fun Size" candy bars whose recent purchase has inspired this column. So I really and truly am getting less for more. And why don't I consider that lower calorie number "Fun"? Because I consider it spin: telling me I'm consuming less calories; not because of any Earth-shattering, sugar-reformulating breakthrough but because there's less actual candy bar to eat (than in previous "Fun Size" bags). As Danny Glover ("Mal") said in Lawrence Kasdan's classic Western, "Silverado": "That ain't right. I'm tired of things that ain't right."

Consuming fewer calories, though, is not the reason I'm eating Milky Ways (or any number of other "Fun Size" bars with which I'm familiar). So no, it doesn't make me happy – or induce me in any future Milky Way-buying way. It's merely an attempt to veer me off my how-much-is-this-bag-of-candy-really-costing-me course. And, of course, I'm paying attention; I'm paying money, aren't I? I just don't eat indiscriminately without realizing how much – or how little of what's actually in the bag, is going into my mouth. This reduction in calories is, strictly speaking, nothing more than a reduction in value. And reduction in value during a struggling economy is hardly the thing from which legends – and new business are spawned, especially when most of us need more, not less. It's into this environment that M&M/Mars, among many others is instead providing the exact opposite: less for more.

Just remember, Mr. Manufacturer, consumer's dollars don't grow on trees anymore than sugar cane does (it's a "tall grass," actually; who knew?). And trying to sell me less value for more money is definitely going to reduce my calorie intake – to zero! From your products, anyway.

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

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FAITH

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

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. in McLean, has announced their Advent and Christmas events. 703-356-3312 or www.umtrinity.org.

❖ **Service of Hope and Healing**. Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. A celebration of God's love in every season and in every heart.

❖ **The Message of Christmas**. Sunday, Dec. 19 at 10:30 a.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols presented by the Chancel Choir.

❖ **Family Service with Pageant**. Friday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. Childcare will be available.

❖ **Candlelight & Communion**. Friday, Dec. 24 at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike in McLean, has announced their Christmas worship services. 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

❖ **Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols**. Sunday, Dec. 19 at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Seasonal anthems by the Choirs of St. John's Church, organist Dr. John C. Wulff and the Sunrise String Quartet. Carols will be sung by the congregation.

❖ **Christmas Eve Family Service**. Friday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m., with Christmas music beginning at 3:30 p.m. This service is especially designed for families with young children.

❖ **Traditional Service of Holy Eucharist**. Friday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Familiar carols, following Christmas music beginning at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

❖ **Celebrate with Holy Eucharist**. Saturday, Dec. 25 at 10 a.m. The singing of familiar carols on Christmas morning.

Chesterbrook United Methodist Church, 1711 Kirby Road in McLean, will offer Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion worship at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 24. 703-356-7100 or

chesterbrookumc@gmail.com.

The Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna, will host its annual community Christmas Open House on Saturday, Dec. 18 from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. The open house will include an old-fashioned Christmas Carol Sing, gifts for children and the ringing of the historic church bell by all in attendance. www.antiochdoc.org or call 703-938-6753.

Centering Prayer offered at St. Dunstan's, 1830 Kirby Road, McLean, Tuesdays at 7-7:45 p.m. Centering prayer is meditation and contemplative prayer, wordless, trusting, opening of self to the divine presence. Instruction offered. marjorie.cole@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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.

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PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

McLean's Thomas Van Wazer (33), a junior forward, has been a key scoring leader for the Highlanders.



Langley coach Travis Hess (center) and his Saxons have played close games this season, but have yet to win.

Basketball Season Underway

Highlanders win second straight while Saxons in search of first win.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

A couple of losses to begin the season did not keep the McLean High boys' basketball team down for long. The Highlanders, following a 0-2 start, responded with wins over both Falls Church and Yorktown High Schools to even their early season record at 2-2.

McLean, under head coach Kevin Roller, opened the season at the Woodson High Tipoff Tournament where it lost games to both Paul VI High, 63-43, and Robinson, 74-49. The opener loss to the private school Panthers came against a Paul VI team considered to be one of the elite of the metropolitan area.

Gordon Rogo, a junior guard, led the Highlanders with 14 points in the Dec. 1 loss to Paul VI while teammate Thomas Van Wazer, a junior forward, added eight. McLean actually led the game 16-15 after one quarter before the Panthers outscored the Highlanders 21-4 in the second half to carry a 36-20 lead into the half.

Two nights later, McLean again took a lead, 19-15, after one quarter against Robinson before a poor second quarter hurt its cause. The Rams outscored McLean, 16-8, in the second stanza to grab a 31-27 halftime advantage on way to their win. Rogo and Van Wazer were once again high scorers for the Highlanders with 19 and 14 points, respectively. Daniel Lewis, a junior guard, contributed nine points.

McLean, however, got into the win column last Tuesday, Dec. 7 with a 66-41 non-district win at Falls Church. The Highlanders trailed 10-9 after one quarter before outscoring the Jaguars 25-8 in the second quarter to take a 34-18 lead at the half. McLean continued to build on the momentum in the second half by outscoring Falls Church, 32-23, to gain the victory. Three Highlander players - Van Wazer (19 points), Rogo (16) and junior guard Sango Amolo (10) - scored in double figures to pace the guests from the Liberty District. Falls Church, a member of the National District, fell to 0-4 with the setback.

Later last week, in McLean's season opener, the Highlanders won their second straight, defeating another opponent from the National District -

Yorktown - by a 55-45 score. Following a low-scoring 5-5 game after the first quarter, McLean outscored the Patriots (0-4) by an 18-5 margin in the second quarter to grab control of the contest.

Yorktown played well in the third quarter to get within 34-28 before McLean outscored its guests by four points in the final quarter. Rogo led the way for McLean with 15 points while Lewis (11) and Van Wazer (10) also had double figure scoring games. Other contributors in the well-balanced Highlander attack were Amolo (9 points) and junior guard Kevin Lastova (8).

McLean was scheduled to play at home this week on Tuesday, Dec. 14 against The Heights, a private school team from Washington, D.C. The Highlanders, this Friday evening, will host local and Liberty District rival Langley at 7:30. Next Tuesday, Dec. 21 the Highlanders play a Liberty District game at Jefferson.

LANGLEY, the two-time defending Liberty District champion, is struggling out of the gate this season with a 0-4 mark. The Saxon losses, all fairly close, have come to visiting Gar-Field, 59-56, on Dec. 3; visiting Hylton (Woodbridge), 84-76, on Dec. 4; at Robinson, 86-80, on Dec. 7; and home against Edison, 71-66, last Friday night, Dec. 10.

Langley, in the loss to non-Northern Region opponent Gar-Field of Dale City, led 47-42 going into the final quarter before the Indians rallied to win. The Saxons' top scorers in the season-opening setback were junior guard Daniel Dixon (17 points) and senior guard David Adams (14).

Against non-region foe Hylton in its second game, Langley was in a 56-56 tie following three quarters before being outscored by eight points in the final quarter. Adams tallied 30 points in the loss. Tristan Evans, a junior guard, was also in double figures scoring for Langley with 16 points while senior guard Braden Anderson and senior center Patrick Haddad both had eight points.

In the loss at Robinson, the Saxons fell way behind, 30-15, after one quarter before rallying to get within 62-60 after three quarters. The Rams outscored Langley by four points in the final quarter to win. Four Saxon players scored in double digits - Dixon (23), Adams (20), Evans (17) and senior guard Jeff Cochran (10).



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Matt Crawford (right), shown here in his Classic finals win over heavyweight opponent Tyler DeLeon of Westfield, went a perfect 5-0 over the two-day event held at Fairfax High School.

Local Wrestlers Shine at Classic

Marshall's Crawford Takes Heavyweight Title; McLean's Miller Places Third.

The Northern Virginia Wrestling Classic, the local high school early season showcase event, was held this past Friday and Saturday at Fairfax High School.

Thirty-one teams, most from within the Northern Virginia area, participated in the early season tournament. The team champion, for the second straight year, was Westfield High School, which accumulated 271.50 points and had 12 individual place finishers (top eight).

Other local team finishes included 11th place Fairfax (90), and 13th place Marshall (84). W.T. Woodson (73) finished 15th, while Centreville High, Madison and Bishop O'Connell (Arlington) finished in a three-way tie for 17th place with 70 points each. McLean was 24th overall.

Marshall High, 13th place overall in the team standings, had an individual winner in heavyweight wrestler Matt Crawford, who went a perfect 5-0 over the two day tournament. Crawford defeated Westfield's Tyler DeLeon in the heavyweight finals, 5-2.

The Statesmen had two other top eight place finishers in James Cusack (6th place at 103) and Zack Brooks (7th at 215).

McLean received a third place individual finish from Austin Miller, who went 5-1 at the 125 weight class. Miller earned a for-

feit win over Ricky Rumley of Tallwood (Virginia Beach) in the third place consolation finals.

Also for the Highlanders, seventh place finishes came from both Adilet Uspeev (135 weight class) and Andy Chung (130).

South Lakes, one of the most improved teams in the Northern Region over the past couple of seasons under head coach Bruce Hall, had an individual champion in Ryan Forrest at 145 weight class. Forrest went a perfect 5-0 to gain the title, defeating Batchka Zulkhuu of Potomac Falls in the finals, 10-2 (major decision).

Meanwhile, the Seahawks also got a second place finish - that coming from Jake Slover at 171 division. Slover, who was 4-1, lost his finals match to Jake Fahlfeder of Fauquier, 11-3 (major decision).

Fairfax High, 11th place overall in the team standings, received a second place individual finish from Joseph Vanderplas, who went 4-1 over the tournament at the 215 weight class. Vanderplas lost a tough 5-2 decision to Justin Tribble of North Stafford in the finals.

Madison High's Robert Dooley earned the first place championship at the 119 weight class. Dooley went a perfect 5-0 and defeated Westfield's Dennon Caranza-Kee, 5-3, in the championship match.

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All listings are due by Monday at 3 p.m.

HOLIDAY

Sparkling Holidays

FROM PAGE 17



wines made from Austrian varietals like Grüner Veltliner and Welschriesling. One that is widely available is the **Steininger NV Grüner Veltliner Sekt** (\$24). We also recently tasted some French sparkling wines made outside Champagne that we especially like. From Burgundy and made with Pinot Noir grapes in an elegant creamy style are the **Domaine Michel Sarrazin Crémant de Bourgogne** (\$25) and **Charles Duret's Crémant de Bourgogne Rosé** (\$20). From Alsace there is the powerful and lush Wolfberger **Crémant d'Alsace Brut** (\$20). From America we highly recommend a superb sparkling wine from Virginia called **TJ Virginia Fizz** (\$23). It is a crémant style wine made from 100 percent Chardonnay by the talented team of Claude Thibaut and Manuel Janisson in Charlottesville. It has fresh apple aromas and flavors with a yeasty creamy palate filled with fruit and has a long finish. Finally, if you'd like try something from the Southern Hemisphere, we recommend an attractive rosé sparkler showing pretty light red berry fruit, the **Graham Beck Brut Rosé** (\$19).

LUXURY CUVÉES. There are a lot of wonderful wines to choose from in this category. Champagne usually heads the luxury list, but in fact, there are lots of other top quality sparklers you can enjoy. It is hard to go wrong with Champagne; it's not really all a matter of taste, and the price you are willing to pay. We like non-vintage and vintage **Pol Roger, Henriot, Champagne Roland Champion, Champagne Trouillard, and Tattinger**, to name but a few.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 18

T'ai Chi Practice. 8 a.m. at St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Saturdays through March. Free, open to all. No special clothing or equipment needed. www.FreeTaiChi.org or 703-759-9141.

vary from 2-4 hours and encompass a variety of activities such as throwing holiday parties for children, visiting seniors and serving meals to the homeless. Family and group projects are also available. \$20. Register at www.washingtondcjcc.org/volunteer.

looking to volunteer in their community welcome. www.tysonscornerkiwanis.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 24

Washington DC Jewish Community Center's Day of Service. Help at one of over 50 non-profits throughout the area. Projects

TUESDAY/DEC. 28

Tyson's Corner Kiwanis Club Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at George C. Marshall High School, Room 124, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Meeting is public and Individuals

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 29

Support Group for Survivors of Clergy Abuse. 6:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Tysons-Pimmit Hills Regional Library, 7684 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. A monthly peer support group for survivors and others affected. Free. Confidential. No registration required. 703-538-6128.

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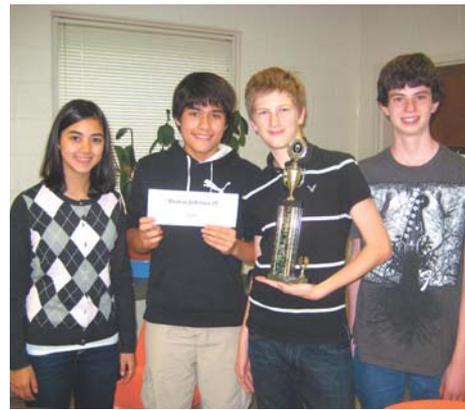
SCHOOLS

TJ Novice Team Wins Latin Competition

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology language students brought home several trophies from the Classical Cottage Latin Certamen competition on Nov. 6. The novice team of Hannah Pho (McLean), Ben Andre (Oakton), Jeff Horowitz (Oakton) and John Wilkes (McLean) took first place in their division. In the upper-level division, Zach Seid (Clifton), Akhila Ananthram (Clifton), Ricky Short (Springfield) and Philip Meyers (Herndon) took second, while third place awards went to the Latin second-year students Molly Hemenway, Daphne Fong (Fairfax), James Jang (Springfield), and Hyae-

In Seo (McLean) and third-years Rachel Goldstein (Fairfax), Tommy Lunn (Sterling) and Alana Whitman (Alexandria). Second year students Katie Hough (Fairfax Station), Bruce Bland (Springfield), Sienna Lotenberg (Arlington) and Abi Gopal (Leesburg) also put in a strong effort.

Certamen is a quiz bowl-style competition for Latin students with classical-themed questions on mythology, Roman history and culture, and Latin grammar. Seventeen schools and approximately 200 students attended this Certamen, held at the Powhatan School in Boyce, Va.



The TJ novice Certamen team of **Hannah Pho (McLean), Ben Andre (Oakton), John Wilkes (McLean), and Jeff Horowitz (Oakton)** took first place in their division at the Classical Cottage Latin Certamen competition on Nov. 6.

PHOTO BY ANGELA WILKES

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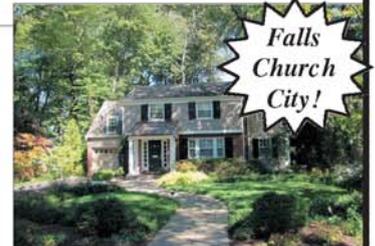


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