

# Great Falls CONNECTION

# On Patriotic Note

NEWS, PAGE 4

## Dream Salon Opens In New Location

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Great Falls Nats Return from Cooperstown

SPORTS, PAGE 15

OPINION 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 13

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MUSIC

Victoria Flagg performs "Appalachian Trail" during the recent Artstars Studio of Great Falls patriotic theme recitals. Shown is the flag of North Carolina, one of the 14 states through which the trail runs.

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**Tangerine Dream Beauty Bar's new space in Great Falls offers more room for stylists to work, and can accommodate the salon's clientele.**



PHOTOS BY  
ALEX McVEIGH/  
THE CONNECTION

## Tangerine Dream Salon Opens in New Location

**New space offers more room, 'color bar.'**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Six years ago, Robin Lee Harmon, co-owner and artistic director of Tangerine Dream Beauty Bar in Great Falls, was looking for a location for her new salon. Harmon is no stranger to the bright lights, she did President Barack Obama's makeup for Vibe Magazine and has done hair for models in New York City's Fashion week. But she has different standards when it comes to her salon.

"I always liked salons that were a little off the beaten path, and there was something about Great Falls that screamed that, which is what drew me here," Harmon said. "It's fun to be away from a shopping mall and in a community. We never wanted to have a snobby salon."

Harmon and her co-owner Richard Rowe opened Tangerine Dream on Colvin Run Road six years ago. And when it came time to move and expand, they didn't look far, opening their new location right across the street.

**TANGERINE DREAM** had been located on the other side of Colvin Run Mill Road for the previous six years. The new location allowed them to spread

out, with different areas featuring the variety of services offered.

The new space was designed to the specifications of the owners. The main room is wide open, with tall black mirrored fixtures for clients to sit in front of while their hair is worked on. The rear of the space contains the shampooing stations, as well as the salon's "color bar," where clients can choose their color and watch while the stylist mixes it right there.

"It's bigger space and more wide-open space, which allows us to have more stylists and handle a walk-in clientele," Harmon said. "It's nice, open and modern, but we wanted to keep the warm atmosphere."

The salon's lighting was specially designed to cast both warm and cool lighting on clients, to give them a better feel of what their hair will look like.

"We wanted to give our clients a truer idea of what their hair would look like outside of the salon," said Heather Rainey, the salon coordinator. "Your hair looks in the salon what it will look like in the sun."

**THE LOCATION** also features large windows around the salon, allowing natural light in and clients a view of the outside.

"We love the natural light coming through the windows and being able to see the trees. It gives us a very natural feel," Rainey said. "We even get to see some of the local wildlife, just the other day a buzzard was hanging by the window for a while."

Harmon says that many of her clients have bonded

SEE DREAM SALON, PAGE 5

**The rear of the new Tangerine Dream Beauty Bar location features shampoo chairs and the new "color bar" where clients can watch their stylist mix hair coloring before their eyes.**



## Favola Wins 31st District Primary

**Democratic nominee will face Republican Caren Merrick in November.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

McLean resident Barbara Favola won the Aug. 23 Democratic primary, securing a chance to replace retiring Democratic Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple in Virginia's 31st district. Favola received 64.67 percent of the vote, while her opponent Jaime Areizaga-Soto received 35.32 percent.

Favola, who has been a member of the Arlington County Board since 1997, including as chairman in 2000, 2004, and 2009, as well as vice chairman in 1999-2003 and 2008, said her legacy of public service was what appealed to voters.

"I think voters believed that I would best be able to deliver on my promises," she said. "There weren't a lot of differences policy-wise for me and Jaime, but the difference was that I have 14 years of experience working on local and regional issues and a record of accomplishing my goals."

Favola also served as a policy advisor for the Department of



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Barbara Favola won the Aug. 23 Democratic primary election, and will run against Republican Caren Merrick in November.**

Health and Human Services under President Bill Clinton, and currently serves on the boards of the Ballston Science and Technology Alliance and the Child and Family Network Center.

She said her general election campaign will start right away, and she is looking to connect with voters on a larger scope.

"I certainly want to keep my focus on the issues that are important to voters in the 31st senate district," she said. "And I'm also looking to learn about more issues that are important to voters."

### BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

#### WEDNESDAY/AUG. 31

**MCC Governing Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Call 703-790-0123 TTY 711 to speak at the meeting. [www.mcleancenter.org/contact/governing.asp](http://www.mcleancenter.org/contact/governing.asp).

#### THURSDAY/SEPT. 8

**Happy Hearts Senior Adult Fellowship Potluck Lunch.** 12:30 p.m. Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. Discussion about the effects of 9-11 and games. Open to the public. Bring a favorite food dish. Chicken provided. \$2 donation. 703-938-6753 or [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.org).

#### SATURDAY/SEPT. 10

**Vienna AAUW Open House.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Learn about upcoming lectures by noted authors

and advocacy to fight sex discrimination; entertainment and local tours, book clubs, gardening and dining groups. Free. 703-321-7499 or [www.aauwofva.org/branches/vienna](http://www.aauwofva.org/branches/vienna).

#### SUNDAY/SEPT. 11

**DivorceCare and DivorceCare for Kids.** 11 a.m. McLean Presbyterian Church, 1020 Balls Hill Road, McLean. First of thirteen weekly sessions. 703-821-0800.

#### MONDAY/SEPT. 12

**Why Good Wills Go Bad.** 10 a.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. A free presentation by attorney David G. Hoffman with a discussion of Virginia will law, organizing assets, when to change your will, talking to an executor, reducing probate, will copies, do-it-yourself tax plans and more. 703-255-6360 or [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

## Great Falls Resident Killed in Fairfax Crash

The 53-year-old driver of a 1996 Toyota sedan died after he lost control of his vehicle and struck a tree. Officers responded to the crash on Braddock Road near the intersection of Burke Station Road on Tuesday, Aug. 23 at around 11 p.m. The vehicle apparently struck a concrete median and a highway sign before running off the road to the right. The Toyota then struck a tree head-on. Tam-Anh Chu of 1065 Northfalls Court in Great Falls was transported to a local hospital and was pronounced dead a short time later. The medical examiner will determine the cause of death. Speed and alcohol are not believed to be factors in this crash.

## Riverbend Park Receives Historic Designation

The National Park Service (NPS) has notified Riverbend Park in Great Falls that the park, situated along the shores of the Potomac River, has been designated as a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site. Research by local historic preservationist Debbie Robison revealed that Hugh Conn, who owned a ferry and farm on the future parkland in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, had enslaved African Americans on his land. In 1817, a 27-year-old slave named Ellick escaped from Conn family bondage twice and was not seen again by the Conns after his second flight.

Ellick's escape qualifies Riverbend for recognition as a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site. The NPS program was established to tell the story of resistance against the institution of slavery in the United States through escape and flight.

Riverbend is the second Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) site to be placed on the list. Sully Historic Site is also listed.

"This great piece of Fairfax history celebrates liberation from slavery, and we are excited to now be able to interpret this at Riverbend," said Park Manager Marty Smith. In the future, Smith hopes that Riverbend will find funding to place a marker acknowledging the designation and to create an interpretation program about the events for the public and for county schools.

For more information about Riverbend Park at 8700 Potomac Hills Street in Great Falls, visit online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend> or call 703-759-9018.

### SCHOOL NOTES

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

**Jenna R. Andrews** of Great Falls has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list and the president's honor list at the University of South Carolina.

**Brian Raymond Trundy** of Great Falls has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at the Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering at Binghamton University, State University of New York.

**Emily Kline** of Great Falls has graduated from DePaul University in Chicago.

## NEWS



The students of Artstars Studio recently held recitals with a patriotic theme. Music selections spotlighted cities, states, and areas of the U.S.A. Also, American composers were featured. Many of the young performers created drawings to go with their music. Artstars Studio is located in Great Falls, and the instructor is Mary Jane Cogan.

# On Patriotic Note

Great Falls young musicians present recitals with a patriotic theme.



Jed Prickett presented "Yankee Doodle Boy" by George M. Cohan



Caroline Stock performed "When the Saints Go Marching In" while displaying her flag of Louisiana.

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# NEWS

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music



**Megan Greatorex** played "You're a Grand Old Flag," written by George M. Cohan. The composer was born in Rhode Island, and so Megan drew that state's flag.



**Brooke Dawn** played "This Land Is Your Land" by Woody Guthrie.

## Dream Salon

FROM PAGE XX

at the salon, meeting each other there and continuing to schedule appointments together in order to catch up every few months.

Jessica Marty of Reston has been seeing Harmon for years, following her to various locations.

"I feel like I've grown up with Robin. Now my kids, mom, sister, aunt and neighbors come here as well," she said. "They're so friendly, everyone here knows

who I am. It's not as hectic as other salons I've been to, and I feel like I'm being paid attention to."

Tangerine Dream hosts regular events with clients, as well as trains their employees on the latest fashions. All staffers are Redken certified.

*The Tangerine Dream Beauty Bar is located at 10135 Colvin Run Road, Suite 102 in Great Falls, and can be found online at [www.tangerinedreamsalon.com](http://www.tangerinedreamsalon.com).*

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# OPINION

## Crazy Week

Contested primaries about as comfortable as earthquakes, but with far greater benefit.

A 5.8 earthquake gave the region a shaking up last Tuesday, and while it was mostly harmless, two landmarks, the Washington Monument and the National Cathedral, are still closed.

The quake came amidst primary election day for both Republicans and Democrats, with at least two somewhat unexpected results. It's a sign of health for both parties that candidates are prepared to compete in primary elections.

While some have cited the negativity in one of the Democratic primary races, the benefits of contested races outweigh the negatives, especially in districts that lean so heavily to one party, the primary is the election.

(It's true that the vitriolic negativity in the primary for the 31st, carried out via hundreds of thousands of dollars in slick mailers, was an unfortunate introduction for the many voters new to the district.)

But voters in the 30th and 31st Senate districts were offered real choices. Too often these

races involve the anointing of incumbent or heir-apparent who are then practically guaranteed a seat after the general election.

Not this time.

The message was that good candidates can rise up and seek election. And the Republican challengers in these two races cannot be counted out, especially Caren Merrick in the 31st.

### EDITORIAL

There were also Republican races for the right to challenge Virginia Senators George Barker, Toddy Puller and Dave Marsden, and Sheriff Stan Barry (D) of Fairfax.

Two Democrats faced off in a very close race for the right to challenge Supervisor John Cooke in the Braddock District of Fairfax County.

The sad part was the timing and the turnout. The August primary, necessitated by the resolution of redistricting, and other factors lead to a voter turnout of less than 10 percent in most areas.

## Nuclear Caution, Food for Thought

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is sending a team to the North Anna nuclear power plant, which shut down during last week's earthquake. The plant, located just 10 miles from the epicenter of Tuesday's 5.8 quake, was reported designed to withstand that magnitude quake and no more, but shaking at the location of the quake might have exceeded that.

The plant could be shut down for six weeks to six months according to a report in the Freelance Star newspaper. North Anna is about 70 miles from our area.

In April, the Surry nuclear plant, about 140 miles away, automatically shut down after losing power when a tornado hit the electrical switchyard next to the plant, reported the Virginia Gazette newspaper. Diesel generators kicked in to provide emergency power.

- MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM,  
ON TWITTER @MARYKIMM

## Virginia: The Brightest Pro-Business Star

Virginia wins top ranking as a pro-business state.

BY BARBARA COMSTOCK  
STATE DELEGATE (R-34)

“Virginia is the unquestionable brightest star on the American flag when it comes to being pro-business... Virginia is truly in a class by itself.”

This was the summary of the nationally respected Pollina Corporate Real Estate study, released earlier this month, which annually reviews the pro-business climate of all 50 states. The study evaluates and ranks states based on over 30 factors including: “taxes, human resources, right-to-work legislation, energy costs, infrastructure spending, workers compensation laws, economic incentive programs and state economic development efforts.”

Virginia won the 2011 top ranking by the largest margin in the history of the study. This follows upon Virginia being named as the country's “Best State for Business” by CNBC in July. This good news came the same week that we were able to report a surplus of \$544.8 million in the Commonwealth.

Brent Pollina, Vice President of Pollina (www.pollina.com) and author of the study, noted, “Virginia can certainly be emulated by other states, which should view



Virginia's economic policies as a coloring book. All they need to do is stay between the lines of the coloring book, and they, too, can create a powerful pro-business environment.” In the

annual study of job retention and creation by the 50 states and the federal government, Pollina emphasizes, “the effort to make America more business-friendly must come from all levels of government. Many states are doing such a poor job of creating a pro-business environment that they can't even come close to competing with each other, much less compete globally.”

Not only is Virginia number 1 nationally, we are growing as an international competitor. As a member of the Governor's Economic Development and Jobs Creation Commission, I worked together with my colleagues and our business community throughout the Commonwealth to promote and pass many business friendly tax incentives and policies that contributed to our robust job climate and expands our opportunities nationally and internationally. This year I was the sponsor of Virginia's first Tele-work Tax

Credit bill to promote telework and family friendly work policies, as well as relieve traffic congestion in Northern Virginia.

We also finally passed a Research and Development Tax Credit in Virginia to promote our high tech community. For years other states adopted an R & D Tax Credit and Virginia was among only a handful that did not yet have this tool. This year, we went to work to change that and as the chief co-patron of the R & D Tax Credit, I was pleased that we had the invaluable support of our local business community, Chambers of Commerce and the Northern Virginia Technology Council to help us pass this important measure which will grow technology jobs in our area.

In Virginia, we made jobs our priority and passed these and many other job creation bills with strong bipartisan support. We have opened up international business offices around the globe to expand Virginia's commerce opportunities. Our economic efforts also included bills to promote all types of energy production — solar, wind, oil and natural gas, and others. And this year's budget was passed unanimously — a first in over 50 years!

As a member of the Transportation Committee, it was particularly rewarding that after 20 years of gridlock on transportation, we

were able to fashion an historic \$4 billion transportation bill that is already getting money to projects around Northern Virginia. An educated workforce is another reason for our high ranking; so, our unanimous passage of the Higher Education bill this year is another way to enhance our overall business and family friendly climate. This bill will expand science, technology, engineering and math education, as well as provide more in-state college spots to our students, while tackling the growing tuition bills. On the K-12 education front, we were also able in Northern Virginia — with the help of an activated group of parents and businesses — to reverse the \$120 million in cuts that had threatened Northern Virginia schools.

As the Pollina study noted, Virginia has established a pro-business environment, which includes low taxes, limited regulation and litigation, a highly educated workforce, a strong economy and a great quality of life. We were able to accomplish all of these things without raising taxes in these tough economic times.

To be lauded in this study as “the model for the rest of the county” demonstrates that in Virginia, we have a solid foundation to build upon. With the surplus created by these policies, we can now continue to reinvest in our people, reward success, and focus on the right priorities that bring continued prosperity and opportunity for all.

## THE CONNECTION

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# LETTERS

## Mega Buildings Next Door

To the Editor:

It appears the dialogue about the Brightview development is ongoing, and I appreciate your continued coverage of this important topic. I have already weighed in with my opinion on the matter, but an additional thought occurred to me that I would appreciate your printing: In one of the several articles you wrote about this development, someone was quoted as saying "Brightview could be compared to facilities like schools and churches that are also built on residential property in Great Falls, and were able to do so via special exception." Although the particular facility that comes to mind is not in Great Falls, nor is it on residential property, each time I am stopped on Route 7 for 15 or 20 minutes to wait for the traffic at McLean Bible Church, my alarms go off. I remember when the church bought the non-profit headquarters of The Wildlife Federation on Route 7 and assured our communities that they would blend in. They then cut down a lot of trees, some of which did not belong to them, laid a lot of asphalt, and proceeded to build a huge campus of buildings and

parking lots. The facility was so large and it generated so much traffic that traffic lights had to be installed and police hired to help monitor the intersection on week-ends.

All I'm saying is... when businesses and mega churches and recreational facilities, and maybe even assisted living facilities, come into your neighborhood and make promises about what they will and will not do, how they will look, and how little of an impact they will have on your traffic, your property value and your quality of

life, drive by McLean Bible Church on Route 7 and think about it. True, it's on Route 7 not Colvin Run Road, but never in my wildest dreams did I imagine the huge facility this church turned out to be, nor how inconvenienced I would be by the traffic, nor how their footprint on the area would be so large. And I wonder how the neighbors behind them feel about it now?

Just a thought.

**Jan McCarthy**  
Great Falls

### Write

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

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The Connection  
1606 King St.  
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PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION FILE PHOTOS

Volunteers in traditional dress serve flavorful, aromatic Middle Eastern dishes at the 17th Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival hosted by Holy Transfiguration Church on Lewinsville Road, near the intersection of Springhill Road, spit.



Volunteer chef Omar Samaha grills a hunk of beef on a spit.

## Holy Transfiguration Church Hosts Middle Eastern Food Festival

18th annual festival features food, entertainment and kids' activities.

By DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

In these parts — “these parts” being McLean and Vienna — Labor Day weekend is more than barbecues and pool parties. It also brings the area's largest food festival, a celebration of traditional Middle-eastern delicacies, and music and dance, augmented with pony rides and moon bounces for children, vendors and tours of the Byzantine-styled church. On Sept. 3 and 4, Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church hosts its 18th annual Middle Eastern Food Festival on the church's grounds.

“I really believe what distinguishes us from other festivals are our people, their enthusiasm,” said Protodeacon and festival chairman, David Baroody. “It's really their enthusiasm and hospitality, and welcoming nature to everybody. Everyone who comes is welcomed in the same manner of warmth.”

Outside on the back lawn, volunteers grill chicken, beef and lamb. In the kitchen, volunteers prepare stuffed grape leaves and

authentic Middle Eastern side dishes from handed-down recipes. The recipes, Baroody said, have been in families for generations, as are many of the cultural traditions. Forget the diet ... the Middle Eastern pastries — gooey, syrupy, nutty — would make the sugar plum fairy swoon. Baklava, maamoul — date-filled shortbread cookies — and other typical Middle Eastern sweets, line tables across the hall. They partner with American favorites, from cakes and cookies to brownies and fudge.

**THE FESTIVAL** is as much about cultural identity as it is about food. Servers and volunteers wear traditional dress, colorful and frequently sparkly. The Turkish coffee is served, well, Turkish-style. Perhaps, though, the piece de resistance is the roast lamb dinner served on Saturday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and all day on Sunday. Spoiler alert: the squeamish might want to avoid looking at the spit on the lawn, but the aromas emanating from the church grounds cast a gustatorial spell.

“We try to offer a real insight into our Middle Eastern culture, along with our Byzantine Eastern Chris-



The sweets table, laden with syrupy, gooey, nutty confections, runs the length of the church's hall.

nual food festival fundraiser. To the members of Holy Transfiguration, the food festival gives the church members an opportunity to reach many people outside the church, sharing their culture and faith with visitors.

The festival, at 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean, near the intersection of Spring Hill Road, has introduced pony rides to keep children entertained. There are also two moon bounces, face painting and games.

**THE HOLY TRANSFIGURATION CHURCH** Middle Eastern Food Festival runs from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 3, and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 4.

The festival will be held rain or shine. Admission and parking are free, but there is a charge for pony rides. The price of menu items, from sweets to complete plates, range from a couple of dollars to \$14 for the roasted lamb dinner. To learn more, call 703-734-9566 or visit [www.holytransfiguration.org](http://www.holytransfiguration.org).

“It's [the food festival] a perfect chance to show everybody the various facets of our Middle Eastern traditions,” said Lani Kanakry. “You're going to get fantastic food and get educated about it, too.”



The first ‘Musical Salute to Our Military’ concert was held last year.



McLean Orchestra event sponsors, Col. C. Allen Jorgenson and Lilian Jorgenson, with Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) and McLean Orchestra Board President Wayne Sharp at a wine tasting at Barbara Comstock's home to support this concert.

## McLean Orchestra Salutes Military

‘Musical Salute to Our Military’ to be held on Sept. 10.

The McLean Orchestra's Second Annual “Musical Salute to Our Military” will be held at Vinson Hall Retirement Community on Sept. 10, at 7:30 p.m. This concert, which will showcase the McLean Orchestra Brass Quintet, is being performed on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the events of Sept. 11, 2001. The concert program will feature music that honors and celebrates the brave men and women of the military.

### FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**Christ the King Lutheran Church**, 10550 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, will mark the beginning of the Sunday School year for all ages on Rally Day, Sunday, Sept. 11. To celebrate, the Church will host a Rally Day BBQ on the front lawn following the 11 a.m. service. Members and visitors are invited to join in the fun, including burgers and dogs and all the fixings. [www.gflutheran.org](http://www.gflutheran.org).

**Epiphany United Methodist Church**, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, has an Adult Sunday School class that will begin studying John B. Cobb's book *Spiritual Bankruptcy: A Prophetic Call to Action* on Sunday, Sept. 11. Coffee at 9:30 a.m., class at 9:45 a.m. office@epiphanyumc.com or 703-938-3494.

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax**, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, seeks female actors for production of “Mother Wove the Morning”, a play by Carol Lynn Pearson. All ages and types needed. Play will be performed Oct. 21-22 and proceeds benefit The Fistula Foundation. Auditions will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 13. Schedule an audition appointment at [www.uucf.org](http://www.uucf.org) or [scbennett@cox.net](mailto:scbennett@cox.net) 703-281-4230.

**Andrew Chapel United Method-**

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

ist Church, 9201 Leesburg Pike in Vienna, has a 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service through Sept 4. Beginning Sept. 11 Worship is 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., and Youth Fellowship at 6 p.m. September study groups are Monday night's ‘Companions in Christ’, and Tuesday 10 a.m. Bible Study. Bell Choir practice is Wednesday at 7 p.m. and choir practice at 8 p.m. Call 703-759-3722 to register for PreSchool and Mother's Day Out. 703-759-3508.

**Epiphany United Methodist Church**, 1014 Country Club Drive in Vienna, will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a special worship service on Sunday, Sept. 25 at 11 a.m. [www.epiphanyumc.com](http://www.epiphanyumc.com) or 703-938-3494.

**The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA)** offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. [www.jssa.org/growth-learning](http://www.jssa.org/growth-learning).

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnva.org](http://www.havenofnva.org) for schedules and registration information.

**McLean Bible Church Fitness Class** at Body & Soul Fitness. Balance is key, energy is renewed and strength is gained. 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. [bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org](mailto:bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org).

**Vienna Presbyterian Church**, 124 Park St. in Vienna, presents the 12-week program “Passages,” for those experiencing separation or divorce. The DivorceCare series meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost of materials \$20, scholarships available. 703-938 9050 or [Passages@ViennaPres.org](http://Passages@ViennaPres.org).

**Vienna Assembly of God** has a ministry to children on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Center N and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E. Children's Church on Sundays also available. 703-938-7736 or [www.ViennaAG.com](http://www.ViennaAG.com).

**Vienna Christian Healing Rooms**, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or [www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com](http://www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com).

**Chesterbrook United Methodist**

community,” says Executive Director John Huling. Vinson Hall Retirement Community has been home since 1969 to commissioned military officers ages 62 and older and their immediate family members.

According to Dr. Wayne Winston Sharp, President of the Board of Trustees of the McLean Orchestra, “The McLean Orchestra is committed to honoring our warriors, both past and present as long as we have soldiers in harm's way. Our won-

derful orchestra boasts many talented musicians who are currently members of the top military bands in Washington, D.C. It is an honor for us to do this concert at Vinson Hall.”

The concert is free and will be followed by a cake and champagne reception, a McLean Orchestra tradition. Seating is limited. Reservations may be made by contacting the McLean Orchestra office at 703-893-8646.

**Church** is at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for adults and children. Rev. Kathleen Card, Pastor. 703-356-7100 or [www.ChesterbrookUMC.org](http://www.ChesterbrookUMC.org).

**A Centering Prayer Group** meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. E-mail Martha Thomas at [mmthomas211@hotmail.com](mailto:mmthomas211@hotmail.com) or call the church at 703-759-3509.

**The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington** and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. [ShalomDC.org](http://ShalomDC.org).

**Trinity United Methodist Church**, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 6 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 12 p.m. 703-356-3312 or [umtrinity.org](http://umtrinity.org).

## OPEN HOUSE LISTINGS

Will Return after the Holiday



To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call 703-778-9410

## THIS IS “TABASCO”



D.O.B. April 29, 2010. Terrier mix, neutered male, 35 lbs. Tabasco was abandoned and left to starve in a vacant house. This did not change his sweet disposition, though it did affect his weight considerably. After a lot of TLC he looks great and is more than ready to find a family who will love him forever. He is a real character and loves to show off his funny antics. He's great with people and other dogs, loves to go for walks and is a total lover boy. He has the cutest puppy face even though he is about a year old and weighs approx. 35 pounds. He may be an American Staffordshire mixed with some other type of terrier because of his face and head shape, but whatever he's mixed with, he's adorable.

Make an appointment to meet Tabasco and add some real spice to your life. Attributes: Super Sweet Little Buddy!

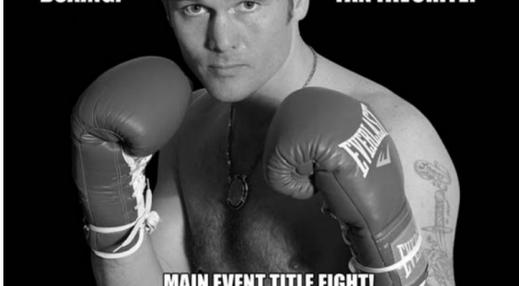
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# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 31

**You Are Not Alone Tour: Hawthorne Heights, ViFolly and The Getaways.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).  
**One-on-One Computer Tutoring.** 3 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Adults. 703-242-4020.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 1

**"A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum."** 8 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Musical comedy about mistaken identity and young love. "Pay-What-You-Can Preview." 703-615-6626 or [zbleck@aol.com](mailto:zbleck@aol.com).

**Oh Susannah.** 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Atlas, Harlen Simple and Go (acoustic).** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 2

**"A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum."** 8 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Musical comedy about mistaken identity and young love. \$6-\$15. 703-615-6626 or [zbleck@aol.com](mailto:zbleck@aol.com).  
**Fireday V: "Fifth Flight Forward."** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

**Holy Transfiguration 18th Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival.** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Live music and dancing, vendors, church tours and activities. Join the Debke dance or participate in a game of backgammon or chess. Children can enjoy pony rides, moon bounce, face painting and more. Outdoor grills will offer kibbee, chicken kebabs, falafel, fattoush, hummus, stuffed

grape leaves, or a \$14 Roast Lamb Dinner served from 6-9 p.m. Enjoy baklava, maamoul, namoura, ghraybeh, or American favorites from cakes to cookies to brownies and fudge. Free admission and parking. 703-734-9566 or [www.holytransfiguration.org](http://www.holytransfiguration.org).

**Dulcie Taylor.** 5 p.m. Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.

**Sonus II: A Wizard Rock Festival** at 12 p.m., **Robin and Linda Williams and Their Fine Group** at 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**"A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum."** 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Musical comedy about mistaken identity and young love. \$6-\$15. 703-615-6626 or [zbleck@aol.com](mailto:zbleck@aol.com).

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 4

**Great Falls National Park Civil War Day.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Great Falls National Park, 9200 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Demonstrations by living historians and ranger guided

hikes to the site of Civil War skirmishes within Great Falls Park. 703-285-2965.

**Holy Transfiguration 18th Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival.** 12-6 p.m. Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Live music and dancing, vendors, church tours, a wide variety of food and activities. \$14 Roast Lamb Dinner served all day. Free admission and parking. 703-734-9566 or [www.holytransfiguration.org](http://www.holytransfiguration.org).

## SUNDAY /SEPT. 4

**TheRuinCity CD Release, Let's Be Honest, Hit This City, The Concussion Theory, All In Karma and Bandits & Beggars.** 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Early Fall Tour of the Potomac Valley Native Plant Collection.** 2 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Enjoy goldenrod, sunflowers, wild senna and more. Free and open to the public. 703-255-3631.

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 6

**Sarah Jebian is "Goin' Back": A Cabaret Event.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 7

**Kyle Andrews, Ernie Halter and Taxicab Racers.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 8

**Murphy's Kids, Future and Teddy and the Purple Funk.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**"A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum."** 8 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Musical comedy about mistaken identity and young love. \$6-\$15. 703-615-6626 or [zbleck@aol.com](mailto:zbleck@aol.com).

**Vienna Arts Society Monthly Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. With a demonstration of still

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

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[www.fbcv.org](http://www.fbcv.org)

**Dr. KENNY SMITH,**  
**PASTOR**



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MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM



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**Assembly of God**  
Vienna Assembly of God ... 703-938-7736  
Washington Christian Church  
... 703-938-7720

Cristo Es Mi Refugio... 703-938-7727

**Baha'i**  
Baha'i Faith for Northern Virginia ... 703-821-3345

**Baptist**  
Global Mission Church ... 703-757-0877

Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462

Bethel Primitive Baptist Church  
... 703-757-8134

Cartersville Baptist Church ... 703-255-7075

Fellowship Baptist Church ... 703-385-8516

First Baptist Church ... 703-938-8525

The Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877

Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400

New Union Baptist Church... 703-281-2556



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The Rev. Richard A. Lord, Rector, *Welcomes you to worship, learn & enjoy fellowship with us!*

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Saturday - 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday - 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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703-938-6521 [www.holycomforter.com](http://www.holycomforter.com)

#### Buddhist

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center... 202-331-2122

#### Church of the Brethren

Oakton Church of the Brethren ... 703-281-4411

#### Catholic

Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828

St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555

St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100

#### Charismatic

Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777

#### Church of Christ

Berea Church of Christ ... 703-893-7040

#### Disciples of Christ

Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

#### Episcopal

Church of the Holy Comforter ... 703-938-6521

Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991

St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082

#### Jehovah's Witness

Jehovah's Witnesses ... 703-759-1579

#### Lutheran

Emmanuel Lutheran Church... 703-938-2119

Christ The King Lutheran Church... 703-759-6068

St. Athanasius Lutheran Church... 703-455-4003

#### Methodist

Andrew Chapel United Methodist ... 703-281-3987

Church of the Good Shepherd ... 703-281-3987

Dunn Loring United Methodist ... 703-573-5386

To Highlight Your Faith Community call Karen at 703- 917-6468

# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

life oil painting by Jill Banks. Free and open to the public. 703-319-3971 [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 9

**Friday Night Steak Dinner.** 5:30-8 p.m. American Legion Post 180, 330 North Center St, Vienna. Grilled rib-eye steak, baked potato and salad. \$9. 703-938-9535.

**Banjo Man.** 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**We Were Kings CD Release and Dance Party, Big Hurry and Breaking Borders.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**"A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum."** 8 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Musical comedy about mistaken identity and young love. \$6-\$15. 703-615-6626 or [zbleck@aol.com](mailto:zbleck@aol.com).

**"Don't Dress for Dinner, or Pajamas for Six."** 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tyson's Corner. A farce by Marc Camoletti about mistaken identity and infidelities with more twists than a corkscrew. Tickets \$25. [www.1ststagetysons.org/jeeves](http://www.1ststagetysons.org/jeeves) or 703-854-1856.

**Koi and Bonsai Show.** 12-4 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Koi displays, judging, informational seminars, pond and koi vendors. Bonsai will also be on display. Free and open to the public. 703-255-3631.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 10

**Virginia Indian Festival and Showcase for Native Arts.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Members of seven native tribes present a cultural demonstration of the arts and their ancient way of life. Tribal dancing, rhythmic drumming, pottery, crafts, food, hands-on activities and more. Use chopping tools to help build a dug-out canoe, hit the mark at the archery range or throw spears with the atlatl.



**"July Peaches" by Jill Banks. The Vienna Arts Society Monthly Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., N.W. in Vienna, will feature a demonstration of still life oil painting by Jill Banks. Free and open to the public. 703-319-3971 [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).**

Admission \$5. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/) or 703-759-9018.

**Championship Boxing.** George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Jimmy Lange to fight Raul Muñoz for WBU title. Tickets \$35-\$500, available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) and 703-573-SEAT.

**James Madison High School Marching Band Tag Day.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Instrumentalists, drum line and color guard members will walk through neighborhoods in the Madison school district handing out Tags with details about this year's competitions and concerts. Money raised on Tag Day helps pay for competition and travel fees, instruments, uniforms and more. Contributions can be mailed to James Madison High School Band Parents, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna Va. 22181. [www.jmhsband.org](http://www.jmhsband.org). **Kids Show: The Diggity Dudes.**

10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Ian Axel, Bess Rogers and Allie Moss** at 7 p.m., **River City Extension and Mokey Dorris** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**"A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum."** 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Musical comedy about mistaken identity and young love. \$6-\$15. 703-615-6626 or [zbleck@aol.com](mailto:zbleck@aol.com).

**"Don't Dress for Dinner, or Pajamas for Six."** 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tyson's Corner. A farce by Marc Camoletti about mistaken identity and infidelities with more twists than a corkscrew. Tickets \$25. [www.1ststagetysons.org/jeeves](http://www.1ststagetysons.org/jeeves) or 703-854-1856.

## 'American Grandeur' at Great Falls Library

"American Grandeur," an exhibit of traditional, hand printed, black and white photographs by Great Falls photographer Jan Bender, is on display Sept. 2 - 29, at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The images of Yellowstone, Grand Teton and Glacier National Parks were hand crafted with an old-fashioned camera and sheets of film. The images were printed by the photographer in a traditional darkroom. Jan is a member of Great Falls Studios and has been exhibiting her photographs for more than 15 years. Visit [www.janbenderphoto.com](http://www.janbenderphoto.com) or call 703-430-9566



**Saturday, Sept. 10, 9 a.m-1 p.m.**

**Free Admission**  
Business Bank Parking Garage, across from J. Gilbert's Restaurant, Ingleside Ave. and 1451 Dolley Madison Blvd. (Route 123).

**Rather sell than shop?**  
Rent a 10-ft x10-ft space for \$45. Open to individuals selling household items and commercial flea market dealers.

Deadline to apply is **Thursday, Sept. 8.** This is a very popular community sale! Spaces go quickly, so please register early!

**MCLEAN FALL FLEA MARKET**



The McLean Community Center  
703-790-0123/TTY: 711  
[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)

*We thank the Food Processing Suppliers Association, McDonald's, J. Gilbert's and The Business Bank for their community support.*

## MIDDLE EASTERN FOOD FESTIVAL

Labor Day Weekend

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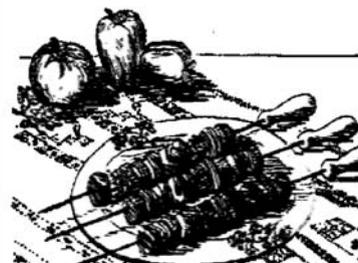
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# New High School Football Season Kicks Off This Week

**Madison, Oakton, South Lakes all have new coaches; Langley and McLean both coming off playoff seasons.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**H**igh school football stadiums throughout the Northern Region will be alive with buzz and excitement this Thursday and Friday night with week one action of the new season.

While some folks are still in a summertime mode, many families within Fairfax County are kicking off the new school year. One of the most recognizable transition signs of the new school year is the start up of prep school football. Let's take a look at where some of the local teams — Madison, South Lakes, McLean, Langley, Oakton, Herndon, and Marshall — finished off in 2010 as they prepare to launch into the upcoming 2011 campaign.

Madison, under former head coach Gordon Lieb, struggled through a re-building season last year. The Warhawks, a perennial Div. 5 playoff contender during Lieb's decade-long tenure at the helm of the program, were just 2-8 last year, winning their final two games following a 0-8 start.

Lieb stepped down as head coach during the offseason in order to accept the head coach position at Paul VI High in Fairfax. Meanwhile, former Madison assistant Lenny Schultz was named Madison's new head coach. The Warhawks will begin their new football era with their annual season-opener versus cross-town rival Oakton — in the Outback Bowl — this Friday night, Sept. 2 at 7:30.

Oakton, like Madison, is under a new head coach this season following the resignation of Joe Thompson, who recently accepted an administrative position at Annandale High School. Thompson, as Oakton's head coach since 2002, led the Cougars to outstanding success, including a state title victory in 2005 and another trip to the state playoffs in 2008. Last year, Oakton went 7-3 during the regular season before losing in a first round playoff game to Robinson, 14-7. One of the Cougars' best wins last year was a 17-14 triumph over Chantilly in the final game of the regular season.

This year's Oakton squad will be led by new head coach Jason Rowley, the Cougars' defensive coordinator last year. The Cougars host Madison on Friday of this week and will also be at home versus South County the following Friday (Sept. 9).



**McLean, on defense here, will host Washington-Lee on Thursday of this week in both teams' season opener. The Highlanders began the 2010 season with a 14-6 win over the Generals.**

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



**Herndon will be looking to notch some victories this fall following a tough 2010 season.**

Marshall, under second year head coach Bill Laphorn, will be looking to improve on last year's 1-9 record. The Statesmen, on Thursday, Sept. 1 of this week, were scheduled to play at Lee High in Springfield at 7:30. The following week, on Friday, Sept. 9, Marshall will open its home schedule with a game versus Mount Vernon.

**ANOTHER PROGRAM** which will be under a new head coach this season, like both Madison and Oakton, is South Lakes High, which enjoyed a fine season a year ago in since-departed Andy Hill's lone season at the helm. Hill, who had led Park View High (Sterling) to prominent success for several years within the Dulles District, brought his

magic to Reston in 2010 as head coach of the Seahawks, who qualified for the Div. 5 playoffs where they defeated Mount Vernon in the first round before losing in the semifinals to eventual region champion Stone Bridge. South Lakes' high-powered offense averaged 27 points per game.

Hill stepped down during the offseason and has returned to his roots in Minnesota. South Lakes' new coach is Marvin Wooten, a South Lakes assistant the past four years under both Hill and previous coach John Ellenberger. Wooten's right hand man will be assistant head coach Galvin Morris.

South Lakes opens its season this Friday night, Sept. 2 at 7 p.m. versus visiting Westfield High. The Seahawks will also be

home the following Friday night (Sept. 9) versus cross-town opponent Herndon.

Herndon, under the longtime leadership of head coach Joe Sheaffer, struggled through a 1-9 record last year. The Hornets had experienced one of their better seasons the previous fall (2009) when they qualified for the Div. 6 playoffs.

Herndon will try to bounce back from its tough 2010 season with a good season this fall. The Hornets will open with a home game on Thursday night, Sept. 1 versus Langley at 7:30. That will be followed with a week two game at South Lakes on Friday, Sept. 9.

Sheaffer's coaching staff includes two former Washington Redskins in assistant head coach Todd Liebenstein and offensive line coach Raleigh McKenzie.

**AT MCLEAN HIGH**, the Highlanders had a breakthrough 2010 season which local fans will always remember for their 8-0 start. And although the Highlanders ultimately lost their final three games of the season, including a Div. 5 first round playoff loss to Hayfield, the season overall was a highlight reel for a program which, just two years earlier, had gone winless.

McLean, 8-3 last year and 6-5 in 2009, has now experienced two consecutive winning seasons under fourth year head coach Jim Patrick. The Highlanders' quest for a third straight winning record will begin Thursday night (Sept. 1) of this week versus visiting Washington-Lee. A year ago, the Highlanders opened their season with a 14-6 win over the Generals.

Following this week's game with Washington-Lee, Mclean will hit the road for two weeks versus both Falls Church (Sept. 9) and Fairfax (Feb. 16) before returning home for a week four game versus Madison on Sept. 23.

Also making the playoffs last year was Langley High, which qualified for the eight-team Div. 6 postseason tournament. The Saxons lost their first two games of the season before winning five straight. Their best game of the season came in week 10 when they closed the regular schedule with a 56-12 home win over local rival McLean. That victory clinched a winning season for veteran head coach John Howerton and his Saxons, who would see their season end the following week with a first round 34-10 playoff loss to eventual two-time region champion Lake Braddock.

The 2010 Saxons had one of the top passing attacks in the state behind since-graduated quarterback Braden Anderson, who passed for a school record mark of 2,300 yards. Only the high-powered Lake Braddock offense, with QB Michael Nebrich behind the center, could match the Saxons' region aerial success in 2010.

Langley will open the new season this week with a road game at Herndon on Thursday, Sept. 1 at 7:30. The Saxons will play their home opener the following week against Jefferson on Friday, Sept. 9.

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## In The Throes



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not really in a significant way. But when there's one more thing, and that thing can run the gamut from the sublime to the ridiculous, and/or from the serious and time-sensitive to the familiar and regularly recurring, it may be just enough additional mental weight at the least opportune time, and over the mental edge I go. Not in any sort of way where I need psychiatric assistance or 24/7 monitoring, but in a way where it affects how I want to be: calm, functioning and relatively normal ("normal" meaning, in this context: not having cancer).

As much as I don't want this cancer diagnosis/living-with-cancer existence to define me, it does, more often than I care to admit, control me; sometimes consciously, other times, subconsciously. I don't want to think and feel certain emotions, some of which are really unhelpful in my daily pursuit of normalcy, but circumstances beyond my control – unfortunately, inevitably, trigger some sort of acknowledgment of my cancer reality, and as a result, sometimes, I go to a bad place. Moreover, if the timing of that trigger is particularly poor – like now, it adds to the weight that all of us cancer/terminal patients carry and unbalances that mental load. At least it does for me.

What's caused me to bend but not quite break of late is the need to change my health insurance coverage. Given that I've now been on Social Security Disability for two years (as of 8/1/2011; that's what happens when you outlive your prognosis), I am eligible, though "underage" for Medicare. My wife however, is not eligible. Ergo, the complication. Medicare is not a family plan. As such, if I elect to participate, I no longer need the health insurance offered by the Connection. And once my inclusion in that plan ceases, the coverage for my wife ceases, so not only am I changing my coverage, I'm changing hers as well.

With these changes comes: uncertainty. And if there's one area/subject where I'd rather not have any uncertainty right now, it's health insurance, for me and my family. To say that making the wrong decision/assessment about what we decide to do could cost me my life and/or our life savings is almost not doing justice to the seriousness and depth of this situation/problem we face. (Or maybe that's simply the cancer diagnosis talking?)

I am hardly at the age and/or in the health circumstance where I could afford (literally and figuratively) one wrong move. And once going forward, I doubt there's much recourse, other than to suffer/endure the consequences of my/our actions. (If my father impressed anything on me, it was to "be aware of the consequences of your actions.") Ordinarily, as a long-time, former insurance salesman/financial planner, these sorts of insurance/financial decisions/calculations were fairly routine and not at all emotionally charged. But I hadn't been diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer back then (by the way, in case you don't know, there's no stage V). And as much as I try to pretend and/or deny now, that I don't have cancer – or not admit it's who I am, the more frequently my subconscious seems to take over and complicate my life. What tasks used to be simple now seem more challenging, even though I don't consciously think I feel any different. But I am different. And some days, certain decisions really make that obvious.

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

## SPORTS



Members of the Great Falls Nationals 12s travel baseball team recently returned from Cooperstown Dreams Park in New York following a week of baseball which culminated in their induction into the American Youth Baseball Hall of Fame. Pictured are Brendan Lohmar, Michael Dziak, Brett Cooker, Tyler Tugwell, Andrew Shapiro, Alex Gerhardt, Erik Toor, Jack Bonham, Jimmy Check, Ben Gryski, Griffin Cosgrove, Matt Poyner and Robert Fredrick. The team was coached by Scott Findley and his father Gary Findley, who coach and teach in Fairfax County Public Schools. Not pictured: Antonio Menendez.

## Great Falls Nats Return from Cooperstown

For Great Falls players, a week of dreams fulfilled.

Cool evening air, rain-soaked opening ceremonies, a seven-night "sleepover" with teammates, trading and collecting team pins with new friends from around the U.S. and Canada — all images that linger after a week-long celebration of baseball traditions and competitive excellence in Cooperstown, N.Y. After two years of planning and preparation, the Great Falls Nationals and their families embarked on a trip that would be their final journey as Little Leaguers.

Each week from early June through the end of August, roughly 100 Little League majors' teams descend on Cooperstown Dreams Park for their chance to "live the dream." Patriotic and inspirational themes abound as the teams march in opening ceremonies then move on to individual and team skills competitions including King of Swat, Golden Arm, Roadrunner and Around the Horn. Three days of pool play follow with each team competing in six games. The journey culminates with a single-elimination championship tournament, fireworks and induction of players into the American Youth Baseball Hall of Fame.

The Presutti family, who founded Dreams Park in 1996, say they did so to honor their grandfather's dream that every Little Leaguer in America would have an opportunity to play baseball in Cooperstown, regarded by most as the birthplace of the game.

For Great Falls it was a week of dreams fulfilled. In his first at bat in game one, lead-off hitter Brett Cooker ignited the team with a powerful home run shot over the center



Coach Scott Findley of the Great Falls Nationals congratulates Brett Cooker as he rounds third on a home run trot.

field wall. He went on to hit five homeruns in six games. Other homerun hitters included Jimmy Check (3), Griffin Cosgrove (2), Robert Fredrick (1), Alex Gerhardt (1) Matt Poyner (1), and Andrew Shapiro (1).

Game one ended in a heart-breaking 11-12 extra innings loss to the Las Vegas Lightning, a team, like many in Cooperstown, with a roster of talented players spanning multiple zip codes. Undeterred by the loss, the Nats went on to win four games against the East Carolina Pirates, the West LA Bruins, the Michigan Young Guns and the Olean Oilers.

In game two, Matt Poyner pitched a complete game against the East Carolina Pirates finishing with an 11-2 win, 11 strikeouts and no walks. Against all opponents combined, the Nats scored 56 runs and gave up 28. With a 4-2 record in pool play, the team's

solid run of hitting and pitching placed them 26th in the field of 104 teams going into the single elimination tournament.

Despite earning a third round bye, the Nats found themselves bested in the tournament by the Towamencin Titans from Pennsylvania. The Titans rallied in the 4th inning to break a 4-4 tie and win the game 7-5.

As the Nats left the dugout, tears and long faces reflected shared disappointment that the dream had run its course. But the cheers and applause of waiting family members and the boys' genuine expressions of appreciation for one another and their coaches took hold and before long there were smiles and laughter and stories being told of the great times had at Cooperstown.

— DAWNA POYNER

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