

Great Falls CONNECTION

Senior Arielle Swett argues that it is not constitutional to allow members of the Westboro Baptist Church to protest military funerals at Langley High School's Case Day Monday. The 19th annual Case Day was filled with debates, panel discussions and presentations about constitutional rights, and is a tradition for the school's senior class.

Solving Wastewater Issues

NEWS, PAGE 6

Welcoming Spring at L'Auberge Chez Francois

NEWS, PAGE 10

Langley Seniors Make Their Case

NEWS, PAGE 3

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COMMUNITY

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 the Great Falls bird. Residents can vote for their 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 fourth of our profiles. The information comes from the website of the Great Falls Citizens Association.

GREAT BLUE HERON

The Potomac River, plus many man-made ponds and lakes, as well as small creeks (known here in Virginia as "runs"), make Great Falls an ideal living space for this large water bird that is also common throughout much of the rest of the United States. You can of-

ten see a Great Blue Heron feeding near the falls or elsewhere along the Potomac.

The bird has a long S-shaped neck and extended legs for wading in shallows. It is mostly gray, and the largest individuals can measure almost 5 feet from head to tail, with a wingspan of up to 6.5 feet. It has a white face with black plumes from the eyes to the back of the head. Watching one take off from water level is painful because, at first, the bird seems to expend huge energy with slow, awkward wing beats, struggling to get off the ground, like a heavily laden cargo aircraft. Once aloft, it becomes the personification of flying grace. It nests in colonies. Home is a large nest of sticks lined with grass or other softer materials. For more information, go to: www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Blue_Heron/id.

Why it should be the Great Falls bird. The Great Blue Heron is easy to see, fun to watch and is an integral part of our watery landscape in Great Falls. It's also a reminder to us to keep our waters clean. An



The Great Blue Heron is a large fish-eating water bird, as depicted in this ceramic piece created by Great Falls potter Laura Nichols.

anecdote from Great Falls National Park last year is a testament to our affection for it. A kayaker reported one of the birds in trouble. Park rangers discovered that it was choking on an oversized fish caught in its throat, as herons infrequently do. One ranger held the bird while another reached down its throat and removed the obstruction. Result: one saved bird, two ranger heroes.

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Deputy Major Justin D. Reynolds, director of Education and Training for the Baltimore Police Department and Leza Conliffe, an associate attorney, discuss how the Fourth Amendment affects students at school at Langley High School's annual Case Day.



Langley Senior Jeffrey Principe argues to overturn the Oregon Ninth Circuit Court's decision that an interview of a 9-year-old girl without consent violated her Fourth Amendment rights at Langley's Case Day Monday.

PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Langley Seniors Make Their Case

Langley High School Hosts 19th Annual Case Day.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The library at Langley High School resembled the highest court in the land Monday, as the senior class hosted the 19th annual Case Day. The event allows the seniors to try a case currently being tried by the Supreme Court, and students research and present the case to a nine-person "supreme court" made up of two students and several other local residents, many of whom are practicing lawyers.

"It's amazing to work with all these professionals, to be able to exchange ideas with experts," said senior Trager Metge, who was one of two students on the court. "It really opened my eyes to the language and process of the law."

The case presented was *Alford vs. Greene*, which was heard March 1 by the United States Supreme Court. In the case, a mother in Oregon sued a Department of Health caseworker and a law enforcement officer for what she claimed was an unreasonable interview of her daughter concerning alleged abuse.

Sarah Greene sued caseworker Bob Camreta and Deputy Sheriff James Alford, after the two interviewed her underage daughter, identified as only SG. Greene claimed that the two men obtained information through an illegal seizure, which violated her Fourth Amendment rights.

The District Court in Oregon did not find that reasonable, but the Ninth District Court overturned that decision, stating that the seizure required a court warrant, probable

cause and exigent circumstances, or parental consent.

"I've been reading the briefs from the case for months, and will be expected to write an opinion," said senior Will Baird, the other student justice. "Both arguments are very compelling, and it seemed like the more I learned, the harder it was to weigh in on."

THE PRESENTATION OF THE CASES were only part of the day's events, which included student debates on other constitutional issues, panel discussions from local officials, child welfare and family advocacy groups, as well as Fairfax County Public Schools.

"The Constitution is filled with amendments that protect the criminal defendant, and that's the price we have chosen to pay for our freedom," said Michael Rosman of the Center for Individual Rights, one of the panelists. "We have felt that it's more important that an innocent person not feel abused or stigmatized."

Since SG later recanted her statements about her father's abuse, Greene argued that the Camreta and Alford did not have probable cause to conduct the interview. The opposition argued that since it was a case of possible child abuse, the government acted appropriately.

Seniors who didn't serve as justices or argue the case served in other capacities, including a group that researched precedents that would be applicable to a decision.

"We went through a number of cases, and found five that we could use," said senior Jack Parker, who was one of four students who was on the research committee. "I figured the research would be the most difficult part, but putting it together in a rational way for the presentation, in a way people could understand, was tough."

Seniors Peter Nance, Alec Phillips and Ben

Shapero were the other members of the committee, with Parker and Shapero presenting the information. The cases they chose ranged from a decision involving two men who were caught with concealed weapons acting suspiciously outside a store, to the legality of randomly drug testing high school athletes.

"It was a great experience. I don't know that I'll study law next year, but learning presentation, PowerPoint and research skills are things that will help me down the road no matter what I do," Shapero said.

After the background and arguments were presented to the justices, the students were able to get some pointers from parent Hugo Blankingship, a managing partner at consumer law firm Blankingship and Christiano. Blankingship argued before the Supreme Court in 2004.

"The key to any argument is having the greatest command of the facts out of anyone in the room," he said. "You've got to prepare to go toe to toe with some of the best legal minds, and I think they did that very well."

Students also prepared presentations that dealt with the difference between probable cause and reasonable suspicion and the psychology of child abuse. Senior Nadya Sidki gave a presentation on the nature of gradual disclosure, which can be common in child abuse cases.

"First there's denial, the reluctance, then a gradual disclosure, then recantation and re-affirmation," she said. "Despite the 9-year old [SG's] repeated denials, Camreta kept asking for over an hour."

IN THE END, the Case Day justices agreed with the Ninth Circuit Court's Decision upholding the ruling that the seizure violated SG's constitutional rights.

"The fact that the child and the abuser are often the sole witnesses to any abuse may make it too difficult for caseworkers

to meet the high legal standard of probable cause. This may leave children at unnecessary risk and leave the caseworker with few options," said Baird of the final decision, which he agreed with. "[This is] because of the Fourth Amendment concerns and issues here and considering the risk of breaking up a family and traumatizing the child through these interviews, as well as the risk of the children making false accusations based on leading questions."

Metge was one of the dissenting jurors, and said he believed the interview of SG did not violate the Fourth Amendment.

"Both arguments are very compelling, and it seemed like the more I learned, the harder it was to weigh in on."

— Senior Will Baird

"Due to the highly compelling governmental interest in investigating and preventing child abuse, this interview was conducted under reasonable circumstances and in a manner designed to minimize trauma to the child witness" he said. "Because probable cause was unnecessary in a [Oregon Department of Human Services] child abuse investigation, reasonable suspicion dictated that ... the qualified government investigators trained in the art of child interviewing be permitted to interview the child quickly and in a safe and familiar environment."

Time for Adult Discussion on Deficits and Debt

BY MARK R. WARNER
U.S. SENATOR

With all of the current discussion about short-term federal spending resolutions and potential gridlock in Congress, you might think we have lost the opportunity for serious action on our longer-range deficits and debt.

I remain convinced that our country is at a critically important moment: We simply must seize this opportunity to get our fiscal house in order for the long term, and since last summer this has been one of my top priorities.

Partnering with my Republican colleague Saxby Chambliss of Georgia, we are working to try to turn the recommendations of the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform into legislation.

Our current national debt stands at more than \$14 trillion. If adopted in full, the commission's recommendations would gradually reduce that debt by \$4 trillion over the next 10 years.

Unfortunately, the current debate is centered on deep cuts in short-term, discretionary and nonmilitary spending, which only makes-up about 12 percent of the overall federal budget.

The spending proposal recently adopted by the House of Representatives slashes funding for workforce training programs that are so important to many people across southwest and southside.

It targeted federal support for the multi-state, multi-year Chesapeake Bay cleanup effort, and



U.S. Senators Saxby Chambliss of Georgia and Mark Warner of Virginia.

GUEST EDITORIAL

the House budget makes deep cuts in federal funding to Northern Virginia's Metro mass transit system.

The simple fact is, drastic and even painful cuts to these individual programs alone will not fix our larger structural budget problems.

That's why Senator Chambliss and I have been working with a growing number of our Senate colleagues to address these fiscal challenges in a more comprehensive and responsible way. We must work together to control government spending, simplify our tax code, and begin to gradually eliminate our deficits.

That is the only way we will fix our nation's balance sheet over the long term.

The deficit commission's recommendations, while far from perfect, represent a courageous first step in tackling our national debt in ways that will make our nation competitive for the 21st century:

- ❖ The commission laid out a plan to accelerate healthcare savings in Medicare and Medicaid, and it provides a responsible roadmap to strengthen Social Security for the next 75

years. The commission's plan protects Social Security, and does not use Social Security funds to balance the budget.

- ❖ It dramatically simplifies a tax system in serious need of an overhaul. It proposes closing loopholes and phasing out some deductions while lowering overall tax rates for individuals and corporations.

- ❖ It puts everything on the table, including entitlement programs and defense spending. We believe that this has to be part of the discussion, too.

As you might imagine, various political opponents and special interests already are mobilizing to short-circuit our work on this legislation, which demonstrates why this is such a difficult challenge. It also shows why Washington's typical political response has always been to kick this can down the road, and push the tough choices to another day:

- ❖ These choices do not get any easier simply by delaying action. Every day that we put off these difficult decisions, an average \$4 billion is added to the national debt.

- ❖ Every dollar that we spend simply paying the interest on our nation's staggering debt is disappearing into a fiscal sinkhole. These are resources that cannot be targeted toward creating jobs, expanding the U.S. economy or addressing any of our other shared priorities.

While there are plenty of recommendations in the commission's plan that I would not have chosen, this much is crystal clear to me and the other members of our bipartisan coalition: We simply cannot postpone this difficult discussion any longer.

Warner, a co-founder of Nextel and former Virginia governor, is a member of the Senate's Banking, Budget, Commerce and Intelligence committees. He can be reached at www.warner.senate.gov.

Fertilizer and Our Environment

BY ANDREW MCCAUSLAND
AND MICHAEL RYAN
KILMER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Any homeowner committed to his garden or lawn, or farmer to his field, has likely purchased fertilizer to assist the growth of plants. What one may not understand though is the harmful effects some types of fertilizer can have on local streams or ponds.

All rain that falls on land drains into rivers, streams and lakes as runoff. This runoff, flowing above and below ground, picks up many objects and granules in its journey to your local river. Among this sediment is your fertilizer, and the nutrients in it. Why is this bad? If you have a small creek in your backyard, or have ever taken a walk along a river, you are likely to observe a greenish blanket of slime coating the surface of the body of water. This is algae, a name that strikes terror in the heart of limnologists, people who



Observing algae growth over a period of time at local stream Captain Hickory, which flows into Difficult Run, young researchers found that chemical fertilizers caused the highest growth of algae.

study fresh water and lakes.

Algae is an organism that generally lacks specific form unlike most plants. Instead it covers the water causing a foul smelling odor, akin to garbage in the air. Along with this, algae can destroy the ecosystem of the water, by stealing life promoting oxygen and other nutrients, causing the death of fish, frogs and other living or-

ganisms that bring life and biodiversity to the region we live in. Algae blooms are caused primarily by nitrogen. Some fertilizers contain very high levels of nitrogen and other nutrients that can be very easily absorbed by algae.

So how do you avoid choosing fertilizers that can cause these harmful effects? Together we con-

ducted several experiments using water from our local stream, Captain Hickory, which flows into Difficult Run. To that water we added different brands of fertilizers, organic and chemical. We observed algae growth over a period of time and found that chemical fertilizers caused the highest growth of algae. Some background research demonstrates why.

Chemical fertilizers generally contain pure nutrients, designed for quick release adding an immediate burst of life to your lawn. Organic fertilizers on the other hand have a slow break down process which means that these fertilizers are not readily available to algae and are less likely to cause algae blooms. In addition, organic fertilizers are not as high in algae loving nitrogen as chemical fertilizers.

Next time you're in your local garden center, consider the algae bloom factor in buying your fertilizer and its effects on the environment.

THE CONNECTION

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Newspaper of
Great Falls

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Public Hearing on Public Sewer

To the Editor:

The purpose of this letter is to inform your readers of an important meeting on March 8, 2011 at the Great Falls Grange, at 7:30 p.m. This meeting is a public hearing on the issue of whether the Commercial Center of Great Falls should have a public sewer. The Business and Professional Association will present its position, and the Great

Falls Citizens Association will summarize information from four Town Hall meetings on all aspects of the issue, beginning last fall.

The format for these meetings is in keeping with the goal of President Jackie Taylor of the Great Falls Citizens Association toward increased involvement with the community on issues of importance. GFCA now has 927 members of the 5500 households in our Community. Anyone who wishes is encouraged to attend, and ask questions or state their views. Su-

pervisor John Foust has assisted us in obtaining knowledgeable people from the Fairfax County to develop the information, and he plans to be present to hear the discussion.

Afterwards, GFCA will be polling the greater community to determine the community consensus on this issue.

Glen Sjoblom, Chairman
Long Range
Planning Committee
Great Falls Citizens Association

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

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

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NEWS



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The results of a study done by Fairfax County show that many of the septic systems around the Great Falls Village Centre are losing effectiveness and approaching the end of their lifecycle. The green indicates a field in good shape, the yellow means there are some degrees of wetness, indicating reduced functions, and the red indicates a field that currently is not working properly and requires monthly pump and haul.

Solving Wastewater Issues

Great Falls Citizens Association to hold public forum on Village Centre wastewater solutions.

Comment on Wastewater Issues

The March 8 Great Falls Citizens Association meeting will be a public forum where community members can voice their opinions on possible solutions to the wastewater issues facing the Great Falls Village Centre. Residents can sign up to comment at the door and the meeting will take place at 7:30 at the Grange. More information on previous session, including videos of the presentations, is available at www.gfca.org.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

As the Great Falls Village Centre moves closer to making a decision on the future of their wastewater system, the Great Falls Citizens Association is taking unprecedented steps to get the community involved in the decision. After four meetings on the various options for solving the problems with the local septic fields, the GFCA will present a summary of all options at its March 8 meeting.

"This is something different for the Great Falls Citizens Association, usually we do something more formal and make a board decision," said Glen Sjoblom, chair of the GFCA's long range planning committee. "But we're trying to be more inclusive on this issue, because it is a community-wide issue."

AFTER A STUDY from Fairfax County discovered that most of the 22 properties have septic fields that are non-functioning, overloaded or are approaching the end of their life-cycle, the GFCA decided to examine alternatives to help solve the center's wastewater problems.

Members of Fairfax County's Wastewater Planning and Monitoring Division gave information about connecting the Village Centre to the county's sewer system in November 2010, with estimates ranging from \$4 to \$10 million, depending on which route the connection takes, and how easy it is

to get easements.

The county hasn't advocated a sewer solution; they just presented the information that should be considered when discussing a sewer connection.

"The county is not here to take a position on this issue, whatever the folks here want, we'll do," said Shahram Mohsenin, director of the Wastewater Planning and Monitoring Division. "If there's no community approval, there will be no sewer."

"If there's no community approval, there will be no sewer."

— Shahram Mohsenin,
director, Wastewater Planning and Monitoring

Sjoblom said in the past Great Falls had been resistant to sewer hookups, because it can be seen as a precursor to increasing development, which would change the current rural nature of the community.

In January, Orenco, an Oregon-based company, offered information on pre-treatment and decentralized systems that could be used to treat the wastewater coming from the Village Centre without the need for a standard sewer line connection.

The systems would allow each property or groups of properties

to treat their waste onsite, which would help reduce the strength of the wastewater going into the septic fields. There were also options presented that would allow the treated wastewater to be disposed of, either onsite or at a small, nearby treatment facility.

COSTS FOR THAT SYSTEM range from around \$1.3 to \$2 million. There are around 2,500 such facilities in Virginia, and Martin Thompson, environmental health supervisor with the county, said that the county would go with what the community concludes by voting is the best option.

At the March 8 meeting, the Great Falls Business and Professional Association center will present their position, and a summary of the previous sessions. After the presentations are made, paper ballots with the information will be sent out to each of the approximately 5,500 households in the 22006 ZIP code, which is Great Falls.

Sjoblom says the GFCA is hoping to get at least 1,000 responses, so they can accurately gauge the community's preference.

"It will be essentially a community-wide vote," he said. "We're hoping to get as much public involvement as possible. Whatever is decided will be the official position of this community."

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Sixty-eight Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students have been named to the Virginia All-State Chorus for 2011 and will perform as a group April 30 at the Visual and Performing Arts Academy at Salem High School in Virginia Beach. Additionally, 42 FCPS students were named alternates to the All-State Chorus.

FCPS students selected for the 2011 Virginia All-State Chorus and as alternate include:

♦ Langley High School: Cameran Alavi, Stephanie Anderson, Matthew

Goudreau, Zack Gray, Isabel Hefner, Sarah Larkworthy, Mark Paulson, Sonya Zell, and Alina Zufall and ♦ Madison High School: Tess Ottinger and alternate Sergei Vandalov.

♦ Marshall High School: Devon Kalbaugh and alternate Eian Burgess.

♦ McLean High School: Katerina Cronmiller.

♦ Oakton High School: Corinne Holland, Holly Kelly, Madeline Paul, and Summer Perez and alternate Cecily Jacobson.

♦ Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology: alternates Margaret Coad and Adrienne Doeblich.

Virginia All-State Chorus is sponsored by the Virginia Choral Directors Association, an affiliated unit of the Virginia Music Educators Association.

tion, an affiliated unit of the Virginia Music Educators Association.

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.

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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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/MARCH 3

Peter Shaffer's "Equus." 8 p.m. George Mason University TheaterSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A psychosexual crime drama about a disturbed 17-year-old. This production contains explicit scenes and nudity. \$12 adults, \$8 students, seniors and groups. Charge at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Tracy Bonham, Jim Boggia and Bleu. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Leon Redbone. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 4

Atomic Tom and Hotspur at 7 p.m., **Atomic Tom and Andy Zipf** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Comedian Josh Blue. 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. No one under 18 years old admitted. Mature subject matter, explicit language. \$25-\$35. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststagearts.org.

Peter Shaffer's "Equus." 8 p.m. George Mason University TheaterSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A psychosexual crime drama about a disturbed 17-year-old. This production contains explicit scenes and nudity. \$12 adults, \$8 students, seniors and groups. Charge at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

MPA Art Appetizers. 7 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. "Beyond the Pale" featuring the works of Amber Robles-Gordon, Huguetta Roe, Suzanna Fields, Gina Denton, and Joseph Barbaccia; "Shiny New Tomorrow: Work by Bill Gusk" and "Of a Piece: Paintings by Deborah Addison Coburn." \$20. Reserve at info@mpaart.org.

Discovery Series: Wind Quintet Imani Winds. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 5

Bobby Long and Kaleb Griffin Band at 7 p.m., **Native, Caspian and Chiaroscuro** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Comedian Josh Blue. 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. No one under 18

years old admitted. Mature subject matter, explicit language. \$25-\$35. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststagearts.org.

Aesop's Fables and Other Tales: A Family Concert. 4 p.m. Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road S.W., Vienna. Stories in song about the Tortoise and the Hare, the North Wind and the Sun, the Forest of Loo, the Kookaburra and more. \$20 adults, \$15 seniors and students, \$35 family. Tickets available at the door or www.viennachoralsociety.org.

Tango Buenos Aires: "Fire and Passion of Tango." 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Dancers, vocalists and instrumentalists trace the history of the Argentine Tango. Tickets are \$23-\$46 at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Peter Shaffer's "Equus." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. George Mason University TheaterSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A psychosexual crime drama about a disturbed 17-year-old. This production contains explicit scenes and nudity. \$12 adults, \$8 students, seniors and groups. Charge at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

25th Annual Jazz & Tap Dance Festival. 8 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus Theatre, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Rasta Thomas, director of the Bad Boys of Dance, with Capitol Movement, Center Stage Dance, Encore Performers, Impulse, MetroTap, MYTE, Urban Impact, and FootWORX. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. www.dance-festival.org.

Pianist John Eaton: The Fabulous '40s. 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 6

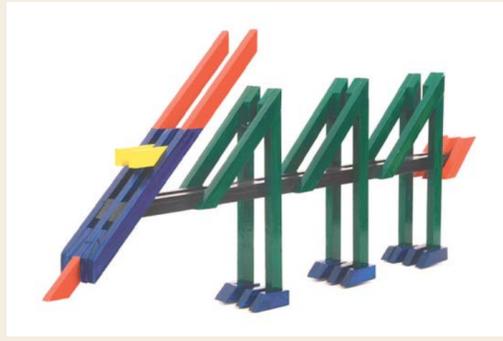
That 1 Guy. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Robin Bullock. 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Celtic bouzouki, mandolin and fiddle. \$15. 703-759-3309 or www.ionamusic.com/brogue.shtml.

Tango Buenos Aires: "Fire and Passion of Tango." 4 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Dancers, vocalists and instrumentalists trace the history of the Argentine Tango. Tickets are \$23-\$46 at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Spring Wild Flowers of the Potomac Valley Collection. 2 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Walk through Meadowlark's native plant collection. Free. Reserve at 703-255-3631.

Peter Shaffer's "Equus." 2 p.m.



"Six-Legged Stink-Bug Eater" is a wood relief in an exhibit by Jonathan Fisher at the Great Falls Library. The show includes whimsical wall-hangings as well as contemporary baskets and examples of geometric abstraction.

Exhibition of Wood Reliefs Opens at Great Falls Library

"Abstraction and Whimsy," an exhibition of contemporary wood reliefs, opened March 1 at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, and will continue through March 30 during regular library hours. The three-dimensional works are by Great Falls sculptor Jonathan Fisher.

George Mason University TheaterSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A psychosexual crime drama about a disturbed 17-year-old. This production contains explicit scenes and nudity. \$12 adults, \$8 students, seniors and groups. Charge at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

25th Annual Jazz & Tap Dance Festival. 4 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus Theatre, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Rasta Thomas, director of the Bad Boys of Dance, with Capitol Movement, Center Stage Dance, Encore Performers, Impulse, MetroTap, MYTE, Urban Impact, and FootWORX. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. www.dance-festival.org.

Vienna Art Society's "Tea and See." 1-3 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Preview original artworks donated for the fifth annual Ticket to Art raffle, coming on March 19. Meet the artists while enjoying light refreshments and a performance by the Harmonia School of music and Art. Free. 703-319-3971 or www.viennaartsociety.org.

R.D. Open to parents of Flint Hill Elementary School or Thoreau Middle School students. www.fhespta.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 9

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meeting. 1:30 p.m. at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

FRIDAY/MARCH 11

VTRCC Youth & Education Luncheon "Green Day." 11 a.m. Westin Tysons Corner, 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Showcasing accomplishments of students in the Vienna and Tysons Corner area and highlighting opportunities for schools and businesses to partner in mutually

www.viennaartsociety.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 7

Chase Coy, Jimmy Robbins and School Boy Humor. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 8

Escaping Detection: Civil War Women Spies and Women who Fought as Soldiers. 7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Historian Mary Lipsey will discuss women who passed on information about the enemy or posed as men to fight. Sponsored by the Vienna Branch of American Association of University Women. Free, public invited. 703-321-7499.

Along Those Lines Mardi Gras Spectacular with Static Cinema, Kurtis Parks Band, Big Paper Airplanes and Playground Etiquette. 6:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

beneficial ways. \$40 members, \$50 non-members. www.vtrcc.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Women's Service Expo. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 2034 Great Falls St., McLean. Learn about volunteer opportunities at local non-profits, assemble post-partum totes for new mothers, write letters to servicemembers, fill baskets for a women's shelter and more. Red Cross blood donation on site. Free. Sponsored by the Relief Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. jenniferheywood@hotmail.com.

Brinker Toastmasters. 9:30 a.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Meets second and fourth Saturday of the month. brinker.toastmasters.com.

Storybook Festival

Saturday, March 12

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

For ages 3-8.
\$5 per person;
children age 2 and younger are free

Come enjoy puppet shows, roaming storybook characters, book-related arts and crafts projects, games and face painting. Light refreshments will be served.

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 401 River Bend Rd.....\$1,425,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ronnie Lancaster.....ZipRealty.....703-966-5766

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 10816 Oldfield Dr.....\$559,900.....Sun. 1-4.....Stan Goldberg.....Weichert.....703-941-0100
 2225 Double Eagle Ct.....\$411,995.....Sun. 1-4.....Steve Spear.....Coldwell Banker.....703-361-9161

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12404 Shallow Ford Ct.....\$449,900.....Sun. 1-4.....Nancy Kane.....Weichert.....703-938-6070
 2556 Chase Wellesley Dr...\$369,000.....Sun. 1-4.....Debbie Tittle.....Weichert.....703-821-8300

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2701 Bellforest Ct. #409...\$330,000.....Sun. 1-4.....Ron Fowler.....Weichert.....703-691-0555
 903 Plum St., SW.....\$1,274,000.....Sun 1-4.....The Belt Team.....Keller Williams.....703-242-3975
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21925 Gullane Way.....\$549,900.....Sun. 1-4.....Diana LeFrancois.....Century.....703-930-6682
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To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Salome Gaibler at 703-778-9421 or salome@connectionnewspapers.com All listings are due by Monday at 3 p.m.

NEWS

Welcoming Spring at L'Auberge Chez Francois

Chef Jacques Haeringer presents Special Cooking Demo.

Chef Jacques Haeringer is presenting a new cooking demonstration and lunch featuring fresh spring herbs and vegetables at L'Auberge Chez Francois. Chef Haeringer's classes have been a favorite of Northern Virginians for years, with participants lining up to enjoy food and wine served up in an entertaining atmosphere.

Join Chef Haeringer for a Spring Fling on Saturday, March 19, at 11 a.m. He will serve up:

Gratin of Asparagus
Spinach Salad
Citrus Sorbet
Spring Lamb Loin in Puff Pastry with Rosemary Sauce
Passion Fruit and Chocolate Cake



Chef Jacques Haeringer

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\$75 plus tax and gratuity for a total of \$94.50 per person.

Chef Haeringer will provide written recipes of every dish served so home cooks can try these in their own kitchen. As always, Chef Haeringer and the staff at L'Auberge Chez Francois will accommodate any dietary restrictions and concerns with advance notice.

To reserve spaces go to www.ChefJacques.com or call the restaurant at 703-759-3800.

Chef Haeringer is the author of "Two for Tonight," a collection of recipes that inspire romance through food and togetherness, and the "Chez Francois Cookbook," classic Alsatian cuisine featuring some of the restaurant's

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Another Strong Postseason Run for Langley Basketball

Saxons' season ends with region semifinals loss to underdog Atoms.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Despite having a core group of players quite different than last year's outstanding Northern Region finalist team, this year's Langley High boys' basketball squad came within an eyelash of matching the 2010 Saxon's heights.

Langley's 2011 season concluded last Saturday afternoon with a disappointing 53-47 loss to upstart Annandale in a Northern Region semifinals playoff game which took place at Robinson Secondary School. The Saxons, with the setback to the Atoms, saw their season end with a record of 20-8 and one region playoff victory short of reaching the region title game and qualifying for the Virginia State AAA playoffs for the third time in four years.

"It's really disappointing," said Langley junior guard Austin Vasiliadis, of the season-ending loss. "We know we have one of the best teams in the region and wanted to get back into the finals and go to states again. We were all confident [going into the game]. We knew Annandale was a good team."

Last year's Langley squad was one of the best in school history. That Saxons' team, which fell to Chantilly, 50-43, in the region finals before seeing its season end with a state tournament quarterfinals round loss to Patrick Henry (Roanoke), 58-36, went 22-5 overall. Two years before that, in 2008, the state-qualifying Saxons reached the region finals before losing to T.C. Williams.

This year's team, with just one true star player back in Vasiliadis, was not expected to make the same sort of postseason run that has been a staple of Saxon teams in recent seasons. But, nevertheless, Langley did just that - capturing its fourth consecutive Liberty District tournament title and going as far as the region tournament semifinals for the third time in four years.

Langley, under the direction of veteran head coach Trevor Hess, lost just one district game this entire season - an upset defeat at the hands of re-building Madison near the end of the regular season. At the district tournament, the No. 1 seeded Saxons reached the finals with victories over Marshall and Fairfax before defeating South Lakes for another district crown.

That gave Langley high hopes of making another great run at the 16-team region tournament. Last year, the Saxons won three straight region tournament games to reach the finals meeting against Chantilly.

This year's region tournament for the Saxons began with a dominating 63-30 home win over Washington-Lee, an Arlington school and member of the National District, on Feb. 21. Three Saxon players had big scoring games that night - junior guard Daniel Dixon with 17 points, senior guard



Langley's David Adams goes high for the ball during the Saxons' Northern Region semifinals encounter with Annandale last Saturday at Robinson Secondary.

David Adams with 11 and senior guard Jeff Cochran with 10. Braden Anderson, a senior guard who this past autumn, as one of the region's top football quarterbacks, led the Saxons to a fine season on the gridiron, chipped in with eight points as well.

The victory over the Generals put Langley into the region quarterfinals and a meeting versus Lake Braddock, a member of the Patriot District and a team under the guidance of one of the finest head coaches around in Brian Metress. The Saxons trailed the always-tough Bruins by 16 points in the first half before rallying for an incredible 58-56 win at home. A late basket by senior center Brenden Dwyer with 40 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter put Langley ahead for good and sent the Saxons into the semis and the meeting with Annandale, this year's surprise team from the Patriot District.

In the win over Lake Braddock, Dwyer led the Saxons with 13 points and Adams scored 12. Other good scoring contributions came from Cochran (9), Dixon (8) and Vasiliadis (7). Langley, which trailed at half-time 38-25, outscored the Bruins 33-18 in the second half for the win.

"It was really exciting," said Dixon, of the incredible, come-from-behind win. "At half-time we didn't really feel we would lose - even though we were down by 13. We regrouped and came out fired up. Our [home] fans were really big that game."

"We started pressuring them [defensively] and the momentum shifted," said Langley junior guard Tristan Evans, of the victory. "People made big plays and Brenden made



Daniel Dixon of Langley shoots the ball over Annandale's Karl Ziegler during region semifinals action last week. Langley was competing in the region Final Four for the third time in the past four years.

the shot to put us up by one."

ANNANDALE (20-7), during the postseason, had reached the Patriot District tournament finals with wins over West Potomac and Lake Braddock before losing to defending region champion T.C. Williams, 69-56, in the title game. Then, at regionals, the Atoms edged a talented Westfield High squad, 73-71, in the first round before winning at National District champion Mount Vernon, 70-51, to set up the meeting with the Saxons.

The semifinals contest, throughout, was characterized by aggressive defense. Neither Langley nor Annandale scored much in transition. But, in their respective half-court games, both squads worked the ball around and were quick to take the ball to the basket when a lane opened.

Langley led 13-9 following a layup basket by Dixon (9 points) late in the first quarter. Annandale, however, went on to score the final five points of the opening quarter and led 14-13 going into the second quarter.

The Saxons got consecutive baskets by Dwyer (10 points), the second bucket coming on a reverse layup shot, to open the second quarter and take a 17-14 lead. The game remained close throughout the quarter. The contest was tied at 25 when Vasiliadis (7 points), driving hard through the lane in traffic, converted a short-range shot while getting fouled. He made the free throw and the Saxons held a 28-25 lead with 1 minute, 17 seconds remaining in the

half. The score held into the intermission.

A close range basket by Dwyer early in the third quarter gave Langley a 30-25 lead. But the Atoms would not go away. Late in the quarter, a layup basket by Reggie Scott (8 points) made the score 35-32 Annandale. Moments later, however, Dixon, from the right corner, knocked down a three-pointer to tie the game at 35 with 1:56 left in the third. And that was still the score going into the fourth quarter.

Vasiliadis gave the Saxons a 37-35 lead on a driving, off balanced baseline shot from close range two minutes into the fourth quarter. But the Atoms scored nine of the game's next 11 points, with four different players scoring, to go up 44-39 with 3:14 left to play.

A three-pointer from the left wing by Adams (10 points, 7 rebounds) got Langley within 44-42 with 2:58 left. But the Atoms answered with six straight points to go up 50-42 to put the game away and end Langley's season.

"The key was we got a lot of good shots; they just didn't go in," said Vasiliadis. "And we gave up some second chance points. We didn't rebound as well as we could have."

"We know we have one of the best teams in the region and wanted to get back into the finals and go to states again."

— Langley junior guard Austin Vasiliadis

Annandale, which went on to meet T.C. Williams in the region finals earlier this week on Monday, Feb. 28, was led in its semifinals win over the Saxons by Karl Ziegler (15 points), D'Angelo Boyce (13), and Melvin Robinson (11 points, 11 rebounds).

"We held them to [just over] 50 points, which is good," said Langley's Evans, who scored five points in the loss. "On offense, we got some shots. They just weren't falling. They've got three really good players and their guards are big and physically strong."

"Their defense was very tough in the second half and our shots weren't falling," said Dixon.

The loss was tough to take for Langley and its fans, but it was another outstanding season for the locals.

"We won our district title, which was one of our goals, and we won two games at regionals, which is pretty good," said Vasiliadis.

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SCHOOLS

St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls will present four performances of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' from March 11 through 15. The cast includes adults and 25 children representing 14 different schools in the area.



St. Francis to Present 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'

St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls will present four performances of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, a musical written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. The performances will be held at the church on Friday, March 11, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, March 12, at 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 13, at 3 p.m.; and Tuesday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m. St. Francis is located at 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children under 18.

Based on the "coat of many colors" story of Joseph from the Bible's Book of Genesis, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is a family-friendly production with lively music. The performances at St. Francis will feature adults and 25 children of preschool through high school age.

The production gathers cast members and musicians from more than a dozen communities throughout the Washington metropolitan area. Children in the production represent 14 different schools in the

region: Chesterbrook Academy, Colvin Run Elementary School, Cooper Middle School, Edlin School, Edmund Burke School, Great Falls Elementary School, Herndon High School, Langley High School, the McLean School, Parkview High School, the Potomac School, Sterling Middle School, the St. Francis Creche preschool, and Sunrise Valley Elementary School.

Melissa Coombs, assistant music director for the church, is directing the production, with musical direction by Virginia Sircy. Elaine Watt is the choreographer. Jennifer Murphy is the producer; with Graham Marsden, Ray Murphy, and Paul Ward overseeing the set, lighting, and sound design. Pat Ward and Marie Waltrip are designing the costumes for the production.

For more information, visit www.stfranciscgreatfalls.org or www.facebook.com/stfranciscgf, or call the church at 703-759-2082.

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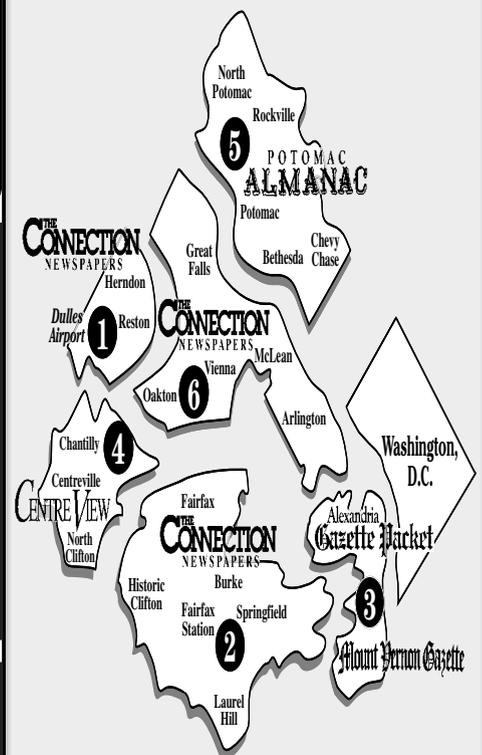
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Make Believe



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

There's a part of me (a bigger part than I would like to admit) that is afraid to be honest with family and friends concerning my cancer and the cancer-related circumstances with which I might be dealing, sooner rather than later. Conflicted doesn't begin to describe that thought process. Do I or don't I, is the short question. The longer answer is what follows in this column.

If, as a cancer patient, I sound good and look good, then people won't react negatively to me - and thereby won't express nearly the level of concern that they would if my manner and appearance were not positive. And if in turn, people are reacting positively to me, then I won't be feeling bad about what I'm hearing. And if I don't feel bad about what I'm hearing, then maybe the cancer won't have reason to assert itself. Moreover, if I refuse to give the cancer its rightful due/level of significance, maybe it won't move and/or grow as per diagnosis-to-date, it hasn't?

However, if my desire/strategy of not involving/not alarming people about certain thoughts/fears I'm experiencing - as sort of a ruse to not elevate cancer's insidious hold on/in me, is merely just an amateurish attempt - by me, at mind over what matters, then maybe I'll be neglecting signs/symptoms that really matter. Ultimately, who am I kidding? Not that any of this is a laughing matter, but I doubt denial is a medically-prescribed and prudent course of treatment. Still, there seems to be a self-preservation instinct in me which prevents me from being honest with myself - and with the people closest to me, in some delusional attempt at hiding the truth behind a mask of normalcy and/or maybe even indifference: if I don't speak of it, don't admit to it, maybe it doesn't really exist/isn't that serious?

In my mind, as soon as I start admitting to having symptoms, then the slippery slope upon which all cancer patients teeter starts pitching forward and downward, hastening an inexorable descent to a premature death. If I don't utter the words or accept what's happening to me, maybe it won't actually happen. Naive? Denial? Wishful thinking? A great attitude? Totally wrong? Whatever works for me? All of it, none of it. Ergo my confusion and "confliction," to quote one of the many made-up words from my deceased father's unique vocabulary. No one told me this cancer trip was going to be easy. In fact, I was told that it was going to be the most difficult thing I've ever done; they weren't lying.

A supposed justification for my awkward sort of behavior; this lack of honesty, fear of some truths/inevitable, is a meager attempt - by yours truly, at saving myself from myself; any port in a storm. And I'm certainly in the middle of a storm. A storm, the likes of which I've never experienced before. Having experienced it now going on two years, I will admit to one thing: confusion. I never know from one day to the next how I'll feel, what I'll feel; is it the cancer, is it middle age? Am I outliving my diagnosis because of, or in spite of what I'm doing (some non-Western pursuits, in addition to the standard protocols I'm following)? Should I be changing my tactics? Adding something (mega doses of vitamin D, as an example) or stopping something (the eight tablespoons of pureed, canned asparagus I consume every day)? I don't know anything, really. I've been a pretty good listener, though. Pretending however, seems to be working.

The less said, the better - or maybe not?
 Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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