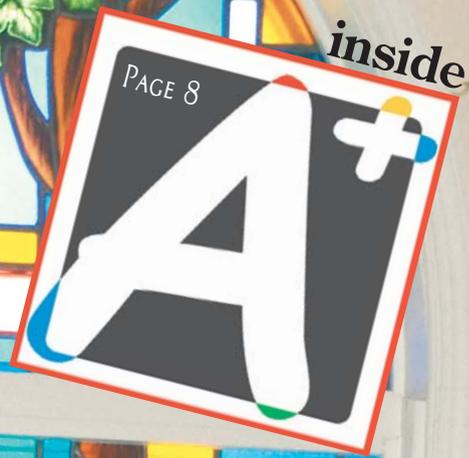


Great Falls CONNECTION

John Bradford, the new pastor for Christ the King Lutheran Church in Great Falls, says discipleship is his philosophy, and he is looking forward to engaging the community at every level.



Connecting People of Faith

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Seeing Signs
Of Dating Abuse

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'Magic Realism' at
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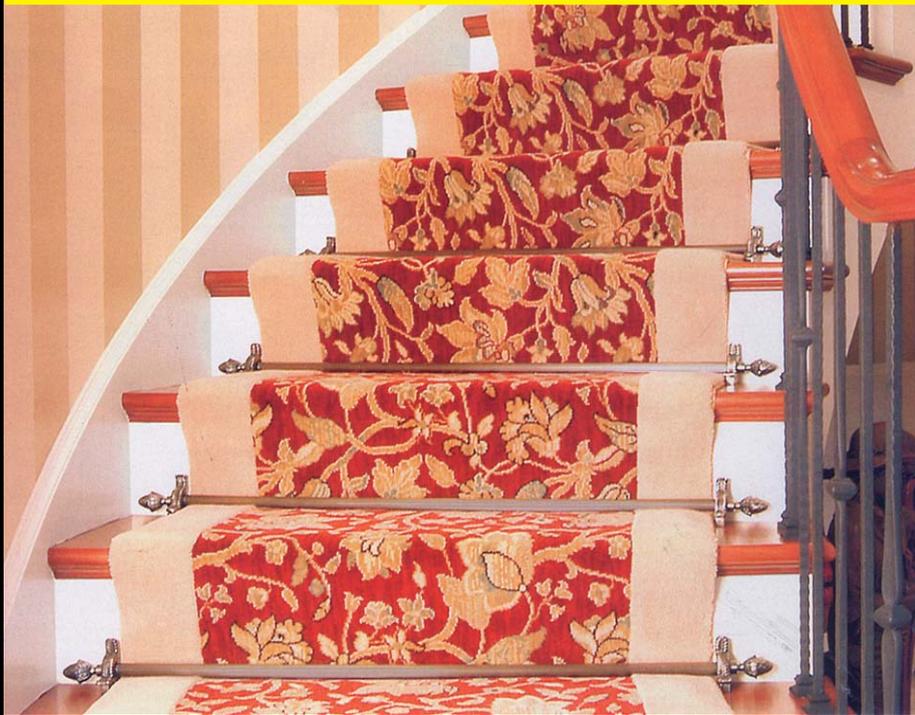
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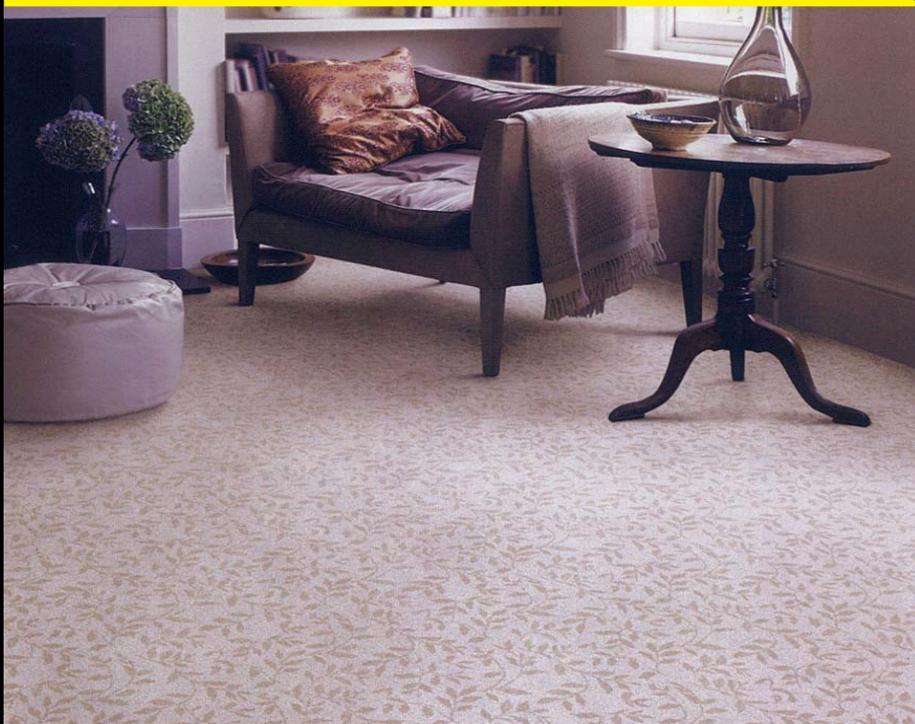
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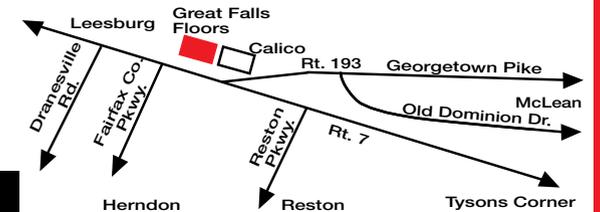
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Lynne Russell, founder of Dating Abuse Stops Here, speaks to the Great Falls Optimist Club Feb. 15 about the signs of teen dating violence. Her daughter Siobhan was killed by her boyfriend in 2009.



PHOTO BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Seeing Signs of Dating Abuse

Great Falls Optimists Club hosts founder of Dating Abuse Stops Here.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Drama in teenage relationships may be normal, but threats of violence and intimidation aren't, as Herndon resident Lynne Russell can attest. Her daughter Siobhan was involved in an abusive relationship that ended in her murder, and since then her mother has dedicated her life to raising awareness of warning signs of teen dating violence.

"It's too late for Siobhan, but I have a desperate need to tell her story and educate," Russell said. "I'm not alone in this nightmare, dating abuse is prevalent. One in three adolescent girls are a victim of abuse, and victims are more likely to use drugs, smoke and engage in other risky behavior."

Russell formed Dating Abuse Stops Here (DASH) to help spread the facts about teen dating violence, and she presented the information at the Feb. 5 meeting of the Great Falls Optimist Club.

"On Jan. 31, President Obama issued a proclamation that February was National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and it's especially fitting that DASH was invited here," said Deborah Mullen of DASH. "The Optimists are always ahead of the curve when it comes to sponsoring community events."

Russell said that when her daughter reached adolescence she "started to feel uncomfortable in her own skin" and that her self-esteem plummeted. She entered into a relationship that became abusive.

"It seemed innocuous at first, no relationships start abusive, there are good and bad times," Russell said. "As she got sucked in more and more, she made mistakes and we overestimated her ability to make the decision to leave."

Russell says it takes an average of seven attempts

for someone to leave an abusive relationship. In Siobhan's case, it escalated to threats against her family and in the summer of 2008, she was living at the beach after dropping out of school, with no job.

Then she had a revelation, Russell said, and her husband got a text that she was coming back. She enrolled in school, graduating in February of 2009 and began working double shifts to save money for school.

"We spent a fabulous nine months reconnecting," Russell said. "But on Easter Sunday, a policeman came to our door and said she had been murdered by her boyfriend. It was the worst day of my life, ... burned into my brain."

Russell said that when someone tries to leave an abusive relationship, the chances of them being killed rise drastically. In her daughter's case, there were clear threats and signs that they found out about later, but Siobhan never shared with anyone.

John Murray, Russell's 18-year-old nephew, and the cousin closest to Siobhan, also spoke to the Optimists Club about experiences with dating violence.

"If there's three or four signs [of abuse] start to crop up, ... then it's time to look closer," Murray said. "Part of the problem is the person being abused finds it hard to reach out to others."

Murray said that tools such as Facebook can be used to see signs of abuse, but also things like text messages that can be saved and shown to others.

"We need to teach this tech-savvy generation to stand up and say 'No, we're not going to accept this,'" Russell said. "We won't accept it, we won't perpetuate it and we won't stand by and watch it happen. This is my tribute to my daughter."

Things like threats to family, threats of suicide, stalking, drug abuse and extreme jealousy are all signs that someone could turn violent in a relationship.

T.R. Cook, president of the Great Falls Optimists Club, said that Russell and Murray gave "one of the best presentations I've seen in a while. Their message came across loud and clear."

More information on DASH can be found at www.datingabusestopshere.com.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Siobhan Russell, the 19-year-old daughter of Lynne Russell, was murdered by her abusive boyfriend in February 2009. Lynne Russell started Dating Abuse Stops Here in her daughter's memory to raise awareness of teen dating violence.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

John Bradford has been named the new pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Great Falls.

Connecting People of Faith

John Bradford named pastor at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

parsonage to indulge his gardening habit.

Christ the King Lutheran Church in Great Falls is welcoming a new pastor to its community, Pastor John Bradford. A Marine Corps veteran, Bradford said he was excited to be part of a strong congregation.

"Christ the King is a healthy, vibrant congregation with strong lay leadership, and I look forward to finding my place," he said. "I'm looking forward to getting to know the fine people here."

Bradford, a San Diego, Calif. native, spent 25 years in the Marine Corps, rising to the rank of major. After his retirement, he joined the seminary.

"I've known since I was 14 that I had a call to be a pastor, but I spent a wonderful 25 years in the Marine Corps," he said. "After 24 years, God let me know that it was time, and it was very clear the road I was to take."

After serving at Faith Lutheran Church in Arlington and serving as interim at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Arlington, with a stop in Fargo, N.D. in between, he is now ready to make Great Falls home.

AN AVID RUNNER, Bradford says he is looking forward to finding paths to run on, as well as taking advantage of the three-acres surrounding the

When it comes to presiding over Christ the King, Bradford describes his passion in one word: discipleship.

Mitchell Kiffe, chair of the committee that selected Bradford, said they were drawn to Bradford for a variety of reasons.

"He had all the qualifications we were looking for, his background and experience were great, and he's a kind, thoughtful, people person," Kiffe said.

Kiffe said that the leadership skills Bradford gained in the Marines were clear, and that as a congregation Christ the King is looking for that.

Bradford himself says that despite the successes evident around the area, he is still anxious to spread his message.

"In the midst of all the wealth around Great Falls, people still have needs, and we need to ask what we are doing to connect people of faith," he said.

BRADFORD MET HIS WIFE Dorann, an Arlington native, while stationed at Marine Corps Headquarters. With their son and daughter grown, Bradford said he is looking forward to putting down roots here.

"This is home for her," he said. "Now it's home for both of us."

Bradford will be formally installed as pastor for Christ the King in a ceremony March 13.

Time to Talk about 'Discipline'

Schools need to consider the best interests of the student.

Our hearts go out to the parents of Nick Stuben, a student at Woodson who died of suicide last month after an ordeal of navigating a suspension and disciplinary process that clearly has gone awry.

Nick was not the first local student to suffer from the process. In March 2009, Josh Anderson, then a junior at South Lakes High School, died of suicide the day before he was to face expulsion from the Fairfax County school system at a disciplinary hearing.

It is true that a teenage suicide never has only one cause; the students' deaths are not the "fault" of disciplinary policies. But no one can deny that the disciplinary process contributed to the unhappiness that these two students experienced.

We have heard now from many parents whose teenagers (and even younger children) have suffered through an inflexible and adversarial process that separates students from support systems and healthy activities and even schoolwork at exactly the moment that they need them the most.

Students who have not been in serious trouble before suddenly find themselves isolated at home, unable to participate in sports or clubs, unable to interact with peers or teachers on a regular basis. The results have been devastating for many families.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prudent Response To the Recession

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to Catherine Lorenze's recent letter regarding my service as the Dranesville Representative on the Fairfax County School Board ["Time for New Leadership," Connection, February 12-22, 2011].

First, my colleagues and I responded prudently and responsibly to the recession. In spite of declining revenues and increased student enrollment, we did not narrow the curriculum. McLean and Langley parents lobbied hard to save student programs, and I listened. When our budgets had to be reduced by \$465 million, we cut 1400 positions, froze pay, and reduced administrative costs by 15 percent and school-based costs by 7 percent. But we preserved critical programs in the arts, world languages, and sports. As the economy improves we must reverse the countywide increase in

Many people are seeking a dialogue to understand and hopefully modify the current approach.

Del. Kaye Kory introduced legislation in the Virginia House of Delegates that would have required schools to notify parents if their student was in trouble that might lead to suspension. The bill failed, but the idea that such legislation might be needed is eye-opening. Fairfax schools opposed it.

Caroline Hemenway founded Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform, a community group that advocates for changes to Fairfax's approach to disciplinary matters, years ago after her family's ordeal with suspension years ago.

School board member Tina Hone (At-large) has been asking for data about suspensions and expulsions from schools staff, but reports that she has been unable to get good answers, leaving open questions about minority students being over-

represented in students who have been suspended, among other issues. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Feb. 8 to "make outreach efforts" to the local school system about student disciplinary tactics, hoping to begin a friendly and ongoing discussion about possible reforms to the schools' current system.

Fairfax County Superintendent Jack Dale made it clear he had no intention of discussing the disciplinary system with the county. Dale said in a statement that the resolution demonstrated a "serious misunderstanding" of the school system's current disciplinary policies.

Note that this exchange involved dueling "statements," not discussion.

class size that occurred early in the recession and bring back summer school. I am also committed to finishing the implementation of full-day kindergarten in all of our schools. The recession stalled the roll-out of this program. Five Dranesville schools have full-day kindergarten and nine don't. It is time to finish the job.

Ms. Lorenze questioned whether the school buildings in our area have received their fair share of capitol dollars. Much has been accomplished during my tenure. Colvin Run was opened and full renovations were completed at Great Falls, Spring Hill, Churchill Road, Franklin Sherman, Chesterbrook, Kent Gardens, Lemon Road and McLean High School. Longfellow's addition and renovation is well underway. Haycock and Herndon have received modular additions and Langley has a new classroom wing. Spring Hill will receive additional classrooms as well as a refigured kiss and ride that will improve student safety as well as traffic on Lewinsville Road. Langley High School has begun actively plan-

ning for its upcoming renovation. I helped ensure an earlier start date for Haycock's and Forestville's renovations.

The first phase of Thomas Jefferson's high-tech renovation is nearing completion and construction will likely begin next year. I was privileged to be part of the academic visioning committee that laid the groundwork for this project. Some years ago Mr. Moon and I were instrumental in increasing the size of the TJ student body, giving more students the chance to attend this excellent governor's school. The renovation will include a sizable addition to accommodate this larger student body.

As for Fairgrade, I felt from the beginning that the parent concerns were real. I met with many people, listened carefully to the debates, and encouraged my fellow Board members to pay close attention. In the end it was my motion that changed the scale and the weights, thus giving the parents and students what they asked for.

Our Dranesville students benefit from rich educational opportunities because of our many wonder-

Read On

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE: BROKEN OR PERFECT?

Jack Dale criticizes concerns linking teen suicides to suspensions.

MONDAY, FEB. 21, 2011

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=348482&paper=72&cat=104>

MANTUA TEENAGER REMEMBERED

Nick Stuben, 15, participated in Woodson football, Boy Scouts.

THURSDAY, JAN. 27, 2011

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=347811&paper=63&cat=104>

ONE STRIKE, THEY'RE OUT

Some families call the school system's polices on marijuana punitive and ineffective.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 17, 2010

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=344330&paper=82&cat=104>

Dale is correct when he suggests a broader approach of tackling teen depression in general, but this must be in addition to grappling with the challenges in the disciplinary process.

"I believe our efforts would be far more productive if we focused on the incidence of depression among our county youth and how our agencies can work together to tackle this problem," wrote Dale in his statement.

In the meantime, if you have a teenager in your family, it might be worth letting him or her know that they shouldn't sign any statements admitting they've done anything wrong at school without having the school call you first.

—MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ful teachers and involved parents and community members. We are fortunate to live in a county that expects much of our public schools. I have always welcomed a robust and responsive dialog with the community. After all, there are few things more important than the education of our children. I look forward to serving our students, families and taxpayers for another four years.

Jane K Strauss

Dranesville Representative,
Fairfax County School Board

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9410.
By e-mail:
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

NEWS

Honoring Years of Service

Mat and Catherine Mathews (center) of Great Falls recently received the 2011 Franciscan Cross from St. Francis Episcopal Church for their many years of faithful service. They are joined by Rector Penny Bridges and Bill Parsons, who received the Franciscan Cross in 2010.



Helping Haiti

Children at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls recently attended a presentation on the status of post-earthquake relief efforts in Haiti. Following the presentation, the children assembled 60 hygiene kits that will be sent to Haiti as part of the Episcopal Church's ongoing national support.



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NEWS

Bird-Election Preview: 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, the village will host a series of art and photography events leading up to the "election" of its 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.

In the interest of good civics, the Connection will profile each of the seven nominated bird "candidates" over the coming weeks. This is the third of our profiles. The information comes from the website of the Great Falls Citizens Association.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. This little finch is a social bird that may congregate around your birdfeeder in a twittering grouping of similarly marked bright-lemon ornaments. There are even amusing names for such gather-

ings: a charm of goldfinches, a treasury of goldfinches, a rush of goldfinches. The 5-inch birds are not always bright yellow, though.

In fact, they molt twice a year, and it is only in early spring when the males show up with their telltale smashing-yellow coats, coal-black hats and black vests (wings) with some white—all the better for wooing mates. Females, by contrast, are fairly dull (not that there's anything wrong with that), and in the winter the males, too, lose their luster.

The American Goldfinch is a seed-eater (it gobbles weed seeds among others) and is drawn to birdfeeders that dispense gourmet menus of thistle, cracked sunflowers, or nyzar (you can ask your bird-food store for food recommendations that drive these birds crazy). While they're feeding on your tab, take a good look at their conical bills (adapted to seed-eating), their notched tails and their gymnastic skills on perches. For more information, go to:

The American goldfinch is a seedeater that is also a favorite at birdfeeders, often gathering in twittering groups. This male was photographed by Inge Curtis, whose in-laws live in Great Falls.

www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Goldfinch/id.

Why it should be the Great Falls bird? If your favorite color is yellow, this is the one. Or, if you like listening to bird vocalizations, vote "goldfinch." (Like long-time married couples that begin to look and talk alike, paired-up goldfinches have virtually identical flight calls.) The bright males are sure signs of spring, and if attracting a treasury of colorful birds to your feeder is your goal, this is the species for you. Here's a way to bring a little extra cheer to Great Falls.

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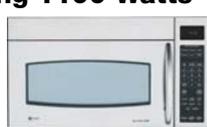


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NEWS

Brenda Drake's 'Magic Realism' on Display at Katie's Coffee House

Award-winning, contemporary artist, Brenda Drake will show a new series of mixed media works at Katie's Coffee House at 760 Walker Road in Great Falls. The new works entitled Magic Realism were inspired by the South American literary movement created by such writers as Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Isabel Allende. In this movement, magical events are a part of everyday life. Drake is a member of Great Falls Studios and has a studio at The Artist's Atelier at 1144 Walker Road in Great Falls. She is also on the Board of Great Falls Foundation For The Arts. Drake's work is in a number of private and corporate collections throughout the U.S.

To view more of the artist's work visit her web site at artistbrendadrake.com. The "Magic Realism" show will be on display at Katie's through the month of March.



An image from Brenda Drake's 'Magic Realism' show on display at Katie's Coffee House through the month of March. The title is **Girl With Dragonfly**. The dimensions are 20' x 20'.



'Umbrella' - photographed along the seashore in southern Virginia.

Jane Rader to Exhibit Beach Series at The Tavern in Great Falls

Local artist Jane Rader will be exhibiting her "Memories of the Beach" series of pictures at The Tavern in Great Falls, 9835 Georgetown Pike, during the months of March and April. The digital images on canvas feature beach scenes in a contemporary,

impressionistic style. As a painter and graphic designer, Rader's soft focus style of photography allows the artist to paint with her camera. Her beach series was photographed in 2010 along the coast of Virginia. Rader is a graphic designer and member of Great Falls Studios.

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Fairfax Symphony Holds Youth Competition

Nine middle and high school students compete for prize money.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

When Brian Hong talks in casual conversation, he says things that many 17 year-old boys in high school might be expected say.

He is a self-professed "metal head," who frequents heavy metal music message boards on the internet.

"My favorite band of all time is Dream Theater," said Brian, mentioning an all-male group whose members have shoulder-length hair, bushy goatees and perform in a variety of black t-shirts, judging from pictures on the group's website.

Heavy metal is fairly typical for teenage boys but it does seem a little odd for Brian, an accomplished classical musician who plays the violin. When he steps

onto a stage to perform as concertmaster of the American Youth Philharmonic, Brian is likely to be wearing a pressed tuxedo and black dress shoes.

BRIAN, who lives in Fairfax Station and attends Robinson Secondary School, won the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's 2011 Dorothy Farnham Feuer string competition Feb. 20. The competition for middle and high school students had nine finalists.

"He had a wonderful musical refinement and a beautiful musical presentation," said Katherine Murdock, one of the competition's judges, of Brian's performance. Murdock, who plays the viola, is a professor of music at the University of Maryland.

"It was one of my stronger run-throughs," said Brian, who played



Brian Hong, of Robinson Secondary School, won the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's annual string competition for young players.

violin when he was four years-old and tries to fit in about three hours of practice every day. The student takes some of his high school classes over the internet to give his schedule more flexibility for music practice, he said.

"I would like to have a career in music or something in the sciences, like physics or chemistry," said Brian.

THOUGH he is just a teenager, Brian has already worked professionally. He played on a recording for a local pop musician and a "progressive metal" group from Boston that he met over a message board.

As the Feuer competition's winner, Brian received \$1,500. The student said he hopes to use the money to commission a custom bow from a Miami-based instrument maker. The special bow will cost about \$3,000 and Brian has already saved up "quite a bit of money" for its purchase, he said.

music by Russian composer Alexander Glazunov for the competition.

Brian first started playing the

EVEN when they don't win money, young musicians benefit from participating in competitions like the Feuer.

"It is motivational for a lot of students. A lot of them will work harder if they know they are going to be in a competition," said David Salness, a judge and the concertmaster of the Fairfax Symphony. Salness is also professor of violin and director of chamber music at the University of Maryland.

"It teaches them how to speak to an audience and entertain," he said.

Arman Nasrinpay, another student finalist, said he works harder when he knows he will have to perform in a competition.

"I did a lot of practicing this month. When you are competing, you just get a lot better. It puts a fire under you," said Arman, who is a sophomore at McLean High School.

JUDGES AND FINALISTS alike were impressed with the level of talent in this year's competition.

"I was very impressed but I am kind of used to being impressed at this point," said Evelyn Elsing, another judge and music professor at the University of Maryland.

Michael Romans, a sophomore from Lake Braddock Secondary School, said he was surprised to place third in the competition, given the number of excellent musicians participating.

"I am really surprised to have done as well as I did because everyone here is really, really good. I was just very impressed," said Michael, who was the only student to play the viola in the competition. Michael, who also plays the violin, took up the viola two years ago at the recommendation of his private teacher, who told him it was a "scholarship instrument" that might help get into college.

Michael tries to practice at least once per day for one to two hours, though he can only play one instrument per day. He also runs track at Lake Braddock.

"It is really very difficult to balance track, music and school," said Michael.



PHOTOS BY
JULIA O'DONOGHUE/
THE CONNECTION

Arman Nasrinpay, of McLean, and Jackie Lin, of Clifton, were finalists in a Fairfax Symphony Orchestra string competition for youth.

48th Annual Dorothy Farnham Feuer String Competition Finalists

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra held its annual string competition for high school and middle school students this month. Out of approximately 30 participants, the organization picked nine players as finalists. Prize money was given to those students who placed first, second and third.

STUDENT	INSTRUMENT	AGE	HOMETOWN	SCHOOL
Nicholas Brown, finalist	violin	14	Sterling	Homeschool
Ryan Hintzman, finalist	cello	16	Oak Hill	Oakton High School
Brian Hong, first place	violin	17	Fairfax Station	Robinson Secondary School
Jackie Lin, honorable mention	violin	15	Clifton	Centreville High School
Arman Nasrinpay, finalist	violin	16	McLean	McLean High School
Cory Rivera, finalist	violin	16	Falls Church	Homeschool
Michael Romans, third place	viola	15	Springfield	Lake Braddock Secondary School
Daniel Tavani, second place	cello	16	Haymarket	Battlefield High School
Shawn Tsutsui, finalist	cello	16	Great Falls	Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

HOW TO GET YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE CONNECTION

Calendar Listings

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

Name of Event:

Day of the Week, Date and Time:

Name of the Place Event will Be Held:

Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:

Name and Phone Number for More Information:

Three Sentences Describing the Event:

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, click the Real Estate links on the right side.

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

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754 Ellsworth.....\$1,699,999.00...Sun 1-4....Dianne Van VolkenburgWeichert.....703-980-4553

10808 Lockmeade Ct.\$1,199,000.00...Sun 1-4....Glynis Canto.....Keller Williams.....703-395-2355

Reston

11011 Saffold Way.....\$399,900...Sun 1-4....Helen Grozbean.....Century 21.....571-233-4287

11602 Springhouse Pl.....\$669,000...Sun 1-4....Pat Flynn.....Keller Williams.....703-679-1700

Herndon

2556 Chase Wellesley Dr....\$369,000...Sun 1-4....Debbie Tritle.....Weichert.....703-821-8300

Vienna

9705 Meadowmere Dr....\$1,295,000...Sun 1-4....Casey Samson.....Samson Properties...703-508-2535

105 Harmony Dr.....\$1,394,400...Sun 1-4....Jon Querolo.....Beneficial Real Estate 703-585-4900

Falls Church

411 West Broad Street.....\$325,000...Sun 1-4....Jason Stubblefield.....Samson Properties...901-246-6898

310 Forest Dr.....\$1,177,250...Sun 2-4....JD Callander.....Weichert.....703-606-7901

Sterling

20488 McGees Ferry Way..\$610,000...Sun 1-4....Michelina Queri.....Long & Foster.....703-217-1234

20346 Clifton Point St.....\$719,900...Sun 1-4....Gina Tufano.....Keller Williams.....703-574-3478

20409 River Bank St.....\$769,000...Sun 1-4....Gina Tufano.....Keller Williams.....703-574-3478

**To add your FREE Realtor represented
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 All listings are due by Monday at 3 p.m.**

HOME SALES

In January 2011, 13 Great Falls homes sold between \$3,310,713-\$375,000.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City ..	Sold Price ...	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision
9698 MILL RIDGE LN	5	5	2	GREAT FALLS	...	\$3,310,713	Detached	1.88	LANE AT FOUR STAIRS
11301 KELLIE JEAN CT	5	5	1	GREAT FALLS	...	\$1,800,000	Detached	1.93	MEADOWBROOK
186 RIVER PARK DR	5	5	2	GREAT FALLS	...	\$1,599,000	Detached	1.72	RIVERBEND KNOLLS
897 FALLS BRIDGE LN	6	4	1	GREAT FALLS	...	\$1,200,000	Detached	0.93	TIMBERLAKE ESTATES NORTH
9425 VERNON DR	4	4	1	GREAT FALLS	...	\$1,080,000	Detached	0.65	WOLFTRAP ESTATES
762 APPLEWOOD LN	5	5	1	GREAT FALLS	...	\$975,000	Detached	2.58	GREAT FALLS
10423 DOWN PATRICK LN	4	4	1	GREAT FALLS	...	\$960,000	Detached	5.14	DOWN PATRICK FARM
10106 COLUMBINE ST	4	2	1	GREAT FALLS	...	\$825,000	Detached	0.64	HICKORY CREEK
927 LEIGH MILL RD	3	3	1	GREAT FALLS	...	\$705,000	Detached	2.14	SYLVAN ESTATES
1111 CHALLEDON RD	6	3	0	GREAT FALLS	...	\$632,000	Detached	0.52	LEXINGTON ESTATES
10413 DEERFOOT DR	3	2	1	GREAT FALLS	...	\$580,000	Detached	2.17	CASA CONTINENTAL
10865 MONTICELLO CT	4	2	1	GREAT FALLS	...	\$510,000	Detached	0.27	GREAT FALLS FOREST
11833 BROCKMAN LN	4	2	1	GREAT FALLS	...	\$375,000	Detached	0.23	GREAT FALLS FOREST

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/FEB. 24

Brendan James and Matt White. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

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.

World-music Violin Ensemble Barrage. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Dancing, traditional and modern songs. \$27. www.wolftrap.org.



Beth Patterson performs her own interpretation of traditional Celtic, Cajun, folk music, and an original mix of her own compositions at the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls on Sunday, Feb. 27, 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. \$15. 703-759-3309 or www.ionamusic.com/brogue.shtml.

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.1ststageyson.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.

"Annie Jr." 7:30 p.m. Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Musical comedy based on the Broadway musical. \$10 adults, \$5 students. 703-790-5450 or www.oakcrest.org.

"Gianni Schicchi." 8 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The GMU School of Music presents the Mason Opera & Chamber Orchestra performing Giacomo Puccini's satirical one-act opera. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors, and a limited number of tickets are free for students with a valid Mason ID. Charge at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

the Broadway musical. Join the cast and crew for a talk-back after the matinee. \$10 adults, \$5 students. 703-790-5450 or www.oakcrest.org.

"Gianni Schicchi." 8 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The GMU School of Music presents the Mason Opera & Chamber Orchestra performing Giacomo Puccini's satirical one-act opera. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors, and a limited number of tickets are free for students with a valid Mason ID. Charge at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/FEB. 27

Disney Live! presents Mickey's Magic Show. 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Featuring magic from legendary Disney films. Cinderella's rags turn into a beautiful ball gown in a split second, Aladdin's Princess Jasmine levitates into the air and the enchanted dancing brooms in Fantasia help sweep Minnie off of her feet. Mickey Mouse performs illusions along with Cinderella's Fairy Godmother, Alice in Wonderland's Mad Hatter and professional illusionist Brad Ross. Tickets \$22-\$50, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. www.disneylive.com.

"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.1ststageyson.org.

Jay Nash CD Release, Natalia Zukerman and Garrison Starr. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Beth Patterson. 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Celtic-Cajun music. \$15. 703-759-3309 or www.ionamusic.com/brogue.shtml.



'Shasta Daisy. by Kristin Reiber Harris. There will be an Artist's Reception for Harris, Sunday, on Feb. 27 from 5-6:30 p.m. at St. John's Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike in McLean. "Reflections of the Source of Nature" features circular drawings, woodcuts, and botanical drawings. 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

Drumline Live. 7 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A 39-member cast in a percussion-driven performance. \$23-\$46, youth through grade 12 half-price when accompanied by adult. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

The Capitol Steps. 7 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Political satire and comedy. Proceeds benefit Langley's All Night Grad Party. www.LangleyPTSA.org.

Artist's Reception for Kristin Reiber Harris. 5-6:30 p.m. St. John's Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. "Reflections of the Source of Nature" features circular drawings, woodcuts, and botanical drawings. 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

"Every Kid's a Rock Star" Fundraiser. 5-8 p.m. The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Live entertainment, interactive games and activities, Dimmer the Robot, Guitar Hero and DJ Hero. Meet Caitlin Uze, Miss Virginia 2010; Megan Lawless, Miss American Sweetheart 2011; and the Washington Wizard Girls. Auction prizes include a vacation in Cabo San Lucas, an Omega watch worn by Peirce Bronson in the James Bond movies, an Alex Ovechkin autographed hockey stick and Caps tickets, Rock Star Birthday Parties and more. Proceeds benefit Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children. www.inova.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 2

"Jammesty" Concert. 6 p.m. James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Featuring student musicians and artwork. Tickets \$3-\$5. Proceeds will help fund Madison's Amnesty International Club activities. soccerdolphinsgirl@yahoo.com.

Ian Axel and Sub-Radio Standard. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

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21 Announcements
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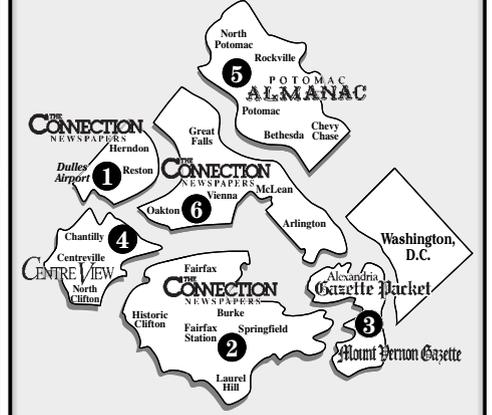
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Attitude It To The List



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As often as I think – and write, about my cancer-affected circumstances and consider the past, present and future; what I did, what I didn't do; what I'm doing, what I'm not doing; and what I might do – or not do – living forward, sometimes I wonder if the reason for whatever success or failure I've had in causing/preventing any of it is simply good genes/bad genes (luck) and not really anybody's fault? An admission Robin Williams' character (Sean Maguire) in the movie "Good Will Hunting" spent half the movie trying desperately to treat Matt Damon's character (Will Hunting) into admitting that the abuse he endured as an orphan from his foster father "was not his fault."

When I was first diagnosed, my oncologist was not interested – too much, in what had caused the malignant tumors in my mediastinum (doctor-speak for the middle of my lungs) to appear. They were there and the fact that I had never smoked cigarettes or that I smoked pot in college – 35 years previous, or that my mother smoked four packs of Chesterfield King cigarettes throughout my childhood and into my early adolescence, was not of any particular significance to him. His interest was in moving/treating forward, not researching/recriminating backward.

Nor has his interest been ever since – too much, in what things/changes (for me); lifestyle, diet, exercise, pills and supplements, etc., I've assimilated into my life to assist my body in fighting the cancer. If I had to characterize his approach/treatment, I would say it has been traditionally Western. However, since I have now outlived any other stage IV lung cancer patient he's treated with Avastin, he said (in fairness, others may have survived this long, but due to changes in their insurance, change of employer or some patients moved away/not in his care any longer), I am, at this point an exception to the two-year rule he cited back in Feb., 2009. That rule being, and I use the word pejoratively, a time-frame/prognosis of 13 months to two years – for someone who presented like I did.

But maybe his job his neither to concern himself with the why or the how, but rather concern himself with the what, as in what to do next – and the when, as in when to do it? I imagine treating terminal patients for a living has to cause some sleepless nights and plenty of agonizing days. Watching patients die under your care, not because of your care and/or concern, but in spite of it almost, has to be a frustrating and challenging endeavor. And managing the stress that naturally evolves from making life and death decisions for a living; some of which, for an oncologist specifically, are not likely to prevent the patient from dying, ultimately, has to create a survival-type, self-preservation instinct in the doctor. Somehow, he has to find a way, I would guess, not to get too emotionally invested or too interested/focused on what any particular patient is doing. He's probably more concerned with what the patient is not doing/not tolerating, treatment-wise; not what, in my case, the patient is doing on his own. As the Philadelphia comedian, David Brenner used to joke: "It's not the mosquitoes I can hear that worry me, it's the ones I can't hear." I'm doing so well (comparatively speaking) that my doctor can't worry about me, sort of. As my brother, Richard says: "He's got sick people to worry about."

And I don't consider myself sick, either – even though I have stage IV lung cancer, have inoperable tumors and am characterized as terminal. I consider myself a cancer patient, nothing more. And perhaps, that's how my oncologist has to treat me, as just another patient, nothing more. I know that's what helps me get through the day. He can't worry – too much, about me and apparently, I shouldn't worry too much about him. We both have more than enough to worry about already. That's not anybody's fault, that's just making the best of a very bad situation.

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

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Saxon Boys Win District Crown

Langley boys and girls compete at region indoor track and field championships.

The Langley High boys' basketball team successfully defended its Liberty District title with a dominating 64-37 victory over South Lakes in the district tournament finals game played last Friday night in Reston.

Langley (18-7), the top seed of the district tournament, was led by a balanced scoring attack which included big games from junior guard Austin Vasiliadis (16 points), senior guard David Adams (14), and junior guard Daniel Dixon (11). Senior post Brenden Dwyer and junior guard Joey Robinson both contributed eight points. For South Lakes (14-11), senior guard Joey Daye scored 18 points. He was the lone Seahawks' player to score in double figures.

South Lakes, a one-time dominant program that has struggled in recent years, reached the district finals with wins over both Madison and McLean. But the Seahawks were no match for a Langley team that has overpowered the district in recent years.

Langley, under head coach Travis Hess, was scheduled to open up play at the 16-team Northern Region tournament earlier this week with a home game versus Washington-Lee. The Saxons went all the way to the region finals last year before losing to Chantilly. But the Saxons, by making it to the championship game, qualified for the Virginia State AAA playoffs for the first time in the program's history.

Langley has lost just one district game all season - that coming at home to a struggling Madison team, 48-47, in a late regular season contest on Feb. 8.

At last week's district tournament, the Saxons defeated Marshall, 60-39, in a first round game played on Tuesday, Feb. 15. Langley led 16-9 after one quarter and held a 30-14 halftime advantage. Dixon led Langley with 20 points, while Dwyer added 15. Adams and Robinson both scored eight points.

In a semifinals game the following day, Langley got past a tough Fairfax squad, 68-60. The Rebels held a 16-14 lead after one quarter. But Langley put together a strong second quarter and held a 34-29 halftime lead. The second half was fairly evenly played but the Saxons came away with the win.

Four Langley players were in double digits in the round of four win - Adams (20 points), Vasiliadis (15), Dixon (14) and Tristan Evans (12). Joey Boyle led Fairfax with 22 points.

With the win over Fairfax, Langley moved on to the finals against a South Lakes squad that went a highly respectable 9-5 in district play during the regular season. The Saxons, however, had beaten South



Langley senior guard Braden Anderson goes up for a shot during the Saxons' Liberty District boys' basketball semifinals win over Fairfax last week. Anderson scored seven points in the game.

Lakes decisively in two regular season meetings and went on to do the same in the district championship meeting.

Now, Langley will look to continue its stellar postseason with region tournament play this week.

THE LANGLEY HIGH boys' and girls' indoor track and field teams competed at the Northern Region championships last weekend at George Mason University's Field House in Fairfax.

The Saxon boys finished 15th place among a field of 25 teams, while the Langley girls finished 18th among 22 teams.

Langley senior Lucas Grim won the championship in the boys' pole vault event, finishing ahead of second place finisher Sean Daugherty of Lake Braddock. Michael Lohr of Robinson was third in the event.

Jessica Miles, a Langley sophomore, earned a fourth place finish in the girls' 1600 race. She finished behind first place finisher Sophie Chase of Lake Braddock, second place finisher Maddie Wittich of West Springfield and third place finisher Hannah Christen of Lake Braddock.

Romness' Career-Best Not Enough for McLean

Highlanders lose to Mount Vernon in regional tournament.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Bittersweet tears flowed from the eyes of Andie Romness on Monday evening.

The McLean senior scored a career-high 27 points against Mount Vernon in the opening round of the Northern Region tournament. Her leadership and timely buckets helped the Highlanders compete against the aggressive and athletic Majors.

Unfortunately for Romness, her best performance in a Highlander uniform wasn't enough to keep it from being her last.

The McLean girls basketball team's season ended with a 69-57 loss at Mount Vernon High School. After stumbling to a 12-point first-quarter deficit, the Highlanders pulled to within four at halftime when Romness buried a 3-pointer at the buzzer. After the Majors built a 10-point third-quarter lead, Romness converted a three-point play and later scored in the paint to pull McLean within three. She scored eight points in the fourth quarter, fighting to keep the Highlanders' season alive.

"I thought she had an outstanding game," McLean coach Mike O'Brien said. "She's been our leader all year. She really stepped up versus a [tough] team like [Mount Vernon]. She showed the younger kids how you're supposed to step up. ... She loves to compete, she hates to lose [and] she didn't want her career to end."

While it wasn't enough, Romness was left with the satisfaction of knowing she left everything she had on the court.

"I feel like I've come full circle," Romness said. "I feel like I'm done and I did my best ... and I don't feel like I forgot anything."

McLean trailed by two late in the third quarter, when a basket by Maia Lee cut Mount Vernon's lead to 37-35 with 2:16 remaining. But the National District-champion Majors responded with a 13-0 run and advanced to the quarterfinals.

McLean, the fourth-place team from the Liberty District, finished the season with a 12-



McLean's Lisa Murphy (21) scored 17 points and grabbed 16 rebounds on Monday against Mount Vernon.

10 record.

"The biggest thing I can say is my kids didn't quit — they fought to the very end," O'Brien said. "A loss like that, I can always take. The kids played hard. [Mount Vernon] is a very good team. Even though they're young, that athleticism, for seven deep, that's tough to match up with for four quarters."

Mount Vernon held an advantage in speed and quickness, but sophomore Lisa Murphy worked hard to assure McLean could capitalize on its superior size. Murphy scored 17 points and grabbed 16 rebounds. Her 10 first-half boards helped keep Mount Vernon from running away with the game after jumping out to an early lead.

"I think we did a good job of not giving up," Murphy said. "Whenever Mount Vernon would start to get a lead, we just kept fighting back. I think that really shows part of what we've learned [about] becoming a team."

Murphy will be a key part of next year's McLean team.

"She's really come along throughout the year," O'Brien said. "From the beginning of the year, we had to work on her being aggressive. As you can see, going for 16 boards, that's being aggressive. She's really developing. I've got her for two more years, so that's nice."

McLean will lose Romness, Kristina Bettner and Erin Mundy to graduation, but will return five players who scored during Monday's game.

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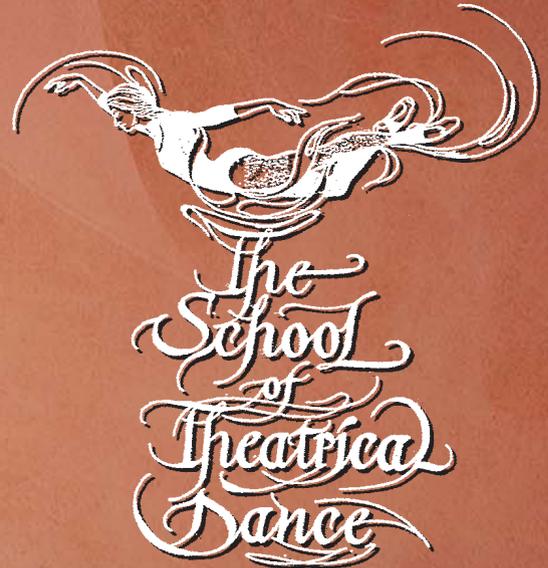
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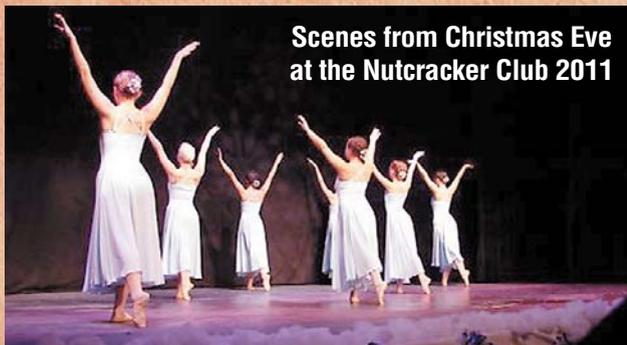
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photo John Vanderpool



Skaters on Rockwell Pond-

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photo John Vanderpool



Mistletoe Mischief- Joanna Lundquist, Alex Lundgren



Nutcracker Chinese Variation- Rebecca Anger, Kate Fitzgerald, Lauren Megrue, Karsyn Lawler

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