

At Lunch with Santa

NEWS, PAGE 8

OPINION 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 17 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Caden Nichols of Fredericksburg, almost five years old, asked Santa for a Toy Story bicycle. His father Jason wants socks and a good new year. Caden's great-grandmother and aunt are lifetime members of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary.

First Ladies
Support
Jill's House

NEWS, PAGE 3

Oakton High
Dancing Stars
NEWS, PAGE 18

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*Happy
Holidays!*

First Ladies Support 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."

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



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

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.

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.

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

— Jill's House co-founder
Brenda Solomon



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Julius Hankins, left, and Michelle Scott, second from right, both of SCOV, present checks of \$1,316.36 each to Christina Garris of Our Daily Bread and Jim Larson of CHO. The funds were collected at the 12th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 23.

Thanksgiving Interfaith Service Collects

SCOV presents checks to CHO and Our Daily Bread.

On Tuesday, Dec. 7, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) presented checks, each made out for \$1,316.36, to two local nonprofit service organizations, the Committee for Helping Others (CHO) and Our Daily Bread. The money was raised at the 12th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service organized by SCOV and hosted by Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church on Tuesday, Nov. 23. Approximately 600 people attended the Thanksgiving service and contributed a record collection of more than \$2,600.

"I'm really impressed, in these economic times, how many people dug deep into their pocketbooks to contribute so much," said SCOV Executive Director Michelle Scott, hosting the potluck luncheon attended by representatives of most of SCOV's supporting churches.

Jim Larson accepted the check on behalf of CHO and Christina Garris accepted Our Daily Bread's check.

CHO, Vienna-based, provides emergency family services, such as rent and medical assistance, food, clothes, furniture to needy local families. CHO works in partnership with area churches and Fairfax County social services. On Dec. 11, CHO sponsored a holiday distribution of toys, bicycles,

clothes and winter wear and canned goods. Adults began lining up before dawn.

"We have much more need this year than in the past," Larson said. "Donations are up, too"

"Most of this money [from Thanksgiving service check] goes into emergency family services. Rent assistance helps to keep families in their homes."

Garris said the newly-received funding will be applied to Our Daily Bread's food delivery program to purchase grocery gift cards for distribution to needy families.

"We distribute food but the gift cards are good for families with special dietary needs, such as diabetes," Garris said. "With a gift card, the family can buy what it needs."

Nineteen Vienna-Oakton area congregations support SCOV, a senior resource center providing services, personal enrichment and volunteer opportunities for adults 50 and over.

Julius Hankins, longtime SCOV supporter on the Congregational Advisory Committee, organized the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.

For more information on SCOV services and volunteer opportunities, go to www.scov.org

—DONNA MANZ

NEWS

From left, Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully District); LeAnne Kannapell, Oakton High School Assistant Principal; Caroline McGrath, Oakton Best Buddies Chapter President; Chairman Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Allison Coles, Best Buddies Virginia State Director; Rachel Kolliopoulos, Director Best Buddies International; Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth (D-Providence).



PHOTO BY LISA CONNORS/
FAIRFAX COUNTY PIO

Supervisors Honor Oakton High's Best Buddy Program

Oakton High School's Best Buddies chapter was recognized by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at its monthly meeting Dec. 7 for the chapter's "dynamic and active program."

The Oakton chapter - which includes approximately 100 members - holds monthly events to provide buddy pairs with the opportunity to socialize outside school. Events have included a Halloween party, a family potluck dinner, and a trip to a local movie theater. Last spring, Oakton also hosted the statewide Best Buddies Walk for Life, as well as a basketball tournament for area schools.

"It is an honor and a privilege to work with these students. We are so happy to see Oakton and our other chapters recognized for their important work in the community. They are very deserving," said

Allison Coles, the program's state director.

The program was also named "Outstanding Chapter" by Best Buddies International at its annual leadership conference in July at Indiana University. Oakton's program was selected from more than 800 high school programs and 62 applicants for its dedication to the Best Buddies mission. The organization creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, and leadership development for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"Through Best Buddies, we've seen students take the simple concept of friendship and create fully integrated school communities that embrace and welcome students of all abilities," Coles said.

—VICTORIA ROSS



Keeping Tradition Alive

The James Madison High School Wind Symphony and Color Guard presented a concert for children in the community on Dec. 2-3, celebrating the spectrum of seasonal music. Costumed performers included Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, Dora the Explorer, and Santa and Mrs. Claus. While the children sang, clapped and danced along with the band, they were also introduced to the world of music and symphonic instruments. Local children packed the auditorium for this 31st annual Tiny Tots concert.

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Sprinklers Douse Two Structure Fires

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to two fires Saturday, Dec. 11, in the Oakton and Great Falls areas of Fairfax County. In both fires, sprinklers activated controlling the fires and keeping property damage to a minimum.

Firefighters responded to Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, at approximately 11:55 a.m., with reported smoke in a locker room. The fire was quickly controlled by sprinklers. An electric dryer in the

rear of the locker room caused the fire. Water and smoke damage was confined to the locker room, including a washer and dryer. There were no injuries.

The installation of sprinklers provides critical early protection to property, and from potentially serious injury or fire death to occupants inside a structure. Sprinklers are designed to extinguish and control fire before it evolves into flashover, the point at which rapid flame spreads and deadly

heat and smoke are produced. Sprinkler systems will control a fire and provide life-saving time for occupants to escape.

Virginia has not adopted mandatory residential sprinkler use in homes. However, the Virginia Building Code Officials Association and the Home Fire Safety Council support mandatory sprinkler use.

For more information on residential sprinklers, contact the Fairfax County Fire Marshal's Office, 703-246-4753.

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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/works/northamerica/states/maryland/files/goodneighborhndbk_web.pdf

— MICHAEL L. LIPFORD

Michael Lipford is Virginia executive director of The Nature Conservancy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Christmas Tree from Vienna Optimists

To the Editor:

Every year we get our Christmas tree from Vienna's local Optimist Club. They're for sale on 123 in the Giant parking lot. They're not the cheapest, but the best thing about them is the big green stand we bought with our first tree bought from them 10 years ago (apparently the stand lasts forever!).

It's the one with a big screw that sticks up and the optimists drill the hole deep into the trunk so it's incredibly easy to set up. You just stick it on the stand when you get home - no screws to tighten - and it holds a lot of water so you don't have to water that often, even though it soaks up a lot of water, which makes the tree last longer.

I still have (bad) memories of my dad procrastinating putting up the tree with his three kids begging him every day to set it up so we could decorate. When he finally would set it up, he'd be swearing in un-Christmas like language through the entire process. First he had to hand saw off the

bottom so it would soak up water (Optimist club also does this for us), then he'd try to get it upstairs in the stand (so needles were in work-room rather than the carpet) but getting all those screws in evenly was impossible. Then upstairs (leaking needles), struggling to get the tree stand up, then to get it straight and then more cussing trying to put those big heavy bulb lights on it without tipping it over, and then at some point our cat would start playing with the ornaments and it would fall. I don't know why it never occurred to any of us to buy a bigger stand, and the optimist's big green stand with the center screw hadn't been invented yet. Anyway, now, thanks to Vienna Optimist's club I marvel every year how easy and

fun it is to get our fresh, sweet smelling tree up and decorated. This year my 10 year old son Luke and I did it all by ourselves, no need to nag dad.

I know there are lots of charities to buy your tree from, but supporting the Optimists is good for Vienna, as they put on Vienna Community Center Christmas

party with Santa and the Halloween party for the kids among their other local contributions.

"This is our main fundraiser!" the gentleman who sold us our Christmas tree told us.

Susan Goewey Carey
Vienna



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FAITH

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

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.

Epiphany United Methodist Church, 1014 Country Club Drive NE in Vienna, 703-938-3494 has announced the following Christmas schedule:

- ❖ Dec. 19, 11 a.m. Epiphany's Christmas Cantata
- ❖ Dec. 24, 6 p.m. Children & Family Service
- ❖ Dec. 24, 9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight, Carol & Communion Service
- ❖ Dec 26, 11 a.m. Christmas Celebration

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.

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.

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PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION



The Department of Parks and Recreation sold its 200 tickets for Lunch with Santa quickly. In addition the event featured the magic of Turley the Magician.

At Lunch with Santa

Wish lists, hot dogs and magic mark holiday party.

The traditional Lunch with Santa, held annually at the Vienna Community Center, always sells out quickly. This year was no different. The Town of Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation sold 200 tickets to the Dec. 11 holiday event, and that number does not include children under 12 months who are admitted free of charge.

Sponsored by the Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation and the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department [VVFD] Auxiliary, Lunch with Santa included the jolly old elf himself, down from the North Pole, to listen to Christmas wishes, Turley the Magician, and hot dogs, chips, sweets and soft drinks.

"Lunch with Santa kick-starts Christmas for me," said VVFD Auxiliary president Joan Dempsey. "Watching the kids run up there to Santa, their eyes widen, it just kick-starts Christmas."

Lunch with Santa is an annual tradition going back about 20 years. Town of Vienna families get priority ticketing, but once the tickets open to out-of-towners, families come from all over the area to participate.

Diana Smith lives in McLean and said she loves the activities of the Vienna Community Center, from day trips to special events. With her in the line to meet Santa Claus was her two-and-a-half year-old granddaughter, Katherine Smith, dressed in festive dress and snowflake tights, and wearing an elf hat. Katherine, and her infant brother sleeping in a stroller, came from Washington, D.C., to have lunch with Santa in Vienna.

"People come from all over to Vienna because it has the best programs," Smith said. "We know everybody who works here because they're all so nice."

While Parks and Recreation provided the space, decorations and cookies, the VVFD Auxiliary provided lunch and arranged for Santa to make a special trip to Vienna from the North Pole. The proceeds are split evenly between the Community Center and



Katherine Smith of Washington, D.C. accompanied her grandmother, Diana Smith of McLean, to Vienna's annual lunch with Santa. Katherine, 2 1/2, wore snowflake tights, a gingerbread dress and an elf hat to the event, looking every inch the holiday girl.

the VVFD.

Claudia Smallwood grew up in Vienna, and, although she now lives in Centreville, she is an active lifetime member of VVFD, still volunteering for special events.

"It's a fun event," said Smallwood. "You get to see all the kids. I used to bring my own kids to the Santa lunch."

"It's an annual tradition."

PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION



Friends of Oakton Library volunteers Corinne Savage, Tooley Milstead and Spencer Baldacci (right) with six-year-old guest Alexandra Hawkes. Alexandra made Christmas cards for her brother and uncle.

Holiday Open House at Oakton Library

Crafts and sweets draw parents, children.

Oakton Library always hums on Saturday, but on Dec. 11, there was an added attraction.

Friends of Oakton Library hosted a holiday open house, complete with refreshments and crafts for children.

"With cutbacks this year, library staff can't host events like this," said Friends of Oakton Library president Tooley Milstead. "We stepped up to host the open house this year."

"It serves the community and it helps to acquaint patrons with Friends."

With regularly scheduled coffees held at Oakton Library to attract new Friends, Milstead said the open house serves double purpose.

"We planned on having the kids make cards to send to our troops, but they prefer to do crafts, instead."

Friends volunteers made sweets and provided coffee to parents. Most of the guests discovered the open house when

they came to the library, and parents worked alongside their children.

The 501 (c)(3) sponsors many of the Library's supplemental programming. Friends of Oakton Library raised and donated \$8,000 in 2010 for the Fairfax Library Foundation. For Friends volunteer Corinne Savage, supporting the library recognizes the excellent services the library offers.

"Events like this bring people into the library," said Savage. "The staff is terrific. This is a way to spread the word to the community about the services here."

Oakton Library is located at 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton, at the traffic signal at Hunter Mill Road and the shopping plaza across the street. To learn more about the Friends of Oakton Library, e-mail FriendsOfOaktonLibrary@gmail.com

—DONNA MANZ

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 16

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

Assistance League of Northern Virginia Weekend Food for Kids Program. 9:30 a.m. at Hoop Magic, 14810 Murdock St., Chantilly. Assemble food packages to distribute to schools in Fairfax and Prince William Counties. Volunteer at 703-591-2312 or alnorthernva@yahoo.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 17

Line Dance Class. 10 a.m. Durga Temple, 8400 Durga Place, Fairfax Station. For age 55 and up. All levels. Ongoing, meets every Friday. \$5. Registration required at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec or 703-324-5544, TTY 711.

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.

THURSDAY/DEC. 23

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

FRIDAY/DEC. 24

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

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

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.

THURSDAY/DEC. 30

Beulah Road Al-Anon Group. 7:30 p.m. at the Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna.

SEE BULLETIN. PAGE 16

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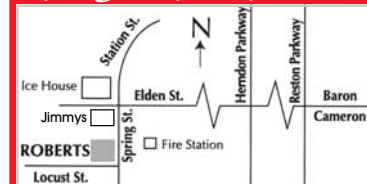
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ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to vienna@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.
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.
Decembersongs with Dan Navarro, Amy Speace, Sally Barris and Jon Vezner. 7:30 p.m. Jaminin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamininjava.com.
OK Book Discussion. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein. Adults. 703-242-4020.
Patrick Henry Book Club. 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Book discussion. Call for title. 703-938-0405.
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 gendellc@aol.com.



PHOTO COURTESY 1ST STAGE

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. Jaminin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamininjava.com.
Suzanne Richard as Mrs. Boyle, Karl Bittner as Christopher Wren and John Stange and Jennifer Weinreich as Giles and Mollie Ralston in the 1st Stage production of "The Mousetrap".
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. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.
SATURDAY/DEC. 18
"The Laramie Project." 7:30 p.m. Langley High School Auditorium,



"Pear Tree Cottage" by D. Marshall Elliott
The Vienna Arts Society will hold a Reception on Friday, Dec. 17 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna, honoring local artists selected to display their pieces in Del. Mark Keam's (D-35) Capitol Office. The works will be at the Arts Center until they are delivered to Del. Keam's Richmond Office on Jan. 10. The Art Center is open Tuesdays-Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission, open to the public. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

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. pjaffe@fcps.edu.
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 Rocknecros Holiday Singalong with The Barbershop Quartet. 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Jaminin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamininjava.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 cfa.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 mousetrap.org 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.
Vienna Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary Holiday Pancake Breakfast. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at the VVFD Fire Station, 400 Center St. S., Vienna. Santa will arrive at 11 a.m. All you can eat pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice, coffee and more. \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$6 age 12 and under; under age 4 free. Bake sale of homemade goods and tours of the fire equipment also available. Joanie@vvfd.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 DJ Beetkeepers. 10 p.m. Jaminin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamininjava.com.
Colvin Run Schoolhouse Holiday Dance. 10:01 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. 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 cfa.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 mousetrap.org 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.

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HOLIDAY

Holiday Champagne and Sparkling Wine

From \$10 to \$85,
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suggestions for
the holidays.

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 **Bisot**, **Canella** and **Zardetto**. Asti comes from the Piedmont, and we like those spritzy 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.

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 wines made from Austrian varietals like Grüner



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

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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**,

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SEE SPARKLING, PAGE 13

THEATRE REVIEW

Delightful Mystery

'The Mousetrap' at the 1st Stage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL

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 overbear-

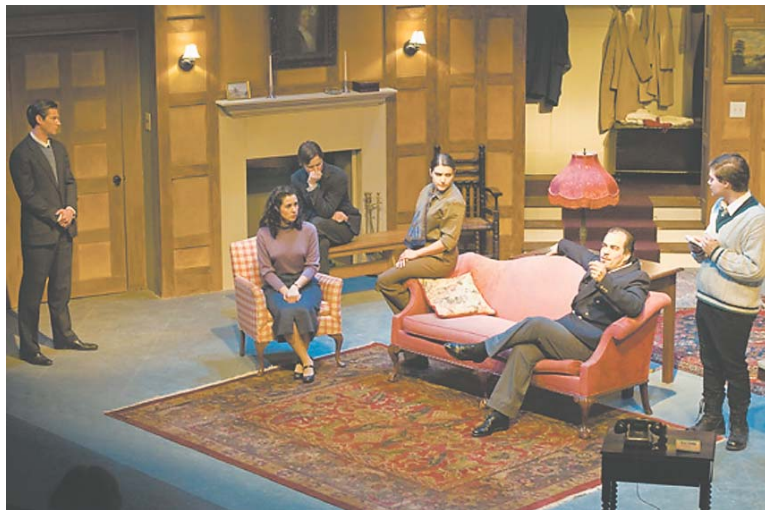


PHOTO COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

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

ing 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 appear 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 Moscati). 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 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.

Sparkling Holidays

FROM PAGE 12

Henriot, Champagne Roland Champion, Champagne Trouillard, and Tattinger, to name but a few.

The **NV Champagne Roland Champion Blanc de Blancs** (\$66) is a rich yeasty wine offering attractive lemon citrus aromas and flavors. Tattinger is recognized worldwide for producing some of the finest Champagnes available. The **Tattinger Brut La Française** (\$35) is an attractive, rich tasting blend of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier, while the **2004 Brut Millesimé** (\$80) raises the bar in term of complexity, elegance and refinement. There are many outstanding sparklers produced outside of Champagne in California, Italy, and Austria. These are equal in quality to Champagne and are made using the same *méthode champenoise*, but they cannot be called Champagne because they are not made in the Champagne re-



gion of France. Argyle Winery in Oregon produces some of the finest sparklers in the United States. Their sparklers sell at all price levels, but if you want something very special, try the refined and elegant **Argyle 2000 Extended Triage Brut** (\$80). Much harder to find, but worth the effort are the

Austrian Sekts of Willi Bründlmayer. His **NV Sekt Brut** (\$44) and **NV Sekt Brut Rosé** (\$44) are relatively expensive, but outstanding in quality.

Finally, there are no finer sparklers from Italy than the refined and delicate Bellavista Franciacortas. Try the **Franciacorta Brut Cuvée NV** (\$52) or the **Franciacorta Gran Cuvée Satèn** (\$80).

See Champagne and sparkling wine special reports by the International Wine Review at www.i-winereview.com. Read about the 170 year old Champagne discovered on the Baltic Ocean floor at facebook.com/iwinereview.

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Dec. 27-29

For 5th-8th graders

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Activity No. 8107.210

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
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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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21 Announcements

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LEGAL NOTICE
AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications installation on an existing building located at 2425 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA. Three panel antennas will be mounted at a centerline height of 85 feet above ground level. Support equipment will be placed in an existing rooftop shelter. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 61107461-LLM c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at 215-908-9207.

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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 Carol Blitz, 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 7150 Stand-ard 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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SCHOOLS

Send school notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Will Dungan of Vienna has graduated from Randolph-Macon Academy. He earned the Presidential Academic Education Award, the Distinguished Athlete Award and the Kemper History Medal, and was a member of the baseball, cross-country, swimming teams. The son of Art and Diane Dungan plans to attend University of Delaware.

Elizabeth Reid Armitage has been named to the spring 2010 dean's list at Denison University of Granville, Ohio.

Kyle Myers has graduated from Randolph-Macon Academy. Myers is the son of Kevin and Brenda Burnett of Oakton and Mark and Christine Myers of Centreville. He plans to attend West Virginia University.

Kyle Harrison Bolton has been awarded a Ruth Leverton scholarship at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Bolton intends to study biological sciences.

Danna Zahran of Vienna has been named to the 2009-2010 honor roll at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Tx.

Kori Diehl, Executive Coach and organization development consultant of Kori Diehl & Associates of Vienna, has been awarded a PhD in Leadership and Change from Antioch University. Diehl's dissertation is titled *Eutopiographies: Narratives of Preferred Future Selves with Implications for Developmental Coaching*.

Nick McCormick of Oakton received the rank of technical sergeant and will serve as Hotel Flight Sergeant at Randolph-Macon Academy. McCormick is the son of Michael and Gabrielle McCormick of Oakton.

Pablo Sacilotto of Oakton received the rank of first lieutenant and will serve as India Flight Commander at Randolph-Macon Academy. Sacilotto is the son of Alessandro and Juliana Sacilotto of Oakton.

Junghyun Lee of Oakton has been named to the spring 2010 dean's list at Binghamton University of Binghamton, N.Y.

The following Oakton High School students have been named as Semifinalists in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program: **Joseph K. Choi, Raymond A. Daniels, Kirin Gupta, Catherine F. Mahoney** and **Grace A. Newman**.

Vienna residents **Glenn Metz, Vasily Prokhorov, Joshua Yazman** and **Scott Phelps** have finished the new cadet training week with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. The corps first year starts in August with new cadet week held the week prior to the start of classes. During new cadet week, incoming students undergo a series of challenges that build character and leadership skills.

Kristin Gavin and **Summer Perez** of Oakton High School and **Noah Lubert** and **Melissa Murray** of Madison High School have been selected to perform in the 2010 Virginia Honors Choir, at the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) convention Nov. 20 in Norfolk.

Mark Cochrane of Vienna has been chosen to be a member of Susquehanna University's Honors Program. He is a freshman creative writing major. He is a 2010 graduate of James Madison High School, and the son of Ted Cochrane and MaryJane Cochrane.

The Oakton High School Best Buddies Chapter has received the 2009-10 Outstanding Chapter Award from Best Buddies International at the group's annual leadership conference. The chapter held monthly events to provide buddy pairs with the opportunity to socialize outside school, and hosted the statewide Best Buddies Walk for Life as well as a basketball tournament for area schools. The Oakton High Best Buddies Chapter was chosen for its dedication to the Best Buddies mission. The organization creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment,

and leadership development for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Colin Larkin of Vienna has been named to the 2010 dean's list at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass.

Alex Pham of Vienna has successfully completed the Freedom Alliance Military Leadership Academy, a summer camp based on the curriculum of the U.S. Army.

Andrea Shome of Vienna has been awarded a scholarship from the Vanguard Women in Information Technology Scholarship Program. Shome is studying industrial / systems engineering at Virginia Tech.

Andrew E. Morin of Vienna has received a master of science in business administration and management from Boston University of Boston, Mass.

Logan Gates of Vienna is one of five finalists selected by Dr Pepper who will be competing for a chance of \$123,000 at the ACC Championship Game in Charlotte, NC, on Dec. 4. The University of Virginia student submitted a video explaining why he deserved to win college tuition from the Dr Pepper Million Dollar Tuition Giveaway.

Alyssa Homyk of Oak Hill has gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech, commonly known as The Spirit of Tech. The sophomore and percussionist is majoring in animal and poultry sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Vienna residents **Kyle Ellis** and **Alex Wilson** have gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech, commonly known as The Spirit of Tech. Ellis is a junior and a trumpet player, majoring in chemistry in the College of Science, and Wilson is a senior and a trumpet player, majoring in electrical engineering in the College of Engineering.

Oakton residents **David Knapp, Alex Schmitt, Christina Duell** and **Mark McNamee** have gained membership to the Marching Virginians at Virginia Tech, commonly known as The Spirit of Tech. Knapp is a freshman and trumpet player, majoring in engineering in the College of Engineering. Schmitt is a graduate student majoring in curriculum and instruction in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. Duell is a senior and clarinet player, majoring in biological systems engineering in the College of Engineering. McNamee is a freshman and percussionist, majoring in engineering in the College of Engineering.

Catherine Stewart Schupp of Oakton has been named to the spring 2010 dean's list at Drew University in Madison, N.J.

Lauren Wise of Oakton has been named to the spring 2010 dean's list at Connecticut College in New London, Conn.

Sara J. Chowdhury of Vienna has been named to the spring 2010 dean's list at Virginia Tech. Chowdhury is a sophomore majoring in economics in the College of Science.

Oakton residents **Nicholas McCormick** and **Louisa C. Stanwich** have been inducted into the National Honor Society at Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal. McCormick, a junior and the son of Michael and Gabrielle McCormick, was also named to the President's List for the 1st academic quarter. Stanwich, a freshman and the daughter of John Stanwich and Maria Carosa Stanwich, was presented an Eagle Scholars Scholarship and named to the President's List for the first academic quarter.

Juan Perez of Vienna has been awarded the Col. Arvin and Emma Williams Scholarship at Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal. The scholarship is awarded to a student who is in good academic standing and embodies the ideals of Knowledge, Leadership and Character. Perez is the son of Renato Perez and Maria Salgado of Vienna, and a sophomore at the Academy.



Saint Mark School 6th graders delivered supplies to the Fisher House.

Gifts of Appreciation for Wounded Soldiers

On Saturday, Dec. 4, ten Saint Mark School 6th graders, accompanied by their homeroom teachers, delivered three van loads of supplies to the Fisher House at Walter Reed Army Hospital.

As part of St. Mark School's "Virtue of the Month program," 6th graders were responsible for coordinating a school-wide service project for November's virtue - gratitude. The 6th graders chose the Fisher House because collecting items for the soldiers and their families who stay there was a good

way for Saint Mark students to show their gratitude to servicemen and women. Students throughout the school donated items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, writing paper, tissues and other essential supplies for the Fisher House. In addition, several iPods and other high-tech donations were made for the residents of the Fisher House.

Saint Mark Catholic School in Vienna, Virginia, is in its eighth year of operation, with more than 400 students from preschool through eighth grade.



New in Town AVCC Construction Contractors, LLC has recently opened its office in the Town of Vienna. AVCC is a general contracting firm offering commercial construction services in the Tri-State Region. Attending the Ribbon Cutting Event for AVCC Construction Contractors, LLC on Saturday, Nov. 13, were (from left to right) **Bill Harrison, AVCC Managing Associate Aisha Bhatti, AVCC Owner Armando Vargas, Mayor Jane Seeman, AVCC Co-Owner Graciela Vargas, Deputy Mayor Laurie Cole, VTRCC representative Bridget Halsell, and Peter Conner.**

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

Practicing the Twelve Steps, welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics, and giving understanding and encouragement to the alcoholic. revku@cox.net.

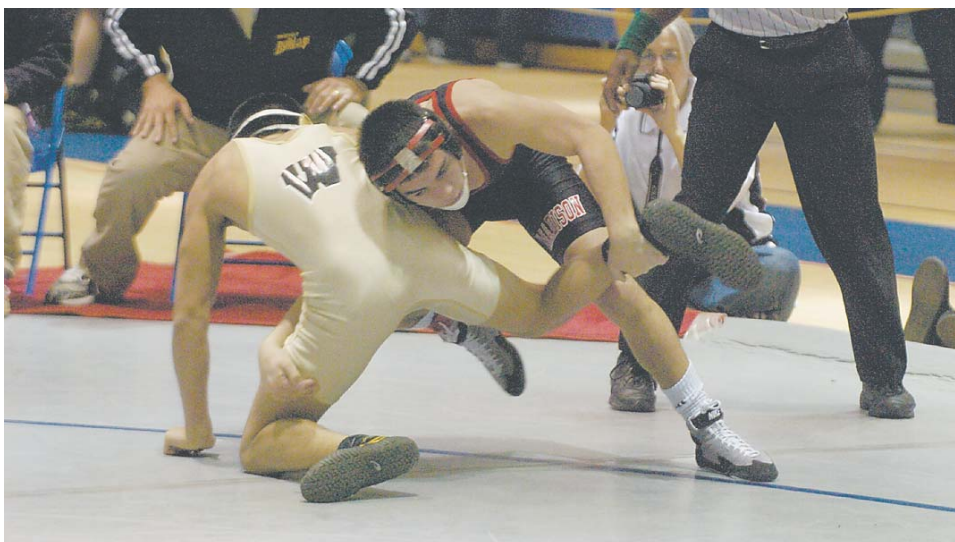
MONDAY/JAN. 3

A Representative of Congressman Frank Wolf at the McLean Community Center. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 1234 McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. First Monday of every month. Citizens are invited to express opinions on issues before Congress, or

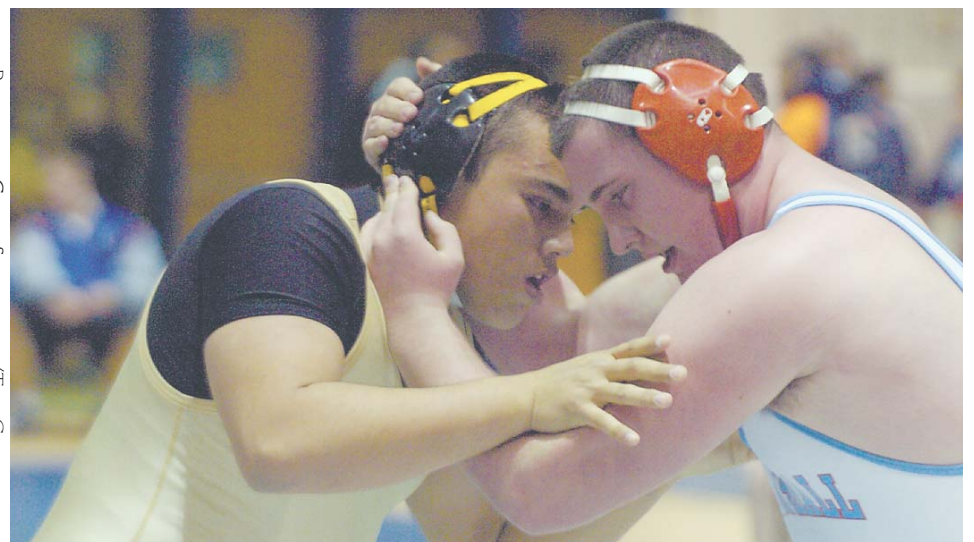
seek assistance with federal problems. 703-709-5800.

TUESDAY/JAN. 4

ESL Class Registration. 7 p.m. at St. Mark Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. Seven proficiency levels, from Beginner 1 to Advanced 2. \$20 for the 10-week semester, classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m. New students must also purchase the appropriate book. Optional basic computer skills class offered to intermediate and advanced ESL students. 703-626-3585 in English, 703-477-2389 in Spanish, or 703-994-8510 in Korean.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Madison's Robert Dooley grabs the leg of Westfield's Dennon Caranza-Kee during Saturday's 119-pound Northern Region Classic championship match at Fairfax High School.

Marshall junior Matt Crawford, right, defeated Westfield's Tyler DeLeon during Saturday's heavyweight championship match at the Northern Region Classic at Fairfax High School.

Madison's Dooley, Marshall's Crawford Win Titles

Dooley captures 119-pound crown at Northern Region Classic while Crawford wins heavyweight division.

JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

With time winding down in the second period of the 119-pound Northern Region Classic championship match, Madison junior Robert Dooley saw an opportunity.

"I knew it was in the last 10 seconds, I wasn't exactly sure," Dooley said after the match. "I knew most people let up at the

end of period. I was just really trying to get that last takedown in."

Dooley took down Westfield's Dennon Caranza-Kee in the round's closing seconds, breaking a 3-all tie with a pivotal two-point technique.

Dooley went on to win the tournament's 119-pound title by a 5-3 decision on Dec. 11 at Fairfax High School.

"I felt that really gave me momentum through the third period to finish out the match," Dooley said. "My goal is to really

initiate offense right off the bat. We were really just feeling each other in the first period. As the match went on, I was able to feel him out and figure out where my offense would be best."

Dooley defeated Jacob Ramos of Bishop O'Connell in the semifinals and Herndon's Ramon Reyes in the quarterfinals.

In the heavyweight division, Marshall's Matt Crawford defeated Westfield's Tyler DeLeon in the championship match by a 3-2 decision.

Crawford said the Northern Region Classic was the first tournament he'd ever won, crediting hard work in the offseason for the victory. The junior said he will have a better idea what to expect in terms of competition as the season advances.

"This is practically the regional tournament," Crawford said. "It has most of the same teams, take or give a few. It will give me the idea of what I can do in regionals if I keep working."

Crawford defeated Woodson's Carson Brown in the semifinals.

Westfield won the team title with 271.5 points. Fauquier placed second with 253 points, followed by South County (168), North Stafford (139.5) and Annandale (117).

Local Wrestlers Shine at Classic

Marshall's Crawford, Madison's Dooley capture titles.

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). Fauquier (Warrenton) and South County Secondary finished second and third, respectively, with 253 and 168. North Stafford (139.50) finished fourth, Annandale (117) was fifth and Chantilly (115.50) garnered sixth place. Rounding out the top 10 teams were seventh place Lake Braddock (112), eighth place Edison (105), ninth place Bishop

Ireton of Alexandria (100) and 10th place South Lakes (95).

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

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).

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.

Madison's Kolton Starr finished in eighth place at 103 division.

Oakton High, 22nd place in the team standings, had several strong showings. The Cougars' top place finisher was Austin Murga, who finished second overall at 189 weight class. Murga, who went 4-1 overall, lost his finals match to South County's Scott Blackstone, 4-2 in overtime.

Other top eight place finishes for the Cougars came from Eddie Gerow (4th place at 112) and Geoff McLaughlin (5th at 189).

Westfield, the team champion, had two individual champions - Beau Donahue, who went a perfect 5-0 to capture the 140-division weight class, and Brett Campbell, who went 4-0 to win



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Oakton's Austin Murga (left) competes in his 189 finals match versus Scott Blackstone of South County Secondary.

the 112 class. Donahue defeated North Stafford's Stephen Gwaltney by major decision (15-3) in the 140 finals. Campbell, meanwhile, won his 112 finals match over Fauquier's Bennett Payne, 4-2.

The Bulldogs also had four wrestlers who earned second place finishes in Tyler DeLeon (4-1 at heavyweight); Stephen Aiello (4-

1 at 130); Derek Arnold (4-1 at 125); and Dennon Caranza-Kee (4-1 at 119). Also for Westfield, Harry Van Trees finished third place (5-1 at 152); Frank Aiello (135 division) and David Aiello (103) both took fourth place finishes; Jacob DeLeon (215) and Nick Lehman (145) both finished fifth; and Gabe Ryan (103) was seventh.

OPEN HOUSES

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 18th & 19th



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 **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.** 

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Arlington (22201)

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3515 Washington Blvd, No 515...\$357,900...Sun 1-4....Garnet Robins-Baughman....Keller Williams.....703-534-0997

Arlington (22202)

1603 Arlington Ridge Rd.\$1,495,000...Sun 1-4....Ginger Webre.....Long & Foster.....703-518-8713

Arlington (22204)

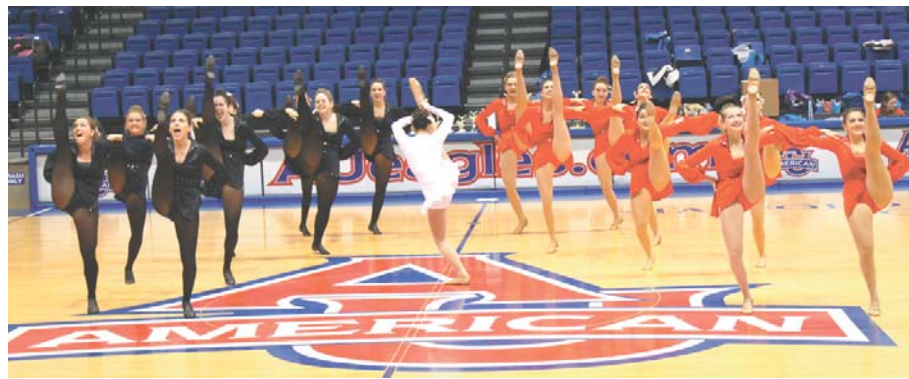
4306 8th St. S.....\$629,000...Sun 1-4....Susan Sarcone.....McEneaney.....703-795-6772

Arlington (22209)

1600 Oak St N #706.....\$359,900...Sun 1-4....Simon Hahn.....Keller Williams.....703-815-5707

To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Don Park at 703-778-9420, or donpark@connectionnewspapers.com All listings are due by Monday at 3 p.m.

SCHOOLS



Oakton High School Varsity Dance performs their 1st place High Kick routine at American University.

Oakton High Dancing Stars

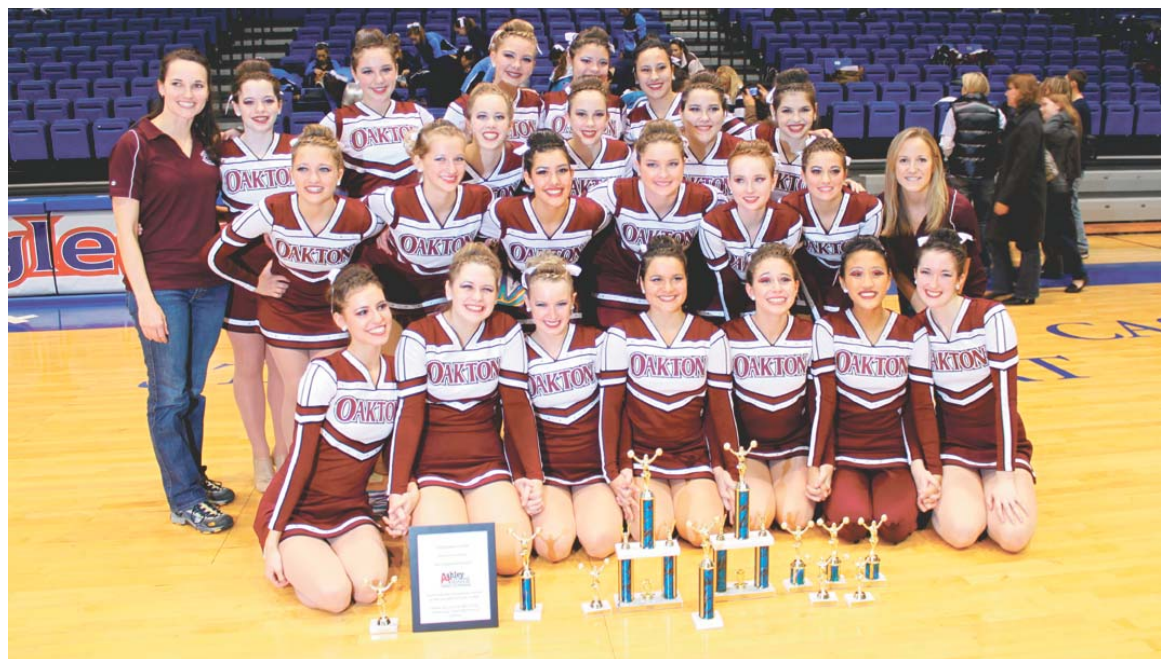
Varsity Dance team, Senior Leslie Corbett triumph at AU.

For the third year in a row, the Oakton Varsity Dance Team won both their dance categories at the American University Dance Invitational, placing first in both the High Kick and Pom categories. In the competition, held Dec. 5, Senior Leslie Corbett also took first in the Senior Solo competition, and was named grand champion soloist. Sara Iacovino and Sarah Kowarski placed 4th and 5th in Senior Solo, respectively, and Morgan Doss placed 4th in Junior Solo. Honorable mentions for solo performances went to seniors Kit Mahoney, Ceci Nguyen and Maggie Perreault, and to juniors Taylor Johnson, Sarah Smith and Alex Sommese.

After more regional competitions, the OHS Dance Team heads to Orlando in February for the National Dance Team Championships. The team is under the direction of Head Coach Karen Rowley and Assistant Coach Erin Soller.



Oakton High School Senior Leslie Corbett was named Grand Champion Soloist at AU Dance Competition Dec. 5.



OHS Varsity Dance after their double team wins at AU Dec. 5. Front row: Leslie Corbett, Maggie Perreault, Shannon Bliss, Sarah Kowarski, Sara Iacovino, Ceci Nguyen, Kit Mahoney; second row: Sarah Smith, Taylor Johnson, Sophia Calopedis, Alex Sommese, Bethany Johnson, Morgan Doss, Asst. Coach Erin Soller; third row: Shannon Holcombe, Lindsey Bolger, Maria Canales, Katie Perreault; fourth row: Head Coach Karen Rowley, Olivia Frankel, Tricia Gore, Victoria Sommese, Lillie Honiberg, Paola Angulo.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 11

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

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-293-6227.

One-on-One Computer/Internet Tutoring. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Adults. 703-242-4020.

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

Practice Your English. 6:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-790-8088.

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

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 22

One-on-One Computer/Internet Tutoring. 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place,

Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Music Together. 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Music and movement for toddlers and parents with Ms. Susan. Age 6 months-5 with adult. 703-938-0405.

Microsoft Word/Excel Tutor. 2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. One-on-one help with Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel. 703-938-0405.

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.thestatetheatre.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 Hanaukka 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.1ststagetysons.org/mousetrap or 703-854-1856.

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

MONDAY/DEC. 27

Tales to Tails. 4 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Sign up to read to the reading therapy dog. Age 6-12 with adult. 703-293-6227.

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

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. Test your skills at Wii Mario Kart or Super Smashbros. Age 6-16. 703-938-0405.

Where's My Face (Dubstep and Electrohouse) with Viking, DJ M.A.F., Konstellation and Hubsmove. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

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