

Technology Helps at Home

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\$2 Million Townhouses?

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**Susan Ladwig
demonstrates the new
Pocket Edge by
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Langley Men, Women Get 'Angry'

NEWS, PAGE 3

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From left, senior Becca Allen, sophomore Katie Rees and senior Tess Higgins debate as a jury as part of Langley High School's production of "12 Angry Women."



PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Langley Men, Women Get 'Angry'

Langley High School presents "12 Angry Men" and "12 Angry Women."

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Students at Langley High School will get a chance to get their anger out on the stage as the Saxon Stage presents "12 Angry Women" and "12 Angry Men." The two productions tell the story of a jury tasked with deciding the fate of a young man accused of murdering his father. As the deliberations progress, the jurors learn about their own fears, prejudices and morals.

"We both want to see each other do well, but there is also some competition between the boys and girls," said senior Hayley Mueller, who plays Juror #4.

The play was originally written as "12 Angry Men" in 1954. A few years later, author Reginald Rose wrote "12 Angry Women." Though the script retains the same basic premise, a single juror claiming

reasonable doubt and swinging jurors one by one to his side, they differ in tone.

THE TWO CASTS avoided watching each other's rehearsal, in order to make sure they stayed independent of each other.

"We didn't work together at all, we wanted to form our own characters," said sophomore Charlie Weir, who plays Juror #11.

The play takes place on the hottest day of the year in New York City and director Phyllis Jaffe cranked the heat up during rehearsals to lend to the effect.

"It was sort of frustrating working in the heat, you have to stay sharp, which is hard," said senior Becca Allen, who plays Juror #12. "Usually its cold onstage, which makes it easier to stay focused. But is also makes it easier to act like it's hot."

The final juror to be swayed, Juror #3, is bitter throughout the play at the defendant, identifying him with his or her estranged son. The two Juror #3s, seniors Nicole Kang and Jay Mamana, each drew from different inspiration for their characters.

"It's very personal with my character, she was hit by her son during an argument," Kang said. "The

Saxons Onstage

Langley High School will be presenting "12 Angry Women" on Feb. 16 and Feb. 18, and "12 Angry Men" on Feb. 17 and Feb. 19. All shows start at 7:30 p.m., and are in the Langley Auditorium. Tickets are \$10, \$8 in advance, and \$15 for both casts if purchased ahead of time. More information can be found at www.saxonstage.com.

SEE 'ANGRY,' PAGE 12

Jurors discuss the fate of a young man in Langley High School's Production of "12 Angry Men."



PHOTO BY WALT LAWRENCE

The red-shouldered hawk is one of seven bird "candidates" in the running to become the symbol of Great Falls.

Residents Encouraged To Count Backyard Birds

Great Falls residents can take part in a national biological survey as local bird election unfolds.

As Great Falls selects a bird symbol in a community-wide election process now underway, the National Audubon Society, a nationwide wildlife-conservation organization, is encouraging residents to become "citizen scientists" to count birds in their backyards.

People willing to spend at least 15 minutes collecting scientific data can contribute to an annual study that helps to pinpoint changes in bird popula-

tions. The national program, called the Great Backyard Bird Count, is sponsored by Audubon and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. It takes place every Presidents Day weekend and involves everyday people counting birds and submitting their data electronically. This year the bird census will be held Feb. 18-21. Last year volunteers counted more than 11 million birds.

SEE BIRD COUNT, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY AL REITAN

Shooting from his deck into his backyard, Great Falls resident Richard Suib adds to his collection of photographs of local birds. An exhibition by Suib of images of birds from his backyard is on display at the Great Falls Library through the end of February.



The Wild Turkey is a ground dweller found on our forest floor. Great Falls resident Walt Lawrence photographed this one ambling across his back lawn.

Meet the Candidates

Every state has an official bird, but few cities or towns have adopted bird symbols of their own. Now Great Falls is doing its bit to change all that. From now through June, our village will host a series of art and photography events leading up to the “election” of our own Great Falls bird. You can vote for your choice between now and May 15 at the website of Great Falls Studios, www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

The Connection will profile each of the seven nominated bird “candidates” over the coming weeks. This is the second of our profiles. The information comes from the website of the Great Falls Citizens Association.

One out-of-shape Great Falls resident tells the story of jogging up a hill in Great Falls National Park wheezing loudly. His gobbling gasps for air must have caught the fancy of a resident Wild Turkey hen because she emerged from the underbrush to investigate his amorous advances. This chance encounter illustrates that these cautious, mostly ground-dwelling creatures (they forage on the ground but are, in fact, agile fliers) are actually out there, hidden on our forest floor in Great Falls, even though we seldom see them.

Traditional game birds, Wild Turkeys weigh up to 24 pounds

for males, half that for females. They have long powerful legs and a fan-shaped tail. Adult birds may have 5,000 to 6,000 feathers. The male’s face during breeding season is a clown-like caricature: bright blue, its neck scarlet, with a pink wattle, or fleshy area, hanging down. For additional information, go to: www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Wild_Turkey/id.

Why it should be the Great Falls bird? This is our opportunity to vindicate Benjamin Franklin. In a letter to his daughter, the famous founding father lambasted the choice of the Bald Eagle as national symbol, calling it a “bird of bad moral character.” His choice for symbolic

honors: the Wild Turkey. Wrote Franklin: “...for in truth the turkey is in comparison a much more respectable bird. He is besides, though a little vain and silly, a bird of courage ...” Franklin’s letter may have been tongue-in-cheek, and he couldn’t have foreseen the fate of his choice. By the early 1900s, populations of Wild Turkeys had declined substantially due to overhunting and habitat changes, but thanks to reintroduction measures, the species has staged a dramatic comeback today, with perhaps 7 million of the birds in the United States. We deserve a success story as our symbol.

BIRD-ELECTION PREVIEW

NEWS

Getting Out Of Gridlock

Local company offers traffic information solution.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Navigating through gridlock has been a way of life in the Washington, D.C. area for years, even before construction on roads such as I-95, I-495 and the Dulles Toll Road. Now, with traffic patterns that can change on a daily basis and no end to congestion during morning and afternoon commute, knowing traffic conditions can be the difference between a few extra hours in a traffic jam.

Great Falls-based TrafficTalk is trying combat this problem, by using information from drivers themselves as they are going through traffic to help others on the road.

“Radio has only about 60 seconds to cover an entire area of traffic, so it’s only natural they’ll miss details, especially when they only cover the most popular roads,” said Larry Green Field, CEO of TrafficTalk. “By creating localized communities, our vision allows all the details to come out.”

TrafficTalk allows drivers to call in to their voice-based system to get information about their specific commute. The region is divided up into seven different “communities,” which include offshoots of the Beltway such as I-66 and the Dulles Toll Road, to find out what the conditions are like.

DRIVERS CALL into the number and can listen to information from other drivers on the conditions, including what might be causing any delays. The service is free and callers are only required to give their first name.

For example, someone could be in a standstill on Route 7, and wonder if they should get off onto an alternate route, but might not know if the traffic will clear up just around the bend, or if it’s a multi-mile backup.

“For me, Route 7 is a straight shot from where I live to where I work, so if I’m going to get off the road to get around traffic, I want to make sure it saves me a lot of time,” said David Kerr of McLean, who works in Falls Church. “Going around Route 7 limits my options, not to mention ways to get across the Toll Road, so I would be very interested in real time information.”

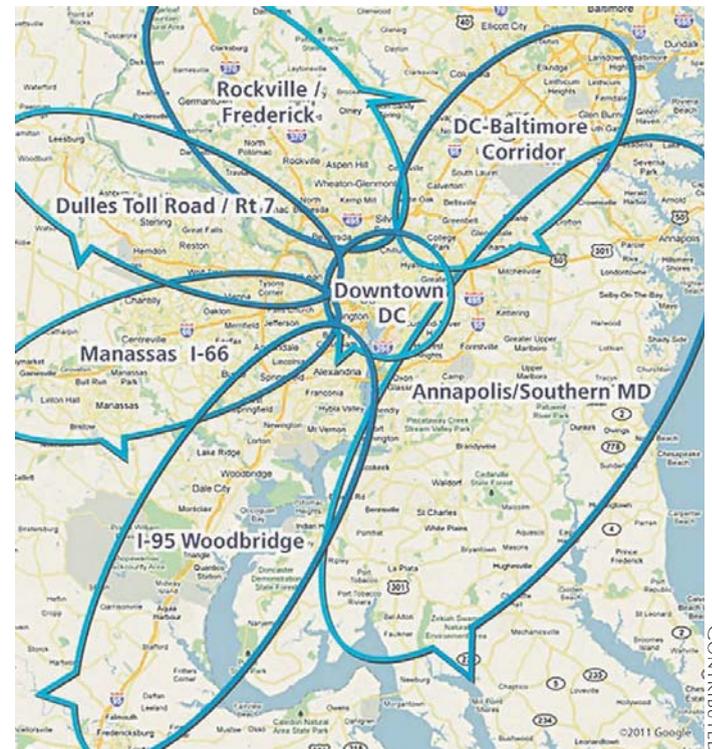
Greenfield compares the network to CB radios, in that it can provide that real-time information, and doesn’t require texting, mobile phone internet or a computer.

“It’s like a CB radio in that it is people who are close to your location,” Greenfield said.

During rush hours TrafficTalk will have a moderator, or “host” who is keeping track of information and can help direct drivers to the information they need. “Being voice-based, it’s safer than other things, you’re not reading or typing with your thumbs while driving.”

Steve Stern, VP of Marketing for TrafficTalk says the feedback they are getting indicates people are pleased with being able to interact on the network.

“People are surprised that it’s a live service, that’s it’s not recorded, that’s rare these days,” Stern said.



TrafficTalk, a Great Falls-based company, has seven communities in the Washington, D.C. area, created in order to help drivers get the latest information on traffic conditions.

“It helps to have a human voice with you in these situations.”

“When there’s an accident and everyone is calling in, that’s a lot of different eyeballs on a lot of different spots,” Greenfield said. “Someone could be at the front reporting that the accident is almost cleaned up, that way people know that things are clearing up. The network is to give people as many details as possible so drivers can make decisions.”

Due to the nature of the network, the more input TrafficTalk gets, the more complete its information is. Stern says that besides the main roads, secondary roads are often of interest as well.

“Because of the nature of the network, people want information on secondary roads they’ll be using as part of their commute,” he said.

GREENFIELD says that the average caller is calling for one of three reasons. Calling before they hit the road, to know what to expect; calling along the way to get updates and information about alternate choices and calling while stuck in traffic to see what is happening ahead of them.

“Perfection in this situation isn’t possible, but we need to be good enough to help,” Greenfield said. “We like callers to give us good news as well; it helps just as much if people know the roads are clear and moving.”

TrafficTalk is a free service, and the Washington, D.C. number is 805-309-5902. There are seven different districts, Dulles Toll Road/Route 7 (ext. 3), Manassas I-66 (ext. 2), I-95 Woodbridge (ext. 1), Downtown D.C. (ext. 7), Annapolis/Southern Maryland (ext. 6), D.C.-Baltimore Corridor (ext. 5) and Rockville/Frederick (ext. 4). It is currently in 20 cities around the country.

They have a free iPhone app, and expect to be available soon on other smartphones. More information can be found at www.traffictalk.info.

NEWS

Bird Count Underway

FROM PAGE 3

THE AUDUBON SOCIETY is a partner with the local art group Great Falls Studios, along with two elementary schools and eight other Great Falls civics groups, to select a village bird here. Voting by elementary students takes place in mid-May at Great Falls and Forestville elementary schools. All other residents vote online at the Great Falls Studios website. The online bird polling place, which is now open, is at www.GreatFallsStudios.com

You can get Audubon's complete bird-count instructions, including tips to identify birds, by going online to www.birdcount.org. The program also includes a photo contest and a prize drawing for participants who enter their bird checklists online.

The Audubon Society joined with local groups in Great Falls last year to support the bird election and explore ways to enhance its own mission. The conservation group hopes that the Great Falls experience will provide lessons for promoting the Great Backyard Bird Count in other towns across America in future years. Audubon is also looking at Great Falls as a model for how other communities might select bird mascots and learn more about birds in the process.

ALTHOUGH every state has a bird symbol, few localities do. The selection of a local bird symbol is rare, and the combination of a bird election with an art celebration may be firsts for both the art world and the ornithology world. On the other hand, Audubon notes, art and wildlife conservation have long been linked in US conservation history, as vivid depictions of wild landscapes and wildlife have helped persuade government officials to save places and species for future generations.

"We're amazed at the consortium of civic groups in Great Falls working together on this great idea of choosing a community bird symbol," said Judy Braus, Vice President of Education and Centers, National Audubon Society. "You have schools, two arts groups, a national park, a business group, a library, and a park conservation organization, among others, all involved. It's not only fun—but important. By calling attention to birds, you are helping to build stewardship values in the community and highlight the need to protect birds and their habitats."

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General Assembly Mandates Autism Treatment

Law would require some insurance companies to pay for certain therapies.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Over the past few weeks, four year-old Quentin Tidd has started to say a few words and to repeat sounds he has heard.

For Quentin, who has autism, this was a major and somewhat unexpected leap forward in his development. Experts have told his family that Quentin might be able to make more progress if he spent more time in one-on-one behavioral therapy, said his mother, Jennifer Tidd.

"My son is considered nonverbal so this really was a breakthrough," said Tidd, who lives in Reston.

Unfortunately, the extra therapy that Quentin needs doesn't come cheap. Tidd said her family currently pays about \$40 per hour out of pocket for individual treatment, which Quentin receives approximately twice per week.

Like many other families, the Tidds discovered their insurance policy did not cover any of behavioral and speech therapy that doctors say Quentin requires.

"Some insurance companies charge higher premiums if an autistic child is on the policy. They charge more but they refuse to pay for treatment," said Tidd.

Tidd said her family spent their Christmas break discussing how they could rework their finances so they could afford more hours of one-on-one therapy for Quentin. Experts have said this type of early intervention could improve Quentin's functioning for the rest of his life, according to Tidd.

Still, the family finances are already a bit stretched, especially with one child enrolled at Virginia Commonwealth University.

"Honestly, we would probably be paying for more therapy if we didn't have child in college," said Tidd. "But we would find a way to afford it now."

Tidd has thought seriously about going back to work to pay for extra hours of treatment for Quentin but she doesn't necessarily trust another person to take care of her son. Tidd has no problem sending her older children to daycare, but she would worry about handing over Quentin to a caretaker that did not have special training to deal with children who have autism.

"There are days when he is just impossible. He can be very difficult. You worry that you are not going to be able to find someone who will treat your child the right way when he is screaming and kicking and throwing a tantrum," said Tidd.

"Then, you wonder, should we take the chance of putting him in a daycare situation? If I don't go to work to pay for this



Springfield resident Teresa Champion spoke to the crowd gathered in Richmond to lobby on behalf of a bill that would require insurance companies to provide some treatment for Autism. Fairfax County Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), pictured in the background, was one of the sponsors of the bill.

additional treatment, he is not going to progress as he should," said Tidd.

RELIEF may be on the way for Tidd and other parents of children on the autism spectrum that are in similar predicaments. The Virginia General Assembly recently passed a bill that would require some insurance companies to cover treatment for children with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.

The Virginia House of Delegates passed the legislation 74-24 on Feb. 2, with the support of every Fairfax County delegate. Two Fairfax representatives, Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) and Del. Tom Rust (R-56), were chief sponsors of the legislation in the House.

The Virginia Senate passed a very similar bill 28-11 on Feb. 8, with all but one Fairfax senator, George Barker (D-37), supporting the bill. Sen. Janet Howell (D-42), also from Fairfax, sponsored the senate legislation.

Howell, who carried similar bills for the past two years, said she got involved with autism advocacy in part because her grandnephew, who lives in Arizona, is "severely autistic." She was impressed with the services he was provided but frustrated that so many children in Virginia were being unable to get the same treatment.

"He receives wonderful treatment but he doesn't live in Virginia. He lives in Arizona and they have a [insurance] mandate," said Howell.

HUGO, who sits on the House subcommittee overseeing mandated benefits, said he was moved by some of the testimony he heard from parents around the state.

One woman told the subcommittee that she had two children with autism but could only afford treatment for one. Another man asked the delegates to let his child "out of the darkness."

"With these treatments, you can prevent

some of these children from being impacted for life. You can make sure they do not become wards of the state," said Hugo, who represents Clifton and Centreville.

"I think this is an important bill. If we don't do something, we risk leaving these kids in the darkness," he said.

Even though the legislation passed both chamber by large margins, legislators and advocates alike have said they are unsure whether Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) plans to sign the bill into law. When contacted by The Connection, McDonnell's office said the governor had not reviewed the bill yet.

"Self-insured companies do not have to provide this benefit and at least 55 percent of people in Fairfax work for self-insured companies."

—Del. Mark Sickles (D-43).

"We have no idea what he is going to do. His office is being pretty mum. But his [campaign committee] did give the Virginia Autism Project a \$5,000 contribution last year so we know he is supportive of the cause as a whole," said Lynn Miller, a Fairfax parent of two boys with autism who lobbied for the bill.

AUTISM ACTIVISTS have been trying to get some type of mandate for insurance companies to cover autism spectrum disorder in Virginia for about a decade, though the effort has become more focused over the last three years, said Teresa Champion, a Springfield resident.

"When a parent gets a diagnosis of autism from a doctor, they also get a prescription for therapy like speech therapy and behavioral intervention and they will file a claim with their insurance company. Then, the insurance company will send a letter back saying that the treatment is not medically necessary," said Champion of the current situation in Virginia.

According to Champion, the type of intensive therapy that will really make a difference, particularly for toddlers and very young children, could cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year, which few families can afford.

"When we began working intensively with my son, he was considered to have moderate to severe autism. But after six months of intensive treatment, he was moved into the mild to high functioning category. He improved after this therapy but we couldn't afford to keep doing it," said Champion, whose son is now 17 years old.

PROPONENTS of the bill have also learned to pare down their expectations. Three years ago, the advocates had proposed a bill that would have required insurance companies to cover treatment for children with autism until they were adults.

This year, they narrowed their focus to toddlers and children in preschool, in order to make the legislation more palatable to fiscal conservatives in the House of Delegates. They also put a cap on services of \$35,000 per year, said Champion.

"A lot of people in the House don't like the government mandating anything. That was the primary resistance. There was also a fear about what the cost might be," said Champion.

Twenty-three other states have passed similar legislation, so Champion and supporters of the bill were able to provide the legislators with data on the cost incurred in other states. Of particular concern was the impact it might have on the state budget, since the benefit would be extended to employees of the commonwealth, said Champion.

"South Carolina thought it would cost \$18 million and it ended up costing \$2 million last year. The data shows that the doom and gloom about this bill's impact on budgets doesn't exist," she said.

Children with autism also are likely to cost Virginia more as adults if they don't receive early intervention services, said autism advocates.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, one in 83 students has been diagnosed with some form of autism, an 846 percent increase since 1997. Last year, the county's human services department announced that the greatest threat to local government's fiscal health was not the wave of aging baby boomers as previously thought but the rapidly growing percentage of young adults with autism.

"Without this bill, the cost to society is huge because the incidence of autism is only growing," said Champion.⁹

SEE ASSEMBLY, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Assembly Passes Autism Bill

FROM PAGE 6

IF THE BILL becomes law, it will still be the most narrowly focused and limited of all state mandates related to autism. Most other states allow a wider age range to be covered or have a higher spending cap for services. In one case, Minnesota, there is no upper age limit or cap on spending at all, said Champion.

Even under this legislation, there are families whose insurance still won't cover services for autism spectrum disorder.

The legislation would not apply to companies with 50 or fewer employees. Employers who are self-insured, including large corporations, are also exempt from the mandate. Individuals who buy plans for their families on the open market are also not covered by this legislation.

"Self-insured companies do not have to provide this benefit and

at least 55 percent of people in Fairfax work for self-insured companies," said Del. Mark Sickles (D-43).^o

Sickles voted for the bill but said he worries that it might cause more small businesses to stop providing insurance to their employees altogether.

"This is most expensive mandate on businesses that we have imposed since I have been here. With all the talk of Obamacare and what the federal government is doing, we have turned around and imposed this very expensive mandate on a certain set of businesses in Virginia," said Sickles.

The delegate said he has also seen an opinion from Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli's office which suggested the \$35,000 annual cap on services was not legal because a federal law mandating parity for mental health treatment. If the cap was removed, the mandate could become even more expensive to meet, said Sickles.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/FEB. 17

VTRCC Pre-President's Day Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, 1960 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. \$40 members, \$50 non-members. www.vtrcc.org.

Re-entering the Workforce. 11 a.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. A workshop designed to address questions regarding the job market and provide essential pointers on how to get started. \$35, \$25 members. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657.

Finding Emotional Strength During Separation & Divorce. 7:30 p.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. Learn effective ways to cope in a safe, confidential and supportive setting. Six weekly workshops. \$185, \$165 members.

Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657.

Financial Planning During Separation & Divorce. 7 p.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. All financial components of the property settlement agreement, from preparing documents for your attorney to signing agreements. \$50, \$40 members. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657.

SATURDAY/FEB. 19

Vienna Lions Club 48th Annual Bland Contest. 1 p.m. at Assembly of God Church, 100 Ayr Hill Ave., Vienna. Vocal and instrumental categories for Virginia students up to 12th grade. Applications available at 703-938-7716 or n.volpe8@verizon.net.

VTRCC Brown Bag University. 11:45 a.m. Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, 8300 Boone Blvd. Suite 450, Vienna. Free.

Auditions Set for Summer Theatre Camp

Traveling Players Ensemble announces auditions for the advanced programs of its 2011 Summer Theatre Camp at the Madeira School.

The Traveling Troupe, an advanced Shakespeare program for rising 10th through 12th graders, will perform Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*. Auditions will be held from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 21 at the Lake Anne Complex (1609-A Washington Plaza in Reston). Students should prepare a 14-line Shakespearean monologue. The program runs from June 20 to Aug. 6.

The Commedia Troupe, which teaches the Italian improvised style of Commedia dell'Arte for rising 9th to 12th graders, will perform an adaptation of the Anglo-Saxon epic *Beowulf*. Auditions will be held on Saturday, Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Library (9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls). Students should prepare a short piece (see website for details). The program runs from July 18 to Aug. 19.

Both programs feature inten-



PHOTO BY MATTHEW MAZELS

Traveling Players Ensemble's Summer Theatre Camp offers theatre experience outdoors.

sive rehearsals, small ensembles and performance tours, taking their plays to outdoor venues like the Limekiln Theater, Douthat State Park and Colonial Williamsburg.

Both auditions require a fee of \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. Registration information is available at 703-987-1712 or www.travelingplayers.org.

Need-based scholarships are available for all programs.

Traveling Players Ensemble is a professional theatre company

whose mission is to bring great theatre into the great outdoors. The company offers many other summer day camps for rising 6th to 12th graders which require no audition.

The camp is in residence at The Madeira School in McLean. The camp's signature purple buses provide daily transportation from throughout the DC Metro area.

For more information, visit www.travelingplayers.org or call 703-987-1712.

www.vtrcc.org.
McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women. 9:30 a.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Dr. Jeffrey Schulman, OB/GYN, on 'The New Hysterectomy' and the options available for managing gynecological problems. Light refreshments, public welcome. 703-847-3195 or www.mcleanaauw.org.

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.

Breakfast with Delegate Barbara Comstock. 9-11 a.m. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Del. Comstock is inviting constituents to join her at Katie's Coffee to informally discuss issues facing Virginia and Fairfax County this year. Comstock also has a legislative survey posted at

www.delegatecomstock.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 20

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Chapter 227 Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Eugene Toni will discuss life as a sniper team leader and a long range reconnaissance patrol member in the 101st Airborne Division during the Vietnam War in 1970. His awards include the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. The general public and all veterans are invited. Free. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

TUESDAY/FEB. 22

VTRCC TIPS Group. 12:15 p.m. Shula's Steak House, Marriott Corp., 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. www.vtrcc.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 23

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.

JSSA Parent Support Group for Young Adults Across the Autism Spectrum. 7 p.m. at JSSA, 3018 Javier Road, Fairfax. A monthly support group to discuss participants' interests and concerns. Identifying community resources, building a support network and balancing one's own needs with that of an adult son or daughter. Register at 703-204-9100.

Winter Book Sales. 3-8 p.m. Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A donated selection of mystery, gardening, history, cooking, art, children's, classics, biographies and more, plus videos, CDs, cassettes and vinyl records. Most books \$1-\$3. www.1771.org.

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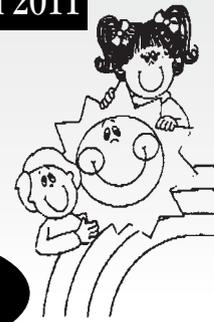
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OPINION

Important Step for Autism

Governor should sign bill that would require limited insurance coverage for needed therapy.

Thanks to Delegates Tim Hugo and Tom Rust, along with state Sen. Janet Howell and a majority of members of the Virginia General Assembly, for passing a bill that would require some insurance companies to provide limited but critically important coverage for therapy for children with autism.

Now, Gov. Bob McDonnell should sign the bill into law.

"With these treatments, you can prevent some of these children from being impacted for life. You can make sure they do not become wards of the state," said Hugo. ... "If we don't do something, we risk leaving these kids in the darkness."

Behavior therapy at an early age can make the difference between a child who speaks and interacts and a child who is non-verbal. But the therapy, often not covered at all by insurance, can cost \$20,000 a year or more per child.

Consider the heartbreak of one family who was able to afford therapy for one of their children with autism. Unfortunately, the family has two children with autism.

As they become adults, children with autism will cost Virginia more if they don't receive early intervention services.

And this is a growing problem.

EDITORIALS

For example, in Fairfax County Public Schools, one in 83 students has been diagnosed with some form of autism, an 846 percent increase since 1997. Last year, the county's human services department announced that local government's fiscal health would be greatly impacted by providing services to the rapidly growing percentage of young adults with autism diagnoses.

Missing the Point

As the U.S. Department of Justice presses Virginia to provide services for people with intellectual disabilities and more options to live in the community, it's important to remember that it's not just a question of moving some current residents out of training centers.

Families across Northern Virginia and the state are stretching budgets, going into debt and hanging on by their fingernails as they care for family members with intellectual disabilities who should have "waivers" providing for services in the community.

Right now, more than 6,400 Virginians with intellectual and related developmental disabilities are on waiting lists for community-based services, according to the Arc of Virginia. Nearly 3,000 of these individuals are in urgent

need because they live with an aging caregiver, are at risk of abuse or neglect, or are aging out of foster care.

See www.arcofva.org.

Cheap and Effective Traffic Fix: Telework

While National Telework Week officially began Monday, Feb. 14, last month's commuting-home debacle probably did more to push individuals, governments and companies to contemplate real teleworking measures than any other advocacy.

Increasing the number of people who regularly work from home at least one day a week is the only possible cure for the current traffic nightmare in the region. On most days, rush hour in Northern Virginia is a pain. But it only takes one hiccup (a man threatening to jump of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge or an inch of badly timed snow) to bring the region to a standstill and worse.

Telecommuting can also be good for the environment, good for employee morale, good for families, good for productivity. And anything that decreases the chances of a 10-hour commute or being stranded overnight on the George Washington Parkway is a step in the right direction.

The technology exists to make this work.

- MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time for New Leadership

To the Editor:

When School Board member Jane Strauss visited our Spring Hill Elementary School PTO meeting Feb. 9, our ridiculously large class sizes were a major point of discussion. (My son's fifth grade class currently has 36 students!) To date, Ms. Strauss has done nothing to alleviate overcrowded classrooms for the constituents that she claims to "represent."

While class sizes grew, Strauss voted to increase administrative spending - including her 2007 vote to spend \$130 million on a second extravagant Administration building. She also voted to spend money on renovations for other schools while Langley HS languishes in the renovation queue. Langley HS is in such poor condition that the LHS PTA bought toilet seats for the school last summer!

And for the one popular countywide issue that was born in the heart of her district - Fairgrade - Strauss' lack of advocacy was profound. At one point, she even lobbied our Fairgrade executive board to kill weighting for honors

courses. Thankfully for FCPS students, Fairgrade stood its ground.

As it stands, the Langley/McLean HS pyramid remains without full-day kindergarten and we have the largest class sizes in the county. Thanks to a lack of proper financial resources from Ms. Strauss and FCPS, our PTAs and PTOs are forced to purchase essential items for our area schools.

If Ms. Strauss wants to vote for programs that benefit schools in other parts of the county and not in our area, then she should run as an At-Large candidate for School Board. She should stop making claims that she "represents" the interests of all the children in the Langley/McLean/Herndon HS pyramid because her record clearly shows she does not.

It's time for a new generation of leadership. Nearly two decades on the School Board from Ms. Strauss is long enough. Kids and taxpayers in the Dranesville district - particularly in the 22101 and 22102 zipcodes - deserve better.

Catherine Lorenze
McLean Parent to three FCPS students

The writer is a member of Fairgrade Leadership Team, and Co-founder of Fairfax Education Coalition.

Support New License Plate

To the Editor:

We would like the community to be aware of the "In Remembrance, April 16, 2007" license plate that we have requested the Virginia General Assembly to approve. Designed by 2010 Virginia Tech graduate, Zack Madrigal, the plate is simple and elegant. Our intent is to honor the 32 who died and the many who survived that tragic day.

Virginia residents can choose to personalize their plates, transfer their existing plate or receive a six-character combination from the Commonwealth.

Many non-profit organizations, the military and colleges have specialized plates. For every license plate that is sold or renewed after the initial 1,000, organizations receive \$15. Such a program allows Virginia residents to not only show their loyalty but to financially support their organization as well.

VTV Family Outreach Foundation is composed of a majority of the family members of the victims and survivors of the April 16, 2007 tragedy at Virginia Tech. Our mission is to promote and advocate

for public safety and security of the nation's colleges and universities, and to provide assistance and services to victims of campus crime and their families.

State Sen. David Marsden of Fairfax County and Del. Luke Torian of Prince William County have graciously offered to patron our bills, SB 804 and HB 2245, respectively.

In order to receive consideration of our request, we must collect a minimum of 350 pre-paid license plate applications. Information on obtaining the license plate design and application can be found on our website at <http://vtvfoundation.wsiefusion.net/license-plates.html> or Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_166407060065292&ap=1

Please join us in spreading the word so that all who wish to honor the 32 and survivors can have the means to do so.

Joseph Samaha, Michael Pohle, Susan Carney, Jody McQuade, Bev Bluhm, Mike White, Lily Habtu, Uma Loganathan, Suzanne Grimes and Kavita Suratkal
The Board of Directors of the VTV Family Outreach Foundation, Centreville

THE CONNECTION

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NEWS

Local Students Act in 'Les Miserables'

'The ideas and conflicts are timeless.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The drama and turmoil of the French Revolution will burst upon the stage when Centreville Presbyterian Church's community theater group presents the musical, "Les Miserables." It features a cast and crew of more than 60, with a live orchestra and students from 26 different schools – including Madison, Oakton and Langley high schools.

"The talent is so high," said Director Zoe Dillard. "The kids are just wonderful, and they've been a pleasure to work with."

Show times are Thursday-Friday, Feb. 24-25, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 26, at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 27, at 2 p.m., at the church, 15450 Lee Highway in Centreville. Tickets are \$10 at the church office or via www.centrevillepres.com. For more information, call 703-830-0098.

Playing Cosette is Madison High sophomore Molly Nuss. "She's around 17, is very sheltered and doesn't know what it's like in the outside world," said Nuss. "Jean Valjean is very protective of her; she stays within a gated area and doesn't know about her mother. One day, she and Valjean go outside and she meets Marius and falls in love. She's innocent and sweet and wants to be exposed to more of life."

Nuss loves playing Cosette because she connects with her. "I've wanted to play this part since I saw this show at Wolf Trap when I was a child," she said. "I want to be

like her because she's so elegant, sweet and pure, the way she presents herself; I look up to her."

Her favorite song is the epilogue when the whole company comes together to sing the last chorus. "That's my favorite part of the whole show because it's so powerful," said Nuss. "The audience will like 'Les Mis' because it has such emotion, plus messages of forgiveness and love. It has a little bit of everything. The costumes are beautiful and elaborate, and we have an amazing set and director. It's going to be a well-put-together production."

Police Inspector Javert is played by Langley High senior Nick McDonough. "He's sort of the villain, but what he does is because he's honorable and really strict about the law," explained McDonough. "He was born among criminals, so he's distrustful of people and has a hard time believing Valjean has reformed himself. He's just trying to make the world a better place, but goes about it the wrong way."

Calling this his "dream role," McDonough said he loves 'Les Miserables' and, until now, didn't realize he could sing. "A lead's always fun and I like character roles," he said. "Javert's a vicious and vigilant person, but you like him, and I like making the audience feel empathy for him."

His favorite song is "Attack on the Rue Plumet" because of the way Herndon High's Ashleigh Markin, as Eponine, belts out her lines within this number. McDonough also said the audience will enjoy "the amazing and relevant story. It really hits home be-

cause the ideas and conflicts are timeless and are still very real in the world today."

(From left) Molly Nuss of Madison High; Alex Johnson, Chantilly; Nick McDonough, Langley; and Lauren Rowson, Robinson, take a break from rehearsing.



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SCHOOL NOTES

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

Twenty-eight Fairfax County Public Schools students will be performing at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Feb. 20, as part of the wind ensemble Flutopia. Performers include Brandon Austin, Ali Dettmer, Jessica Hiemstra, Will Morgan Palmer, Victoria Palmer, Maddie Boyles, Amanda Meneses, Katie Lopes, Leanne Poussard, Michael Poussard, Lake Braddock Secondary School; Katie Moody, Dana Rosenberg, Jenna Weida, Katy Maher, Evie Masterson, Emma Andrews, Lydia Carlson, Laura Feibelman, Emily Hertzler, Olivia Staton, Julia Henderson, Jen Harazin, Drew Witter, Julia Morris, Dylan Reiser, Kenny Venskus, Kerrigan Strong and Will Crowley. The students will perform in "A Breath of Fresh Air" presented by the Distinguished Concerts International

New York series.

Raimund P. Stieger of Great Falls has been named an Alden Scholar for the 2009-10 academic year at Allegheny College. The Langley High School graduate is the son of John and Danielle Saunders of Great Falls and Raimund Stieger of Sterling.

Justin Whitfield McKay of Great Falls was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Miami University of Oxford, Ohio.

Sarah Hefner of Great Falls was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Pennsylvania State University. The bio behavioral health major is a 2009 graduate of Langley High School and the daughter of George and Paula Hefner.

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Run for the McLean Community Center Governing Board

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER GOVERNING BOARD SMALL DISTRICT #1 OF THE DRANESVILLE DISTRICT FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

This **NOTICE** of elections to select members of the 2011-2012 Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is officially given to residents of Small District #1 of the Dranesville District, Fairfax County, Virginia (referred to as "Small District #1"). The McLean Community Center operates as a Special District Agency of the Fairfax County Government through a Memorandum of Understanding between Fairfax County and the McLean Community Center. On February 8, 1984, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the Memorandum of Understanding, which authorizes the elections. The McLean Community Center is funded by residents of Greater McLean for their use through a real estate tax surcharge, the result of a 1970 Small District 1A-Dranesville bond referendum.

Elections are held on **McLean Day** at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia. This year, McLean Day is on **Saturday, May 21, 2011**.

Voting on McLean Day takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Only Small District #1 residents are eligible to run for seats on the 11-member McLean Community Center Governing Board and to vote in the election. Residents are not required to be property owners in Small District #1 in order to run for the Governing Board or to vote in the election.

Candidate Qualifications: Each resident who lives within Small District #1 is eligible to run for a seat on the Governing Board within the appropriate category.

The Governing Board seats to be filled through the election are:

Three (3) Adult Governing Board Seats: Adult candidates must be residents of Small District #1 and must be at least eighteen (18) years of age by McLean Day. The candidates who receive the three (3) highest numbers of votes will serve three-year terms on the Governing Board. (If you need help determining whether you reside in Small District #1, please contact the McLean Community Center at 703-744-9348 or elections@mcleancenter.org.)

Two (2) Youth Governing Board Seats:

One (1) Governing Board youth seat for teens living within the McLean High School boundary area
One (1) Governing Board youth seat for teens living within the Langley High School boundary area

Teen candidates must live in Small District #1 and must be between fifteen (15) and seventeen (17) years of age by McLean Day. One candidate from each high school boundary area receiving the highest number of votes will serve a one-year term on the Governing Board. High school boundaries are set by the Fairfax County Public Schools.

NOTICE TO TEENS: You must live within Small District #1. However, you *do not* have to attend either McLean or Langley High School. You can attend another school, including one that is outside of Small District #1, or you can be home schooled.

In some cases, you might live within the boundary of one of the two high schools, but attend school in the other school high school boundary. For example, you could attend McLean High School, but live in the Langley High School boundary, or vice versa.

***You must run for the youth board seat for
the high school boundary area where you live.***

You can find your high school boundary area by entering your home address in the Fairfax County Public Schools' boundary tool at <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/>.

Remember: No matter where you attend school, you must still live within Small District #1 and run for election in the correct high school boundary area. (If you need help, please contact the McLean Community Center at 703-744-9348 or elections@mcleancenter.org.)

Candidate Petitions: Nominating Petitions may be obtained at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia, 22101, beginning at 9 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 22, 2011**. Adults seeking to become candidates for a seat on the Governing Board must get the signatures of ten (10) residents of Small District #1 who are 18 years old or older (by McLean Day). Teens seeking to become candidates for a youth seat on the Governing Board must get the signatures of ten (10) residents of Small District #1 who are between 15 to 17 years old (by McLean Day), and who live within the same high school boundary area where the candidate lives.

DEADLINE: Each resident seeking election to the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center shall file a completed petition with the McLean Community Center at the address shown below **on or before 5 p.m. on Friday, March 25, 2011:**

**McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Avenue
McLean, VA 22101**

All petitions will be certified on **Friday, March 25, 2011**; candidates will be notified whether their petitions have been certified on the same date. The names of certified candidates will be published in newspapers having general circulation in the Dranesville District.

Voter Qualifications: Each resident who *lives* within Small District #1 is eligible to vote in the Governing Board elections (within the adult or youth categories, as appropriate).

When voting in the elections, the qualifications are:

Adults: Any Small District #1 resident who is eighteen (18) years of age or older by McLean Day is eligible to vote in the elections. Adult candidates may vote for up to three (3) adult candidates.

Teens: Any resident who is fifteen (15) through seventeen (17) years of age by McLean Day is eligible to vote in the elections. Teens may vote for one youth candidate from each high school boundary area (but not for two candidates in the same high school boundary area).

Verification of age and residence shall be determined from a driver's license, student identification card, birth certificate, or other satisfactory evidence. A verification process also is required for residents choosing to apply for absentee voting.

Absentee Voting: Residents may vote by absentee ballot. Applications for Absentee Ballot packages will be available at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia beginning on **Monday, April 11, 2011** at 9 a.m. Applications for Absentee Ballot packages may be requested in-person, by email at elections@mcleancenter.org, and by telephone at 703-744-9348. Please also refer to the McLean Community Center's Website for updated information regarding the absentee voting process (www.mcleancenter.org). The **DEADLINE** for returning a **completed and signed Application for Absentee Ballot and the Absentee Ballot** to the McLean Community Center is **Wednesday, May 18, 2011, at 5 p.m.**

Election Results: Election results will be posted on the door of the McLean Community Center on the evening of the elections. The McLean Community Center's Elections and Nominations Committee will report the results of the elections to Dranesville Supervisor John W. Foust, who will present the successful candidates to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at its next regular meeting following the elections. At that meeting, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, after determining that it is in the public interest to do so, shall appoint to the McLean Community Center Governing Board:

The three (3) adult candidates who received the top three (3) highest number of votes

Two (2) youth candidates – the candidate who received the highest number of votes in each of the two (2) high school boundary areas

The appointment of new Board Members shall be effective upon action by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Newly appointed Board Members will take office when they attend their first meeting of the 2011-2012 Governing Board. The 2011-2012 Governing Board's term runs from May 2011 through May 2012.

For more information about the elections, please call 703-744-9348 or email the McLean Community Center at elections@mcleancenter.org.

Chair
Elections and Nominations Committee
McLean Community Center Governing Board



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ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/FEB. 17

Dan Bern. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
"12 Angry Men." 7:30 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A courtroom drama about twelve jurors. \$10. www.saxonstage.com.
Book Discussion Group. 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560
Paul Thorn. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 18

Wagner's "The Valkyrie." 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The second opera in "The Ring Cycle," performed by The Virginia Opera and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Tickets \$44-\$86, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu. vaopera.org.
"Fuddy Meers" by David Lindsay-Abaire. 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Claire's amnesia causes her to awaken each morning as a blank slate, and chaos arises as everyone tries to fill in the holes of her lost memory. A dirty puppet, an ex-criminal and a fake cop add to the dark comedy. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststagetysons.org.
Jammin' Java's Mid-Atlantic Band Battle IV Finals. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
"12 Angry Women." 7:30 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. An all-female cast in a courtroom drama about twelve jurors. \$10. www.saxonstage.com.
Moonlight Garden Walk. 6 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Join park naturalist Casey Pitrizzi to explore at night. Search for nocturnal animals then warm up at a fire in the Visitor Center. Free. Reserve at 703-255-3631.
Jonathan Edwards. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 19

"Fuddy Meers" by David Lindsay-Abaire. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Claire's amnesia causes her to awaken each morning as a blank slate, and chaos arises as everyone tries to fill in the holes of her lost memory. A dirty puppet, an ex-criminal and a fake cop add to the dark comedy. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststagetysons.org.
The Downtown Fiction. 5:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
Hot Tuna Blues. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Blues, jazz, bluegrass and folk by Jorma Kaukonen and Jack Casady. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$22-\$44, youth through grade 12 half price. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.
"12 Angry Men." 7:30 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A courtroom drama about twelve jurors. \$10. www.saxonstage.com.



"A Path Through the Woods," acrylic on wood by Elaine Elinsky. The 'Expressionistic Landscapes' exhibit by Elaine Elinsky will be displayed at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road in Great Falls, Feb. 1-28 from 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday and 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. 703-759-2759.

Young Dubliners. 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.
"Motorcycles, Midgets and Mayhem." 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Center in Chantilly on Feb. 19-20 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The "Half Pint Brawlers" will wrestle, sign autographs and entertain. Motorcycle dealers, vendors, custom motorcycles and merchandise. \$7 for children, \$15 for adults. www.kevmarv.com or www.halfpintbrawlers.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 20

Wagner's "The Valkyrie." 2 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The second opera in "The Ring Cycle," performed by The Virginia Opera and the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. Tickets \$48-\$98, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu. vaopera.org.
"Fuddy Meers" by David Lindsay-Abaire. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Claire's amnesia causes her to awaken each morning as a blank slate, and chaos arises as everyone tries to fill in the holes of her lost memory. A dirty puppet, an ex-criminal and a fake cop add to the dark comedy. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststagetysons.org.
Matt & Shannon Heaton. 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Traditional Irish music. \$15. 703-759-3309 or www.ionamusic.com/brogue.shtml.
Birding in the Gardens. 2 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Join a NVRPA park naturalist for an informative talk about bird life and identification. Search for species that spend the winter in northern Va. All experience levels welcome. Free. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. 703-255-3631 ext. 106.
Songs of Love. 5 p.m. Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Popular, Broadway, and art songs from the 1920's through today. Free.
Fairfax Symphony Orchestra 48th Annual Dorothy Farnham Feuer String Competition Finals. 2 p.m. Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Featuring nine finalists in grades 8 through 12 from northern Virginia. Free, public invited. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.
"Motorcycles, Midgets and Mayhem." 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Center in Chantilly on Feb. 19-20 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The "Half Pint Brawlers" will wrestle, sign autographs and entertain. Motorcycle dealers,

vendors, custom motorcycles and merchandise. \$7 for children, \$15 for adults. www.kevmarv.com or www.halfpintbrawlers.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 23

Watoto Children's Choir. 7 p.m. Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road, McLean. Music and dance. Free, donations accepted. 703-893-5330.

THURSDAY/FEB. 24

Brendan James and Matt White. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
Little House Studio Recital with the Morrison Brothers. 7:30 p.m. Bangkok Blues, 926 West Broad St., Falls Church. Music from Beatles and bluegrass to Natalie MacMaster and Green Day, performed by Little House Studio students under the guidance of director Larry Rice. Pop/country/rock recording artists Truman and Willie Morrison of The Morrison Brothers Band will be joined by Larry Rice on fiddle. Free admission. 703-534-0095 or www.LarryRiceMusic.com/lessons.html.
Patrick Henry Book Club. 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Call for title. Adults. 703-938-0405.
Chinese Scrolls from the Dr. Chi Wang Collection. Mason Hall Alumni Atrium Gallery at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive in Fairfax. Panel discussion at 5 p.m., and Opening Reception 6-8 p.m. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.
Artist's Reception for Rodger Schultz. 5-9 p.m. Avenue Beau Sejour, 10135 Colvin Run Road, Suite 100, Great Falls. Appetizers and wine provided by Mediterranean Restaurant. www.AvenueBeauSejour.com.

FRIDAY/FEB. 25

"Fuddy Meers" by David Lindsay-Abaire. 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Claire's amnesia causes her to awaken each morning as a blank slate, and chaos arises as everyone tries to fill in the holes of her lost memory. A dirty puppet, an ex-criminal and a fake cop add to the dark comedy. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststagetysons.org.
Cypress String Quartet. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. A multimedia collaboration with author Jacob Needleman and film producer Michael Schwarz. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.
Marshall Crenshaw at 7:30 p.m. and **Griffin House and Charlie Mars** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.



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Insider Knowledge Islam in Pop Culture: Stereotypes, Stigma and Shtick Wednesday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m.

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BeFit McClean Outdoor Adventure & Fitness Expo Saturday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free Admission

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The Philadelphia International Flower Show Springtime in Paris Monday, March 7

What could be better than springtime in Paris? The 2011 Philadelphia International Flower Show is the answer. Visitors will be treated to walks along the Seine, the Tuileries gardens, a glimpse of the Eiffel Tower, artists' canvases, floral courtyard cafes and even a peek at the daring Moulin Rouge.

Closing Notice

The Center will be closed on **Monday, Feb. 21**, in observance of Washington's Birthday. The Center will reopen at 9 a.m. on **Tuesday, Feb. 22**.

The McLean Community Center
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'Angry' at Langley High

FROM PAGE 3

mother-son bond isn't there, and that's what leads to her feelings against the defendant. The boy on trial reminds her of her son, and she's punishing him."

Mamana says as a father, his character is more concerned with his son's masculinity, and that his wounded pride causes him to lash out.

"In his first monologues, my character talks about how he saw his son run away from a fight, and says 'I'll make a man out of you,'" he said. "It's revealed that the son eventually struck him during a fight, and he takes a sense of sadistic pride in that."

When it comes to the confrontation between Jurors #3 and #8, Mamana and senior Jordan Moeller, used their real-life friendship to dig at each other.

"I just keep baiting him into a confrontation until he snaps," Moeller said.

While the confrontation in the male version is more physical, Mamana has to be restrained from attacking Moeller, the female version is more dramatic. Kang tries to leap over the table at junior Chaffee Duckers, in a move that's less about physical violence than it is pure rage.

"It was written in the fifties, so the girls are very much stereotypes of women in that age," Jaffe said. "For example, [senior] Tu-an Truong, who plays Juror #7 is always cracking jokes, while his counterpart, [senior] Natalie [Bozorgzad] is much more biting and sarcastic."

THE WOMEN'S SCRIPT is a hybrid of both versions, the cast put theirs together from parts they

liked from both.

"In the guys version, my character has a bitter monologue towards the end, where he's pretty racist," said senior Tess Higgins, who plays Juror #12. "But that's not really the way a girl would speak, so ours is different at that part."

Brian Patterson, who plays Juror #12 in the male version, goes full-on with his character's racist rant, though he said "it was difficult to be so racist."

While the two casts didn't observe each other during rehearsals, Jaffe said there were clear differences in how the groups approached the play.

"The girls seemed to always want to talk things through beforehand," she said. "The guys were more interested in jumping right in and figuring things out."

Cast members said working with members of their own gender was a different experience, not many had worked with a single-sex cast before.

"It was interesting working as just a girls cast," said Bozorgzad, who plays Juror #7. "I think it helped us get a lot closer, when one person said something, we all were listening."

Jaffe said she originally thought of doing one show, but figured the two productions would allow for more students to get a chance on stage.

"I was thinking about just having a mixed cast, but when I found out about the women's script, I figured it would make for an interesting dynamic," Jaffe said. "I didn't let them watch any of the films, so they worked up their own interpretations of their characters, because once you see how someone else plays it, it's hard to wipe that from your mind."



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, seniors Hayley Mueller, Nicole Kang, Becca Allen and Taylor Goodson deliberate as members of a jury in Langley High Schools production of "12 Angry Women."

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
DTI-Clarendon, LLC, trading as CAVA, 1220 North Fillmore St, Arlington, VA 22201. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer and Wine on Premise, Mixed Beverage on Premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Theodore Xenohristos, Member

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Saman Maleki trading as Cafe Nemooneh, 525 Maple Ave, West., Vienna, VA 22180. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL FOR a Wine and Beer on premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Saman Maleki President.

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"Cunancer-drum"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Living with cancer and dying of cancer. For many cancer patients, it's a conundrum we attempt to balance every day. "Living" sounds so positive, so optimistic; while "dying" sounds so negative, so pessimistic. When one says the word "living," the inflection in your voice seems to go up. When one says the word "dying," the inflection goes down. The word "living" conjures a smile, almost; the word "dying" not so much. Living is something you want to do, presumably; dying doesn't exactly present the same opportunities – so far as we know, anyway. Moreover, there's not nearly as much future in dying as there is in living. And since I'd just as soon take a definite over a maybe, I definitely would prefer living over dying. (From my pen to God's ears.)

As simple as my preference is however, receiving the terminal diagnosis that I did (stage IV lung cancer) really changes your priorities, and "simple" is the last thing your life will ever be. Consider the effect that shuffling a deck of playing cards has on the previous order of those cards; that's minor compared to a cancer patient's reality. The reality is 52 pick-up – cards scattered everywhere with no rhyme or reason as to how any of the cards got anywhere. Now, try to organize that indiscriminate and random chaos into some kind of meaningful arrangement, all the while enduring physical and mental/emotional obstacles to accomplishing the most important task in your life: trying to make order out of that chaos. Welcome to my/our whirled.

I've been told by many health care professionals that control, anecdotally speaking, is a very effective tool in fighting cancer/any terminal disease. In fact, my original oncology nurse shared the story of how cancer patients who drove more than 20 minutes to their chemotherapy appointments seemed to do better than those who lived closer; so much so, that patients who lived closer would drive an indirect route to the Infusion Center just so the trip took more than 20 minutes. Of course, there was nothing magical in the minutes, the magic was in the presumptive control and commitment that the patient was exhibiting.

Fact or fiction. True or false. Believable or not. Add in the amount of medical information a key stroke away on the Internet, some of it for-profit, not to mention all the solicited – and unsolicited (well meaning though it may be) – advice from family and friends; and the potential for contradictory, misleading and inappropriate courses of action/treatment (for your specific medical history/condition/diagnosis) is off the charts. Combine this with the patient's inability to filter and discern as keenly and objectively as before they were diagnosed and you have a series of disasters waiting to happen. The trick is, there is no trick; it's just life in the cancer lane.

And though it's a road I never thought I'd be on – certainly at age 55 (ever really, considering my immediate family's medical history; no cancer), I'm on it – full time! Trying to make the best of a bad situation is how I approach every day. Pretending – and maybe even denying – (there's no "maybe"), is how I approach every night. I'm not living to die; I'm dying to live (figuratively speaking). Every day, every result, brings new challenges. What matters, what matters not? It's a recurring theme. I wish I had the answer. I don't and that's the problem. Even though I've been on this cancer lane now for two years, there's no road map to direct me. Maybe a GPS would help.

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

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Local Swimmers Shine at Region Championships

Langley captures team title on girls' side. Madison, Oakton, McLean, South Lakes and Herndon swimmers excel at postseason showcase.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Langley High girls' swim and dive team captured first place at the recent Northern Region swim and dive championships, held at Oak Marr Recreation Center Feb. 1-5.

The Saxons, coached by Ryan Jackson, finished the postseason event with 241 team points, ahead of second place Yorktown (218), third place Lake Braddock (167), fourth place West Potomac (152) and fifth place Westfield (149).

Finishing sixth through 10th place at the 23-team girls' meet were: South County (145), Robinson (143), Chantilly (138), Oakton (130) and Madison (119).

Other local teams of note included 11th place McLean (116 points), 14th place Herndon (68), and 19th place South Lakes (30).

THE CHAMPION SAXONS had first place finishes from senior Jayme Katis (200-yard freestyle) and sophomore Abi Speers (100-freestyle). Both were also a part of Langley's first place 200-yard free relay team, consisting of senior Meghan Overend, Katis, senior Megan Howard, and Speers.

Other top six place finishers by Langley girls' swimmers came from: Speers (second place in 50-free); Meghan Overend (fifth in 100-butterfly); Megan Howard (sixth in 100-fly); and Katis (second in 100-free).

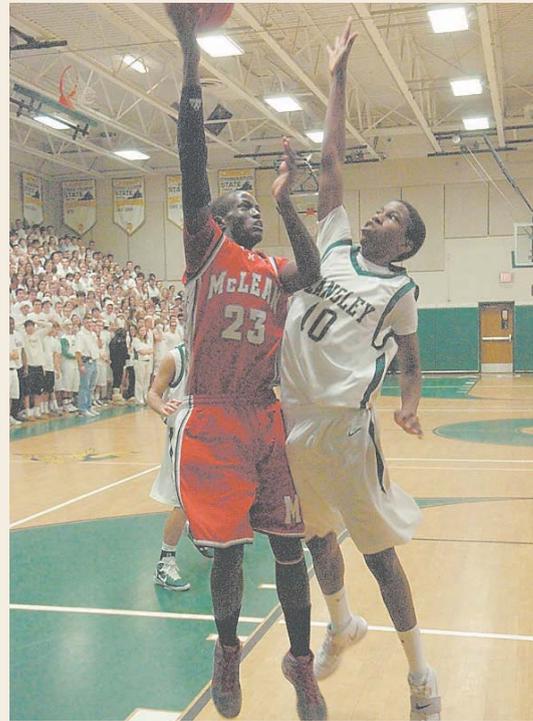
The Saxons' 400-free relay team of junior Allie Zeidan, Katis, Speers and Overend finished second overall.

Oakton High's Janet Hu won two events - the 50-free and 100-back. She was also a part of the Cougars' winning 400-free relay team. Oakton's team members on that relay were: Hu, Stephanie Hallock, Kendall Lawhorn and Kaitlin Pawlowicz.

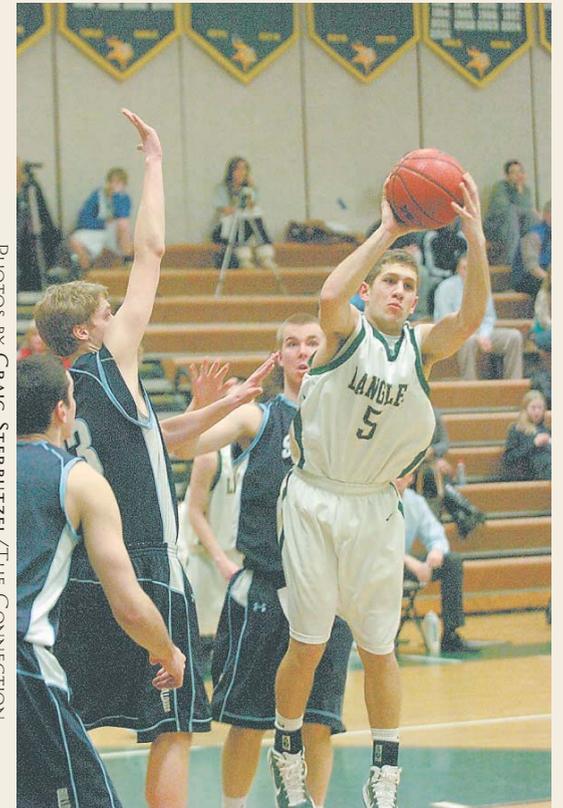
Individual girls' champions from area schools included Oakton's Pawlowicz (200-IM) and Madison's Kelly Corish (dive). Pawlowicz was also a second place finisher in the 100-fly.

Top six place finishers from the area included: Madison's Laura Kellan (fourth in 200-free); Marshall's Kather VanWinkle (third in dive); South Lakes' Emily Sennett (third in 100-fly); McLean High's Eva Greene (third in 100-back, fourth in 100-free); Herndon High's Ryan Murphy (sixth in 100-back); and Herndon's Jenna Van Camp (second in 100-breast-

Saxons, Highlanders in District Tournament



McLean High's Gordon Rogo (23) goes up for a shot during a regular season game against Langley. Defending for the Saxons is Daniel Dixon. Both teams began play in the Liberty District boys' basketball tournament earlier this week as the top seeded Saxons (15-7) hosted Marshall while McLean (13-7) was home against Stone Bridge.



Langley's Austin Vasiliadis (5) has control of the ball during the Saxons' recent game versus Stone Bridge. The Saxons (15-7 overall, 13-1 district) concluded the regular season in first place within the Liberty District standings.

stroke).

THE BOYS' TEAM CHAMPION was Westfield High, which finished with 271 points, ahead of second place Woodson (188), third place Robinson (186), fourth place Madison (179), fifth place Lake Braddock (163), and sixth place Fairfax (145). Rounding out the top 10 team scores, were: seventh place West Springfield (137),

eighth place Langley (135), ninth place Oakton (128) and 10th place Chantilly (127). Other teams of note included: Marshall and Jefferson, which tied for eleventh place with 87 points; 15th place McLean (55); and Herndon and South Lakes, which tied for 18th place with 42 points.

Langley High's Chuck Katis finished first place in two events - the 200-IM and the 100-breaststroke.

He was also a part of the Saxons' third place 200-free relay team, which included: Katis, Ryan Natal, Alex Brumas, and Chris Barnard.

Other local individual first place boys' champions included: Marshall's Cyrus Hashemi (200-free); Madison's Ryan Fox (dive); and Oakton's Philip Hu (100-back). Hashemi of the Statesmen from Marshall was also a second place finisher in the 500-free.

Two Saxons Earn Place Finishes at Wrestling Regionals

McLean High's Austin Miller also earns region medal.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Langley High wrestling team finished a solid ninth place at last weekend's Northern Region championships meet, held Feb. 11-12 at Fairfax High School.

The Saxons, under head coach Jeff Mye, scored 58 total points. The team champion was Robinson, which captured its first region crown since 1991. The Rams finished with 260.50 points, ahead of second place and defending region champion Westfield (208). South County (118) finished third place, while Annandale (92) and Hayfield (78) finished fourth and fifth places, respectively, at the 30-team event.

Finishing sixth through 10th place were Lee High (69), Mount Vernon (65), Edison (62), the Saxons and Lake Braddock (54.50). Local school McLean High, under head coach Ken Jackson, tallied 23 team points for a 22nd place overall finish.

Robinson Secondary's Jack Bass, the 125-weight class champion, was named the region tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler.

FOR LANGLEY, 13-5 in team dual meets during the regular season, both Matt Wilson (152 weight class) and Jay Ives (135) earned fourth place individual finishes. The top four wrestlers in each weight class automatically advanced to this weekend's Virginia State AAA championships. The top six finishers

earned medals. McLean's Austin Miller finished sixth place at 125 weight class.

Wilson, in the 152 bracket, won his first two matches, defeating Wakefield High's Michael Rios by first period pin in his first match before defeating Oakton's Matt Norterangelo by major decision, 15-5, in his second match. Wilson was then edged by Mount Vernon's Trey McClure, 7-6, in the semifinals to fall into the loser's bracket. There, he bested Jonathan Faul of Stone Bridge by major decision, 16-6. That put him into the consolation finals for third place where Wilson lost to Westfield High's Harry Van Trees, 8-2, to finish fourth.

Ives, in the 135 tournament, earned a second period pin win over Stuart High's Ameer Ghousheh in his first match, then followed

that up with a 9-4 decision win over Westfield's Frank Aiello. Next, in a semifinals match, Ives lost, 8-4, to eventual champion Omar Maknassi of T.C. Williams to fall into the loser's bracket. Ives bounced back with a 13-8 win over Annandale's Jack Johnson to advance to the match for third place. There, Ives fell 9-2 to Lake Braddock's Rori Renzi.

MCLEAN'S MILLER, at 125 division, won matches over Centreville's Jerry Cowman by pin and Yorktown's Danilo Downing, 5-1, before losing to eventual champion Bass of Robinson by major decision to fall into the loser's bracket. Miller ultimately finished sixth overall following a loss to Hayfield's Sahid Kargbo, 8-5, in the match for fifth place.

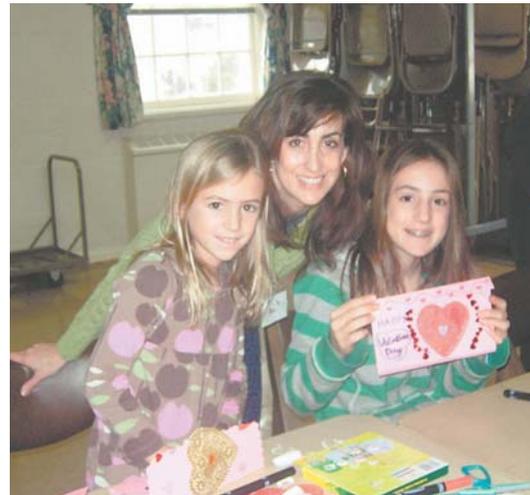
The Virginia State AAA championships will take place this Friday and Saturday (Feb. 18-19) at Robinson Secondary.

COMMUNITY

From left, choir members Amy Miller, Sandi Green, J.C. Chamberlain, Marianne Allard, Rowena Mitchell and "Mitch" Mitchell sing at Cascades Village, a local retirement community.



PHOTO BY MARK BOOS



From left, Clara Nickles, 9, Laura Nickles, and Sophia Nickles, 11 make Valentines as part of Great Falls United Methodist Church's Church Outside program.

PHOTO BY ROBBIN SMITH

New Way to Worship

Great Falls United Methodist Church rethinks church with 'church outside.'

BY ROBBIN SMITH

Great Falls United Methodist Church participated in our first Church Outside program — our version of Rethink Church. On Jan. 30, instead of "going" to church we "did" church by serving others in our community.

"Church Outside is about putting into action the teachings of Jesus rather than just attending worship. It is about finding where people are living their lives and taking Christ there," said Pastor Nancy

Childress.

As part of Church Outside, members of Great Falls United Methodist Church served many areas of the surrounding community. Some members visited Cascade Village, a local retirement community, to lead a hymn sing.

Two young musicians, Gloria and Rose Boos, both 7, played the violin and brought smiles to the faces of those who attended. Several people made personal home visits to elderly church members who are no longer able to attend church regularly.

Back at the church on Georgetown Pike, many hands helped to assemble 75 bagged lunches for The Embury Rucker Community Shelter in Reston. Many of the children made beautiful Valentine's cards to send to members of our community who are homebound and unable to get to the regular worship service.

The morning began with a brief service before members left to "be the church."

After serving in the community, we reconvened in the church's Fellowship Hall to share homemade soup provided by the United Methodist Women.

"Thank you for helping us all to remember not to just do something different in the world, but be different in the world," said church member Robin Sparks.

Church Outside is just one of the ways that Great Falls United Methodist Church is rethinking church and reaching out to the community. There will be more Church Outside programs throughout the year with different service projects.

For more information about Church Outside or Great Falls United Methodist Church visit our website: www.greatfallsumc.org or look for us on Facebook.

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Home Life Style

Security, Convenience and Green Innovation

Northern Virginia companies debut home technology trends in Las Vegas.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Getting a lot of attention at this year's Consumer Electronics Show were several Northern Virginia companies who were among the more than 2,700 exhibitors displaying some of the world's most cutting edge home technology trends.

This year was all about the "apps" as more than 150,000 people from around the world descended on the Las Vegas Convention Center last month for the 2011 Consumer Electronics Show.

Homeowners can have more control over their homes using many newly developed smartphone applications, getting real time information from home security systems even when not at home, controlling room temperatures, raising and lowering window shades or even starting dinner or the laundry from anywhere with an internet connection.

Surveillance Systems, Archerfish: Reston

For homeowners looking for a home surveillance system, Reston's Cernium Corporation has developed the Archerfish Solo, an IP-based wireless camera that sends video clip emails to your smart phone or computer whenever it senses unusual activity.

"There's been a lot of interest in the Solo," said Debbie Shuey of Archerfish, a CES exhibitor for the last three years. "We've had far more people stopping by this year than the last two."

Homeowners can use Archerfish to view live video via computer, smart phone or tablet devices, as Shuey demonstrated by monitoring the cameras at Reston Skate Quest cameras from the show floor in Las Vegas.

"The number of people interested in this for personal use has multiplied tremendously," Shuey said. "Even our competitors have been stopping by."

Debuting at CES this year was the Archerfish Solo Flood Light Adapter, which allows the camera to be installed simply by screwing it into an existing flood light socket.

"We're continuously developing products to help consumers keep an eye on the places that matter to them," said Cernium president Craig Chambers. "The Archerfish Flood Light Adapter makes installing the Solo as easy as screwing in a light bulb."

WWW.MYARCHERFISH.COM



Herndon-based Simplikey president Jason Pizzilo, right, demonstrates the new lockset to Oracle's Joel Storm at the Consumer Electronics Show.

Tablet Times Two, Entourage: McLean

McLean-based Entourage Systems used this year's CES to launch the Pocket Edge, a portable version of its bestselling Entourage Edge.

"We just launched last year and are doing very well, especially internationally," said Entourage vice president Doug Atkinson. "As a consumer device, we are just getting started and are excited to be here." The mission is to provide an all-inclusive personal technology device that combines the functions of several products into one solution.

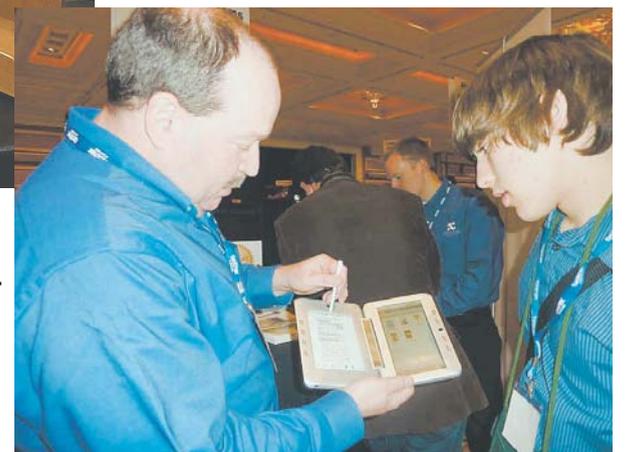
Both the Entourage and Pocket Edge are dual screen e-reader, Android-based tablet computer, notepad and audio/video recorder and player. Connected to the internet, it can manage any connected home security system or smart appliances. Prices start at \$349.

"We can build a tablet by cutting off half, but then we'd be just like everybody else," Atkinson said. "But people still write and along with many other features, we offer that with our product."

WWW.ENTOURAGEEDGE.COM



Jon Kelman demonstrates a light-up security vest by Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations.



Entourage vice president Doug Atkinson, left, demonstrates the new Pocket Edge to David Goldhagen of San Antonio.



Skip West, founder of Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations, displays his latest home technology solutions at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas last month. West teaches the course "From Geek to Gazillionaire" at George Mason University.

SEE HOME, PAGE 19

Northern Virginia REAL ESTATE

Top Townhouse Sales in 2010



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

5 6 7 Evans Farm, McLean — up to \$1,685,000



8 1227 Stuart Robeson Drive, McLean — \$1,360,000



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

2 207 Fairfax Street South, Alexandria — \$2,840,000

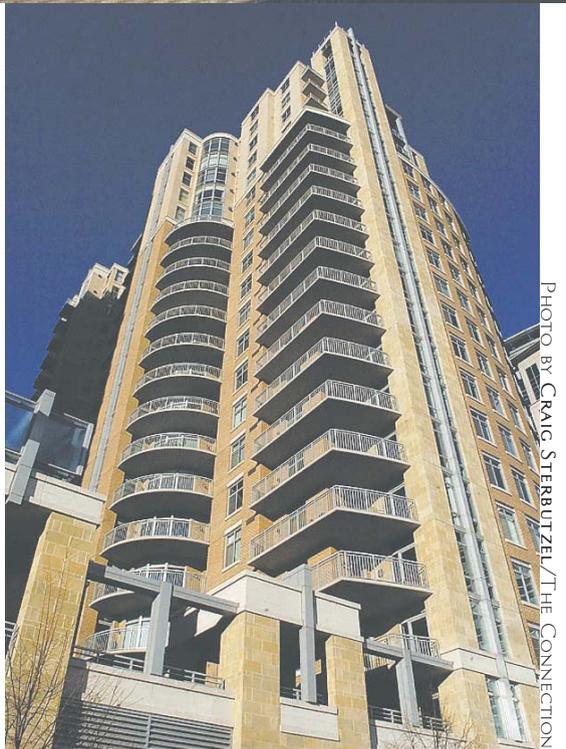


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

10 11990 Market Street, Reston — \$1,000,000

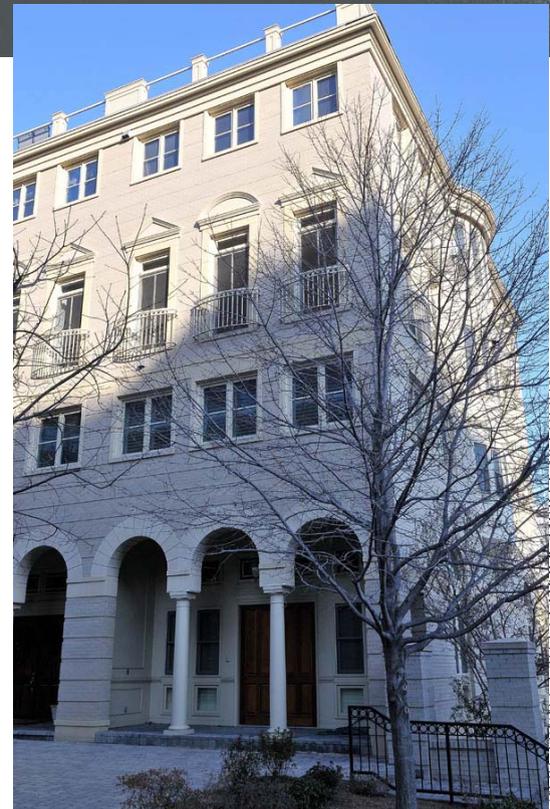
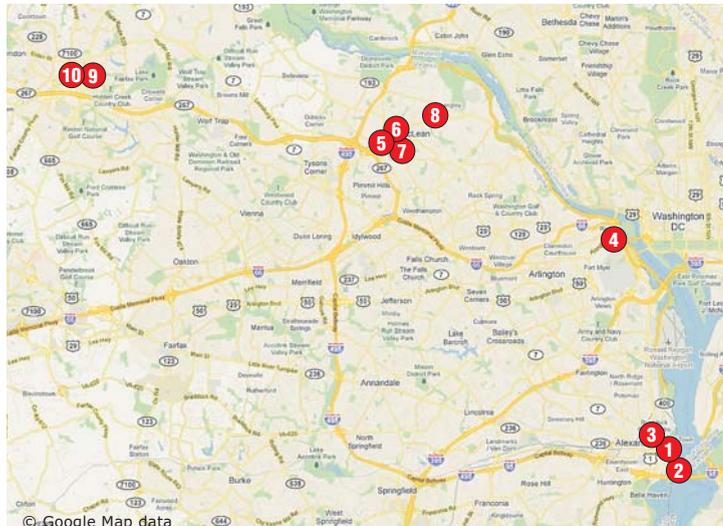


PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

3 1401 Nash Street, Arlington — \$2,150,000



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2 207 FAIRFAX ST S	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,840,000	Townhouse	0.13	OLD TOWN	07/09/10	
3 1401 NASH ST	4	4	2	ARLINGTON	\$2,150,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.03	BROMPTONS@MONUMENT PL	09/30/10	
4 606 CAMERON ST	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,100,000	Townhouse	0.11	OLD TOWN	06/07/10	
5 7218A FARM MEADOW CT	4	4	1	MC LEAN	\$1,685,000	Townhouse	0.06	EVANS FARM	06/30/10	
6 1423 HARVEST CROSSING DR	3	4	1	MCLEAN	\$1,630,000	Townhouse	0.07	EVANS FARM	06/21/10	
7 1496 TEAGUE DR	4	4	1	MCLEAN	\$1,487,000	Townhouse	0.07	EVANS FARM	07/16/10	
8 1227 STUART ROBESON DR	3	4	2	MCLEAN	\$1,360,000	Townhouse	0.10	MERRYHILL	04/30/10	
9 11776 STRAIFORD HSE PL#11043	3	0	0	RESTON	\$1,060,000	Penthouse		STRAIFORD	01/29/10	
10 11990 MARKET ST #1813	2	3	0	RESTON	\$1,000,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		MIDTOWN AT RESTON TOWN	10/05/10	

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM.

Security, Convenience

FROM PAGE 17

Going Green, MAXSA: Fairfax/Fairfax Station

Skip West is no stranger to the crowds of the Consumer Electronics Show.

"This is my eighth year here and it just keeps getting better," said West, founder and president of the Fairfax Station-based MAXSA Innovations. "I love inventing new products and this is the place to introduce them to consumers."

West debuted a dozen new items at this year's show, most focusing on "green" technology.

"We now have solar powered motion activated flood lights, along with our solar walkway lights for decks, stairs and driveways," West said. "We've been taking lots of orders and getting a great response."

MAXSA also offers laser garage parking systems and personal devices such as a reflective safety vest with 16 LED lights, devices to avoid automobile/deer collisions and special flashlights.

"I sold my last company but didn't like being retired," said West, who teaches the course "From Geek to Gazillionaire" at George Mason University. "I love helping students develop their ideas into successful companies."

West, one of the first to produce the now popular battery powered votive candles, donates his salary from GMU to a student business competition.

"I love what I do and have been fortunate in my success," West said. "It's very rewarding to help my students see their dreams become reality."

MAXSAINNOVATIONS.COM

First Impressions, Simplikey: Herndon

If the employees of Herndon-based start-up Simplikey all look young, it's because they are.

"We hired 11 people, all between the ages of 21 and 35," said Carl Guerreri, president of parent company Electronic Warfare Associates, a government defense contractor. "I told them to wander the world for a year to come up with an idea that best utilized our technology."

The result is the Simplikey lock, a remote control electronic deadbolt.

"We wanted to make something worthy of a front door," said D'Veil Garrison, vice president of sales and marketing. "The lock is all metal with a carbon

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE CONNECTION



Debbie Shuey monitors security at the Reston Skate Park as part of the Archerfish demonstration at the Consumer Electronics show in Las Vegas last month.

core center deadbolt, concealed light-up keypad and remote key fob that works from up to 50 feet away."

The slim design lock is programmable with up to 16 different codes and runs on 4 AA batteries.

"This is our first time at CES," Garrison said. "It's great seeing all the first adapters' eyes light up when they see the lock."

The Simplikey uses standard deadbolt installation and is available in three finishes.

"I started early this morning and haven't stopped talking since," said Simplikey president Jason Pizzillo. "But people love the product and it's been a great show."

WWW.SIMPLICIKEY.COM

There's an App for That

Arguing over the remote may soon be a thing of the past as smartphones and tablet computers take control of your home theater system. In a world where all you need is an Ethernet cable and ISP, every major TV manufacturer is now producing internet-connected HDTV and 3D displays, all easily controlled and monitored by mobile apps.

On screens that can reach up to 90 inches (on a soon-to-be-released Mitsubishi plasma display), smart TVs and the newest apps allow web surfing from your sofa. You can also connect with friends via Facebook, Google Talk and Twitter as you watch your favorite programming. Also expected to gain ground in the home theatre arena is gesture controlled TV, which uses technology similar to the Xbox Kinect.

Capital Home & Garden Show, Feb. 25-27

The Capital Home & Garden Show will feature hundreds of displays and exhibits this year, with a special emphasis on "Going Green." Exhibitors include all aspects of home design and improvement, gardening, kitchen and bath remodeling, flooring, roofing, doors, windows, fencing, pools, interior and exterior lighting, home entertainment, interior designs and much more. Get ideas, investigate new products, gather information and meet the professionals who can help. **Dulles Expo Center, Feb. 25 - 27**, www.capitalhomeshow.com.

10 WAYS TO GOGREENER

SOURCE: Capital Home & Garden Show

- 1. Energy Efficient Appliances:** The refrigerator is one of the home's highest consumers of energy. Use the water and energy-saving settings on your refrigerator and dishwasher.
- 2. Lighting:** Use **compact fluorescents (CFLs)**. Designing a home with good **natural lighting** cuts down on the need to use electricity.

3. Biodegradable Cleaning Products, and use common supplies like baking soda and vinegar.

4. Indoor air quality: Look for products that don't have **synthetic formaldehyde resins**. **Proper ventilation** will help maintain superior indoor air quality.

5. Green Cabinetry: Many are made from renewable and salvaged materials

6. Skip the bottled water.

7. Green Flooring: Consider **cork, bamboo** or concrete flooring.

8. Countertops and backsplashes made

of recycled glass that make stunning backsplashes.

9. Buy Local and Organic: Buying local keeps fuel usage at a minimum, supports local economy and encourages local farming. Check out a local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.

10. Solar Water Heating can save your household up to 35 percent of its energy use and prevent tons of carbon dioxide entering our environment over the life of the system. Many states also offer tax credits.

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2963 Mockernut Ct.....\$479,900...Sun 1-4...Sridhar Vemuru.....Agragami, LLC.....703-707-9737

12506 Northern Valley Ct...\$499,000...Sun 1-4...Diana LeFrancois.....Century 21.....703-930-6682

12526 Ridgeway Dr.....\$749,900...Sun 1-4...Liam Doherty.....Fairfax Realty.....703-975-7366

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1613 Brookside Rd.....Sun 2-4...JD Callander.....Weichert.....703-606-7901

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1511 Gingerwood Ct.....\$599,950...Sun 1-4...Eugene Curtin.....Weichert.....703-856-3416

Oakton

11415 Vale Rd.....\$569,000...Sun 1-4...Audrey Hunt.....Weichert.....703-371-9376

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21181 Millwood Sq.....\$322,500...Sun 1-4...Barbara Hendrickson...Keller Williams.....703-901-9200

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McLean \$1,495,000



Great Falls \$50,000,000



McLean \$1,795,000



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