

Rotary Honors Youth

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From left, seniors Zoe Tseng of Langley High School, Madeline AuBuchon of the Potomac School and Bijan Peters of McLean High School were awarded the Rotary Club of McLean's Youth Service Award March 15. Rachel Begeman, a senior at the Madeira School, was also given the award, but was unable to attend the ceremony.



Fifth Graders
Present
'Fire of Vesuvius'
A+, PAGE 10

Giving People
What They Want
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Helping
Japan Relief
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MEMBER
FDIC



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Firefighter Robert Shoenberger embraces his children upon his return March 20 from VATF-1 rescue efforts in the wake of the recent Japanese earthquake and tsunami.



Billy Moreland, a member of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue team, is welcomed home from Japan by his wife Danielle and 8-year-old daughter Sarah. Moreland assisted in rescue efforts in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami that struck the country March 11.

Elite Search and Rescue Team Returns from Japan

VATF-1 returns home as rescue operation turns to recovery.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

It was a bittersweet homecoming for 74 members of the elite Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue team as they returned in the early morning hours of March 20 from a mission to the devastated Sendai region of Japan, where a 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami left an estimated 8,649 people dead and 13,261 still missing.

"We never experienced anything like this before," said task force leader Bob Zoldos of the March 11 catastrophe. "The damage and destruction was incredibly widespread. The tsunami moved many of the victims from their original location, which made finding survivors more difficult."

Also known as Virginia Task Force 1, the team spent a week alongside teams from around the world searching for survivors, without any success.

"This was really monstrous — an earthquake and tsunami coming together like this," said Japanese Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki, who was on hand to express his gratitude to the team. "The news of your arrival in my country and your activities were encouraging to all Japanese. We were watching every day as you worked in the dark and cold on such a difficult task."

Fujisaki arrived at the team's training center on West Ox Road in Fairfax at 2 a.m. March 20 to speak

individually with family members waiting for VATF-1 to arrive.

"He thanked us for our team member," said Zoldos' mother Kay. "It was emotional for everyone since we are the ones who feel so bad for him and the people of his country."

Joining Fujisaki in welcoming the team home were Fairfax County Fire Chief Ronald Mastin, Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

"Every mission is different and this one was especially difficult," said Bulova at the team's 4:20 a.m. debriefing. "Thank you so much for what you do. You have made us so proud."

Bulova expressed her condolences to Fujisaki and presented him with an official Fairfax County government lapel pin as a token of friendship.

"I'm sure all Americans are very proud of you," Fujisaki said, his voice breaking as he struggled to maintain composure. "You conducted such a heroic and brave activity and the people of Japan are so grateful to you. We will never forget this."

After a standing ovation, Fujisaki left the team members to return to their families, many with pajama-clad children waving signs and holding balloons as they embraced their team members.

VATF-1 deployed within hours of the initial earthquake, carrying approximately 30 tons of equipment, including four swift water boats and swift water rescue gear.

"All of that has been left behind, including the boats," Gross said. "We left equipment, food and supplies behind for the Japanese people as they continue their relief efforts."

A contingent of international press interviewed team members on the conditions in Japan.

Cooper Middle School Japanese teacher Yumi Lawless and her students are collecting money to donate to the Red Cross to help with relief efforts in the wake of the March 11 earthquake.



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Helping Japan Relief

Langley, Cooper prepare outreach to Japan earthquake victims.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Langley High School Japanese teacher Andrew Scronce spent several years teaching in Japan before coming to teach at Langley. Even though he taught in the part of the country that wasn't hit by the March 11 earthquake, it didn't stop him from doing what he can to help.

Scronce put up a banner in a Langley hallway, and students that donate money to Global Giving, a Washington, D.C. based nonprofit, get their names put on the banner, and Scronce will teach them how to write it in Japanese.

"A lot of the students in the Japanese program have been there, and even if they didn't visit the affected area, it really humanizes what's going on for them, they remember how well they were treated when we visited there," Scronce said. "So far, donations are going well, it makes me happy that even though most kids at Langley here haven't been to Japan, they are more than happy to help out."

Scronce said he was able to get in touch with most of the people he knows in Japan through Facebook and e-mail. Langley senior Shana Bahamet knows a family that lives in the area around Tokyo, and due to the massive power outages, her family here hasn't been able to contact them yet.

"They haven't been able to call out without any power, but I've got some family close to Japan that are still trying to make contact," Bahamet said.

Donations to Global Giving can be made by texting "JAPAN"

to 50555.

Yumi Lawless, a Japanese teacher at Cooper Middle School also has family and friends that live in Japan, but has since been able to get in touch with them.

"I didn't know until I was already at school [March 11] when some teachers were asking me about it, so most of what I learned first came from the TV," Lawless said. "I was able to e-mail my parents and some friends and talk to my sister later in the day. She said they weren't affected too much. It's hard to imagine the horrors going on."

Lawless and her classes have drawn up posters and set out a collection jar to collect donations to the Red Cross. Roberta Ricci, who teaches history and civics at Cooper, is collecting supplies for Church World Service, a group putting together hygiene packages for the victims of the earthquake.

"We worked with Church World Service to provide aid after Hurricane Katrina, and had good luck," Ricci said. "These hygiene kits are doable, and they make such a difference. This is a very giving community, and the staff, parents and students have really come together when it matters."

They are collecting 16-by28-inch towels, wash cloths, wide-tooth combs, nail clippers, bar soap, toothbrushes and Band Aids, which will be put into packages to help the people who have been displaced by the earthquake and the subsequent disasters.

More information on Church World Service can be found at www.churchworldservice.org.

NEWS

Money, Money, Money, Money

Len Wales of McLean, County's Debt Manager, helped Fairfax sail through 30 years of economic swings.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

In late September 2005, Len Wales was part of the second emergency response team from Fairfax County deployed to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, one of the costliest natural disasters, as well as one of the five deadliest hurricanes, in the history of the United States.

"As we were coming into the city, it felt like the day after the apocalypse. The streets were deserted, garbage was piling up, and they were still struggling to get the electricity back on," Wales said.

Wales and his team were housed on a ship docked on the Mississippi River. A mountain of emergency supplies was pouring into the city from all parts of the country every day, and Wales was charged with finding suitable storage space.

The only problem? New Orleans is a "just-in-time" supply port, and warehouse space was scarce pre-Katrina. "Post-Katrina, real warehouse space just didn't exist," he said. Every day, Wales' team scouted places that could be used as secure warehouses – schools, airports, garages – and then offered solutions to city officials.

Wales' ability to trouble-shoot, work under intense time pressure, and maneuver around the New Orleans' infighting and politics made him an invaluable part of the logistical response team that helped the city's government function during the worst disaster in its history.

THOSE SAME SKILLS have benefited Wales for the past 30 years in his career as Fairfax County's go-to guy for innovative financial solutions to thorny budget issues – from finding creative financing for the County's hundreds of capital improvement projects to managing the County's borrowing program.

His official title is Fairfax County Debt Manager, but his friends and colleagues say that title doesn't begin to describe Wales, who is more of a Renaissance man than a money manager.

"Len has a great mind, and we have just really been fortunate to have had him as part of our Fairfax County family. In addition to having a brilliant mind, he also has a wonderful sense of humor, and he's also grounded and pragmatic," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At Large).

Wales, a longtime McLean resident, will be honored for his service to Fairfax County at the March 29 Board of Supervisor's meeting. "It's been exciting working here. There's a quality to Fairfax County that other areas can't compete with," Wales said. "The County is always facing new and interesting challenges, and I enjoy looking at my job as someone who solves problems or puzzles."

So what, exactly, is a debt manager? The simple explanation is that Wales plans and monitors all County bond sales and debt payments.

"The County has over \$2 billion of General Obliga-



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Len Wales, Fairfax County's debt manager, is being honored by the Board of Supervisors for his 30 years of service.

tion debt outstanding as of this moment, but in my 29 years with the County I have probably overseen closer to \$5 billion of both new and refinanced debt," Wales said. "Our debt service budget is approximately \$290 million per year."

Debt, Wales said, can be a good thing.

Almost every major project undertaken by the County in the last 20 years that affects a citizen's day-to-day life has been financed with debt of some kind – new schools, police and fire stations, roads, like the Fairfax County Parkway, the County's share of the Metro system, and most parks and recreation facilities.

LIKE AN ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR, he coordinates all that activity within the County and with outside experts and advisors.

"A big part of my job involves negotiating the financial details of the public-private partnerships that the County has become involved in just the last 10 years," Wales said. "Most governments are not used to thinking in private-sector business terms; we have had to learn in order to ensure that the County gets the best deal possible in these negotiations."

A 1975 graduate of the University of Virginia, Wales joined the U.S. Navy after college, and served for six years before joining Fairfax County in 1981. During his time with Fairfax County, he's had a 30-year parallel career as a Naval reservist.

Wales has been married to his high-school sweetheart for nearly 30 years. They have two grown sons, Eric, 28 and Michael, 26.

He is an active member of the McLean Bible Church, and has been involved in Boy Scouts ever since he was a child growing up in Alexandria. An Eagle Scout, he served as scoutmaster for Troop 128 in McLean for six years. He then served as Chairman of the Chain Bridge Boy Scout District from 2006-2009.

"At the same time, I started to work with the Sea Scouts - Ship 1942, sponsored by St. George's Episcopal Church in Arlington and have done a few summer cruises with them," Wales said. He plans to continue consulting for the county while he pursues a second Master's Degree in History at George Mason University.

Before moving on to his next project – whether it's as history teacher, or financial consultant, or historical fiction novelist – he and his wife plan to sail the Chesapeake on their 34-foot sailboat, the Blue Heron, navigating the waters of calmer seas.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Randy Liang, a freshman at Langley High School, suffered a ruptured spleen while on a high school band trip to New Jersey, and with his mother out of work, the local community is raising funds to help with his medical care. He is currently in a hospital in Paterson, N.J.

Joining Team Randy

Community rallies around ill Langley freshman.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Randy Liang, a freshman at Langley High School, was on a school band trip in New Jersey last weekend when he became ill. After he was found passed out in his hotel room the night of March 12, he had to be rushed to the hospital with what was eventually diagnosed as a ruptured spleen.

Randy's mother Vera Zhao and brother, Derrick, a third grader at Forestville Elementary School are currently in New Jersey, and Zhao has not left her son's side since his ordeal began.

"As of now, he can't be transported back to the area due to his condition, which could require at least six weeks of bed rest," said Christie Shumadine, a parent helping to organize donation efforts.

It has been an eventful year for the Liang family: Zhao's husband died last summer after an eight-year battle with cancer. Zhao was a contractor for the government, but her company's contract was not renewed and her employment ended Feb. 28.

As the family is in its hour of need, the community has ral-

lied behind Randy to help raise money for his medical expenses.

Team Randy T-shirts will be sold at Langley during lunch hours from March 28 to 30, said Langley parent Silvia Gonzalez Roman.

The shirts will be sold for \$15, and checks made payable to Langley High School (with Team Randy in the memo line) and cash will be accepted.

Band teacher Andrew Gekoskie will also be collecting spare change from students in the band room. Students have also set up a "Team Randy" Facebook page, which will contain information about how to donate as well as updates.

Currently, donation are also being accepted in a PayPal account, liangfamilyfund@gmail.com. Donation checks can also be mailed to the Wachovia bank at 750 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA 22066. Checks should be made out to the Liang Family, and the account number 8857 needs to be written on the memo line.

More information about future fundraising events can be found at the Langley High School website, www.fcps.edu/LangleyHS.



Dr. Deborah Jackson, principal of McLean High School, Patty McNeill, a counselor at McLean and McLean senior Bijan Peters. Peters was awarded the Rotary Club of McLean Youth Service Award.

Langley High School Counselor Julie McGreevy speaks about senior Zoe Tseng's community efforts.

Rotary Honors Youth

Local seniors recognized for community service efforts.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Rotary Club of McLean honored four local students at their annual Youth Services Award Luncheon March 15. Seniors Madeline AuBuchon of the Potomac School, Rachel Begeman of the Madeira School, Bijan Peters of McLean High School and Zoe Tseng of Langley High School were honored for best exemplifying the Rotary Club's motto, "service above self."

"These students are right here in this community living 'service above self,'" said Dale Lazar, Youth Service Award Rotary Chairman.

AuBuchon serves as co-leader of the Potomac School's Community Service Club, which includes organizing events, collecting donations and publicizing local community service events to the student body.

Troy Prinkey, her counselor, says AuBuchon is the type of person that gets deeply involved with anything she encounters.

"She really gets into the thick of things, the sense of involvement in her various activities even teaches me a few things," he said.

AuBuchon also tutors elementary students at the Herndon Resource Center, including students that speak English as a second language. She also participated in organizing a dance for senior citizens with Alzheimer's and dementia.

She says she has applied to 13 different schools around the country and hopes to study engineering.

"I want to use engineering, math and science to help people all over the world," she said.

Tseng dedicates almost all of her weekend time to various charities, organizing clothing and food drives for families in the Washington, D.C. area, as well as Baltimore and West Virginia.

LANGLEY COUNSELOR Julie McGreevy said Tseng was the first name that popped into her head when asked about award nominees.

"She came to mind immediately, I can't think of anyone who exemplifies service as much as she does," she said.

Tseng has volunteered the past two summers at the Georgetown Hospital Lombardi Cancer Center, helping speak Mandarin Chinese to patients there that couldn't speak English. She also volunteers one weekend a month at the Baltimore Salvation Army Booth House, helping to assemble and distribute meals for homeless individuals.



Potomac School Counselor Troy Prinkey speaks at the Rotary Club of McLean's Youth Service Award luncheon March 15 about winner Madeline AuBuchon and her dedication to community service.

Peters, who currently serves as McLean High's Student Government Association president, helped to recruit volunteers and raise money for the Stop Hunger Now event in McLean last November. The event, which featured hundreds of volunteers from McLean and Langley High Schools and the Rotary Club, helped package more than 100,000 meals for people around the world.

"Because he's such a devoted McLean Highlander, when he speaks, people listen," said Patty McNeill, a guidance counselor at McLean High.

Begeman was unable to attend the ceremony, but her accomplishments are well known to Madeira's staff.

"Rachel is our 'can-do, will-do, got-it-done' girl. She does not wait for the call to action, Rachel calls us all to action," said Dottie Hayden, counselor at Madeira School. "Many think of community service as a 'duty,' for Rachel, service is part of her moral fiber."

Begeman has organized volunteers trips to local food banks and fundraisers for the Special Olympics, Best Buddies and organized placing wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery.

"I've been given a lot in life, a great family, a good education, and opportunities to give back," Begeman said. "I'm proud to see the amount of participation in the community service program at school grow, it's great to see so many people get involved."

EACH STUDENT was awarded a \$400 check as part of their award. Tseng and Peters donated their checks to Shelter Box, an emergency relief charity that donates emergency shelters and medical supplies around the world, and is currently collecting for Japan relief. The Peters family also matched their son's \$400 donation.

The Rotary Club collected more than \$3,400 at the luncheon for Shelter Box. More information about the Japan Relief efforts at Shelter Box can be found at www.shelterbox.org.



Community groups like the McLean Historical Society use the McLean Community Center for meeting space, and a recent survey conducted by the MCC is searching for more ways to reach out to more people.

Giving People What They Want

McLean Community Center releases results of phone survey.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The McLean Community Center has tabulated the results of the phone survey taken last fall, and plan to use the results to shape future programming. The study, which was conducted by the George Mason University Center of Social Science Research was completed by 787 households, exceeding the MCC's goal of 600 responses.

"This survey is one of the many tools we use to reach out to the community to find out what they want, what they like, what they don't like," said Risa Sanders, an MCC board member and chair of the communications committee.

MCC Executive Director George Sachs said the survey was "an invaluable tool to make sure we're always on the cutting edge of what people want from us."

THE SURVEY separated respondents into groups depending on their level of involvement in community center activities.

According to the survey results, 85 percent of regular users felt the MCC was meeting their needs very well or well, while 54 percent of non-users felt it was meeting the needs of the community.

Sanders said the positive response from the non-users led them to question why they don't use the MCC.

"The question for non-users is: why aren't they coming?" she said. "The main response we got was time. People work, and when they get home, they want to relax, spend time with family."

A possible downtown location was also a priority for survey respondents, with 68 percent of users saying they would like to see a downtown community center.

"We had momentum for a downtown facility a few years ago, but it slowed down as the economy did," Sanders said. "But the message we've heard is that we should continue to explore the possibilities."

Sanders said the center will examine holding programs at different times to help accommodate more schedules, perhaps lunch-time programming. Instead of six or eight-week programs, the center would look at more single-day sessions.

The survey indicated that adult and children drama and fitness classes were among the most popular.

Sanders says a goal for the future is to incorporate more intellectual programming, and that the survey indicated 62 percent of people would like to see more of that.

"People overwhelmingly want lectures or seminars discussing topics like politics, healthcare and the economy," she said. "We want to be an intellectual hub for this community, as well as a social, fitness and theatrical center."

Opportunity about To Be Squandered

Once-a-decade redistricting offers a chance to do it right; no one with power seems interested.

Have you seen what our political districts look like? It's as if the clown who makes balloon animals has gone mad. And it could be amusing if it didn't matter so much.

Our once-a-decade exercise in partisan hubris is about to unfold. Next week we'll likely see proposals that seek to protect Democratic seats in the Virginia Senate, Republican seats in the Virginia House of Delegates. The status quo in Fairfax County will get another 10-year term. Virginia's incumbents in Congress will get some reassuring padding, even if it means districts that look like boa constrictors that are digesting a couple of meals and have been run over by a car in one or two places.

We are not likely to see districts that best represent residents. No one with power is talking about how to draw lines that increase voter participation and citizen involvement.

Political districts should be drawn by a non-partisan commission that looks at providing communities with representation that works. What works is keeping communities of inter-

est together, so that one town or community is encompassed in some of its political districts. Each resident is represented locally by one member of Congress, a state senator, a state delegate, and then by a county board or city or town council.

EDITORIAL

The Democratically-controlled Senate and Republican-controlled House of Delegates appear to have a gentleman's agreement in place to focus on their own branch of the legislature and not interfere with each other's lines. So Democrats will gerrymander the senate lines and Republicans will gerrymander the delegate lines.

In Northern Virginia, many of these districts sprawl and crawl out like amoebas to capture a given precinct if it will help or hurt partisan balance. Instead districts should be designed for good representation, shared high school boundaries, shared land use concerns, shared traffic challenges, shared public safety concerns. It's unrealistic to think that part-time legislators will be able to master the nuances and needs that spread out across three or more jurisdictions, as some delegate districts do.

Delegate districts in particular are the small-

est unit of representation for many people, with about 80,000 residents to be included in the newly drawn districts. These districts can and should focus compactly on communities.

Meanwhile, in Fairfax County local government, the likely outcome of redistricting will be the status quo, with nine supervisor districts, even though Fairfax County's population has grown by more than 10 percent and so could easily support another district. An additional district would allow for elected officials, both supervisors and school board members, to focus on a smaller number of residents, roads, schools and issues. Fairfax should also consider adding a couple of at-large seats in the future to balance the power of a single supervisor.

Arlington's county board is elected entirely at-large, but should consider changing to have some political districts that could broaden representation for minorities — ethnic minorities, economic minorities and political minorities.

No one actually making decisions seems to be interested in creating districts that best represent the residents of the districts.

— MARY KIMM,

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Workforce Housing

To the Editor:

While we acknowledge Supervisor Pat Herry's (R-Springfield) difference of opinion regarding the role of local government in housing, we continue to be troubled by his inaccurate and careless portrayal of the facts regarding housing programs in Fairfax County. The Residences at the Government Center, a mixed-income community of 270 units serving a range of households from 50 percent to 100 percent of area median income, is the latest housing initiative under attack by Mr. Herry.

Approval of the Residences at the Government Center supports multiple county goals and objectives, including addressing a critical shortage of workforce housing. In its March 8 presentation to the Board of Supervisors, the Economic Advisory Commission reported that one of the strategies essential to the county's success in recruiting business is the availability and affordability of housing.

The Residences at the Government Center leverage underutilized county land to attract private capital in the form of low income housing tax credits to develop a mixed-income residential property. This development will include green building prin-

ciples, and, when completed, will provide new tax revenue to the county. The location of the Residences in the vicinity of the Fairfax County Government Center, a major shopping mall, and numerous service and retail centers, provides housing opportunities in close proximity to jobs.

There is broad-based support for this particular land use strategy among constituent groups in Fairfax County. In addition to the business community, TOD proponents, organizations supportive of land use policies that are more compact, green and sustainable, members of faith communities committed to expanding housing choices for residents in the county and community-based organizations who serve the needs of low and moderate income households so essential to the workforce in the county all support this new development.

With the Residences at the Government Center, Fairfax County joins Arlington and the City of Alexandria in implementing a strategy that puts underutilized land to better use through a public private partnership. The result is development that provides attractive housing for the workforce, and new tax revenue for the county. For high growth, high cost areas like Northern Virginia this is truly a best practice, and a win-win for all partners involved.

The Alliance applauds the leadership of those Fairfax County Board of Supervisors members who voted to support this development thereby adopting a creative solution to address one of the county's most challenging issues.

Michelle Krockner, Director
Northern Virginia Affordable
Housing Alliance

Take Moore's Money not More Money

To the Editor:

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors apparently plans to emulate Hollywood socialist Michael Moore's principles he recently espoused of what one earns belongs to the collective and it in turn will determine how much of what one earns via their labor can be kept.

The boom in the real estate market gave the Board carte blanche to ratchet up the tax assessments from 2002 through 2008. Without consulting their bosses — yes, we the people are their bosses — the Board expanded the size and scope of local government creating programs that are arguably beyond their responsibility of providing core services.

At the first hint of rising real estate values, the Board responded

with a knee-jerk grab for more of our hard-earned money. County staff and the Supervisors deign to leave the real estate tax rate at \$1.09 — the 2010 figure. How benevolent.

This most disingenuous act by the Board actually raises taxes by an average of \$110 per homeowner. That some citizens are suffering under the burden of increased food costs, increased gas prices, and increased fees due to expanded, overreaching government, never crossed the Supervisor's minds. The folks know better how to utilize that \$110 than government.

To prevent actual taxes from rising, the Board should reduce the tax rate to the equalization rate of \$1.065, thus putting the needs of Fairfax County families first.

"Spread the wealth" was the Democrat's mantra in 2008 driving them to victory. We now understand the danger of seeing their plan come to fruition. And the response from the voters last November: a resounding rejection.

Voters want and deserve a reduction in taxes and a reduction in the size and scope of government. The voters' wrath is directed at all levels of government, not just the federal. Politicians ignore that message at their own peril.

Dennis Husch
Herndon



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Elected officials and construction workers cut the ribbon on the Idylwood Road bridge over the Beltway March 18. The project was originally scheduled to take two years, but was re-planned to be completed in six months.

Idylwood Road bridge opens ahead of schedule

The Idylwood Road bridge over the Beltway began construction last August, and was scheduled to re-open sometime in 2012. Instead, the bridge was completed and officially opened March 18, after community input led to the creation of a new plan that allowed it to be completed quicker.

“Our team of workers worked on a daily basis with our partners and the community to get this project done a year and a half

early,” said Tim Steinhilber, general manager of the Capital Beltway HOT Lanes project for Transurban-Fluor. “Each bridge that we open early allows the work on the Beltway to move the traffic to the outside so the HOT Lanes can be finished sooner.”

More information about the project can be found at www.vamegaprojects.com and www.virginiahotlanes.com.



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Looking for activities for your child during Spring Break? MCC offers Spring Break Camps for ages 4 to 9.

Children enjoy supervised games, arts and crafts, activities, music, and special events throughout the week. Children must bring a lunch and a drink each day and dress in comfortable clothes and tennis shoes. A morning snack is provided.

Camp will be held at Churchill Road Elementary, 7100 Churchill Road, McLean.

McLean Spring Break Camp

The McLean Community Center
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www.mcleancenter.org

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

FRIDAY/MARCH 25

he Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams. 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageysons.org.

Ron Sexsmith "Late Player Bloomer" CD Release and Caitlin Rose. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Artists' Reception. 4-9 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. With local artists Jackie Elwell, Elaine Florimonte, Debbie Glakas, Lisa Neher, Sarah Swart and Barbara Wagner. 703-319-3971.

Mason Dance Company 2011 Gala Concert. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring work by Ohad Naharin, Lar Lubovitch, Robert Battle and Susan Shields. Tickets \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors, available at the Center for the Arts Box Office, open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., or at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Artists' Reception. 5-9 p.m. Hermitage Design and Gallery, 6831 Tennyson Drive, McLean. 703-827-0066 or www.hermitagedesigngallery.com.

Artist's Reception. 7-9 p.m. Avenue Beau Sejour, 10135 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. "Art and Wine" with Joanne Robert Wittauer. 703-268-5355 or www.AvenueBeauSejour.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

McLean Symphony Orchestra: Myths and Motion. 8 p.m. Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Wagner's *Ride of the Valkyries*, Peaslee's *Arrows of Time* with Craig Mulcahy, Trombone Soloist, and Franck's *Symphony in D Minor*. mclean-orchestra.org.

"The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageysons.org.

Pruning Demonstration. 10 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. How and when to prune and the proper tools to use. Demonstration of removal of dead and diseased wood. \$5. Reservations required at 703-255-3631.

Mason Dance Company 2011 Gala Concert. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring work by Ohad Naharin, Lar Lubovitch, Robert Battle and Susan Shields. Tickets \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors, available at the Center for the Arts Box Office, open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., or at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

A Staged Reading of "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer." 8 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The play explores the way violence affects us all. V-Day is a global movement to end violence against women and girls. V-Day Oakton 2011 beneficiaries are Men Can Stop Rape and Dating Abuse Stops Here (DASH). Tickets \$10-\$25, available at vdayoakton2011.weebly.com.



The Mason Dance Company 2011 Gala Concert will be Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26 at 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive in Fairfax. The performances will showcase a repertory company of dancers performing contemporary choreography in four pieces, including Ohad Naharin's "Ehad Mi Yodea," Lar Lubovitch's "Dvorak Serenade," Robert Battle's "Promenade" and Susan Shields' "Sunlit Song." Tickets are \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors, and are available at the Center for the Arts Box Office, open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., or at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Fairfax Swing Band. 8 p.m. Fairfax High School Auditorium, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. A big band in the style of Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey, with the Main Street Community Band, a symphonic wind ensemble. \$15 adults, \$9 seniors, free admission for age 18 and younger. www.fairfaxband.org or 703-757-0220.

Homeless Animals Rescue Team (HART) Art & Silent Auction.

Westfields Marriott, 14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly. 7 p.m. preview, 8 p.m. auction. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Proceeds benefit HART, a no-kill animal rescue/support group. \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. www.hart90.org.

Indonesian Guitarist "Balawan" Batuan. 1 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Ethnic Fusion. jamminjava.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 27

"The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageysons.org.

The Capitol Steps. 4 p.m. James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Musical political satire. Proceeds benefit the Class of 2011 All-Night Grad Party. Tickets \$25-\$30.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 24

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Sunrise of McLean, 8315 Turning Leaf Lane, McLean. 703-902-8102.

Registration for Spring English Classes for Adults. 7 p.m. St. Mark Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. Nine-week semester, meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m. \$20, new students must also purchase the appropriate book. Optional basic computer skills class for intermediate and advanced ESL students. 703-626-3585 (English), 703-300-3936 (Spanish) or 703-994-8510 (Korean).

Motherhood Stress and Guilt. 6:30 p.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., NE, Vienna. How to get the most out of motherhood. \$35 registration fee, \$25 members. www.thewomenscenter.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26
Fairfax County Mega Job and Entrepreneurship Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Major area employers, employment experts and skill workshops. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ds/news/mega-job-fair-employers.htm

SUNDAY/MARCH 27
New Providence Republican Women Membership Tea. 1 p.m. 11219 Sorrel Ridge Lane, Oakton. 703-593-7935.

FRIDAY/MARCH 25
Nominating Petition Deadline. 5 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. MCC

madisoncapitolsteps@yahoo.com.
An Evening with David Lindley. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

All-Day Art Demonstration. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Vienna Arts Society, Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., N.W., Vienna. Multi-media exhibition and demonstrations. 703-391-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 28

Matt Wertz and Ben Reiter. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

eBooks/eAudiobooks Workshop. 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Learn how to download and read or listen to free library eBooks and eAudiobooks. Bring laptops, eReaders, MP3 players or other devices. Adults and teens. 703-790-8088.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 30

Novelist Anita Shreve. 3 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/News/news1118.htm.

Movie Matinee. 11:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Short movies based on popular children's books. Bring lunch. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-757-8560.

Duke Special and Eli Staples. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

Burn The Ballroom, Safety Word Orange and Turtle Recall. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 1

The Virginia Opera: Puccini's "Madama Butterfly." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400

is seeking candidates for the 2011-2012 Governing Board. The board provides oversight and guidance for MCC programs and facilities, including the Alden Theatre and the Old Firehouse Teen Center. Nominating petition forms are available at the Center. Voting will be May 21 from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. 703-790-0123, TTY 711.

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With Jill Banks, a teacher and award winning artist, on "Mastering the Business of Art". Guests welcome. 703-790-0123.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Fairfax County Mega Job and Entrepreneurship Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Major area employers, employment experts and skill workshops. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ds/news/mega-job-fair-employers.htm

SUNDAY/MARCH 27

New Providence Republican Women Membership Tea. 1 p.m. 11219 Sorrel Ridge Lane, Oakton. 703-593-7935.

University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.
"The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams. 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageysons.org.

The Guggenheim Grotto and Galen Curry at 7 p.m., and **Mista Hyde, Shux, Twizm and Nooky Beats** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Meadowlark Amphibian Hike. 7 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Lakes provide a good habitat for frogs and toads to lay eggs. Join a naturalist on a walk to see which amphibians are active at Meadowlark. Free. Reserve at 703-255-3631.

"The Shadow Box." 7:30 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. The Providence Players of Fairfax, directed by Barbara Gertzog. One day in the life of three families, each with a family member living with terminal illness. \$18 adults, \$15 seniors and youth. providenceplayers@cox.net or 703-425-6782.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

"The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageysons.org.

Willy Porter at 7 p.m., and **"Far from the Moon" Featuring: Raphael Bhatti, Alex Flynn, Ryan Linde and Shelby Neal** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Patrick Henry Library Spring Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Books, CDs and movies. 703-938-9405.

Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Large selection of books and media. TysonsLibraryFriends@gmail.com or 703-790-8088.

Cravin' Dogs 25th Anniversary Celebration with The Michael Clem Trio. 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk/roots-rock. \$16. www.wolftrap.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 28

Ayr Hill Garden Club Meeting. 10:30 a.m. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Peter Deahl, volunteer master bird bander, will share his knowledge and photos of both local birds and those migrating through the area. Free and open to the public. plhweiss@yahoo.com.

McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia. 5:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The group is planning an event for Saturday, Oct. 22, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. 703-356-8223.

TUESDAY/MARCH 29

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

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 30

Haven of Northern Virginia's Suicide Support Group. 2 p.m. Haven of Northern Virginia, Inc., 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Six weekly meetings, through May 4. Free. Register at 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2013 Programs
Wednesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is seeking input from residents of Dranesville Small District One at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2013, which runs July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013.

The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas for classes, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours and youth and teen activities.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You also may submit comments in writing to: mail@mcleancenter.org.

The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

A Season of Enchantment

"MYTHS and MOTION"
Saturday, March 26, 2011 @ 8pm

From Wagner's mythical *Ride of the Valkyries* to Peaslee's *Arrows of Time*, this concert, conducted by **A. Scott Wood**, features the virtuosic skills of **Craig Mulcahy**, National Symphony Orchestra trombonist and the *Symphony in D Minor* of Cesar Franck.

MCLEAN ORCHESTRA
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Please come to our FREE pre-concert conversation at 7:15pm
"Classical Insights with Kelly" with Dr. Kelly Ker Hackleman

Oakcrest School: 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean Virginia 22101
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Fifth Graders
Present
'Fire of Vesuvius'

At Churchill Road School, on March 16-17, Fran Turner, Jennifer Ezzell and Cheryl Bamdad's fifth grade classes performed "Fire of Vesuvius," a musical about the demise of Pompeii in ancient Rome. The plot combined elements from Roman mythology along with the scientific reasons behind the volcanic eruption that destroyed the city. Over the two months that the students rehearsed, the fifth graders not only learned about volcanoes and Ancient Rome, but developed their oral communication skills and learned to show emotion through body language.



Pictured from left are Churchill Road fifth graders Michael Kim, Arman Parastaran, Grace Yang, Kimberly Zhou, and Minyoung Hwang, performing as Roman gladiators.

PHOTOS BY ANDREW COULTER



Performing in 'Fire of Vesuvius' are Churchill Road fifth graders Alex Greehan, Olivia Lu, Frank Ding, Jack Dunne (all Roman gladiators) and Arthur Browne, Gloria Kwun, Diya Kallam, Izzy Tice, and Zach Lesan (townspeople).

Sixth Graders Learn
Mediation Skills

On Wednesday, March 16, 22 Churchill Road Elementary School fifth and sixth grade peer mediators, and their mentors, school counselors Katie Griffith and Alex Mantel, attended the annual Northern Virginia Regional Student Mediation Conference at George Mason University. The students spent the day attending workshops and listening to a presentation and role play by high school mediation teams. Techniques and strategies learned at the conference will be put into practice the remainder of the academic year.



PHOTO BY ALEX MANTEL

Taking a break during their mediation workshop at George Mason University are Churchill Road peer mediators Sarah Stone, Maggie Bellaschi, Isabel Hartman, Francesca Murden and Seung Min Lee.

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HOME SALES

In February 2011, 51 homes sold between \$2,312,675-\$131,000 in the McLean and Falls Church area. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$2,312,675-\$760,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
1426 JULIA AVE	6	7	2		MCLEAN	\$2,312,675	Detached	0.56		SALONA VILLAGE
7019 CAPITOL VIEW DR	6	5	1		MCLEAN	\$1,818,000	Detached	0.37		OLD DOMINION GARDENS
9020 FALLS RUN RD	4	3	1		MCLEAN	\$1,810,946	Detached	1.40		NA
2103 VIRGINIA AVE	5	5	1		MCLEAN	\$1,765,000	Detached	0.30		FRANKLIN PARK
1458 HARVEST CROSSING DR	3	4	1		MCLEAN	\$1,480,000	Townhouse	0.09		EVANS FARM
6039 FRANKLIN PARK RD	5	4	0		MCLEAN	\$1,360,000	Detached	0.62		COUNTRY ACRES
6510 SUNNY HILL CT	5	4	0		MCLEAN	\$1,200,000	Detached	0.60		LANGLEY OAKS
1553 DOMINION HILL CT	5	4	1		MCLEAN	\$1,180,000	Detached	0.44		DOMINION HILL
1201 HUNTMASTER CT	4	4	1		MCLEAN	\$1,075,000	Detached	0.40		TIMBERLY SOUTH
702 BLUEBERRY HILL RD	3	4	1		MCLEAN	\$975,000	Townhouse			MERRYWOOD ON THE POTOMAC
1441 LAYMAN ST	5	3	1		MCLEAN	\$900,000	Detached	0.28		POTOMAC HILLS
1154 BELLVIEW RD	3	2	1		MCLEAN	\$860,000	Detached	1.68		ROLLING VIEW
4042 41ST ST N	5	3	1		MCLEAN	\$827,000	Detached	0.27		CHAIN BRIDGE FOREST
7819 FALSTAFF RD	5	3	1		MCLEAN	\$800,000	Detached	0.53		MCLEAN HARMLET
6517 ROOSEVELT ST	4	2	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$785,000	Detached	0.25		WESTMORE GARDENS
1228 PINE HILL RD	4	3	1		MCLEAN	\$785,000	Detached	0.12		KINGS MANOR
1928 POWHATAN ST	5	3	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$760,000	Detached	0.27		MARLBOROUGH

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OPEN HOUSES

Saturday & Sunday, March 26 & 27



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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.



McLean

6429 Georgetown Pike...\$1,900,000.....Sun 1-4....Monica Gibson.....Keller Williams703-944-3434

Great Falls

905 Falls Bridge Lane.....\$900,000.00.....Sun 1-4....Marc Cormier.....Keller Williams.....703-679-1754

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

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11305 Walnut Creek Ct...\$1,325,000.....Sun 1-4....Ashley White.....TTR Sothebys.....703-431-1705

Reston

1902 Crescent Park Dr...\$399,000.....Sun. 1-4...Kathy Shipley.....Long & Foster.....703-407-9518

11711 Stillbrook Ct.....\$387,500.....Sun. 1-4...Peggy Hamaker.....K.D. Hamaker Properties...703-533-1188

11591 Maple Ridge Rd...\$349,000.....Sun. 1-4...Robert Chevez.....Keller Williams.....703- 679-1700

Herndon

3225 Brynwood Place...\$599,950.....Sun. 1-4...Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert.....703-862-8808

754 Barbaralynn Pl.....\$379,900.....Sun 1-4...Kevin LaRue.....Century 21703-217-6665

Arlington

4114 11th St. N.....\$599,900.....Sun 1-4...Katie Wethman.....Keller Williams.....703-655-7672

Ashburn

21925 Gullane Way.....\$544,900.....Sun. 1-4...Diana LeFrancois.....Century 21703-930-6682

Loudoun

43718 Moorland Ct.....\$983,500.....Sun 1-3...Carmelle Shea.....C21 Redwood.....703-728-1862

To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Trisha at 703-778-9419, or trisha@connectionnewspapers.com All listings are due by Monday at 3 p.m.

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21 Announcements
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Michael Rocco Juliano and Patricia Smith Juliano trading as Rocco's Italian Restaurant, 1357 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA. 22101. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for mixed beverage on and beer and wine off site to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
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117 Adoption
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Nemooneh Inc trading as Cafe Nemooneh, 525 Maple Ave, West, Vienna, VA 22180. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL FOR a Wine and Beer on premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Saman Maleki President.

117 Adoption

117 Adoption

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25 Sales & Auctions

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21 Announcements

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Another Magical Ride for McLean Softball?

Highlanders still vastly talented despite losing five starters from last year's state title winning team.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The McLean High girls' softball team reached the pinnacle of heights last spring by capturing its first ever Virginia State AAA championship. The Highlanders, over several seasons leading up to the marvelous 2010 campaign, had gotten progressively better and better and slowly become one of the top teams in the Northern Region.

And it all came together last year as the Highlanders combined talented, veteran leadership with a top notch group of underclassmen. Although McLean finished runner-up to rival Madison High in both the Liberty District and Region postseason tournaments, the determined squad put it all together for three straight games at states to capture the state crown, the title game victory coming over Lee-Davis High (Mechanicsville), 4-2, in the finals game played June 12 at Westfield High School.

McLean lost five starters - shortstop Lauren McColgan, first baseman Megan Sullivan, catcher Carolyn Gilbertson, second baseman Brittany McCray, and outfielder Lauren Sutherland - from last year's state championship team to graduation, but still has a boatload of talent according to veteran head coach Maurice Tawil.

"Expectations were high last year and will be high this year," said Tawil, whose team was scheduled to open the new season this week with a pair of district home games versus visiting Marshall on Tuesday, March 22 and Jefferson High this Friday evening, March 25. "We have the benefit of the [state title] victory. We have a tall order this year but it's easier for [the players] to buy into [team philosophy] because of our success. It is an experienced team."

LAST YEAR'S TEAM, the first Highlander squad to ever qualify for the state playoffs, was spearheaded by a fantastic defense which consistently, throughout the season, made both the routine and sometimes exceptional plays in the field. The stellar play with the gloves was complimented by the solid pitching of ace Jamie Bell as well as a batting line-up that made steady contact on the ball and had a knack of hitting well in the clutch.

Tawil said this year's team, which consists of nine returning players across the roster, has the potential to achieve great things again. The defense, he said, is a work in progress and getting better by the day. But having lost such fine defensive players to graduation from last year's club will be hard to replace. Bell, a senior right-hander, is back on the mound this spring. Her presence and ability to make big pitches will help the team's defensive transition, with several new starters in the line-up, go smoother.



McLean High softball pitcher Jamie Bell helped lead the Highlanders to the state title last year. Now, as a senior, she is back on the mound again this spring.

"She's pitching better and better," said Tawil, of Bell's early season showing on the hill.

Bell's new batterymate at catcher this season is sophomore Maddie Moore, the team's backup at the position last year.

"She has power [at the plate] and is an excellent receiver," said Tawil, of Moore's game.

The strength of this year's McLean team could be its potentially lethal batting attack. Bell, who batted around .500 last year, will be the Highlanders' lead-off batter. She is a solid contact hitter and has good speed to fit the leadoff bill. Other key batsmen will include senior third baseman Jessie Straub, who batted over .500 in 2010 and led McLean in both home runs and RBIs, and junior clean-up hitter Allison Wilhelm, the team's athletic, versatile right fielder who will also likely play some innings at either of the corner infield positions.

"Last year, we were a tremendous defensive team," said Tawil. "We did pitch well and were a good hitting team. This year we will be led by our hitting. We do have some power up and down the line-up. I would like to see us continue to get better on defense. We are making great strides there. We're trying to duplicate [in the field] what we did last year."

McLean's success of last year when it went 25-5 and enjoyed so much postseason success will be hard to duplicate. But the Highlanders are ready to give it a go.

"I'm pleasantly surprised where we are right now given what we've lost [graduation-wise]," said Tawil.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS



PHOTO BY N. KANAAN

Members of the Great Falls U9 Milan boys soccer team pose with their First Place medals after winning the championship in the U9 Boys Black Division at the Prince William Soccer Annual Icebreaker Tournament last weekend in Haymarket. (Another local team, the Great Falls U11 Rapid, also won a championship game in the U11 Boys White Division). U9 Milan went a perfect 3-0 in their flight, with wins over Arlington, Herndon and Sterling, before going on to beat the Richmond Kickers Collegiate Aston Villa, 9-0, in the championship game. On the back row, from left: Coach Laszlo Juhasz, Julie de Kanter, Cristina de Kanter, Rex Kerrigan, Aidan Stein, Will Rissing, and Coach Jose Urquizo. Front Row: Sebastian Conlon, Jad Kanaan, Andrew Daniel, Garret Nimmo, and Aidan Kenny.

Jimmy Lange scored a 10-round unanimous decision over Jimmy "The Fighting School Teacher" Holmes last week at the Patriot Center, utilizing an effective jab especially in the middle-through-late rounds to help earn his 35th career victory. Lange, headlining his 12th show at the George Mason University venue, improved to 35-4-2, 24 KOs, while Holmes dropped to 19-2, 10 KOs.

"I thought I got in some good work tonight. He is a very long fighter and I usually fight shorter guys so I had to make some adjustments," said Lange, who plans to fight out of town once or twice before returning to Fairfax this fall. "I did not see any tape on him so I did not know what to expect until the bell rung. I played it by ear a little bit early on."

The Langley High girl's lacrosse team opened its defense of last season's Liberty District and Northern Region championships with a tough 10-8 home loss to a determined Battlefield High team on March 15. Suffering from the absence of several key starters, the Saxons kept it close but were unable to withstand repeated fast-break runs by the energetic Lady Bobcats that led to transition scores. The game served notice that the Lady Saxons' success last year will motivate this year's tough schedule of opponents to bring their best.

Langley jumped on top when Hayley Soutter executed a quick steal and unassisted score. The Saxons, as the half wore on, stayed close, with tallies coming from Ellie Glasgow, Rachel Wagner and Margo Swomley. But the lead would change hands several times as the Bobcats' seasoned team, featuring no less than eight seniors, four of whom have already committed to college play, quickly responded with speed in transition. The half ended, 6-4, with the Lady Bobcats ahead.

The Saxons would get no closer in the game as Battlefield maintained control of the midfield for long stretches and scored opportunistically on transitions or penalty shots. Goalie Erin Long had an excellent game in goal, registering nine saves, and the defensive unit did a fine job shutting down the Bobcats' half-court offense. But the offense struggled, failing to score for a long stretch between the 13- and 4-minute mark of the second half, by which time the Bobcats had built a 9-5 lead. Energized by the continued determined play of the defense, the offense came alive in the waning minutes, attacking the goal and registering another several goals by Margo Swomley and Anna Helmer, the last at 38 seconds remaining. But it was too little too late, as time ran out on the Saxon comeback.

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Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in McLean has announced its sales associates who have earned the company's International President's awards. The winners include - Individual Achievements: President's Club - Linda Knowles and Sue Jin Song.

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