

# Great Falls CONNECTION

# Preschool Pageant

NEWS, PAGE 18

From left, Tommy Maxson, 4, Peter Kuligowski, 4 and Drew Maguire, 4, as the three kings, exit the stage after the St. Francis Creche Christmas pageant last Friday.

OPINION 8 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

## 'Christmas Came Early This Year'

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Big Red Machine

NEWS, PAGE 3

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Children watch the annual Great Falls Fourth of July Parade from 1960 Peter Pirsch open cab pumper that has become a staple of community events in Great Falls. The owners of the truck recently donated it to the Great Falls Charitable Foundation.



The 1960 Peter Pirsch open cab pumper is decorated for Halloween at the Great Falls Spooktacular. Halloween, along with the Fourth of July Parade and the Tree Lighting are some of the annual appearances the fire truck makes in Great Falls.

## Big Red Machine

**Vintage fire truck donated to Great Falls Charitable Foundation.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he big, red 1960 Peter Pirsch open cab pumper truck has been a fixture at Great Falls community events for years, and now it's officially a part of the fabric of Great Falls. The Great Falls Hose Company, a group of friends who purchased the truck in 1998, donated it to the Great Falls Charitable Foundation so it will be a part of the community for years to come.

"By making this donation, we can ensure that the fire truck can continue to play its role in the community long after we're gone," said Mike Kearney, owner of the Old Brogue, a member of the hose company and a board member for the foundation.

The members of the company are Kearney, Kim Preston, Don Hintz, Rich Curd and Peter Garahan. The late John Metalski was also a member.

The fire truck makes annual appearances at the Fourth of July Parade, the Halloween Spooktacular and the Christmas Tree lighting, where it carries the all-important task of bringing Santa Claus to the festivities. Several of the owners say that is their favorite event of the year.

"The truck is really the centerpiece of the Tree Lighting, all the kids are gathered there, and all of a sudden there's a sparking fire truck and Santa and Mrs. Claus on the back," Garahan said. "The faces of



From left, Kara Henderson, 9, Maddy Thring, 10 and Ashley Baradari, 11, stand next to the 1960 Peter Pirsch open cab pumper that brings Santa Claus to the tree lighting every year.

the children just light up, it's amazing to see."

**THE GROUP** originally thought of purchasing a fire truck as a perfect party truck, and an open-cab pumper would give them enough room to fit plenty of people. The group scoured literature from many antique fire equipment groups around the country, and finally found one in Lexington, Ky.

They recruited local fire fighter Mike Andreano to help them evaluate the truck, were able to negotiate a price and managed to secure an equipment hauler to bring the truck back to Great Falls.

The group spent a few months repairing, painting and polishing the truck before it was ready for use. It made its first appearance at the annual Fourth of July parade.

SEE FIRE TRUCK, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY COURTNEY ENGLE

Carolyn Wilson, Alexa Smith and Amanda Mahon - all 8th graders - wrap presents before the big Wish List Drop-Off party.

## Wish List Touches Many

**The project raises more than \$21,000 for homeless families.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he chorus of Wish List angels triumphed again this holiday season, raising more than \$21,000 in gift cards and gifts to give to local homeless families and foster teens.

"I was so happy when I learned we raised over \$4,500 in the gift card bowl alone," said Ginger Mahon, a Great Falls mom who launched the Wish

List Project in 2000. The community outreach program gives generous local residents the opportunity to grant the wishes of local homeless families and foster teens.

"I am always amazed at how giving people are, and this year was no exception. We answered the 'wishes' for 26 families being assisted at two local shelters, 75 foster teens and 28 homeless single adults. We also

SEE WISH LIST, PAGE 17



Forestville Elementary School 5th graders and members of Girl Scout Troop #316 participated in The Wish List Project by collecting dozens of new books to give to area foster children. The scouts wrapped each book individually with special ribbons, said Troop leaders Cynthia Adler and Lisa Pruum. In photo, front row: Deirdre P. Karlye P., Kendall H., Nadia E., Emma C., Anika P.; back row: Ellie W., Katie A., Amelia P., Maddie M. Not pictured but participated: Erica B., Haley L., Caroline H.

## Officer Stops Commercial Robbery

On Monday, Dec. 13 around 9:45 p.m., a man with his face covered by a mask, entered the CVS store located at 9871 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls. The man displayed a knife and ordered employees to turn over medicines. A responding police officer was able to enter the store and approach the suspect from behind. The officer tackled the suspect and took him into custody. No one was injured.

A 21-year-old Great Falls resident was charged with robbery and wearing a mask in commission of a robbery.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.



**Chris Bass (right), Broker/Owner of Langley Real Estate, LLC, presents the Principal of Langley High School, Matt Ragone with a check for \$1,000.**

## Local Realtor Supports Local Schools

Last Wednesday, Chris Bass, Broker/Owner of Langley Real Estate, LLC, presented the Principal of Langley High School, Matt Ragone with a check for \$1,000 reflecting Langley Real Estate's commitment to support local schools. As a long term resident of Great Falls, Reston and Herndon and graduate of Langley High School, Bass has been a teacher at Langley High School since 1999, Realtor since 2005, and an active community member. Early in his real estate career Bass recognized the impact of local school system on residential property values and made a commitment to support the schools by donating a portion of every sale to the school of his client's choosing.

For more, [langleyrealestate@gmail.com](mailto:langleyrealestate@gmail.com), 703-376-1043

## Riverbend Park Programs Expand to Historic Properties

Riverbend Park has long been home to a rich variety of nature programs. Thousands of people visit the park each year to learn about local flora and fauna from the park's naturalists. However, traveling to Great Falls for a program or class can sometimes be difficult; so many people haven't experienced these high-quality programs. That's about to change in the New Year.

Beginning January 2011, Riverbend Park staff will supervise a slate of new classes held in Park Authority historic properties located throughout Fairfax County. Riverbend's naturalists will conduct the nature programs, and a wide range of new classes are being offered, too. New programs will appeal to children, home-school students, and adults, and include nature adventures and hands-on activities and experiments, as well as classes for yoga and self-defense, painting and photography, and bridge.



**Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli addresses supporters at a Dec. 15 gathering in Northern Virginia.**

PHOTO BY  
JEANNE THEISMANN/  
THE CONNECTION

## 'Christmas Came Early This Year'

### Fundraiser turns into celebration for Cuccinelli.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

Less than 48 hours after federal district Judge Henry E. Hudson ruled that the provision in the health care reform law requiring individuals to purchase insurance is unconstitutional, Virginia's Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, architect of the controversial litigation, was savoring his first-round victory at a private fundraiser Dec. 15 in Northern Virginia.

"Christmas came early this year," Cuccinelli told a group of friends and supporters at the home of Susan and David Hirschmann.

After addressing a crowd that included U.S. Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE), U.S. Rep. Sam Graves (R-GA), Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Doug Domenich, Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) and RNC state committeeman Morton Blackwell, Cuccinelli spoke about the media whirlwind following the Dec. 12 decision.

"The last 48 hours have been tightly scheduled talking to a lot of different folks," Cuccinelli said. "Some of them are hostile, some are friendly and some are actually objective as I'm trying to explain to people why we are carrying the case forward."

While many were surprised at the outcome, Cuccinelli was not.

"The shock of actually winning is fun," Cuccinelli said. "I don't mean my shock, I mean other people's. We're not shocked at all. We analyzed this closely before we ever made a move on it. Everybody else just presumed the outcome."

Despite the international spotlight on the case, Cuccinelli has taken a back seat in the courtroom to Virginia's solicitor general, who will argue the case when it is expected to go before the Supreme Court in 2011-2012.

"Our solicitor general is one of those guys where people frequently say 'that's the smartest person I've ever been in a room with,'" Cuccinelli said of E. Duncan Getchell. "And because he's not the attorney general, he can spend more time with the details planning for the curveballs. I would love to argue it and am capable of arguing it, but he's the one who knows the case law and history, which is critically important."

In addition to the health care case, Cuccinelli talked about other significant issues his office has tackled.

"Like the health care case, the EPA case is about protecting the constitution," Cuccinelli said of the pending suit against the Environmental Protection Agency's move to regulate greenhouse gasses. "It's also about the rule of law and the economy. Typically, we are trying to support Virginia's good business environment."

Another success for Cuccinelli was allowing absentee ballots that arrive after Election Day to be counted.

"Protecting the voting rights for our military members deployed abroad is important," Cuccinelli said. "We have registrars who don't get absentee ballots out on time so now for the first time we allow people's votes that arrive after Election Day to be counted."

According to Cuccinelli, the races to watch in 2011 will be in Northern Virginia.

"I believe we're going to have a great candidate in Janet Howell's district — Caren Merrick," Cuccinelli said. "In the Prince William-Loudoun swath we're going to get a new senate seat and that open seat is going to be very interesting regardless of where it lands."

Cuccinelli, who has remained in the area since taking office earlier this year, was happy to be back where he considers home.

"I get mocked in other parts of the state but this is where I grew up," Cuccinelli said. "This is where I went to school, this is where my kids have grown up and where they're going to school. My wife did the same thing. We're those rarities — we actually grew up here and stayed here and we're very happy with that."

# NEWS

## Fire Truck Donated to Community

FROM PAGE 3

"It was a big hit with the kids there, so we started taking it to the Village Centre for Halloween to hand out candy," Garahan said. "Over the years it has become more and more of a part of this community, and as we've gotten older, we wanted to make sure it would stay in Great Falls in perpetuity."

It is currently stored at the home of Pat Nugent, president of John Nugent and Sons. Nugent has a big garage that can fit the gigantic truck and he is able to maintain it in working order.

"With a truck like that, there's always something leaking or broken, and since they don't make parts for it, sometimes you have to be creative," Nugent said. "But I'm into that kind of stuff, and I have a mechanic that works for my company that likes to tinker around with it, so it's well worth having around."

**DESPITE ITS AGE**, Kearney can only recall one time where the truck has actually stopped running while in use, at the intersection of Route 7 and Sterling Boulevard, and the big truck blocked off an entire side of traffic.

But just as a precaution, they usually have a vehicle trailing the truck on its various runs, Kearney said.

In addition to its regular stops, it also makes occasional appearances at other events, such as the annual Easter Egg Hunt, and the Great Falls Library's 10-year anniversary in October.

"It's shiny, big and red, who wouldn't love it?" Nugent said. "My kids love to play on it, and most kids at any event are drawn to it."

Garahan agrees, saying "it's like a magnet for children, something about the size and color just draws them in. They know it's special and that it's not like the fire trucks that are used now."

The owners are now hoping that the truck will stay right in Great Falls, since the Great Falls Charitable Foundation is focused on the local community.

"Since the foundation is Great Falls-centric, it belongs to the community now," Garahan said. "Hopefully in 20 years, when we've long forgotten about it, the truck will still be there serving the community."



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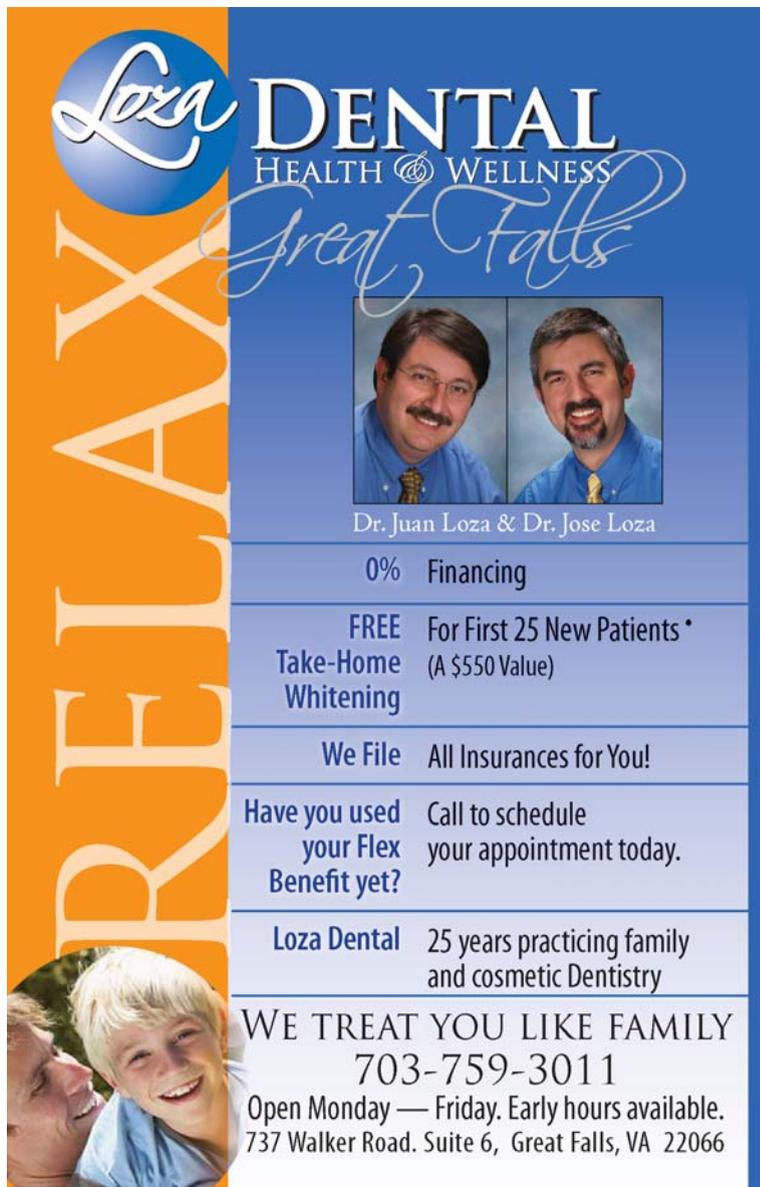
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## NEWS



**Capitol Steps will perform at Langley High on Sunday, Jan. 23.**

### Capitol Steps to Perform at Langley High

Every January, Langley High School provides an evening of fun and frolic with the political satirists Capitol Steps.

This has been a long-standing tradition at the school and the auditorium is filled with parents, friends, fans and students. Seniors taking AP Government often get extra credit by showing their ticket stub to their teachers. The show provides a satirical view at the Washington antics, developments and the international arena.

Year after year, Capitol Steps helps support the Langley High School All Night Grad Party, a tra-

dition at Langley High School where graduates can spend the night safely with their friends. The school is transformed into a casino, amusement park, food court, and so much more. This is all done through the hard work of parents and teacher volunteers with funds from events like Capitol Steps.

The annual Capitol Steps performance will take place on Sunday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Langley High School Auditorium.

Tickets are available for \$30 through Abby Mackness, 1310 Scotts Run Rd. McLean, VA 22102. Questions to: [amackness@juno.com](mailto:amackness@juno.com)



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The members of the Women's Chamber Choir are Betsy Abraham, Julie Abraham, Tamana Ahmad, Ambert Bennet, Jessica Bumsted, Colleen Cofer, Mia Engelhardt, Sarah Etherton, Taylor Goodson, Sarah Larkworthy, Kushali Marwaha, Emma Mercer, Smruthi Rudraraju, Savannah Smith, Abby Thompson, Amelia Welch, and Alina Zufall.

### Langley High Choir Performs at 'Fantasy Land'

The Langley High School Women's Chamber Choir visited the North Pole and brought tears to the eyes of an adoring audience at the United Airlines Fantasy Flight event on Saturday, Dec. 11. Every year United Airlines volunteers transform a section of Terminal D at Dulles International Airport into the North Pole for a few hours on a Saturday morning in December so that terminally ill children can visit

a fantasy land with their families and meet Santa. The children and their families boarded a plane and taxied around the runway before arriving at the North Pole terminal where they were greeted by the Women's Chamber Choir in their Renaissance-style gowns singing Christmas carols. The songs and smiles continued while everyone deplaned into the North Pole fantasy land.

# Keeping Roads Clear

## VDOT outlines improvements to snow removal program.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls resident Robin Rentsch, a senior citizen, can remember the extreme measure she had to take to get out of her house during last winter's blizzard.

"I must have had five feet of snow built up around my driveway, and then it froze," she said. "I had to go at it with a pickax."

The Virginia Department of Transportation outlined improvements in their snow removal program Dec. 14 at the Grange in Great Falls, pledging that last year's blizzard was a wake-up call for them. Todd Hobson, VDOT Transportation Operations manager, called last year's storm a chance for them to re-evaluate what they were doing wrong.

"There were a lot of lessons learned, and a lot of things have been improved as a result," he said.

There are now 212 pieces of equipment dedicated to the Reston district, which includes Great Falls, as well as more than 1,800 pieces of equipment from VDOT this year.

Hobson said one of the improvements in service would come with the Automatic Vehicle Locator equipment, which will allow them to track the contractor's trucks to make sure they are where they should be.

"The AVL is voluntary, but we are paying them an incentive to use the AVL, and about half of the contractors have it already," he said. "We're not tracking every move, but we want to make certain these guys are where they need to be. If you're still snowed in, but we have guys coming back to the office saying they're all done, we want to be able to send them back out."

He also recommended that residents shovel to the right of their driveway, if residents are facing the road, to avoid having the snow they just shoveled being put right back in front of their driveway. He also recommended residents leave a six to eight feet section open to the left of their driveway just to be safe.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Todd Hobson, VDOT Transportation Operations manager, speaks to residents at the Grange in Great Falls about the improvements to VDOT's snow removal program in the wake of last winter's blizzard.**

**SNOWPLOW DRIVERS** will be getting maps of each neighborhood that show various high-risk areas, as well as the outline of streets of subdivisions, so they know where they are going.

Eric Knudsen, co-chair of the Great Falls Citizens Association's transportation committee, asked Hobson if the drivers could do some reconnaissance work before any snow fell.

"It would help if your guys drive around the neighborhood without any snow on the ground, to get a sense of where they're going," he said.

Hobson said that as part of the training the drivers were dispatched to their various coverage areas to make sure they knew the lay of the land.

"We had a three-hour office training session, then we sent them out to the field," he said.

There are different priority roads for VDOT when it comes to snowfall. Roads like

## Tips for Helping the Plows

VDOT says there are things residents can do to help make it easier for the snowplows to clear roads faster and more efficiently.

- ❖ Stay off roads as much as possible, packed snow and ice is hard to remove, and it helps VDOT get main and secondary roads complete.

- ❖ Remove vehicles from street or coordinate with neighbors to park on the same side of the road, which will allow the plows to make a wider lane.

- ❖ Plows will always push to the right, so shovel to the right. A 10-foot open area to the left will also help avoid re-fill.

- ❖ When possible, assign one representative for your homeowner's association. This helps avoid repeat calls, which improves reaction times.

Georgetown Pike and Leesburg Pike are designated "chemical roads," because they are the first to be treated with chemicals, which could be salt, sand, magnesium chloride or any mixture of those, depending on the exact weather conditions.

Roads like Springvale Road and Old Dominion Roads fall into the second priority category, and then come the roads within the subdivisions.

"Our goal is one truck per subdivision map, and we've got 50 of them in the Reston district," Hobson said. "And we've got an additional 22 trucks that are dedicated to the priority routes."

VDOT is in the middle of putting all their maps online, so residents can check them out and alert VDOT as to any changes or missed roads.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS** will also be taking feedback as to the performance of VDOT during any snowfall. Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) said residents can post photos and other materials on her Facebook page.

"Last year we had a lot of pictures sent to our office and we forwarded them along to VDOT, so they could see the places that hadn't been touched," she said. "We've set up my Facebook page so people can post photos, we'd like to get a two-way flow of information going."

VDOT has a 24/7 hotline and e-mail address as well that they will be taking in information from people as they are affected. The phone number is (800) FOR-ROAD (367-7623). The e-mail address is novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov.

The office of Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) will also be taking input; they can be reached at 703-356-0551 (TTY 711) or at Dansville@fairfaxcounty.gov.

# Bringing Joy to Military Children

## Nonprofit organization takes on Santa's duties for wounded warriors' children.

In the spirit of the holidays, donors and volunteers affiliated with the nonprofit organization Our Military Kids provided gifts to 92 children of Wounded Warriors across the country, allowing them to have a Christmas without the financial burden.

The project was headed by Bob

Nelson, a real estate agent in Great Falls, who initiated the gift drive with Our Military Kids last year to recognize the service and sacrifice of Wounded Warrior families during the holidays. Nelson recruited friends and business associates to serve as his "elves" and adopt a child or family.

"I wanted to bring extra holiday cheer to children of our injured service members and their families," said Nelson. "They make tremendous sacrifices for our freedom, and it's the least we can do to repay them. When I posted the information on my website, I received an overwhelming response.

It brings so much joy to people in Northern Virginia to be able to provide this type of support."

All of the children had previously received grants from Our Military Kids, which provides funding for children of all Wounded Warriors and currently deployed National Guardsmen and Reservists to participate in activities such as sports, fine arts, camps, and tutoring programs.

For more information, visit [www.ourmilitarykids.org](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org).

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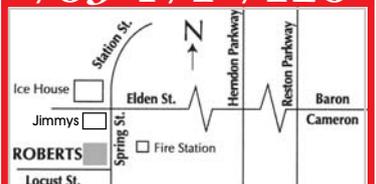
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# OPINION

## Merry Christmas, Happy New Year

**W**e wish our readers, our clients and everyone who lives, works, studies, plays, shops or pursues their avocations here all the best over this holiday week and beyond into the New Year. Thank you for making the Connection a part of your week, a part of your year.

This is our last news edition of 2010; next week shortly after Christmas, readers will receive the Children's Connection our traditional issue devoted to the writing and artwork of local children and teens.

In the meantime, we are looking for input on New Year's resolutions. Share one or more of the resolutions you will make for 2011, or tell us about a past resolution and how you approached it, for better or worse. Do you have some tips to share for achieving your goals? Send us 50-200 words, and please share a photo as well. We'll print selections in our first issue of the New Year, Jan. 5-12, 2011.

Send your submissions to [xxxxxxxx@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:xxxxxxxx@connectionnewspapers.com).

Another opportunity to be a part of the Connection: The Pet Connection will publish on

Feb. 2, 2011, send us photos of you and your pet by Jan. 20.

### Alternatives to Drinking and Driving

A recent ride-along with a Northern Virginia police officer gave Connection reporter Alex McVeigh a chance to convey some of the methods and mission to get drunk drivers off the road. (See Getting Drunk Drivers Off the Streets, in Dec. 15's Reston Connection, <http://connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=346976&paper=71&cat=104>)

Among other things on the night of the ride-along, the officer encountered an apparently drunk driver who had fallen asleep behind the wheel waiting to make a right turn, his car running, his turn signal blinking and vomit evident down the outside of the driver's side door. It's enough to make you want to stay home.

With the season for holiday parties comes the increased incidence of driving under the influence, with drunk driving arrests up more than 70 percent compared to other times of year. In 2010, Fairfax County Police have in-

vestigated more than 660 alcohol related accidents. In 2008 in Fairfax County, there were more than 3,100 arrests for driving under the influence.

In Arlington, 677 arrests. In Alexandria, 515 arrests. In the City of Fairfax, 181 arrests.

**DON'T TAKE THE RISK.** Plan ahead, leave your car at home, take public transportation, arrange for a designated driver, or choose to abstain if a designated driver isn't available.

But if you find yourself in the unfortunate position of drinking without a safe way home on your own this holiday season, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has provided you with a safety net called SoberRide. Take their number with you when you head out, and be sure any young adults (must be 21 or over) in your family are similarly armed.

WRAP's 2010 Holiday SoberRide program is available now through 6 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older. (Callers are responsible for anything over \$30.)

#### EDITORIALS

## Protecting Virginians with Intellectual Disabilities

*Excerpts from a letter from the Arc of Virginia to Gov. Bob McDonnell:*

Despite our being 8th in per capita income, Virginia is ranked 46th for its fiscal effort towards community-based services for Virginians with developmental disabilities. In addition to its lengthy waiting lists and continued practice of institutionalization, Virginia's existing community services are chronically underfunded. Virginia's reimbursement rates for home and community-based waiver programs have not kept pace with inflation, and as a result, our service system is behind the rest of the country.

To put it simply, Virginia cannot sustain the cuts and policies contained in the current budget.

The Arc of Virginia is the Commonwealth's oldest and largest advocacy organization for people with developmental disabilities and their families. It was The Arc families who, 55 years ago, established the first education programs for children with developmental disabilities. It was The Arc families, who for decades, fought for access to community-based supports so their sons and daughters would not be forced to live in state operated institutions. Today, we ask you to protect the core state services and supports that people with developmental disabilities and their families have fought so hard for, and improve access to the services that are still

lacking.

Virginia has not fulfilled the promise of community integration for Virginians with developmental disabilities. More than 1,100 Virginians with developmental disabilities continue to be institutionalized in outdated and segregated state facilities. More than 6,400 Virginians with intellectual and related developmental disabilities continue to languish on waiting lists for community-based supports. Nearly 3,000 of these individuals are identified as being in "urgent need" for reasons such as living with an aging caregiver, aging out foster care, or imminent risk of homelessness. In the face of this crisis, the current budget provides no help to any waiting list families through June 30, 2012.

The Arc of Virginia urges you to protect existing HCBS Waiver services and supports, which are scheduled to be cut on July 1, 2011, by taking the following actions in the 2010-2012 Introduced Budget:

- ❖ Elimination of the 5 percent cut in reimbursement rates for HCBS Waiver programs

- ❖ Elimination of the 2/3 reduction in respite hours for families receiving HCBS Waiver services

- ❖ Elimination of the reductions in assistive technology and environmental modification

Furthermore, The Arc of Virginia requests that you to take action to end the ID and IFDDS Waiver wait-

ing list crisis, beginning with the following actions:

- ❖ Removal of budget language that eliminates 400 new ID Waivers and 67 new IFDDS Waivers in FY12, honoring the promise made to people with developmental disabilities and their families in § 32.1-323.2

- ❖ Inclusion of funding for 800 new ID Waivers and 165 new IFDDS Waivers to further aid waiting list families

- ❖ Provision of \$5 million in support services for 1,000 people who are also waiting because they have been denied access due to level of functioning

Finally, The Arc of Virginia joins countless other local, state and national organizations in calling for an end to Virginia's antiquated practice of institutionalizing people with developmental disabilities. We request that you establish a comprehensive plan to

transition to a community-based system of support and reinvest cost savings to assure successful transitions, maintain existing services and provide support to those who are waiting.

If action is not taken to sustain and strengthen the community-based safety net, thousands of Virginians may be at risk of losing their homes, jobs and lives in the community. Please prevent Virginia from taking a huge step backwards in the civil rights movement for Virginians with developmental disabilities. It is time to fulfill the promise of community and end the segregation of people with developmental disabilities. Virginia has waited long enough.

**Howard Cullum**  
President  
**Jamie Liban**  
Executive Director  
ARC of Virginia

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.  
Send to:

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The Connection  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail: [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com)

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# NEWS



President Obama's family attended the Christmas in Washington concert.

## Mariah Carey Wears Adeler Design for Christmas in Washington

Mariah Carey, in town to perform at the Christmas in Washington Concert, wore a pair of earrings custom designed and created by Jorge Adeler. The concert, hosted by Ellen DeGeneres and attended by the Obama family, benefits the Children's National Medical Center and was televised on TNT.

"Mariah wore a fabulous pair of Adeler earrings and we are thrilled to have been able to help her look as beautiful as she did," said Jorge Adeler. Carey wore a pair of

double dangle diamond earrings with red tourmaline drops that matched her dress beautifully.

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**Church of the Holy Comforter**  
The Rev. Richard A. Lord, Rector

**CHRISTMAS EVE:**  
11:00 a.m. Eucharist with Children's Living Crèche  
4:00 p.m. Eucharist with Children's Living Crèche  
7:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist  
10:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

**CHRISTMAS MORNING:**  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Episcopal)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26:**  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

543 Beulah Road, Vienna, VA 22180, [www.holycomforter.com](http://www.holycomforter.com), 703-938-6521

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY J. GREGORY/THE CONNECTION

**Rev. Cole Floyd is shown with Rev. Tim Floyd, Senior Pastor of Providence Baptist Church, his ministry appointment confirmed.**

**Pastor Cole Floyd, permanently appointed Minister of Students and Families, is poised to build on the successes of the past year.**

## Helping Youth at Local Church

**Rev. Cole Floyd installed as Providence's new Minister of Students and Families.**

By Shirley J. Gregory  
The Connection

Providence Baptist Church in McLean has appointed Rev. Cole Floyd as the new Minister of Students and Families on Dec. 1, a vacant position he had occupied on temporary basis. He will continue ministering to young people from elementary school age through young adult and their families. His goals are to continue helping youth forge strong Christian lives, and to provide them access to the resources they may need. His Bible-centered ministry is based on testimony, witnessing, and outreach.

Rev. Floyd ministers to 25 young people, seventh graders through young adults. For the past year he has worked to bring the church's youth together in order for them to get to know each other, and to become friends not only in church, but outside of church as well. "I am pleased to see close bonds that they have formed," said Rev. Floyd. Rev. Floyd leads teens in visits to nursing homes, in reaching out to the homeless and needy, and in helping each other, and meeting each other's needs, even help with homework. Rev. Floyd believes that when teens learn to minister to others at their age, it strengthens their faith and gives them a confidence that will serve them well in college and adult life.

"We sponsor 'fun' activities so that young people can get to know each other," he said, "such as the 'Lock-In' planned for January. Once the teens become comfortable with the relationships they forge through these activities, the Biblical studies, and the ministry available to them, they feel comfortable about inviting their un-churched friends to visit the church and get involved."

Minister of Students and Families is a position Rev. Floyd's life experiences has more than prepared him to assume. In addition to growing up in Providence Baptist Church and being a part of its close-knit congregation, he was a Christian counselor at the popular sports camp Summer's Best Two Weeks in Boswell, Pa., through high school and college. He led the Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship at Longwood University for two years, and was the Children's Ministry Intern at Providence

before graduating. He has preached at and led Bible studies in senior living facilities and Christian assemblies as far away as Albany, Ind.

After graduating from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in 2009, Rev. Floyd became a Preaching Associate in Norberth Wales, sharing teaching responsibilities with Pastor Chris Rees. He also travelled to various congregations in Southwest Wales and other parts of the UK to preach in mid-week and Sunday services. It was there he noticed an interesting phenomenon. "In most instances I was the youngest person in the church," said Rev. Floyd. "And, there were no young people attending church." In order to minister to young people in Wales, he had to get in touch with local youth organizations.

Rev. Floyd's installment as Providence's youth minister was incidental. The position became vacant just as Rev. Floyd returned from Wales, and he agreed to step in until a permanent replacement was found. His successes in ministering to the church's youth, bringing them to fellowship with each other and the entire church body, proved that he is the best choice for the job.

Rev. Tim Floyd is pastor of Providence Baptist Church, and Rev. Cole Floyd's father. He said, "Cole was a fill-in. It was a coincidence that the ministry position became vacant just as his ministry in Wales ended."

"I feel God has prepared Cole for this. He has a vision for the kids," he continued, "and he has done well. We're very pleased that he signed up for the permanent position."

Rev. Cole Floyd's plan for the future is to build on what he has already accomplished. He has seen the Reach Out energy grow exponentially this year among the teens, and he plans to build upon that, ministering to the church family and the community even more. There are plans for mission trips abroad, as well. He and the teens will travel to Zimbabwe next summer, and he plans to take them to a mission trip abroad each year.

Providence Baptist Church is located at 8980 Brook Road in McLean. Sunday worship is at 10 a.m.; Bible Study Plus is on Sunday at 11:20 a.m. Rev. Cole Floyd meets with the Single Young Adults every other Tuesday at 7 p.m. at 1222 Providence Terrace in McLean (oneway@providencetoday.org).

*Wednesday nights are family nights at Providence, with something for every family member: Dinner at 5:45 p.m.; Adult Bible Study at 7 p.m.; Student Ministry at 7 p.m.; and, Kids Ministry and AWANA at 6:30 p.m. Contact the church at 703-893-5330; the website is providencetoday.org.*

## ENTERTAINMENT

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

**WEDNESDAY/DEC. 22**  
**Todd Wright's 8th Annual Christmas Spectacular (acoustic).** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://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](http://www.thestatetheatre.com).

**Todd Wright's 8th Annual Christmas Spectacular.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.vvfd.org).

### FAITH NOTES

*Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@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](http://www.umtrinity.org).  
♦ **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](http://www.stjohnsmclean.org).  
♦ **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](mailto:chesterbrookumc@gmail.com).

**The Antioch Christian Church,** 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, invites the public to their annual Christmas Eve worship on Friday, Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. The evening will include the story of Christmas, the singing of Christmas carols with a story for children and



PHOTO COURTESY 1ST STAGE

**Jennifer Weinreich and John Stange as Mollie and Giles Ralston in 'The Mousetrap.'** The 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road in McLean, present 'The Mousetrap' by Agatha Christie, directed by Jessica Lefkow, on weekends through Jan. 9. A charming couple opening a new guesthouse, an array of whimsical guests, in the brink of a terrible blizzard, a murder is committed. Tickets are available at [www.1ststage.com/mousetrap](http://www.1ststage.com/mousetrap) or 703-854-1856.

**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/mousetrap](http://www.1ststage.com/mousetrap) or 703-854-1856.  
**Poor Man's Lobster, Funkmnykz and The Arctic Groove.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://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  
**Where's My Face (Dubstep and Electrohouse) with Viking, DJ**

**M.A.F., Konstellation and Hubsmoke.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**TUESDAY/DEC. 28**  
**The Dinobabies and Marly Dumarz.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**WEDNESDAY/DEC. 29**  
**Berrett and Harrison and Cara Salimando.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**THURSDAY/DEC. 30**  
**Natalie York and Molly Hagen.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).  
**Frostival.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dulles Expo & Conference Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Family fun with storytellers, music and dance, crafts, interactive activities, Reptiles Alive, Blue Sky Puppets and more. Canned food items and new and gently used winter coats will be collected to provide to families in need. [www.Frostival.com](http://www.Frostival.com).

**FRIDAY/DEC. 31**  
**Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap".** 9 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Special performance and party. \$50. [www.1ststage.com/mousetrap](http://www.1ststage.com/mousetrap) or 703-854-1856.  
**4th Annual Rockoceros New Years Eve Party.** 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Frostival.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dulles Expo & Conference Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Family fun with storytellers, music and dance, crafts, interactive activities, The Great Zucchini and more. Canned food items and new and gently used winter coats will be collected to provide to families in need. [www.Frostival.com](http://www.Frostival.com).

**SATURDAY/JAN. 1**  
**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/mousetrap](http://www.1ststage.com/mousetrap) or 703-854-1856.  
**Mambo Sauce and The Movement.** 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).  
**Frostival.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dulles Expo & Conference Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Family fun with storytellers, music and dance, crafts, interactive activities, Secret Agent 23 Skidoo and more. Canned food items and new and gently used winter coats will be collected to provide to families in need. [www.Frostival.com](http://www.Frostival.com).

**SUNDAY/JAN. 2**  
**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](http://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/mousetrap](http://www.1ststage.com/mousetrap) or 703-854-1856.  
**The Shield Brothers "Danger"**

**"Danger" Release Show and The Getaways.** 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Frostival.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dulles Expo & Conference Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Family fun with storytellers, music and dance, crafts, interactive activities, Rockoceros and more. Canned food items and new and gently used winter coats will be collected to provide to families in need. Military Appreciation Day: all active duty military and veterans receive free adult admission with a valid ID. [www.Frostival.com](http://www.Frostival.com).

**MONDAY/JAN. 3**  
**Fred Eaglesmith.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**WEDNESDAY/JAN. 5**  
**Brian Huber Full Band "Imagination of Ourselves" CD Release, Gringo and Dimstore.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**THURSDAY/JAN. 6**  
**Elizabeth and The Catapult, The Last Monarchs and Cecelia Jeffrey.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**FRIDAY/JAN. 7**  
**Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap".** 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. [www.1ststage.com/mousetrap](http://www.1ststage.com/mousetrap) or 703-854-1856.

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**Thomas Howard, programs director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, speaks to the audience at Friday night's performance of "The Laramie Project" along with members of the cast.**

## Replacing Hate With Acceptance

**"Laramie Project" premiere features question and answer session.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Langley High School welcomed Thomas Howard, programs director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation for a question and answer session following the premiere of their performance of "The Laramie Project." The play examines homosexuality, hate, tolerance and community in the wake of the death of Matthew Shepard, who was severely beaten and left to die by two men in October of 1998.

"I have been blessed with the opportunity to spend my life watching people perform 'The Laramie Project,' and I think this generation really gets it," Howard said.

The actors in the play said they learned a lot about what a tragedy like the death of Shepard brings out in people.

"I thought I understood a lot more than I did, now I know there's a lot I have to learn," said senior Nicole Kang, who played four roles. "I didn't understand how much people can hate, and by the same token, how much they can love."

Senior James Mamana, who played Dennis Shepard, father of Matthew, in addition to other roles, said the act of trying to become the people in the play opened his eyes.

"The biggest difference was the before and after once you put yourself in their shoes," he said. "Every time you go on stage you learn not just about the people you are portraying, but about yourself."

**THE AUDIENCE** asked the actors if it was hard to portray some of the more hateful characters in the play, because some of them said very hateful things.

"It made me a little uncomfortable, some of the things I had to say," said junior Jordan Moeller, who played among other roles the leader of a protest from the Westboro Baptist Church. "But we have to open up in order to educate, we have to show people can be like, because this play is to educate."

Despite what people at Langley learned from the

play, Howard said that a lot of people in Laramie are still in some form of denial. But he also said that the people he spoke with are accepting of the play as it was written, because of the accuracy not found in subsequent media reports.

"Most people I know who are the characters are proud of the product," Howard said. "This is Matt's legacy, and it's not sensationalized, it doesn't paint him as a martyr."

With issues like anti-gay bullying and the repeal of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy at the forefront of the news today, several audience members questioned how much progress was being made.

Howard said he does "not believe that there's an increase in anti-gay bullying, it's just that we're talking about it more."

Howard urged members of the audience to take a look at their own community, and to take the lessons they learned from the play.

"It's not a gay thing," he said. "It's a values thing. If you don't want me to force my values on you, then don't force your values on me."

Senior Zack Gray, who plays several roles, including the doctor who ran the hospital where Matthew Shepard was treated, said he witnessed a change of attitude firsthand.

"One of my friends asked what I was doing this weekend, and I told him I'd be in this play. He asked what it was about and I told him, and he said 'that's really gay,'" Gray said. "So I told him what it was in detail, what the play was really about, and he

didn't have much to laugh about after that."

**HOWARD** also revealed to the audience a fact about the case that wasn't released until much later, and that a lot of people didn't know. He said that when Reggie Flutey, the officer who responded to the call when Shepard was found, arrived on the scene, there was a female deer next to Shepard keeping him warm, and that was one of the reasons it was theorized that Shepard survived 18 hours out in the cold.

"The challenge to each of you is to tell each other what you're feeling, never assume anyone else in your life knows you love them, unless you tell them," Howard said.

The play was attended by hundreds of students and parents from the Langley community, and also featured a silent auction that raised \$7,000 for the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

**"I didn't understand how much people can hate, and by the same token, how much they can love."**

— Nicole Kang,  
Senior, Langley High

### VIEWPOINTS

What did you learn from the performance of "The Laramie Project?"



**Shannon Megrue**, senior,  
Langley High School

"I learned how many perspectives there are, and just because you agree with something doesn't mean that you're a good person or disagree you're a bad person."



**Stavie Browne**, freshman,  
Christopher Newport University

"You can't judge someone until you know them. I learned how much people can judge without knowing, whether it's assuming that it's wrong to be gay, or to assume Matthew Shepard was a martyr. Those are the kind of extreme conclusions you can come to without knowing."



**Hayley Mueller**, senior,  
Langley High School

"This is the fifth time I've seen the play, and no matter how many times I see it, I go home with a new perspective. I'm 100 percent in support of gay rights, but every time I go home after seeing it, I think I'm not doing nearly enough."



**Stephen Rainey**, senior,  
Langley High School

"I learned about the story of the deer being with Matthew, that he wasn't alone. I hadn't heard that before the Q-and-A. It also reinforced what our [Gay-Straight Alliance organization at school] says, that people are who they are, and you have to accept that."



**Natalie Bozorgzad**, senior,  
Langley High School

"You always hear certain phrases like 'that's so gay' and I learned how big of a deal that is. It's not something to say lightly, and it shouldn't be used the way kids use it most of the time."

# Best Wishes For The Holidays



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT

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# SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**Elaina Ebersole** of McLean, majoring in human nutrition, foods and exercise in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is now serving as a Hokie Ambassador for Virginia Tech.

Hokie Ambassadors primarily provide the tours for prospective undergraduates. The Hokie Ambassadors exemplify what it means to be a Hokie through dedication and service.

**Corey Jean Gartenhaus** of Great Falls has graduated with a bachelor of arts in marketing and advertising/public relations from Marietta College of Marietta, Ohio.

**Zachary D. Geller** of Great Falls has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Geller is majoring in civil engineering and pursuing a master of science in the College of Engineering.

**Randi Myers** of Oakton has graduated from Coastal Carolina University of Conway, S.C. with a bachelor of science, cum laude.

**Michael Yauss** of Vienna has graduated from Coastal Carolina University of Conway, S.C. with a bachelor of science in business administration.

**Beth R. Stein** of Vienna has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Stein is majoring in forestry and pursuing a master of science.

**Kiran Karra** of Vienna has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Karra is majoring in electrical engineering and pursuing a master of science.

**Brian C. Cheng** of Vienna has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Cheng is majoring in computer engineering and pursuing a master of science.

**Matthew J. Rathje** of Vienna has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Rathje is pursuing a Master of Information Technology.

**Troy M. Morgan** of Vienna has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Morgan is majoring in human development and pursuing a master of science.

**Arun Sundaram Sundaram** of Vienna has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Sundaram is majoring in computer science and applications and pursuing a master of science.

Oakton residents **Nicholas McCormick** and **Louisa C. Stanwich** have been named to the president's list at Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal for the first quarter of the 2010-2011 school year. McCormick, a junior at the Academy, is the son of Michael and Gabrielle McCormick of Oakton.

Stanwich, a freshman at the Academy, is the daughter of John and Maria Carosa Stanwich of Oakton.

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## A Quarter for My Thoughts



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Wondering whether what I'm feeling physically is symptomatic of my having my stage IV lung cancer – or not, has become the bane of my existence. The presumed inevitability of it wears on me night and day. Though my overall stress level is significantly lower than when I was working full time, commuting two rush-hours a day by car and being "clock-radioed" at 5:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, I'd be lying if I said living with my diagnosis/prognosis is "no problem."

Having said – and admitted that out loud, I am however, reasonably able to get on with the activities of my daily living and pretty much be counted on to finish most of what I start. And what I find myself needing to finish most are my quarterly scans: Bone, CT and Brain MRI, which I have every three months per my participation in a Schering Plough "Randomized Phase 2 Study".

After 15 months in, my results have been, to quote myself (and referring to a previously published column): "Scantastic!" Nevertheless, future results/my health could change in a week – or so I've been reminded, professionally. As such, I've learned to take the so far good news with the as-yet-not-received bad news. Still, if there's good news to be heard, given the terminal nature of my original prognosis, I want to hear it. More importantly – for me, I need to know how to process it, and where to place it in my compartmentalized/"defense-mechanismed" brain – for self-preservation of course, so that I don't upset this delicate Libra balance that I strive to maintain. And it's about this time (eight to 10 weeks out) in my recurring quarterly scan cycle when my subconscious takes over.

I believe this happens because of something my oncologist said about eight months ago. That was when I first received unexpected and amazing news from him – following the previous week's scans. The tumors were not moving or growing. In fact, there seemed to be more scar tissue than tumors, the doctor said. Perplexed at what it all meant, since I came in experiencing what I thought were cancer-related symptoms, my oncologist attempted to put me at ease – and clarify as well when he said: "You've been scanned stem to stern in the last week, anything you feel over the next eight weeks, don't even worry about it. It's not the cancer," (the cancer that we know about, ergo the continuing mental problem). And as reassuring and wonderful as that answer/explanation was, it has however, had an unintended effect: anxiety.

Per my doctor's advice, for the first eight weeks after my scans and every-three-week appointment with my oncologist have been completed, I really don't worry too much (as much, to be honest) about whatever I might be feeling physically/the cancer. It's all good. However, once I'm into the ninth week or so, the worm turns and all presumptions, rationalizations and nothing-to-worry-about concerning my cancer/any miscellaneous symptoms I may be experiencing, are off. At that point on my mental calendar, the cancer window is officially open for business, or so my subconscious thinks. It's the next four weeks until I'm scanned again that my brain is in total control. It reacts, overreacts, wonders, worries, stresses about every little thing I feel, or think I feel. I can't stop it. I can only endure it.

Consequently, those/these next four weeks can't pass quickly enough. And as peculiar as it may sound, I'm not nearly as nervous for those scan results as much as I am eager for them. At least then, I'll know exactly where my cancer is or – more importantly, where it's not. Then I'll be back in control, for another eight weeks, anyway. It may not be an ideal way to live, but it is living and it is feeling, and it sure beats the alternative.

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

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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to modify an existing telecommunications installation inside a steeple located on a church at 4110 N. Old Glebe Rd., Arlington, VA. The modification includes removal and replacement of three antennas (one from each sector) with three new antennas in the same locations at a height of 87 feet, and the addition of three antennas at a height of 83 feet within the steeple. 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 61107882-MAT c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA, 17403, or via telephone at (781) 273-2500.

**21 Announcements**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
AT&T Mobility is proposing to install new wireless telecommunications antennas on an existing building located at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, VA. The new facility will consist of adding three panel antennas (one per sector) to existing rooftop mounts at 62 feet above ground level. Support equipment will be placed on an existing rooftop equipment pad. 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 61107459-SF c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at 781-273-2500.

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AT&T intends to file an application for the collocation of new antennas on the building located at 1900 Columbia Pike, Arlington, Virginia. 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 "Court House" will consist of the collocation of antennas on the roof of the building. In addition, conduit will be run from the equipment shelter to the antennas. 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 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o [theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com](mailto:theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com)

**21 Announcements**

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AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to modify a wireless telecommunications facility on a building located at 1415 N. Oak St., Arlington, VA. The proposed modification consists of adding three antennas (one per sector) at a height of 73.4 feet on the rooftop. Two antennas will be mounted behind an existing screen wall, and one will be on an existing chimney. 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 61108009-MAT c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA, 17403, or via telephone at (781) 273-2500.

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PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Langley boys' coach Travis Hess has seen the Saxons win two straight following four losses to start the season.

McLean boys' coach Kevin Roller said his team has progressively improved over the first several weeks of the season.

## Rivals McLean and Langley Meet on Hardwood

Highlander girls prevail, while Saxon boys are also winners.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

Local high school basketball fans from McLean and Langley both got a taste of victory during an early season girls'-boys' double-header last Friday night at McLean.

In the evening's first game, the home team McLean girls bested Langley, 50-36, in the cross-town contest. Then, in the boys' night-cap game, Langley edged the Highlanders, 43-42.

Langley, with the boys' game win, improved its record to 2-4 overall. The Saxons, in the Liberty District affair, were led by David Adams' 16 points. Also in double digit scoring for the Saxons was Jeff Cochran with 11 points. Braden Anderson added six points and Daniel Dixon five for the winners. For McLean (3-3), Gordon Rigo scored a game-high 17 points. He was the lone Highlander player in double digit scoring, although Thomas Van Wazer and Sango Amolo brought some balance to the team's scoring output with nine and eight points, respectively.

McLean led 16-11 after one quarter but the Saxons trailed by just one point at halftime and trailed just 33-31 after three quarters before outscoring the guests 12-9 in the final stanza to win.

In the girls' game, McLean (2-3) jumped out to a 14-7 lead after one quarter and held a 23-11 halftime advantage. The Saxons (0-4), still in search of their first win, were outscored by just two points in the second half.

Lisa Murphy led McLean with 15 points, while Andie Romness was also in double figures with 12 points. Erin Mundy contrib-

uted seven points, Christy Warren scored five and Shellie Kaniut four for the Highlanders.

Langley senior Sarah Kleinknecht and younger sister Jennie Kleinknecht, a sophomore, both scored 11 points to lead the Saxons. Jessica Stewart, another sophomore, added seven points.

The McLean girls, since beginning the season with losses to Robinson and Washington-Lee at the Woodson High Tip-Off Tournament, have won three of their last four games - a 39-26 home win over Falls Church, a 49-45 win at Yorktown, a non-region home loss to North Stafford, and the recent victory over Langley.

The Highlander girls are coached by Mike O'Brien, while Keith Eastman is at the helm of Langley.

**MCLEAN** boys' head coach Kevin Roller, despite his team's one-point loss to Langley, is pleased with the way his Highlanders have played early on this season. Since an 0-2 start, with the setbacks coming to Paul VI, 63-42, and Robinson, 74-49, at the Woodson Tip-Off, McLean has won three of its last four games, the setback coming to the Saxons on Friday after the Highlanders had won three straight over Falls Church, 66-41, Yorktown, 55-45, and The Heights (Washington, D.C.), 75-70 in overtime. In the win over The Heights, a private school opponent, Kevin Lastova nailed a three-pointer at the final regulation buzzer to tie the game and force overtime where McLean won.

The Highlanders have just three seniors on their roster - guards Edwin Manson and Brian Godla, and center Charlie Davis.

"We have had a strong start to our season," said McLean coach Kevin Roller. "We are a team that is looking to improve each week and we have succeeded so far."

While the Highlanders lost by lopsided scores in their two games at the Woodson tourney, Roller was not downcast regarding the contests with the Panthers and

Rams.

"It was great to open the season against Paul VI and Robinson," he said. "While we went 0-2 in the tip-off tournament we led both games at the end of the first quarter and saw not just what we could become as a team but what we needed to improve upon to accomplish our objectives. The guys were disappointed by the outcome but I told them that we were in a better position moving forward than if we had found a less competitive tournament and had gone 2-0."

The Highlanders came back strong with their three straight victories.

"We played a very strong second half [against Falls Church] and then [against Yorktown] we played the best defense of the season and had five players score between eight and 15 points," said Roller. "We slipped in our focus and execution in our game versus The Heights, giving up a nine-point halftime lead. But we were able to go the length of the floor in the final five seconds and hit a game tying three-pointer by Kevin."

McLean's top scorers through six games are juniors Rogo (18 points) and Van Wazer (14 points, 9 rebounds per game). Strong support has come from seniors Godla and Davis, as well as juniors Amolo, Daniel

Lewis, Lastova, and Mark Hannibal.

The McLean boys will travel to Panama City Beach, Florida over the holidays (Dec. 28-30), where they will take part in the Area Glass Marlin Holiday Tournament, hosted by Arnold High School in Panama City Beach.

"Our goal at the tournament is to grow closer as a group and to continue to improve with each game against what will be much stronger competition than we saw in our Holiday Tournament last year. While we certainly hope to come home with a winning record in Florida, the more important objective is to continue to improve as a team and position us for the remainder of the District schedule and, hopefully, beyond."

**THE LANGLEY HIGH BOYS (2-4)** will be playing at Westfield High's Bulldog Bash Tournament Dec. 28-30. The Saxons, in their tournament opener on Dec. 28, will meet Potomac High at 12:30.

Langley (2-4) lost its first four games to begin the season before coming back with two straight victories - 78-59 over visiting Fairfax on Dec. 14, and Friday's one-point triumph over McLean. The Saxons were scheduled to play at Centreville High earlier this week on Tuesday, Dec. 21.

### Madeira Swimmers Make It 1-1

The Madeira School, in a private school varsity swim meet held on Tuesday, Dec. 7, defeated Holy Child, 104-79, to improve their season record to 1-1.

"We had a strong showing for this being the second meet of the season," said Madeira coach Rod Montrie. "Our top swimmers look to be in mid-season form even though it is still early in the season. And our relays are beginning to look strong."

Madeira swept all three relays - the 200-medley relay, with a team of senior Christa Ann Saunders, juniors Ann Griffin and Brittney Jansen, and freshman Michaela Saunders; the 200-free relay, made up of senior Rachel Tang, Griffin, sophomore Grace Johnson and Michael

Saunders; and the 400-freestyle relay team of Christa Ann Saunders, Jansen, Alagia, and Johnson.

Double winners for Madeira were Alagia (200 and 500-free events); Christa Ann Saunders (100-butterfly and 100-backstroke); and Jansen (50 and 100-freestyle races).

Also, junior Kat Pflieger posted personal-best times in the 500-free and 100-back events; and Johnson posted personal best times in the 200-free and the 100-fly events. In diving, sophomore Sara-Nia Coleman completed her first meet and did a great job, according to coach Montrie.

Madeira's next meet is Friday, Jan. at home against Maret.

# HOME SALES

NOVEMBER 2010  
\$1,490,000 ~ \$500,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	..	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision
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11600 AIR VIEW LN	5	3	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$1,310,000	Detached	3.66	SUGARLAND RUN
11198 BEACH MILL RD	4	3	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$1,200,000	Detached	2.17	GARNIER MILL ESTATES
537 UTTERBACK STORE RD	4	4	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$930,000	Detached	1.72	DRANESVILLE
525 LOST ACRE LN	5	3	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$828,000	Detached	5.00	OLD DOMINION ESTATES
633 RIVER BEND RD	4	3	0	..	GREAT FALLS	\$800,000	Detached	5.00	GREAT FALLS HEIGHTS
513 SPRINGVALE RD	4	3	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$710,000	Detached	0.50	GREAT FALLS
10740 WYNKOOP DR	4	2	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$629,000	Detached	0.53	LOCKMEADE
848 CONSTELLATION DR	4	3	0	..	GREAT FALLS	\$569,000	Detached	0.51	OLIVER ESTATES
901 GOLDEN ARROW ST	3	3	0	..	GREAT FALLS	\$500,000	Detached	0.60	OLIVER ESTATES

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# Wish List Touches Many

FROM PAGE 3

collected gifts to benefit families at three other shelters in the area," Mahon said.

Mahon said she was pleased she was able to add about 20 more donors to her list this year, bringing the total to approximately 135 "angels" whose generosity will benefit 400 people in need.

Some gifts were as simple and practical as baby shampoo, diapers and wipes for children who live in homeless shelters; some mothers

are just teens.

Other gifts were more elaborate. David, a Fairfax County foster teen, asked for a bike so he could get to and from his classes and job at Old Dominion University. Instead, he received two bikes and a basket filled with biking gear.

Denise Cannon, the community coordinator for Artemis House, a county-sponsored shelter for victims of domestic violence, said that baby diapers and adult hygiene products are always a welcome gift

to families at the shelter. "I think people are realizing how important family is, and they want to help struggling families who may not have the support that they have," Cannon said.

Wish List beneficiaries include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter in Reston, Shelter House in Falls Church, the Katherine Hanley Family Shelter in Fairfax, St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home in Hyattsville and 75 Fairfax County foster teens. This year, Mahon added Artemis House.

### 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.  
GMU - Fairfax Campus

Families of all shapes and sizes can volunteer at projects benefiting six local nonprofits - in the convenience of one, central location.

Spaces are limited and pre-registration is required at [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org).

Special thanks to the Connection for its support of volunteerism.

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10:25 a.m. Sunday school/Music: grades 3 - 12  
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PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION



Jane Ruppe, director of the St. Francis Creche Preschool helps drummer boy Quinn Wootton, 4, make it to the stage.

From left, Tommy Maxson, 4, Peter Kuligowski, 4 and Drew Maguire, 4, play the three kings at the St. Francis Creche Christmas pageant Friday.

# Preschool Pageant

## St. Francis Creche Preschool tells the story of Christmas.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

St. Francis Creche Preschool in Great Falls held their annual Christmas Pageant Friday, with students ages two through five re-enacting the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The pageant is one of the yearly traditions at the school.

"It's probably our most popular event," said Reverend Penny Bridges, rector at St. Francis. "It's a great way for the whole creche community to come together."

Teachers at the school spent the last weeks of the year training more than 70 students to be part of the play.

"The teachers have really been working hard on this project," said Jane Ruppe, director of St. Francis.

Many students weren't able to show up for the pageant, as a stomach flu that was going around prevented them from showing up. But that didn't stop the remaining students from putting on quite a show.

Megan Salas conducted the pageant, sitting facing the students during the performance playing acoustic guitar and singing. This is her fifth year doing the show, and she says her favorite part is watching how much fun everyone has.

"The teacher, families and kids just love it every year," Salas said. "My favorite part is watching the little guys and girls dressed up as the animals and the twinkling stars. It's adorable."

The pageant was anything but formal, with students breaking away from the group on occasion to hug their parents, and some even interrupting the performance to say "Hi mom!"

After the performance, students and parents gathered for a holiday party and lunch to celebrate the holiday season. For those involved with the program, it was a great way to end the semester as well as kick off Christmas week.

"It's a great way to start getting ready for Christmas," Salas said.

Students at St. Francis Creche Preschool perform their annual Christmas pageant Friday afternoon.



Great Falls Studios Board Member Gail Pean presents a donation to support the art school to GFFFTA Chairman Diane Falconer.

# Artists Invest in the Community

## Art Night Out 2010 raises awareness and money for the Great Falls School of Art.

Art Night Out 2010 was a special evening of art and entertainment, and an opportunity to invest in the community. It was a colorful scene: art teachers painting fresh canvasses while hors d'oeuvres were passed, music was playing and art enthusiasts and students were admiring works donated for auction by local and regional artists.

The event, sponsored by Great Falls Foundation for the Arts, is held annually to raise awareness and funds for the Great Falls School of Art. Proceeds will be used to secure workshop space, establish scholarships, expand the school's curriculum and promote its programs.

"Our community is home to tremendous artistic talent and energy," said GFFFTA Chairman Diane Falconer. "Great Falls School of Art was established by the Foundation in 2008 to help nurture and celebrate that talent," she explained. "The GFFFTA Board of Directors is so very grateful for each of the guests, sponsors and contributors who supported the school by participating in Art Night Out. A special thanks is due the artist members of Great Falls Studios who contributed a portion of the proceeds from their 2010 Studios Tour to benefit the school."

According to Great Falls School of Art teacher Jill Banks,

"There is a steady demand for art instruction in our community, and that's an exciting challenge. Funds raised at Art Night Out 2010 to promote and grow the school will position us to better meet that demand."

"Equally as important," said GFFFTA Chairman Falconer, "Art Night Out provided a special opportunity to raise awareness about how GFFFTA's vision for the school meshes with the art community's ongoing efforts

to make Great Falls a more artful place.

"Local artists have voiced strong support for a future community center for the Arts in Great Falls — a multi-use facility that would provide a

**"Our community is home to tremendous artistic talent and energy."**

— GFFFTA Chairman Diane Falconer

pus' for artists, art students, art enthusiasts, collectors, performers and patrons, while increasing Great Falls' visibility as a noted Northern Virginia arts destination," Falconer said.

GFFFTA was formed in 2007 by local artists to establish a non-profit fundraising vehicle to support the arts in the community. Great Falls School of Art is a program of GFFFTA. Professional instruction is offered on a semester basis for adults, teens and children by established local and regional artists. More than 450 students have enrolled in as many as 90 classes and workshops to date. To learn more about what the school has planned for 2011, please visit [www.greatfallsfoundationforarts.org](http://www.greatfallsfoundationforarts.org).

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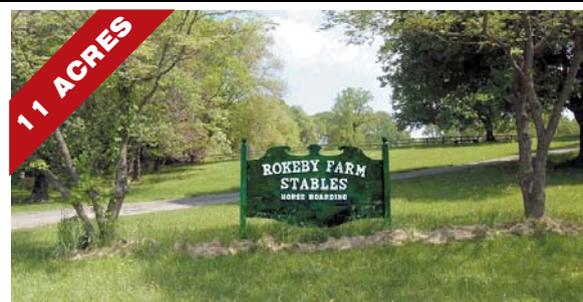
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