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From left, Linda Waitkus, "salesperson" Dolly, a six-year-old golden retriever and Margarita Diaz at Great Dogs of Great Falls. Waitkus bought the store three years ago.



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To GFCA
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Speaking for
Her Generation
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PET CONNECTION, PAGE 10

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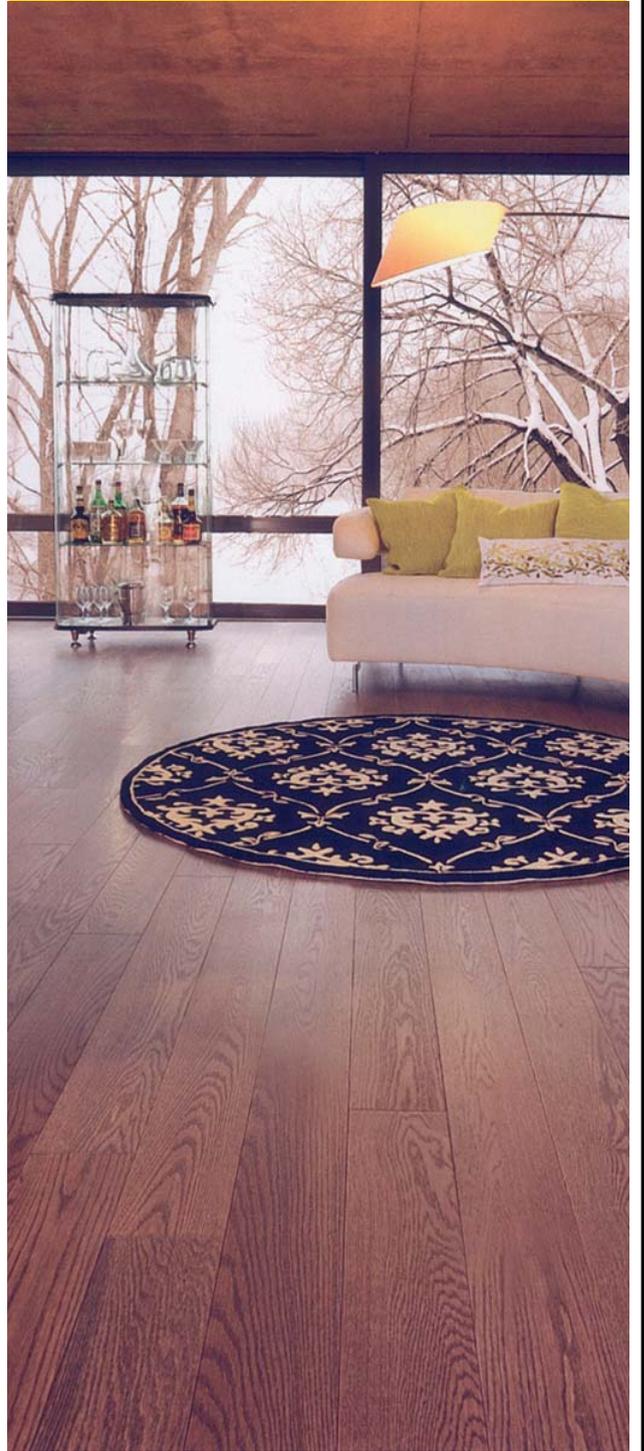
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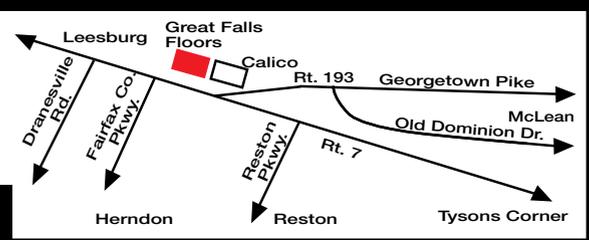
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Speaking for Her Generation

Langley High Junior Lucy Gunter elected as School Board Student Representative.

BY CYNTHIA CROSS
THE CONNECTION

In many ways, Fairfax County School Board's newly elected student representative Lucy Gunter leads the life of a typical Langley High School Junior: she works hard to balance the demands of difficult course work, sports and activities both inside and outside of school. But Gunter possesses a couple of things that set her apart from her peers: the desire to gain a broader perspective on the lives of Fairfax County students, and the motivation to promote changes for the benefit of those students. She sees her one-year term on the School Board, which will begin on July 1, as a means to that end. "I've been very involved in my school for years," she says, "and I've gotten to know students at lots of other schools through sports and other things. I see this opportunity as a way to get involved on a wider basis, as a way to make an impact."

GUNTER is actively involved at Langley, in the school's leadership program and beyond. She has juggled her leadership offices - class president freshman year, Student Advisory Council rep this year - with field hockey and track and field, and is currently president of Langley's chapter of Best Buddies, a club that promotes one-on-one friendships with students with intellectual disabilities. Sophomore year she founded Otto's Army, a club with the mission of building school spirit, and currently serves as its president. She is a member of both the National Honor and Leadership Honor Societies and serves on the school's prom committee. But the number and variety of her activities does not seem to dilute Gunter's commitment to any, according to Sandra Hamilton, one of Gunter's leadership teachers. "In each and every position," Hamilton says, "Lucy has given her all." Gunter recalls her mother reciting Mahatma Gandhi's "Be the change that you wish to see in the world" message early in her high school career. "I guess I kind of took that to heart," she says.

Gunter, who as student rep will be a nonvoting member of the School Board, does not have a rigid agenda for her year's service on the School Board. She did feel strongly about the need to eliminate the \$100 per-sport fee on Virginia High School League athletes (the School Board recently voted to drop the fee for the 2012-13 school year) and she would like to promote technology training support for teachers. But her main objective is to learn as intimately as possible the perspectives, needs and viewpoints



Langley leadership students Senior Holly Dodd, Lucy Gunter and Junior Charlee Vasiliadis in front of a poster advertising "Thon," a dance-a-thon to benefit veterans.

PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA CROSS/ THE CONNECTION



Lucy Gunter with her Langley leadership teachers, Sandra Hamilton (left) and Mary Landis (right).

of the County's students, and to represent them on the School Board as forcefully as she can. "I want to form my agenda based on the students' opinions, not my personal opinions," she says.

TO THAT END, Gunter recently accompanied the School Board's outgoing student rep, Mount Vernon Senior Eugene Coleman III, on a visit to Mountain View High School in Centreville. "We visited classes, talked with the principal and a lot of the students," Gunter says. "We spent a lot of time listening to the students, which was really valuable." Gunter plans to visit as many schools as she can this year. "I think our County is really great," she says, "but there are ways to make it better for all students. I'm really excited to help make that happen."

According to Mary Landis, Gunter's other leadership teacher at Langley, Gunter has all the tools that the job demands. "Lucy is the perfect choice to be the student rep to the School Board," says Landis. "She is very mature, but also has a terrific personality and excitement for life. She works hard to improve school spirit and leads by example. Lucy's maturity enables her to communicate comfortably with both students and adults. I think she will be an excellent advocate for her fellow students."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A rendering of the proposed Brightview assisted living facility, as was presented to the Great Falls Citizens Association Land Use and Zoning committee Feb 15.

Brightview Specifications Presented to GFCA

Land Use and Zoning committee hears information on proposed assisted living facility.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls Citizens Association's Land Use and Zoning committee began hearing information on architectural specifications for the proposed Brightview assisted living facility. The facility, which was approved as a special exception by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors last year, will be located off Colvin Run Mill where Thelma's was previously located.

Shelter, LLC, the company building Brightview, signed a memorandum of understanding with the GFCA last May which allows the GFCA to have input on the building's design.

Representatives for Shelter presented their initial designs at a Feb. 15 public hearing at the Great Falls Library. Buzz Drury, architect for the project, said they are aiming for a low-impact design.

"When we started the project, we knew we were going into a delicate community fabric, and our goal is to keep the building as 'silent' as possible," he said.

The 53,000 square foot, three-story building will be no higher than 40 feet. It will be designed with what Drury called "the moss green color range." He said they started their designs with the type of stone used at the Great Falls Fire Station, but found it too rugged.

They chose Eldorado stones, which are more uniform in height and resemble bricks.

Drury said it could be possible in future weeks to have a mock-up of the materials and colors that will be used displayed at the site. He also said the south and west sides of the property will have the most impact on the community, so they will be "softened" the most.

Shelter presented their design to the county's Architectural Review Board on Feb. 9.

"We will have new renderings as soon as the colors are finalized," said Andrew Teeters, senior director for development for Shelter. "Going forward, we'll be taking public comments into consideration and may modify the design, but we won't be going back to the ARB."

Wayne Foley, a member of the committee, said he wanted to make sure the community has input on the design.

"We'd like to see it vetted in the community, seeing the colors are one thing, but we also want them to see the design," he said. "We're going to try as hard as we can to get as much input as possible, so the people who say they don't like the design have seen it and know what they don't like."

The Land Use and Zoning committee will prepare a report on the facility, which will be available on the GFCA's website, www.gfca.org.

OBITUARY

Owner of The Golden Pineapple Passes Away



Barbra Yakimchick Zimnoch

Barbra Yakimchick Zimnoch, a long-time Great Falls resident and business owner, passed away on Feb. 7. For 31 years she owned and operated The Golden Pineapple in the Great Falls Village Center. Prior to that, she owned a gift shop at Lake Anne in Reston.

Zimnoch is survived by her four children, Rosemary Maione, Theresa Zimnoch, Kara Fleshner and Gary Zimnoch and three grandchildren, Lindsay Bree Gonzaba, Nicholas Anthony Gonzaba and Gundrun Grace Fleshner. She leaves behind a husband, Gabriel S. Zimnoch, whom she married in 1963.

The Golden Pineapple was known as much for Barbara's personality as it was for the store's offerings. She created an atmosphere in the store where people could come by to stay a while and talk. She was a social woman who forged lifelong friendships with many of her customers. "It was always a laugh of some sort and

the story of the day when I stopped in," customer and friend Jackie Esch said. "She knew the community so well and she was there for everyone. She will be remembered for her warmth, kindness and generosity," Esch said.

Her children remember a woman who deeply loved Great Falls and especially enjoyed children. "My mom always loved sitting on the porch at Halloween passing out candy to the thousands of kids. She watched so many grow up and loved when they visited. My mom knew the town and its people," said her daughter Theresa.

Settling in Great Falls was a joy to Zimnoch, who had traveled the world as a child. She was born in Honolulu, Hawaii during the tumultuous times of Pearl Harbor. When she came to the mainland United States she lived in Kentucky, Texas, Maryland, Ohio, Tennessee and Rhode Island before Virginia. But once she took up residence in Great Falls she did so with gusto. She became quite involved with the town not just through her business but was active in several civic organizations and the Republican Women's Committee in Great Falls.

Though a life-long Republican, she had an affinity for one Democrat, John F. Kennedy. They both attended Holy Trinity Church back when he was in Congress. She had a beautiful singing voice and was a part of the choir. After service one day she found his hymn book with his name and address written in it. She went to his house to return it and Kennedy thanked her and told her he remembered her and thought she had an angelic voice.

Zimnoch was a multifaceted woman who did everything from knit to ride horses. Social graces were important to Zimnoch who, though not raised in the South, felt that manners and a well tended garden were prime attributes for a woman.

Many homes throughout Great Falls are decorated with pieces bought at The Golden Pineapple. The store's Christmas and Easter selections were legendary. Holiday decorating was one of Zimnoch's favorite pastimes.

Zimnoch loved to laugh and shared her laughter with others. She loved the symphony, mystery novels, Clay Aiken, crime shows and the Redskins. A private celebration of her life will be held later this year by her family.

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NEWS



Skye Toor, cello.



Matt Cooley and Alexcia Chambers, string basses.

PHOTOS BY THERESE MORIN

Langley, Cooper Orchestra Pyramid Concert on Feb. 28

The Langley and Cooper orchestra programs will combine for their annual Pyramid Concert on Tuesday, Feb 28 at 7 p.m. at the Langley High School Auditorium. The concert is free, and public is invited.

The orchestras will perform selections that they will take into competition at the District 12 Orchestra Assessment. Violinist Kimiya Haghighi and cellist Constance Chiu will be featured in Astor

Piazzolla's "The Four Seasons." Michelle Park will be the organ soloist in Albinoni's "Adagio."

The concert will be conducted by Dr. Scott McCormick and Bo Min Son.

The District 12 Orchestra Assessment for high schools will take place at Chantilly HS on March 2-3. The assessment for middle school orchestras will be at Washington-Lee High School, on March 9-10.



The Langley High singers (from left) include, top row: Sam Mayman (alternate), Jesse Levin, Kevin Moussavi-Nejad, Craig McKenzie, Chris Paul (alternate), Brian Niu. Middle row: Grant Brown, Beth Richardson (alternate), Mia Vacek-Engelhardt, Taylor Goodson, Alfred Lam (alternate), Mark Paulson (alternate). Front row: Abby Thompson (alternate), Sarah Larkworthy (alternate), Sarah Etherton, Elly Sheers (alternate), Stephanie Anderson, and Isabel Hefner.

All-Virginia Chorus Selected

The finest high school singers in Virginia will study and perform advanced choral music in Lynchburg from April 26-28 during the All-Virginia Chorus event. Langley High School will send the largest contingent of singers among all high schools in Fairfax County with 10 selected performers and eight alternates. These students will have the opportunity to study and perform under the direction of master teachers and conductors throughout the weekend at this annual event sponsored by the Virginia Choral Director's Association. The Langley singers were selected through state-wide auditions held in February at Washington-Lee High School.

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THE COUNTY LINE

Honoring Grads Who Choose to Serve

Burke moms lobby school board to recognize enlistees during graduation ceremonies.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

When Carolyn Kellam's 17-year-old son, Danny, asked for permission to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps last year, she said "the mom in me was scared to death, but the citizen in me was very proud."

Christine Zinser remembers the exact day her son, Philipp, asked to enlist. It was Valentine's Day, 2011. Instead of flowers or chocolate, her son stunned her by declaring his intent to become a U.S. Marine.

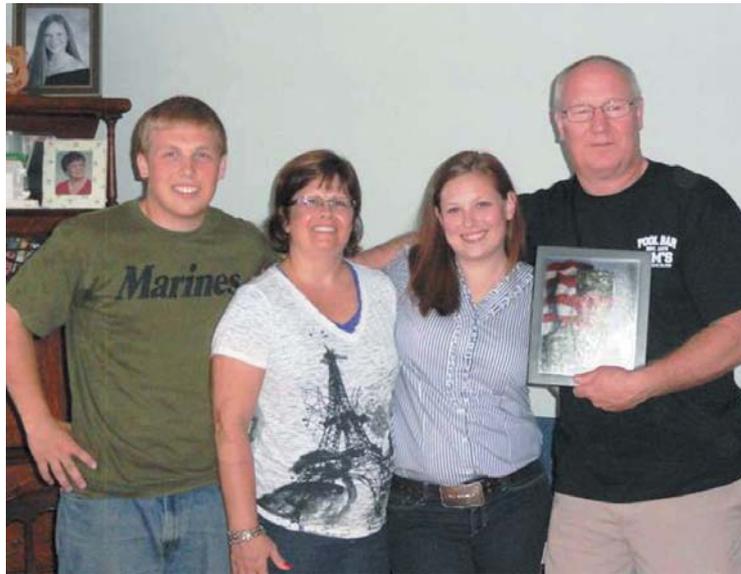
"I thought I would be finalizing college selection and admission paperwork," Zinser said. "At a time when our nation was at war, my son was choosing a military career and because of his age, needed my permission."

Both Burke moms struggled with questions. Would they be sending their sons into harm's way? What would their sons do if they just said no. Their fear eventually gave way to a sense of pride, and they allowed their sons, then seniors at Robinson Secondary School, to enlist.

But another obstacle was around the corner.

"As it was nearing the end of his senior year, and having been the parent of other students who were recognized for their academic or athletic achievements at graduation functions, I just assumed that the young men and women who were making the same decision as my son would receive recognition at their graduation ceremonies," Zinser said.

She was wrong. Frustrated by repeated attempts to get enlistees recognized during Robinson's graduation ceremony, Zinser decided to take action. In three weeks, she organized a separate ceremony with the help of Kellam, Braddock Supervisor John Cook, and an organization called Our Community Salutes. The ceremony for all Robinson military enlistees, held



On June 18, 2011, the day after graduating from Robinson Secondary School, Danny Kellam celebrated his 18th birthday with (from left) his mother, Carolyn, sister, Kristen and father, Jim. On June 20, Danny Kellam left for Parris Island.

at the Braddock District Hall last June 9, was standing room only.

"I think it's a great idea," said Cook. "We ought to be recognizing these students for their commitment and sacrifice. I'm glad to see the school board talking about it."

Although their sons completed boot camp after graduation, the lack of formal recognition by FCPS still rankles both moms.

FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS, they have been lobbying members of the Fairfax County School Board to ensure that any student who chooses to serve is recognized during high school graduation ceremonies.

Several school board members said they supported a uniform policy for 2012 graduation ceremonies.

"There is so much to be gained in honoring these students, and nothing to be lost," said school board member Elizabeth Schultz (Springfield). As the daughter of a Navy Captain and mother of four sons, she said she feels strongly that all FCPS graduations

SEE MOMS, PAGE 14

"I want it done for this year. I'm not about kicking the can down the road."

— School Board member
Elizabeth Schultz



The first ceremony was held at Braddock Hall last June, 2011. U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly's office helped organize the ceremony along with Braddock Supervisor John Cook and Our Community Salutes, a non-profit created in 2009 to recognize and honor high school seniors who plan to enlist in the military immediately after high school graduation.

Schultz Requests Public Hearing

Majority of school board members support "individualized" graduation ceremonies.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

After a majority (7-5) of Fairfax County School Board members resisted a uniform policy to recognize military enlistees with honor cords during graduation ceremonies at its Feb. 13 work session, Elizabeth Schultz (Springfield) launched a campaign for a public hearing on the issue.

During the all-day work session, Schultz sent an email notifying Carolyn Kellam and Christine Zinser that the board heard from several "hand-picked" FCPS principals "who sought to retain autonomy for highly-individualized graduations," Schultz wrote.

She said she was "grossly disappointed we are even talking

about this in terms of 'require' or 'compel' rather than seeing a 'race to embrace' this!"

Instead of a standardized policy, the board crafted the following motion to be presented as "new business" at its Feb. 23 meeting, and an "action item" at its regular board meeting on March 8:

"Direct the superintendent to require high school principals to recognize at commencement exercises those graduating seniors who have enlisted in the military; the recognition should be in a manner consistent with the decorum of each individual school's ceremony."

In addition to Schultz, school board members who did support a standardized policy for Honor Cord recognition were:

SEE HEARING, PAGE 14

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OPINION

Crossover in Richmond

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



Last week was "crossover" for the General Assembly— the time when each house of the legislature must complete consideration of bills introduced into its chamber. After Tuesday of last week, only bills introduced by the Senate can be considered by the House of Delegates and vice versa. The exception is the budget bill, which is given an additional week for consideration in each house. Bills that had been tabled during debate in the house in which they were introduced are now effectively defeated.

Hundreds of bills have been passed in each house, but most of the bills impact only a small number of people, government and court procedures, and local governments. In order for a bill to become a law it must pass both houses

of the legislature in identical form and be signed by the Governor. Bills on the same subject that are passed in different form by the two houses are reconsidered by committees of conference, usually made up of three delegates and three senators. If an agreement cannot be reached and then approved by both houses, the bills are then considered to be defeated.

Here is where some of the high-profile issues are in the House: current law limiting handgun purchases to one per month passed the House. I voted against this. A similar bill is coming over from the Senate. The Governor has said that he will sign it, justifying its legitimacy on the basis of the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

Ultrasound requirements before receiving an abortion also passed the House. Again, I voted "no." No health reasons were given in its support. This will be used as a way to slow down the abortion process and will also make it more difficult for women to make a decision. I also voted against the bill that defines a fetus as a person. The implications for the legislation are not fully known but clearly far-reaching. Whether it outlaws some forms of contraception or could be used to outlaw abortion entirely by the overturning of Roe V. Wade, many real concerns are being raised.

The death penalty was expanded to include others beyond the "triggerman," in murder cases. I also chose to oppose this, as I oppose all death penalty bills. Several immigration bills requiring a check of immigration status of individuals came up as well. I voted against these measures.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Human Services Need Support

To the Editor:

I am pleased to see coverage about the actions of the General Assembly, but I think the legislative effect on human services needs more emphasis since the stakes are so high. Now is not the time to cut funds from programs that are helping struggling neighbors in need become self-sufficient. That was the message that I—along with a group of other Virginia nonprofit leaders—delivered to the General Assembly in Richmond recently. The reality for many families we serve is they have to make tough choices: do I eat or pay rent, do I miss work for a sick child and lose my job, or do I buy school supplies or clothes. Unfortunately, if the Virginia Legislature cuts funds that support our core services and diverts sales taxes to fund transportation, the choices will become even more desperate for the 58,000 Fairfax County residents living in poverty—who are productive, contributing citizens that just need a little help to stay stable. Fifty-nine percent of the cuts in the Governor's budget impact people who are low-income. The long-term ramifications could be significant for our region, which is already reeling from the great recession.

Amanda Andere
FACETS Executive Director

Trust Deficit In FCPS

To the Editor:

The following open letter is addressed to the Fairfax County School Board.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your dedication to the students, parents and teachers of Fairfax County Public Schools. It is obvious to me that often you have an all-consuming, thankless responsibility to ensure the best education policies are in place for our school system—all on a so-called "part time basis"! I am sure your families and friends chuckle often on the term "part-time"!

Generally, I am a supporter of a "Governance Policy" to streamline the workload and to reduce redundancy of tasks for a part-time School Board. Alas, we have a serious trust deficit occurring in Fairfax County Public Schools that has been building up over the last 7-10 years, or possibly even longer. This trust deficit is placing an undue burden on our School Board members and I hope with the hiring of a new Superintendent, this burden can be lightened.

In the meantime, it is your sworn duty as elected officials to ensure that the policies and guidelines that are set down on record, either by your votes, or state and federal laws, are implemented in a legal and consistent manner county-wide. When you have an uproar across the county from students, parents and teachers regarding an egregious lack of public engagement on an important issue, then our elected School Board is obligated to take action beyond the Governance Policy. This is what occurred recently regarding the 11-1 vote on Jan 26 to add five Honors courses to our high school course of studies for the coming school year. It was right and just for our elected

School Board to give credence to the strong outpouring of concern for appropriate learning options. Our county administration had been appealed to for years with no appropriate response as they disregarded important input from the community.

Since the "Retreat" is open to public observers as should be the case, I was very disheartened to hear the tone and demeanor taken by the so-called "moderators" of this "team-building" effort. In my opinion, many of the discussions and name-calling examples given, demonstrated no collaborative effort but rather took on the form of ridiculous bullying. What a sham of professional, educated communication! I think those who established the agenda and the goals of this "retreat" should be closely examined as to their purpose and abilities to lead a venue in such an unprofessional manner. I also think that any professional moderators who complied with such an unprofessional agenda should return the \$5000-plus that they charged for this lack of quality service to our county. The School Board's involvement and strong supportive vote to add the Honors courses was time and again used as an example of a School Board not doing a good job! Ask the countless students who now have a few more appropriate learning options if that was "a bad decision"! Add up the emails, letters, articles and public statements as to the community opinion on adding those courses!

I agree that—ideally—a School Board would just have to "oversee." A great superintendent earns the general trust of the public and the more developed trust

of a School Board, which creates a situation where the board can be more hands-off, as the Governance Policy alludes to.

Alas, that is not the case in FCPS. There is a "trust deficit" with top-down decisions lacking teacher and public input, lowest teacher morale on record, lack of evaluative transparency for just about every budgetary and statistical data report and a climate of intimidation fostered at the highest levels.

When a superintendent lacks transparency and cannot effectively show, when pushed, that he is operating in the best interest of the students, the School Board is obliged to step in and micromanage on some specific issues.

A superintendent needs to keep the board and the public fully apprised of decision-making and its rationale, no matter how exhausting and irritating. That's the job. If you're making good decisions, it won't be so very onerous to open them up to public view. Those ideas should sell themselves to a smart, educated county like Fairfax. In contrast, Dale & Co are making questionable decisions, in secret, that benefit administrators most of all. Unfortunately, in this case the school board needs to step in and protect the needs of our children. That's the job.

Please don't allow the messages hammered-in at this retreat or at future venues to weaken your resolve to do your elected duty and to ensure that your votes and actions represent credible, honest leadership!

Kate Van Dyck,
parent and teacher
for Restore Honors Courses

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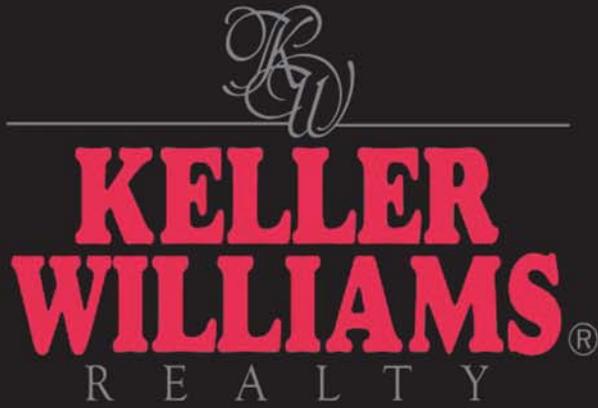
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Dolly, the newest "salesperson" at Great Dogs of Great Falls, stands next to the store's dalmatian mascot.

PET CONNECTION Serving Dogs and Cats in Great Falls

Great Dogs of Great Falls offers variety of services for pets.

By ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

When it came time to choose a second career, Linda Waitkus wasn't sure what to do. After 30 years of retail experience, including managing the Bloomingdale's at Tysons Corner, she looked in several directions. But it wasn't until she went to a meeting of a local women's club that she got an idea.

"The group asked 'what do you like to read? What do you do on your days off?' and my answer was 'dogs, dogs, dogs,'" she said. "So I decided not to fight my retail instincts, just combine it with what I love."

Waitkus purchased Great Dogs in Great Falls in November of 2008, and more than three years later, it's still going strong. The store contains anything a dog, or cat, could want, including food, accessories, toys and grooming services.

Waitkus says she places a special emphasis on food, making sure to buy foods that are healthy and affordable, without the byproducts that are found in so many mainstream brands.

"There is absolutely, positively not one byproduct in this store," she said. "We're trying to build an animal's health through good nutrition, which will help them fight off a lot of problems in the future."

Staff at the store can also consult with pet owners who are concerned about an animal's food allergies or weight.

"Until going into Great Dogs, I wasn't sure there was a difference between dog foods, I used to get whatever was on sale," said Beth Armstrong of Great Falls. "It was enlightening to hear about how certain ingredients can hurt, or help your dog's health, and how easy it is to find the right food if you just look around."

Great Dogs also features grooming services for any species of dog, from puppies to the elderly.

"Grooming is kind of our claim to fame,

our staff is very dedicated, and anyone that comes in can see how much we all truly love dogs," said Waitkus, who personally grooms all the golden retrievers, her favorite breed. "While they're here, the dogs are always in

"My goal has always been to make this a community-based pet store, and it's been such a wonderful experience getting to know our customers, coming in and seeing friends and neighbors in conversation."

— Linda Waitkus, Owner, Great Dogs of Great Falls

and neighbors in conversation," she said. "It's because of our wonderful clients that we've been able to grow, and I think it becomes this network where people can meet and get into intimate conversations."

Helen Mason of McLean says she enjoys the atmosphere of Great Dogs more than one of the bigger chain stores.

"When you go in, you really get the sense that the people there are genuinely concerned with the welfare of your pet, not just about making a sale or filling time on their shift," she said. "They know their stuff, and they are always willing to help make the best decision for your pet."

In the future, Waitkus says she hopes to get the store more involved in adoption events and other animal organizations. They participated in a drive for the Loudoun-based Friends of Homeless Animals last year, raising funds and other pet supplies for the group.

More information is available at www.greatdogsofgreatfalls.com.

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All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.

HOME SALES

In January 2012, 16 Great Falls homes sold between \$2,070,000-\$550,000.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision
10508 WYNFIELD WOODS DR	6	7	2		GREAT FALLS	\$2,070,000	Detached	0.87	22066	FOX RUN
770 STRAWFIELD LN	6	6	3		GREAT FALLS	\$1,900,000	Detached	1.98	22066	RIVERBEND
419 WALKER RD	4	4	2		GREAT FALLS	\$1,725,000	Detached	2.32	22066	SPRINGVALE FOREST ESTATE
421 WALKER RD	5	5	2		GREAT FALLS	\$1,500,000	Detached	2.27	22066	SPRINGVALE FOREST ESTATE
11524 SENECA FARM WAY	4	3	2		GREAT FALLS	\$1,350,000	Detached	1.73	22066	BITTERSWEET FARMS
11116 RICH MEADOW DR	5	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,250,000	Detached	1.81	22066	RICHLAND MEADOWS
1020 PRESERVE CT	5	5	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,177,000	Detached	0.86	22066	GREAT FALLS WOODS
717 ELLSWORTH AVE	4	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$890,000	Detached	0.57	22066	GREEN ACRES
9508 PAMLICO LN	4	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$835,000	Detached	0.92	22066	RIVERSIDE MANOR
966 MILLWOOD RD	4	3	0		GREAT FALLS	\$812,500	Detached	4.25	22066	JACKSON MILL WOODS
899 VAN DUSEN CT	4	2	1		GREAT FALLS	\$745,000	Detached	0.50	22066	LOCKMEADE
10508 BREVITY DR	4	3	0		GREAT FALLS	\$710,000	Detached	0.72	22066	LEXINGTON ESTATES
1009 CHALLEDON RD	5	3	0		GREAT FALLS	\$620,000	Detached	0.52	22066	LEXINGTON ESTATES
11100 BOWEN AVE	4	3	0		GREAT FALLS	\$610,000	Detached	0.68	22066	TIMBER LAKE ESTATES
1165 KETTLE POND LN	4	3	0		GREAT FALLS	\$600,000	Detached	0.77	22066	LOCKMEADE
9029 JACKSON LN	4	2	1		GREAT FALLS	\$550,000	Detached	2.00	22066	THREE SWALLOWS FARM

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PET CONNECTION



Miss Tidbit, a 23-years-young kitten, is taking a ride with her Poppy Gene on his new tractor.



Bruno, a 14 year-old Chocolate Lab owned by the Parent family of Great Falls, "loves to dance," says Loni Parent.



Pam McDorman and Cutter, a 15-year-old appendix and Lark, an 18-year-old thoroughbred.



Pam and Wayne McDorman with Ella.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 22

Great Falls Historical Society. 7 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. In celebration of Black History Month, architectural historian and preservation consultant Tanya Edwards Beauchamp will share discoveries about Salem Baptist Church, formerly at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Seneca Road. The church was founded by the descendants of emancipated slaves Joseph and Anna Ford and their daughter Lettie Ford Ellis. www.GFHS.org.

Classics of the Silent Screen Series. 8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The showing will include Charlie Chaplin in *The Pawn Shop* (1916), Harold Lloyd in *High and Dizzy* (1920), Buster Keaton in *The Goat* (1921), Charley Chase in *Dog Shy* (1926) and Laurel and Hardy in *You're Darn Tootin'* (1928). Live accompaniment by film historian and preservationist Ben Model and introductions and commentary by Bruce Lawton. \$6-\$10. sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/FEB. 23

Sixth & I and Jammin Java
Present: William Fitzsimmons and Denison Witmer. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.
"Three Bears." 12 p.m. 1st Stage,



PHOTO BY TERESE MORIN

Sarah White and Kathlyn Silverman, violas. The Langley and Cooper orchestra programs will combine for their annual Pyramid Concert on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. in Langley High School's Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. They will perform selections that they will take into competition at the District 12 Orchestra Assessment. Violinist Kimiya Haghighi and cellist Constance Chiu will be featured in Astor Piazzolla's "The Four Seasons." Michelle Park will be the organ soloist in Albinoni's "Adagio." Free. smcquade2002@yahoo.com.

1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A brand-new play with a comedic twist on the classic fairy tale sends the Three Bears and a golden-haired friend on an a cappella musical adventure. Fast-paced fun for age 5 and up. Tickets \$15 at www.1ststageTysons.org or 703-854-1856.

Meet the Author: Thomas V. Cooper, Jr. 4 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. McLean author Tom Cooper discusses his book, "A Logical Approach to Obtain Miracles: A Guide to Achieving God's Promises"

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

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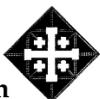


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New Union Baptist Church... 703-281-2556

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Vajrayogini Buddhist Center... 202-331-2122

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Moms Campaign to Honor Enlistees

FROM PAGE 6

should include recognizing enlistees by allowing them to wear honor cords at their graduation ceremonies.

"I want it done for this year. I'm not about kicking the can down the road," Schultz said. "I see this as a policy issue that, rather than being left up to the discretion of each individual school principal or cluster, we should do consistently across our student body."

Schultz made sure the issue came up during the school board's forum session on Jan. 26. "Forums," generally held before each regular board meeting, are sessions in which the public can attend and observe but are not invited to speak, and board members determine if any issues merit further discussion during formal meetings.

Christine Zinser and Danny Kellam attended the Jan. 26 forum. "I really feel like these kids are a forgotten spoke in the wheel of recognizing our military families," Zinser said after the forum.

"We laud those returning from war, mourn those who have fallen, show unflinching support for the families of active duty military personnel, compassion for those who sustain injuries and immense respect for our veterans," Zinser added. "But the young men and women who choose to serve, especially when our nation is at war, go unrecognized."

BOARD MEMBER Ted Velkoff (At-large) said he supports the



PFC Daniel Kellam on graduation day from boot camp on Parris Island, S. C. on Sept. 16. He is standing with his cousin, Heather Gillespie (left) and sister, Kristen Kellam (right).

idea, but is not certain it needs to be policy.

"We're in information-gathering mode, but I believe there will be consensus around this, whether it's encouragement to students and principals to recognize students with the cords, or implemented through policy," Velkoff said. "I would be astonished if there's any resistance to this."

Pat Hynes, who represents the Hunter Mill district, said in an email to Zinser that she is "hopeful that we can do whatever is necessary to ensure they get the recognition they deserve as they graduate."

Deputy Superintendent Dr. Richard Moniuszko said schools are reluctant to abandon their traditions to a "one-size-fits-all" motion, adding that recognition at gradu-

ation should be in line with the decorum at each school.

"There's no real issue with recognition of students who enter the military at graduation," said Moniuszko. "However, each high school has its own traditions and manner of recognizing individual students. Many of our graduations are planned by the students themselves, and individual student recognition occurs at their convocation or Senior Awards night prior to graduation."

He said types of recognition at commencement is not a level of detail that traditionally warrants a formal policy, but rather a district guideline or regulation.

Schultz said the board asked principals to come to the next school board meeting with ideas on how to implement a policy.

"We don't need to put up administrative hurdles. With a little bit of directed effort, we can make this happen. We need to send the message to these students that we're proud of you, and we acknowledge you," she said.

Kellam said she would like to see recognition given to every graduating Fairfax County senior who is enlisting in the military right after graduation.

"I feel that these courageous young men and women deserve some recognition and feel that a red, white and blue cord worn at graduation is a fitting tribute of their dedication to our county," Kellam said.

A Fairfax County 9-1-1 operator, Kellam said only one percent of graduating seniors volunteer to enlist in the military. "That one percent needs to be acknowledged."

"They want to fight for our country. It's awful and wonderful at the same time. My son is being deployed in April. It's hard for me to talk about without crying," Kellam said. "Knowing that the community appreciates their service is a huge deal mentally when they are deployed."

"Wearing the cord to the graduation ceremony embodies the mission of FCPS which is to inspire, enable, and empower students to meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives, and demonstrate responsible citizenship," Zinser said. "If enlisting in our armed services isn't one of the highest examples of responsible citizenship, I fail to see what is."

Public Hearing Requested

FROM PAGE 6

Sandy Evans (Mason); Patty Reed (Providence); Megan McLaughlin (Braddock) and Ted Velkoff (at-large). Those who did not support the initiative: Kathy Smith (Sully); Chairman Jane Strauss (Dranesville); Vice-Chairman Ilyong Moon, (at-large); Dan Storck (Mount Vernon); Tamara Derenak Kaufax (Lee); Pat Hynes, (Hunter Mill); and Ryan McElveen (at-large).

McElveen, who, at 27, is one of the youngest elected officials in Fairfax County, said he initially supported the idea, but changed his mind after hearing from several of the principals who spoke at the work session.

"After hearing the perspective of the principals and drawing on my own experience as someone who organized a graduation ceremony as a class president 'back in the day,' I remembered how students took pride in planning their ceremonies and that every school's ceremony has a different flavor," McElveen said.

Current policy is vague: Fairfax County high schools maintain individualized graduation

ceremonies while following system guidelines.

McElveen said this essentially means that each high school determines its own graduation regalia, and cords take on different meaning at each school. Some schools don't use them at all, he pointed out.

McElveen said he supported Dan Storck's proposal that called for all schools to recognize enlistees at graduation ceremonies, but left it up to the students in each community to determine how enlistees would be recognized.

"It provides a great learning experience for those students to reflect on the importance of enlisting in the armed services, much more than would another centrally-mandated ceremonial requirement," McElveen said.

"Our job is to keep students at the center, and Dan's proposal did just that."

But Schultz said anything short of a standardized graduation policy was disappointing.

"I am very sad that we didn't vote for Honor Cords for our enlistees today," she said. "Seven of my fellow school board members do not value the enlistment and service of our graduates into military service for their behalf

enough to seek a singular form of recognition, but at least we got agreement that schools must include some measure of outward, meaningful recognition at the actual graduation, not just Senior Awards."

Schultz said she has requested "transparency," by giving the public an opportunity to address the issue prior to the school board making a final determination on March 8. "I have asked that it be placed on new business and we conduct our vote publicly after constituents have been heard."

Residents may sign up online to speak at a regular board meeting about a specific presentation, a new business item, or an action item. Residents may also mail written comments to the school board office, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Suite 5400, Falls Church, VA 22042, or e-mail the school board members at SchoolBoardMembers@fcps.edu.

To sign up online to speak at one of the meetings, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/schlbld/meetings/requestspeak.shtml>

For further information, call the school board office at 571-423-1075

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/FEB. 23

Avoiding Divorce Court II: Provisions of Settlement Agreements. 10 a.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. \$30-\$70. Custody, support, retirement and property agreements, including both standard and creative provisions. 703-281-4928.

FRIDAY/FEB. 24

McLean Art Society. 10 a.m. McLean community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With oil painter Jonathan Linton. 703-790-01234.

Cox Communications, in partnership with Fairfax County, invites the public to attend a free program honoring African American women in celebration of Black History Month. 7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center Auditorium. A free reception will be available starting at 6 p.m.

SATURDAY/FEB. 25

Women and Constructive Criticism: How to Effectively Receive and Deliver it. 10 a.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. \$25-\$35. Giving women the ability to apply constructive criticism in non-emotional ways. 703-281-4928.

SUNDAY/FEB. 26

Real Estate Seminar Series. 1 p.m. Keller Williams Realty, 774-A Walker Road, Great Falls. Get tips from a professional stager, home inspector, appraiser and more. Reserve at lyonsmcguire@TeamGreatFalls.com.

Is Religion an Adaptation or an Aberration? 12:45 p.m. Fairfax Unitarian Church, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Outdated explanations for religion arising from primitive fear or malfunctioning reason are getting replaced with sophisticated theories about religion's role.

MONDAY/FEB. 27

Beating the Sugar Blues. 7 p.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. \$25-\$35. Ways sugar is negatively affecting your health, tips to eat foods you enjoy and understanding how lifestyle affects cravings. 703-281-4928.

Great Falls Historical Society. 1-5 p.m. Great Falls Library Meeting Room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Meeting Mondays through April. www.gfhs.org.

TUESDAY/FEB. 28

Passages: DivorceCare. 7 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. First session of a 12-week program for those experiencing separation or divorce. \$20, scholarships available. 703-938-9050 or Passages@ViennaPres.org

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

for the Diligent Seeker Who Wants Tangible Results". Adults 703-356-0770.

Our Daily Bread Empty Bowls Community Fundraiser. 6 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3470 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Receive a handcrafted bowl donated by local artisans and community members, enjoy a soup and bread meal donated by local restaurants and businesses. Live music, raffles and silent auction. \$10-\$30. Proceeds benefit Our Daily Bread. 703-273-8892 or www.ODBFAirfax.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 24

"Almost, Maine." 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A series of whimsical love stories. Tickets \$25. www.1ststageTysons.org or 703-854-1856.

Teitur and Marit Larsen. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Friday Afternoon Chess Group. 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Players of all ages and skill levels welcome. 703-757-8560.

SATURDAY/FEB. 25

Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra presents Buddy, Woody, and Stan. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Celebrating the music of Buddy Rich, Woody Herman and Stan Kenton. \$20-\$40. www.gmu.edu.

Blake Shelton: Well Lit & Amplified. 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. With Justin Moore and "The Voice" finalist Dia Frampton. Tickets \$33.75-\$58.75. 800-745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com.

Fifth Annual Monopoly Game Tournament to Benefit "Almost, Maine." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A series of whimsical love stories. Tickets \$25. www.1ststageTysons.org or 703-854-1856.

The Smithsonian and Jammin Java present Rocknoceros at 10:30 a.m.; **Leigh Nash** at 7 p.m.; **Kid Architect, The Poly-Opto CD Release and Ditched by Kate** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

"Three Bears." 12 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A brand-new play with a comedic twist on the classic fairy tale sends the Three Bears and a golden-haired friend on an a cappella musical adventure. Fast-paced fun for age 5 and up. Tickets \$15 at www.1ststageTysons.org or 703-854-1856.

Printmaking Workshop. 1 p.m. Great Falls School of Art, 1144 Walker Road, Suite D, Great Falls. With Roberta Pruet Beasley. \$30. www.greatfallsfoundationforarts.org.

3rd Annual Little House Studio Recital with The Big Cheese. 12 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E Vienna. From Beatles and bluegrass and more. www.jamminjava.com.

Third Annual Fisher House Fund Raiser. 12 p.m.-12 a.m. McLean VFW Post 8241, 1051 Spring Hill Road, McLean. A marathon bluegrass jam session to raise money for the Fisher House, supporting America's military in their time of need. Listen or play, all musicians welcome. 703-883-9250.

TheatreworksUSA's production of "Charlotte's Web." 2 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside



Langley High school Saxon dance team.

Langley High Dance Team Goes to Orlando

The Langley High School "Saxon" Dance Team recently competed in the Gar-Field Sweetheart Invitational on Feb. 11. The team competed in three categories — Varsity Jazz, Varsity Kick and Varsity Hip Hop — and placed in the top three in each. Their team Jazz routine is a medley of high-energy tracks with a jungle theme. This routine received 1st Place at the Gar-Field Invitational. Their Team Kick routine is to "If It's On My Mind" by Seal. The uplifting and inspirational performance has already received accolades at previous competi-

tions and earned the team a second 1st Place trophy this past weekend. The Dance Team's Hip Hop routine is a throw-back mix to Missy Elliott favorites. This was the team's first time competing in the Varsity Hip Hop category and they earned a 2nd Place trophy for their performance. The Langley Dance Team will travel to Orlando next month to compete on the national stage at the Contest of Champions at Disney's Wide World of Sports. Langley's Dance Team is choreographed and directed by Head Coach, Ellen Shatzen.

Ave., McLean. Based on E.B. White's story of the friendship between a pig named Wilbur and a little, gray spider named Charlotte. \$10-\$15. sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SUNDAY/FEB. 26

"Almost, Maine." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A series of whimsical love stories. Tickets \$25. www.1ststageTysons.org or 703-854-1856.

Disney's Phineas and Ferb: The Best Live Tour Ever! 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. With Phineas, Ferb, Candace, Isabella, Baljeet, Buford and their friends. Tickets \$22-\$50, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. www.patriotcenter.com or www.feldentertainment.com/phineasandferb.

"Three Bears." 12 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A brand-new play with a comedic twist on the classic fairy tale sends the Three Bears and a golden-haired friend on an a cappella musical adventure. Fast-paced fun for age 5 and up. Tickets \$15 at www.1ststageTysons.org or 703-854-1856.

Amadeus Concerts. 4 p.m. Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. The Oscars in the Afternoon: Music from the Movies. Hosted by pianist Frank Conlon, with bass-baritone Eugene Galvin, mezzo-sopranos Tracey Scher and Lena Seikaly and tenor Brian Quenton Thorne. Refreshments, silent and live auctions. \$50 at www.amadeusconcerts.com or 703-759-5334.

Rhythms Around the World. 2 p.m. Colvin Run Mill Historic Site, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. With string trio Virginia Virtuosi and music from Kenya, Japan, Spain and Argentina. \$2. Registration required

at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks. **John Eaton: Jazz, Blues and Broadway.** 3 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With bassist Tommy Cecil. \$18-\$25. sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Alan Reid and Rob van Sante. 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Traditional and original musical compositions. \$15. 703-759-3309 or www.oldbrogue.com.

MONDAY/FEB. 27

Melissa Ferrick. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Tiny Tot Time. 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Songs, rhymes and activities. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-356-0770.

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Stories, songs and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-757-8560.

TUESDAY/FEB. 28

"Three Bears." 12 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A brand-new play with a comedic twist on the classic fairy tale sends the Three Bears and a golden-haired friend on an a cappella musical adventure. Fast-paced fun for age 5 and up. Tickets \$15 at www.1ststageTysons.org or 703-854-1856.

Rogue Mind. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Orchestra Pyramid Concert. 7 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Langley and Cooper orchestra programs will combine to performing selections they will take into competition at the District 12 Orchestra Assessment. Free. smcquade2002@yahoo.com.

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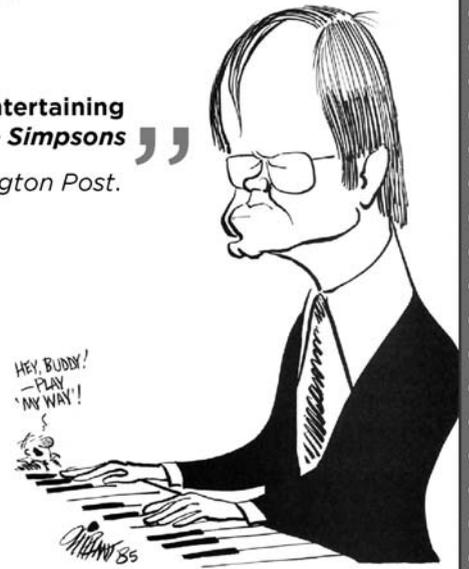
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McLean, Fairfax Boys Play Game for the Ages

Rogo-led Highlanders, in double overtime, win Liberty championship.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

High school championship games do not get much more dramatic or better than the one played last Friday night at South Lakes High School in Reston between the McLean Highlanders and Fairfax Rebels.

In a Liberty District boys' championship game thriller that McLean, on several occasions throughout the night, appeared to have well in hand, the Highlanders finally prevailed over the relentless Rebels, 60-57, in double overtime.

"This was the biggest game in school history," said McLean High senior guard and tournament MVP Gordon Rogo, who scored nine of his 21 points in overtime play. "I don't know the last time we won a district championship - not in my lifetime. I didn't think I would feel this emotional."

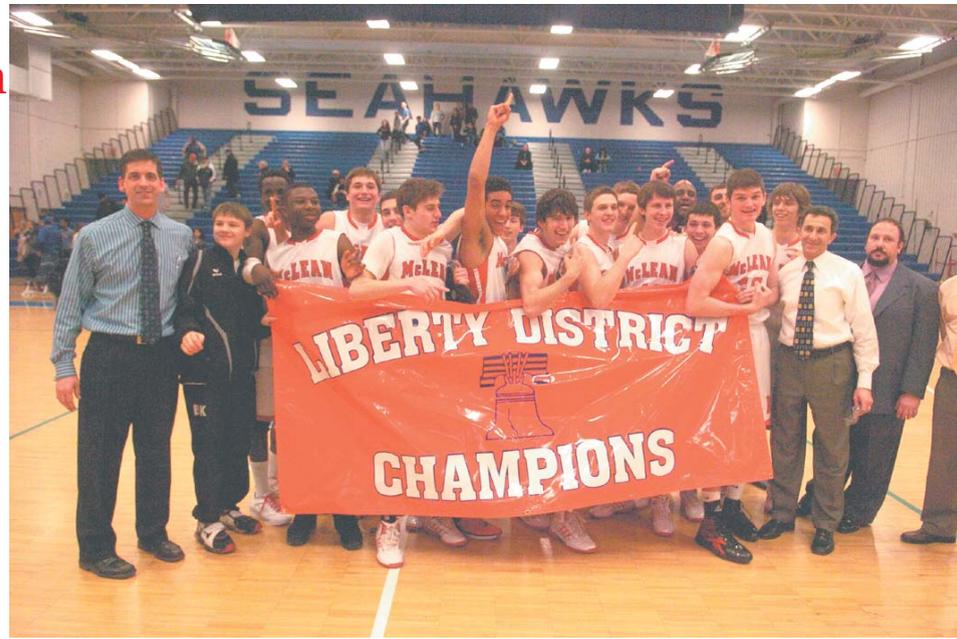
McLean, which has shown steady improvement over recent years under head coach Kevin Roller, finally reached the pinnacle of district success by garnering the district crown. In recent years, the Highlanders, despite having good teams, have played in the shadow of cross-town district rival and district power Langley. But the Saxons, who had won the district tournament title each of the past three years, fell short of winning a fourth straight crown last week. The top-seeded Saxons, coming off another outstanding regular season, lost a semifinals game to Fairfax, the No. 4-seed, on Thursday, Feb. 16.

The Rebels, under first year head coach Mike Barbee, had beaten No. 5 Stone Bridge, 61-54, in a quarterfinals round contest earlier last week on Tuesday, Feb. 14. They then upset Langley, 56-49, in the round of four, somewhat avenging a 69-43 loss to the Saxons back on Jan. 26.

The semifinals triumph over Langley put Fairfax into Friday's finals versus McLean, the No. 2 seed which had split a pair of games with the Rebels during the regular season. McLean reached the finals with wins over No. 7 Madison, 60-39, and No. 6 Jefferson, 52-38.

So it was a different championship game look for Liberty District fans who were used to Travis Hess's Langley team playing for the title.

But those on hand Friday could not have asked for a better championship ball game in which McLean, which led by as many as 11 points in the first quarter, held a seven-point advantage nearly midway through the third quarter, and was in front by four points with 40 seconds remaining in the first four minute overtime, looked to be in control of much of the contest.



It was a jubilant McLean team which displayed its Liberty District championship banner following the double overtime win over the Rebels.

FAIRFAX JUNIOR guard Zack Burnett played spectacularly, especially in the clutch, finishing with a game-high 24 points. He was practically out of this world over the final 90 seconds of the first overtime to keep his team alive and force a second four minute session.

Fairfax, in the first OT, trailed 50-47 following a three-pointer off the right corner by McLean senior forward Kevin Lastova (6 points) with two minutes, 14 seconds left. But a couple possessions later, Burnett nailed a deep three-pointer from the left wing to tie the contest at 50 with 1:30 remaining. However, McLean, thanks to four consecutive points by Rogo (driving basket, 2 free throws), held a 54-50 advantage with just 40 seconds left.

Burnett got his team within 54-53 with another three-pointer shot from the left wing with 28 seconds showing. Rogo made one of two free throws with 23 ticks left to give McLean a 55-53 lead. Following a couple of timeouts, Fairfax set up for a last shot. Burnett, off a pass from teammate John Robic, got the ball on the right corner of the floor well away from the basket. Despite being under heavy defense, he somehow got around to the baseline and started going towards the basket. He then pulled up from about eight-feet away and made his shot from the baseline which tied the game, 55-55, at the overtime buzzer. The Fairfax student body was ecstatic as the game moved into the second overtime.

There, Rogo opened the scoring with a nifty 10-foot turnaround backboard shot



Thomas Van Wazer has his eyes on the prize as he goes high up for this baseline basket.

from the left side to make the score 57-55 with 3:20 left. The game's next points came nearly two minutes later when McLean senior shooting guard Daniel Lewis (12 points, including three treys), moments after having a shot blocked on the same possession, converted on a hard driving shot to the basket to give the Highlanders a 59-

55 lead with 1:42 left. Fairfax got within 59-57 on a midrange shot off the right side by junior guard Zach Intermill with 46 seconds remaining.

Fairfax, in the game's closing seconds, missed from the field and McLean's Thomas Van Wazer (11 points) grabbed the crucial defensive rebound before being fouled. He made one of two shots from the foul line to give McLean a 60-57 lead with three seconds left to play. Fairfax's Burnett missed a deep three-point shot try from the right corner as the final buzzer sounded.

A swarm of ecstatic McLean students, despite pleas from the public address announcer to stay off the court at game's end, spontaneously flooded the floor to celebrate with their heroes. Not much could have stopped the Highlander students from joining the players as the classic contest ended.

"That was the greatest experience of my life," said Van Wazer, a 6-foot-3 inch senior forward, of the moments when the game finally ended and the Highlander faithful stormed the floor. "When you're five years old you dream of winning championships with the crowd like that."

Van Wazer said McLean hung tough following Burnett's buzzer-beater basket which extended the game into a second overtime.

"It was deflating but we have great competitors and great team chemistry," he said.

Rogo, the classy McLean senior backcourt player who seemed to come up with big plays throughout the game for the Highlanders, was named Tourney MVP during post-game ceremonies. Van Wazer was also named to the six-member All-Tournament Team. From Fairfax, Burnett and junior guard John Robic (14 points) both made it. Also named to the All-Tourney Team was senior guard Daniel Dixon from Langley and senior guard Richard Kuzma of Jefferson.

Fairfax, in the finals game, converted four three-pointers, all from Burnett. Daniel Frank, the Rebels' gritty, undersized post player, finished with six points and eight rebounds. Matt Frank, also a front court player, added five points and seven boards.

McLean converted five long range treys on the night, three from Lewis and one apiece from Lastova and Van Wazer. Junior center John Pascoe scored eight points and had four rebounds.

Both McLean, which held a remarkable 22-3 following the district finals win, and Fairfax (14-11) were scheduled to play first round Northern Region home playoff games earlier this week on Monday, Feb. 20 - McLean versus Lake Braddock, and Fairfax versus W.T. Woodson. Langley (16-7) was to play South County.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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-William Van Horne

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-Abraham Lincoln

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of ten per centum of the sale price will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The deposit must be paid in cash or certified funds. The balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash or certified funds within twenty (20) days of the date of sale. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate of 12% per annum from the date of sale to the date of settlement. The party secured herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit or to pay interest. Purchaser shall settle within twenty (20) days of the date of sale. TIME SHALL BE OF THE ESSENCE WITH RESPECT TO SETTLEMENT BY THE PURCHASER. In the event that Purchaser does not settle as required for any reason, purchaser shall be in default. The defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property, and the deposit shall be forfeited to the Trustees and all of the expenses of this sale (including attorneys' fees and full commission on the gross sale price) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. In the event settlement is delayed for any reason, including, but not limited to, exceptions to the sale, bankruptcy filings by interested parties, court administration of the foreclosure, or unknown title defects, there shall be no abatement of interest. Taxes, ground rent, water and all public charges including electrical, sanitation, and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, are to be adjusted for the current year to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Cost of all documentary stamps, recordation taxes, transfer taxes and settlement expenses shall be borne by the purchaser.

The property will be sold in an "AS IS" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any, and with no warranty of any kind.

In the event that the Trustees are in default for any reason, the purchaser's sole remedy at law and in equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit and the sale shall be considered null and void and of no effect.

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Additional terms may be announced at the sale. The successful bidder will be required to execute and deliver to the Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding.

John D. Eubank and Timothy E. Lewis, Trustees

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Marking Time



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As much as I don't want to be ever-mindful of today's date – relative to when I first learned of my diagnosis, that Thursday three years ago this very week, when my Internal Medicine doctor called me with the results of the biopsy (confirming the malignancy); and of course all that had preceded it and all that has happened since: the miscellaneous tests, scans, doctor's appointments, the first Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist, my first chemotherapy infusion, my one-year anniversary, two-year anniversary, (surviving the "13-month to two-year" prognosis I was originally given), and now, reaching my three-year anniversary (and in so doing, outliving my initial prognosis by a significant amount of time), I am powerless not to do so. I won't admit to it depressing me; I mean, I am alive and reasonably well, but it does occupy my mind. And as much as one might want to forget and/or compartmentalize the fact that you have a terminal disease (stage IV lung cancer), your subconscious has other ideas. I don't know which is more difficult: trying to forget or always remembering.

And yet, as life goes on, it is impossible – for me, to not consider that whatever I've done (changes in lifestyle, diet, treatment, etc.) has likely contributed to my survival. That said; if I want/hope to continue to live, don't I sort of have to pay attention to what's presumably extended my life this long? I can't take any of it for granted. I can't stop doing, thinking, planning, worrying – about any of it. That's not to say that my entire existence, conversation, thought-process has to be about cancer – and surviving, but how can I view any other subject in as serious a context? When your life depends on it (maybe?), how do you "back-burner" the topic? You don't. Front and center. Top of mind. First things first. Everything else is secondary. Morning, noon and night.

However, immersing myself in this cancer culture can't be my only option, can it? Given the demands – both physically and mentally on a cancer patient, especially one who has been characterized as terminal, how can it not? But somehow, life has to be lived, and not just in the cancer club. Nevertheless, living outside the constraints of a cancer-affected philosophy is much easier said than done. I don't want to use cancer as an excuse, but you have to admit: it's a heck of an excuse. Nor do I want to be beholden to it – good or bad, but sometimes, that dog has to be fed. It's somewhere between supply and demand, and the law of the jungle; thinking it, wanting it, hoping for it – doesn't make it so.

So three years into this battle royal, life goes on. And how fortunate I am. Still it's difficult to consider my status as quo. Is it because of something I'm doing (or not doing anymore) or is it in spite of something I am doing which I've never done before? Am I just lucky or am I good? I'd love to leave well enough alone, but how can I be sure if I am well enough to be left alone. Ergo the problem, the dilemma: is it real or is it my imagination? Granted, I'm alive, but why? (I don't want to look a gift horse in the mouth, but it never seems to be enough.)

Thirty-six months later – almost to the exact day when I received that life-changing call from my doctor, the answers for my continuing survival are still unclear. I'd love some confirmation that what I'm doing is actually working; or alternatively, some sign to direct me down a future path of less resistance that will work better. But I'm afraid I know the answer to that query: there is none. Certainly all that I've done and persevered doing has gotten me this far. But how much further will it get me? I wish I knew. If I wasn't so preoccupied with this cancer business, perhaps I could focus on something else. However, anniversaries such as the one I'm acknowledging this week, often turn that focus – and the "focuser," inside out.

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

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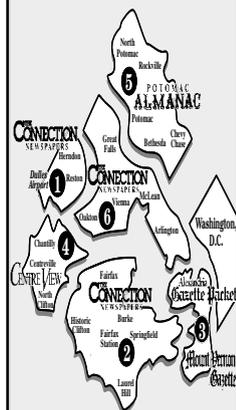
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