

Children are unleashed at the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Children's Spring Festival in Great Falls Sunday, March 24. The hunt featured 8,000 eggs, some of which were filled with gemstones donated by Adeler Jewelers.

Egg Hunting in Great Falls

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Shelter House
Receives Donation

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Sequester's Impact in
Fairfax County? TBD

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SPRING FUN 2013

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Coming Soon

Dr. Garai and staff are pleased to announce the opening of our new Great Falls orthodontic office in early 2013. We will be providing you and your family the same level of exceptional care at our new Great Falls office as you have received for the past 17 years at our Vienna location. We look forward to seeing you this year at either our Vienna or Great Falls office.

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A Voice for the Voiceless

Q&A with SALT Coordinator John Horejsi.

On Saturday, Social Action Linking Together (SALT) held its annual Richmond Wrap-Up session in Vienna. One of the most active nonpartisan advocacy groups in Northern Virginia, SALT, has 1,200 members who bring the social, economic and justice teachings of their faith to bear on public policy and legislation. SALT has had an impact shaping public policy for more than 20 years. SALT Coordinator John Horejsi talked with The Connection about some of the group's legislative victories and losses during the 2013 General Assembly "short" session.

For more information, visit www.S-A-L-T.org or contact John Horejsi at jhorejsi@cox.net or 703-938-9535.

Q: What drives SALT's legislative advocacy?

A: "Our activism springs from the principles of faith and responsibility. Our activism on behalf of the vulnerable does not make us better than anyone else—but it does make us very lucky persons. Our appeal is to people of faith: 'Out of the pew and into the lobby. Be a voice for the voiceless.' Involvement in the political field is clearly a part of the vocation and activity of the lay faithful. Advocacy is part of everyone's job description—even if you're retired. By working together we generate sufficient activity to have an impact. Our community activism, to us, is simply democracy in action.

We seek to serve; not to be served. We are not lobbyists, we are service providers. Our service is our advocacy for the neediest. To us advocacy is the ultimate service—'service on steroids.'

Through our advocacy we seek to keep social justice issues front and center at the Virginia General Assembly. Through our advocacy, legislators are made aware that there is a responsibility to the needs of vulnerable people—measuring every policy by how it touches the least, the lost and the left-out among us."

Q: What do you consider some of SALT's most important victories?

In the past, SALT has advocated successfully for many issues, including:

- ❖ repeal of the sales tax for food stamps each year in 19 states, increasing food aid by \$9.5 million in Virginia;
- ❖ securing \$4 million in TANF stimulus funding for emergency assistance to 2,500 Fairfax County families during the recent recession;
- ❖ establishment of a permanent statewide Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) with \$5.3 million funding;
- ❖ persuading the General Assembly to pass the Virginia Income Tax Credit (VITC), which boosts the income of 190,000 low-income workers;
- ❖ making Virginia the first state in the nation to create a system in which 100 percent of child support from the non-custodial parents goes directly to the child and custodial parent rather than to the Virginia General Fund.

Q: What were the most important SALT initiatives this legislative session?



John Horejsi of Vienna, coordinator of Social Action Linking Together (SALT), testifies in the public hearing of the Fairfax Delegation to the Virginia General Assembly in January 2013.

A: "The ban on shackling pregnant inmates and Medicaid expansion. While anti-shackling legislation was defeated in the Militia, Prison and Public Safety Subcommittee, there has been progress by SALT and anti-shackling coalition groups to prohibit shackling through the regulatory process. There is still a need for legislation to stop this practice. Protection is still needed for some of Virginia's most vulnerable women from being unnecessarily restrained—a practice that not only violates a woman's dignity, but can detrimentally affect her health and the health of her pregnancy. SALT is currently a partner in this Medicaid Expansion Coalition. Right now, the governor has Medicaid expansion in his hands. He has the ability to create a path to Medicaid expansion, or the ability to veto that provision. Medicaid expansion will provide more than 30,000 Fairfax County residents with access to health care coverage. The expansion is a common-sense policy that will help over 400,000 Virginians. Ultimately, we hope the governor will make the right choice for Virginia and Fairfax County and work toward expanding Medicaid as soon as possible. We would like a clear statement that he plans to expand Medicaid. Every day's delay costs Virginia \$5 million in lost funding.

Q: You and other SALT members were in Richmond almost every day during this session. What do you think people would be surprised to learn about the way things work in Richmond?

A: "I would say with regard to human services, the bipartisanship that is attributed to the success for transportation funding this year doesn't exist or

SEE RICHMOND, PAGE 5



Voters line up in front of the Great Falls Library Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012 to cast their votes.

PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Better Training, More Technology

The bipartisan commission released findings, recommendations regarding long lines on Election Day.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

After learning that dozens of frustrated voters waited for hours in long lines to cast their ballots on Election Day, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) called for the creation of a bipartisan commission to figure out why and make sure it doesn't happen again.

At the March 19 Board of Supervisor's meeting, the commission—jointly chaired by Former Board of Supervisors Chairman Kate Hanley and Stuart Mendelsohn, former Dranesville supervisor—released its final report. They recommended additional poll workers, more training and better technology to keep lines moving.

Recommendations encompassed a variety of training, technology, and process improvements, ranging from using more Electronic Poll Books (EPBs) to providing additional parking spaces at polling places.

"I am pleased that the Election Commission has completed its work," Bulova said. "It is important that the county implement measures to reduce long lines, decrease wait times and streamline the election process in Fairfax County. The commission has identified a variety of improvements and efficiencies to ensure access and convenience for voters in future elections."

Additional recommendations included using electronic poll books at every precinct, and asked the county to create a fund that would pay for upgrad-

ing voting equipment. The report also suggested that county officials find larger polling places where voters can form lines inside precincts rather than outside during bad weather.

Voter turnout in Fairfax County on Election Day was at an all-time high in November's presidential election, with 81 percent of registered voters casting their ballots in 2012 compared to 78.7 percent in 2008. In the 2011 state and local elections, just 32 percent of registered voters cast their ballots, while 49 percent turned out for the 2010 congressional contests.

Lines and wait times varied throughout the county's 237 precincts last November. Voters at Vienna's Flint Hill Elementary School reported ample parking and virtually no lines. At other locations, however, lines snaked around elementary school parking lots and through buildings, and it was not unusual for voters to have to wait over an hour.

Election officials said a shortage of poll volunteers coupled with complicated ballot questions and bond issues meant some voters took much longer to finish their ballots.

While the long lines created headaches for many Fairfax County voters, some voters in Prince William County faced five-hour waits before casting their ballots.

A copy of the report can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/electioncommission/election-commission-report.htm>.

THE COUNTY LINE

Sequester's Impact in Fairfax County? TBD

Local leaders say “uncertainty” biggest fallout of sequester so far.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County businesses have been feeling the chilling effect of the \$87 billion across-the-board spending cuts triggered March 1st for several months.

In anticipation of the original “fiscal cliff” deadline at the end of 2012, apprehensive business owners had begun taking preemptive measures, such as tightening budgets, and implementing hiring and pay freezes.

“Small and large companies are taking more conservative approaches to hiring, and government contractors, a large segment of the Fairfax County economy, could see their contracts reduced or terminated,” said Sharon Bulova (D-at-large), chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

But what has rattled Fairfax County businesses is not specific cuts in the sequester, but the uncertainty of what the cuts will be and when they will take effect.

“One of the most impactful effects of sequestration thus far has been the uncertainty that is preventing growth in the local economy,” Bulova said.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who is a founding partner of the Fairfax law firm Cook Craig & Francuzenko, said his practice and Fairfax County are hurt by the uncertainty factor.

“The biggest problem in Fairfax County is not the sequester, per se, it’s the uncertainty. If this continues, that’s huge,” Cook said. “Businesses can deal with bad news. They can adjust to declining revenues, increased costs, what have you ... but not knowing what will happen is crippling. Congress and the president can’t do their job, and you and I are going to be paying for this for a long time.”

“From the perspective of business community, businesses are adept when they understand what’s coming. They see a problem; they solve it,” said Jerry Gordon, president of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA), “The uncertainty is driving them crazy. Prime contractors, such as SAIC and Northrop Grumman, they can translate their skill sets to non-federal applications. My fear is for the sub-contractors and the sub-sub-contractors, where a single contract can make or break a business.”

Economic Forecast: Grim and Grimmer

While every state stands to lose, Northern Virginia’s close ties to Washington and the federal spigot have the region squarely in the crosshairs of the sequester.

“With nearly 40 percent of our region’s economy tied to the Federal Government, Northern Virginia will be especially hard hit,” said Congressman James Moran (D-8) in a recent letter to constituents.

While only 1 percent of Fairfax County’s General Fund revenues come from the Federal Government, the human services system in Fairfax County receives 20 percent of its revenue base from federal funding. In 2011, Fairfax procured more than \$26 billion in federal contracts.

“The Washington Area economy has grown tremendously thanks to Federal Government spending. In 2010, total federal spending accounted for nearly 40 percent of the region’s GDP,” said economist Stephen S. Fuller of George Mason University’s Center for Regional Analysis.

The region’s strength is also its “Achilles heel,” Fuller said and warned the area “faces a sea change” as federal spending decreases.

According to economic forecasters, the outlook is grim and grimmer. Most of the fiscal apocalypse, they say, is related to government-worker furloughs, which could begin as early as next week. In addition to eroding consumer confidence, the furloughs could trigger a domino effect that impacts everyone.

“If the feds are furloughed two days a week, no more housing purchases, no more dinners out, everyone hunkers down, consumer housing starts to slow down and things come to a grinding halt and everyone is affected,” Gordon said.

Some economists take the worst-case scenario further. If the sequester lingers, they predict airport-security lines will get longer because TSA agents will work one fewer day every two weeks; fewer commercial planes will fly because of furloughs to air-traffic controllers; prisons will be locked down because Bureau of Prisons staff will be sent home; terrorists may go undetected because fewer FBI agents and counterterrorism analysts will be working.

While Fairfax County has its weak points, Gordon said the county is still entering the sequester from “a position of strength.

“Our unemployment is only 3.6 percent, far lower than the national average of 7.7 percent,” Gordon said. “We’ve been working toward a diversified economic base for more than 20 years. We are a center of information technology, software development, telecommunications, aerospace and the Internet. Our workforce is highly skilled. We have an outstanding public school system. ... All this has factored into the development of an economy based on technology and professional services. Yes, I think we’re going to take hits, but we’re in a better position than in most communities.”

“From the perspective of business community, businesses are adept when they understand what’s coming. They see a problem; they solve it. The uncertainty is driving them crazy.”

—Jerry Gordon, president of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA)



Danny Vargas, CEO and founder of VARcom solutions, during a 2012 mock debate in Spain.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VARCOM SOLUTIONS

Local Perspective

Small-business owner tackles the sequester.

Raul Danny Vargas has beaten the odds all his life.

The son of Puerto Rican immigrants, Vargas, 47, was raised by a single mother on welfare in Brooklyn. At an early age, he faced poverty and hunger. “We lived in a ramshackle apartment, and there were days when I would eat ice cubes to curb hunger. My mother never learned to read or write, and she didn’t speak English.”

In spite of the strikes against him, Vargas said he was “blessed” with an older sister who encouraged him to stay in school and reach for more.

“I was running as fast as I could. I always tell my children now that the outcome may not be guaranteed, but the opportunity is,” he said.

Never afraid of hard work, Vargas had his first job at 12, selling snow cones from a pushcart on the streets of Brooklyn. “I would scrape shavings from this huge block of ice, and then put it in a cup and pour syrup over it. I remember that vividly. I did every job you can think of. I moved displays in big office buildings, did temp jobs... hard work was the never issue.”

He became the first person in his family to earn a college degree, eventually serving in the Air Force. But he always dreamed of owning his own business and launching a career in politics.

In 2004, after a career in the telecommunications industry, Vargas started VARCom Solutions in Herndon. The award-winning company provides strategic marketing and high-profile public relations services to small businesses and major corporations.

As a small business owner, with 15 to 20 contract employees at any given time, Vargas

thought he had weathered the worst business crisis when the economy shattered in 2008.

But sequestration—and its uncertain ripple effects—are more challenging, both personally and professionally, Vargas said.

“The uncertainty is the stake in the heart,” Vargas said during an interview Monday.

He said he has already noticed agencies, such as the Department of Defense, shelving projects after his company expected to be awarded the contract.

“I would say the issue that we’ve faced is that we’re bidding on something, it’s basically a done deal, and then, as we’re getting close to moving forward, because of the uncertainty of sequestration, the contracts were put on hold, so we can’t keep people on the bench,” Vargas said.

“Those of us just trying to move ahead, and keep the economy humming, are dealing with the headwind of a dysfunctional federal government.”

Vargas is also a politically active business leader. He was appointed by the U.S. Congress as a commissioner on the National Museum of the American Latino Commission and by Governor McDonnell to the Virginia Workforce Council. He also served as chairman of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, the first Hispanic to chair a mainstream chamber in the history of Virginia.

His political connections have given him a sobering perspective on the events in Washington.

“Everyone I’ve talked with on Capitol Hill says they are frightened over our fiscal situation,” he said.

“I do agree that cuts need to be made. We need to be able to rein in spending. But this is the most absurd way of going about it. This blind slashing is inefficient. Honestly, I think a 12-year-old with a lemonade stand could do a better job.”

—VICTORIA ROSS

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Historic Vienna Inc. Membership Meeting. 7 p.m., at Dyer-Gunnell American Legion, Post 180, 330 Center St. N., Vienna. A brief membership meeting precedes local Civil War historian and reenactor John Vrana, who speaks on the evolution of the railroad running through Vienna from 1855 to 1968, now the path of the W & OD Trail; refreshments follow. 703-938-5187 or www.historicviennainc.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 2

Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Presentation. 7 p.m., at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Dranesville Supervisor John Foust holds a town hall meeting to give residents an opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed FY 2014 budget. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb.

TUESDAY/APRIL 9

Explore Your Inner Monologue. 7 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The Vienna branch of the American Association of University Women hosts a presentation in which Capital Fringe Festival entrant Carol Campbell discusses how she crafted her personal narrative. 703-321-7499.

SATURDAY/APRIL 20

Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Information Session. 11 a.m.-noon, at the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn more about advocating for abused or neglected children. 703-273-3526 or

www.fairfaxcasa.org.

ONGOING:

Virginia Sheriff's Institute (VSI) Scholarship Program. Those enrolled in a Virginia college or university who are pursuing a degree in the field of criminal justice are eligible for a Virginia Sheriff's Institute (VSI) Scholarship Program, available to both full- and part-time students. Fairfax County Sheriff Stan Barry must submit a letter of recommendation on behalf of the applicant. To obtain a letter of recommendation, please contact Lieutenant Steve Elbert at shf-pio@fairfaxcounty.gov, <http://vasheriffsinstitute.org/scholarship/> or 703-246-3251.

Girls and Boys State. For students finishing their junior year in high school, the American Legion Post 180 sponsors Girls State and Boys State expenses, including bus and transportation, for the week-long program; high school juniors interested should talk to their guidance counselor as selection is made by schools. 703-242-7651.

Oakton Cougar Baseball Camp. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. daily during weeks from July 8 through July 25 at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna. The Oakton Cougar Baseball Camp teaches baseball skills necessary to raise their level of play (ages 6-11 and 11-plus, grouped by age and skill). \$150.

Fairfax Adult Softball Teams. FAS is accepting applications for adult softball teams for men's, women's, coed, corporate coed, Reston, senior's (age 50-plus) and women's fast pitch leagues before March 1. 703-815-9007, www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com or office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

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FROM PAGE 3

doesn't extend to human service priorities. Constituents know they are out-gunned by the special interest lobbyists. But, it would come as a shock to them to know there are 1,200 registered lobbyists at the state level, and there are more than eight special-interest lobbyists per legislator.

However, 'never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has,' as Margaret Mean said. This is certainly true for all of the SALT successes listed earlier—starting with the lifting of the sales tax on food stamps.

I think readers would be surprised to know that all the success listed above—even the no-brainers such as removing the sales tax from food stamps—took anywhere from three to eight years to achieve success. Incredible persistence is required. We persist because justice demands it.

When it comes to issues and priorities for the poor it takes longer because resistance is built into the committee and subcommittee sys-

tem where bills to help the needy are routinely killed by a majority of four or five subcommittee members. Equally frustrating is the fact that votes are voice votes—not recorded votes—making it difficult to identify opposition for vigorous education unless you can see every legislator and lip-read.

When there are bills affecting the wealthy the committee rooms are filled to capacity, but when issues affecting the needy, the hearing rooms are empty."

Q: Describe your experience as an advocate in the General Assembly.

A: "The legislature has become more partisan and contentious. It is no longer possible to get widespread legislator support. In Richmond legislation is passed and defeated when viewed through a partisan lens. Our recent experience is that to hope for any possible success we must enter into coalitions with other statewide groups. SALT has become partners in and out of coalitions to realize success for the EIC Expansion and the Medicaid Expansions."

—VICTORIA ROSS



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NEWS

Shelter House Receives Donation

Great Falls Friends and Neighbors donate \$3,455 to Shelter House.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls Friends and Neighbors Club presented a check for \$3,455 to Shelter House, a Herndon-based nonprofit that provides assistance to homeless families and victims of domestic abuse. The club raised the money through sales of White House ornaments during the holiday season.

"We sold 650 ornaments, which is 200 more than we sold the year before," said Susan Reber, the Great Falls Friends and Neighbors Club director of philanthropy. "We've had a connection with Shelter House for a number of years, and it's a tradition we're glad to continue."

The club also supports shelter house through donations of toiletries, kitchen goods, slippers, towels, sheets, blankets, toys, diapers, food and cleaning supplies.

Joe Meyer, deputy director of Shelter House, said the funds will go to quick use to support the nonprofit's various missions.

Shelter House runs the Patrick Henry Shelter in Falls Church, which has seven apartments for



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Joe Meyer, deputy director of Shelter House, Jewell Mikula, Laly Goodmote, Pat Kuehnel and Susan Reber. Mikula, Reber and Kuehnel, members of the Great Falls Friends and Neighbors, presented a check for \$3,455 to Shelter House, which works with victims of homelessness and domestic violence in Fairfax County.

use by families (defined by the county as families with five or more members), as well as Artemis House, the county's do-

mestic violence shelter.

Great Falls Friends and Neighbors is a women's organization that supports the Office for

Women of Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Great Falls Baby Parade and others.

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Town Hall Meeting With Great Falls Non-profits

The semi-annual meeting of all community non-profit organizations, including youth and sport groups, sponsored by GFCA, will be held on April 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Library Conference Room. This town hall meeting is open to everyone.

Local elected officials will be invited to attend or send a representative.

Theresa Benincasa of the Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships will provide information discussing the databases, resources and other assistance available from the office's Grants Research and Training Center for non-profits and other grant seekers. After an approximately 20 minute presentation, about the same time will be allocated to answer audience questions on matters such as finding specific financial resources and grants for non-

profits and how best to write a proposal soliciting such grants and resources.

Thereafter, each participating non-profit will be given up to five minutes to explain their major objectives, special community programs scheduled prior to the end of 2013, and their key individual and community concerns. Following the presentations, GFCA Outreach Chair Ralph Apton will moderate an interchange of ideas between non-profit participants, GFCA officers and committee chairs, and the audience. The final 20 minutes of the session will include refreshments and floor discussions involving all attendees.

10th District Academy Day Set for April 6

Area students interested in attending one of the nation's service academies are encouraged to attend the 10th District Academy Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on

Saturday, April 6, at the Loudoun County School Board Office in Ashburn, Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) announced.

Representatives from the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy will be in attendance. In addition, representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, Virginia Military Institute and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets have been invited. Students and parents will have the opportunity to meet with these representatives, as well as participate in panel discussions.

The 2018 Academy nomination season is now "open" for inquiries from students considering attending one of the U.S. service academies. For more information about the congressional nominating process or Academy Day, contact Ann Potocnak in Wolf's Herndon office at 703-709-5800, or go to wolf.house.gov and click on "Academy Nominations" to complete an online Candidate Registration form.

The address of the Loudoun

County School Board Office is 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA 20146.

New GFCA Board Members

Jack Clark and Keyvan Moussavi were unanimously approved to the fill the two Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) Executive Board member vacancies during the March 16 GFCA board meeting. Their term is through June 2014. Clark, a 13-year local resident, whose wife served as president of Great Falls Newcomers and Great Falls Friends, recently retired as leader of Exxon Mobil Global Human Resources. Moussavi, who has lived in Great Falls for 25 years, is the founder of a firm that provides Internet consultation and large business transformation efforts to clients including the federal government, assists his wife who has a booth at the local farmers' market and, while young, was an active Great Falls Fire Department volunteer.



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acres w/possible sub-divide, over 7,000 sq. ft,
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5BR, 4.5BA, stunning
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OPINION

More Obstacles to Transparency

General Assembly puts more information out of public reach, but other factors also limit access.

The first paragraph of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.”

It doesn't add, “except when we don't want to,” although that provision does seem to be available in many cases. Individual government entities have a variety of ways of making it hard for the public to access public information.

One such way is simply to require that the information seeker file a “FOIA request,” a written request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Most public information should be readily available, handed over on request. The written query allows the entity, a school system for example, to parse the request to provide as little information as possible. It is a method of foot-dragging, of just hoping that the requestor will give up.

A growing obstacle involves fees. Many government agencies respond to any request for public information with a bill, sometimes for thousands of dollars. The bills can cover staff time to calculate the answers, to locate the data. The staff time involved is already on the public payroll, and charging fees to provide

EDITORIAL

public information to the public when the public is already paying for the existence of the information is double dipping. Again, it's a method designed to discourage access. And it is often effective. And while many citizen groups in our area can cough up \$3,000 or \$6,000 or more for access to the email correspondence of public officials on a decision that affects the public, for example, many cannot. It is inequitable to charge this sort of fee.

The existence of email correspondence between public officials is another concern, allowing for discussion that, while usually FOIA-able, takes place outside the public eye. Local governments could develop a public archive for email correspondence that would do much to enhance transparency and sunshine in the commonwealth, and reduce embarrassment on the part of emailing officials because they would recognize in advance that their email is public.

The Virginia Freedom of Information Act includes an exception that allows police to withhold, without justification, “complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.” Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexan-

dria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should. But no public entity should be allowed blanket exemptions. Withholding public information, if it is allowed, should be on a case-by-case basis. Police departments all over the country routinely allow access to police reports, incident reports and many other source documents without harm, documents that police here refuse to allow the public to see.

So with many systemic roadblocks to public access to public information, it is discouraging to say the least to see the General Assembly add significant new obstacles.

The Virginia Coalitions for Open Government reports that the General Assembly passed exemptions that “will limit access to some correspondence of legislative aides, to evacuation plans for hospitals operating under certificates of public need, to certain flight plans filed at regional government airports, to records and meetings of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and to bank self-assessments. All concealed handgun permit applications will now be off-limits, too, thanks to a bill that was radically amended from its original purpose and reported from committee to House floor in less than 24 hours,” limiting public comment.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Democracy at Work

To the Editor:

I did not attend the Great Falls Citizens Association Legislative Wrap-Up meeting on March 12 but Suzann Pidgeon's comments in your paper (‘Me’ vs. ‘Us,’ Great Falls Connection, March 20-26, 2013) singling out Sen. Barbara Favola for her aggressive speaking style surprised me. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss legislative issues. Why would a politician be called out for letting constituents know what she has accomplished, for expressing strong views on legislation that she and members of her party have supported, and for explaining why she has taken positions against the opposing view? It's well known that the political parties are divided on important key issues like abortion, gun safety and healthcare. These are federal and state legislative, not local issues.

Sen. Favola is strongly pro-choice and supports the Affordable Care Act.

And over 85 percent of Americans polled, including gun owners, support universal background checks for gun ownership. Sen.

Favola was elected because she is an experienced legislator and a strong advocate for her constituents on these important issues. Ms. Pidgeon may not agree with Sen. Favola, but why criticize a politician for her speaking style when she is doing the job her constituents sent her to Richmond to do? We need more constructive opportunities like the GFCA meeting provided to hear and speak with our local and state legislative officials so that views can be honestly aired. This is what democracy is all about.

Merrily Pierce
McLean

Lyme Disease Bill Hits Home

To the Editor:

The passing of the Lyme Disease Testing Awareness Act by Governor McDonnell really hit home for me. Because I didn't see a tick or have the bulls-eye rash, my Lyme disease diagnosis was not an easy one. I had to go to three different medical practices before some took my symptoms and suspicions of Lyme disease seriously. The first doctor ordered an Enzyme-Linked

Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) test, which came back negative. The next two tests I had done were called the Western Blot, which is considered a very sensitive testing method. My test results showed only two bands and the Center for Disease Control requires three bands for a positive diagnosis of Lyme disease.

The blood sample test works most effectively when your antibodies begin mounting a response to the infection. It is essential to know that it takes several weeks from the time when an infected tick releases the infection into one's body for an anti-body to react in that way. So even with the most advanced testing methods, awareness of the test's shortcomings are important for each patient to understand. I

have many friends with Lyme disease and they too had issues with their initial diagnosis, which delayed their proper treatment during a critical time period.

I want to applaud my Delegate Barbara Comstock for taking on this issue on behalf of our Great Falls community. The new legislation will provide others the opportunity for a complete understanding of the test's shortcomings, and hopefully lead to more accurate

and early diagnosis from re-testing.

Laurel A. Gainor
Great Falls

Confusing Response To Lyme Disease

To the Editor:

The letter applauding the Lyme disease bill (“On Lyme Disease Awareness Bill,” Connection, March 20-26, 2013) may make its advocacy group happy, but does not live up to what Virginians deserve. And while well intended, this solution is simplistic and rife with potential for confusion and dangerous consequences. Simply, it requires that physicians give patients a piece of paper that states that Lyme disease lab tests may not be accurate. It mandates that this be done for five years, regardless of changes and accuracy of new tests as they become available. This was not a solution the medical community supported and the four physician legislators at the GA voted against this bill. Many lab tests are

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

Great Falls CONNECTION

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

not precise and need to be interpreted carefully, with an awareness of what is being evaluated. Giving someone a piece of paper will do more to confuse than enlighten and may delay correct diagnosis, create an inappropriate demand for dangerous treatments, and open the door for an untrained and unlicensed legislature to further codify mandates that alter scientifically developed medical care and to try to impose themselves on the patient-physician relationship. It is unfortunate that this prevented them accepting a substitute bill that missioned our public health infrastructure with increasing professional and citizen awareness, edu-

cation and on-line resources about Lyme disease, a much more fruitful and logical alternative.

This law is a "victory" for an advocacy group and their sympathetic legislators who want to do something to help, but it has limited benefit with a significant downside. Lyme disease is not a new problem and will continue to be an issue for years to come. Education, research and a better approach to controlling the vectors that spread disease are what need the focus and the support of our legislators.

Russell C. Libby, M.D., F.A.A.P.
President, Medical Society of Virginia
McLean resident

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:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
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Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

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SPRING FUN

Children pose with the Easter Bunny during the annual Children's Spring Festival at the Great Falls Village Green Sunday, March 24.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/ THE CONNECTION

Egg Hunting in Great Falls

Optimist Club, Adeler Jewelers host annual Children's Spring Festival.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The forecast might have been calling for snow Sunday, March 24, but that didn't stop Mason Pollard, 5, of Great Falls from preparing to hunt Easter eggs in a blizzard if needed.

"I warned him yesterday that we might be under a few inches of snow and it would be tough to find buried eggs in that kind of weather, but he just said he'd bring a shovel," said Steve Pollard, Mason's dad. "But as it got into the afternoon it became clear that the bad weather would hold off."

Mason Pollard was one of hundreds of children unleashed on the Great Falls Village Green Sunday for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Co-sponsored by the Great Falls Optimist Club and Adeler Jewelers, this was the 29th annual Children's Spring Festival.

Eight thousand eggs littered the green all afternoon, which began at 1:30 p.m. with rides and carnival games. The eggs were stuffed with candy and \$5,000 worth of gemstones donated by Adeler Jewelers.

While rides and activities filled the field next to the Great Falls Village Centre in the hours before the hunt, Grant McBride of Great Falls said his son James had his attention more focused on the egg hunt.

"I think he was pretty focused this year," McBride said. "He



Emilia Albright, 5, hunts for eggs during the Great Falls Children's Spring Festival Sunday, March 24.



Children scour the Great Falls Village Green for eggs during the annual Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, March 24.

seems more into it than the one we'll have at our house with family next week."

Grant McBride, 8, said he has a contest with his friends to see who can get the most eggs each year, and last year he was a few short.

"I tried to chase eggs that were too close to the starting line last year, and ended up missing out on too many," he said. "This year I'm going to head to the edges first." McBride found seven eggs this year, but in the minutes immediately following the hunt, he hadn't yet compared numbers with his friends.

The Great Falls Optimist Club is a nonprofit that helps sponsor several annual events in Great Falls, including the Spring Festival and Fourth of July Parade. They also award scholarships to local students each year, as well as support Turner Farm Park and several national charities.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

BlackFinn Ameripub Job Fair. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., at BlackFinn Ameripub Merrifield, 2750 Gallows Road, Vienna. The new Dunn Loring area restaurant, located at Halstead Square, two blocks south of Dunn Loring Metro Station, looks to hire 170 positions for its April opening. Positions include: cooks, servers, bartenders, hosts and cocktail servers. 401-855-1248 or www.facebook.com/BlackfinnMerrifield.

Catie Curtis With Jenna Lindbo.

8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The 12-album-deep International Songwriting Competition award-winner with a penchant for singing about the highs and lows of life welcomes singer/songwriter and storyteller Jenna Lindbo. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 29

BlackFinn Ameripub Job Fair. 9 a.m.-8 p.m., at BlackFinn Ameripub Merrifield, 2750 Gallows Road, Vienna. The new Dunn Loring area restaurant, located at Halstead Square, two blocks south of Dunn Loring Metro Station, looks to hire 170 positions for its April opening. Positions include: cooks, servers, bartenders, hosts and cocktail servers. 401-855-1248 or www.facebook.com/BlackfinnMerrifield.

The Iguanas. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. A progressive Americana trio plays their mix of rock 'n' roll, roots, jazz, blues and Mexican conjunto music. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

America's Next Top Dog Fashion Photo Contest. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Bring in a photo of your dog (real or plush) decked out in the latest fashions, and your pooch could be awarded the title "America's Next Top Dog." 703-938-0405.

Friends of Nottoway Easter Egg Hunt. 9:30 a.m. (registration), 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and noon, at Nottoway Park Picnic Shelter, 9357 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Egg hunt times arranged by age of child participants (1-2 years at 10:30 a.m.; 3-4 years at 11 a.m.; 5-7 years at 11:30 a.m. and 7-9 years at noon); bring your own basket. \$8, cash only; cost to benefit Nottoway Park improvements. 703-324-8566.

National Cherry Blossom Festival Central. Noon-3 p.m., at Fairfax County Visitors Center (Tysons Corner Center, Nordstrom wing), 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The visitor center hosts a special event with craft demonstrations and more. 703-752-9500.

"Never the Sinner." 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageinTysons.org.

Sean Rowe. 7 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Singer Sean Rowe promotes his album *The Salesman and the Shark*. www.jamminjava.com.



As a leading interpreter of music, a jazz enthusiast and a nationally-recognized pianist, John Eaton has been performing across the country for over 40 years. He will be performing on Saturday, March 30, at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna.

John Eaton. 7:30 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Wolf Trap regular returns to perform the final segment of his three-part jazz piano series; Eaton together with bassist Tommy Cecil will improvise Great American Songbook numbers and take audience requests. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31

"Never the Sinner." 2 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageinTysons.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

2013 Asian American Chamber Gala. 6-10 p.m., at The Westin Tysons Corner, 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. AACC Chamber Award Gala recognizing businesses and leaders of Asian & Pacific Island descent who have made outstanding contributions to the D.C.-area business community and economy; cocktails, dinner, auction and cultural performances included. www.asian-americanchamber.org/2013gala.

Mason Symphony and the Virginia Chamber Orchestras Concert. 7:30 p.m., at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. \$20; free for students through grade 12 and Wounded Warriors and their families; \$15 for college students and seniors. 703-993-1380 or <http://music.gmu.edu>.

"Never the Sinner." 8 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageinTysons.org.

A Night of Music with Peter Kolkay. 8 p.m., at The Barns, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Wolf Trap National Park presents the bassoonist and first-prize winner of the Concert Artists Guild Competition, Peter Kolkay. \$35. http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?agency=WOLF_TRAP&pid=7295869.

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FAIRS & FESTIVALS

April

FRIDAY/APRIL 19-MONDAY/MAY 6

Spotlight on the Arts Festival.

Dedicated to showcasing the very best of the visual and performing arts in the City of Fairfax. At a variety of venues in and around the city. Visit www.visitfairfax.com/category/spotlight.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Taste of Vienna. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. The VVFD will host the 2nd annual Taste of Vienna to showcase the many restaurants that the Vienna area has to offer. Visit www.tasteofvienna.org.

May

FRIDAY/MAY 17-SUNDAY/MAY 19

Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival.

At Reston Town Center, the three-day event attracts more than 50,000 patrons and provides an interactive experience to view, purchase, and experience art directly from the artists who have created it. Visit <http://northernvirginiafineartsfestival.org>.

SATURDAY/MAY 18

McLean Day. 10:30 a.m. at Lewinsville Park. Festival and rides will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. <http://members.mcleanchamber.org/events/details/mclean-day-2013-430>.

SATURDAY-MONDAY/MAY 25-27

ViVa! Vienna! Vienna's largest festival, ViVa! Vienna!, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Greater Vienna, returns to the historic Church Street corridor for three days of family fun, including carnival rides, diverse food, live entertainment for children and adults and more than 300 vendors selling crafts, services, jewelry, children's toys and books, novelties. Admission to the festival is free, rides are not. Visit www.vivavienna.org.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 30-JUNE 2

Herndon Festival. The Town of Herndon's Parks and Recreation Department hosts the annual Herndon Festival. This is a town-wide event and attracts more than 80,000 people from the greater D.C. area. There is no admission fee to enter the Herndon Festival. Visit www.herndonfestival.net.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Guests at the 2012 Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival in Reston Town Center examine a piece by mixed media 3D artist David Burton, made up of various action figures and toys.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Scott Ramminger and the CrawStickers perform at McLean Day Saturday, May 19, 2012.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Thousands fill the rides section at the 32nd annual Herndon Festival Saturday, June 2, 2012.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That is the percentage of diagnosed lung cancer patients who survive beyond five years, according to The National Cancer Institute's SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2009, in a graph published in the February 26, 2013 Washington Post's weekly Health & Science section. As a non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) survivor beginning his fifth year post-diagnosis, charting my prospects in such a cold and impersonal manner is both chilling and arguable. "Chilling" in that facts speak for themselves and are hardly made up of whole cloth, to invoke one of the late Jack Kent Cooke's more famous quotes. And "arguable" in that charts, statistics, etc. may very well measure the mean, but it sure doesn't measure the man (this man, anyway). Meaning, from my perspective: sure, the chart is scary as hell, but I'm not sure I'm on it, if you know what I mean? (I know you know what I hope.)

Now whether you believe it or not matters not to me, rather what I believe matters most. And I believe in the individuality of individuals and of the immeasurable characteristics that don't show up on two-dimensional graphs. Since I live in a three-dimensional world, I'm loathe – and quite hesitant, to think that I'm just another terminal patient/number. Now, I don't dismiss such statistics out of hand, obviously, but nor do I take them to heart to determine how I intend on living my life. Certainly I'm not going to ignore them; I'm not a blockhead. But neither do I expect them to affect my thinking, my judgment, my preparation and my attitude. I still believe anything is possible and I'd like to think – and continue to think: "I've lived this long. Certainly I can live a little bit longer" (updated daily).

I have to admit though, that reading articles and seeing charts which offer improving but still extremely discouraging life expectancies, particularly for lung cancer patients (12.3 percent was the previous five-year survival rate, the lowest for all cancers charted in this particular graph) doesn't exactly make my day – or night, for that matter. Somehow, I have to find a way to disassociate myself from that population despite being immersed in its culture every minute of every day. Which when you consider that I have my oncologist's phone number programmed on my speed dial and that the chemotherapy-induced neuropathy in my feet offers constant reminders that I'm not in Kansas anymore (if I were in Kansas, I'm sure the neuropathy would be just as bad), the likelihood of my not feeling the effects of my diagnosis, physical, mental or emotional is somewhere between slim and none. Coping is what it's all about and not taking anything too personally, even though this is all very personal. And though I am keenly aware of my circumstances – as most of you regular readers are, finding a way to not let it define me and/or control me totally, is the challenge with which I am most familiar.

As Popeye the Sailor Man so famously said: "I yam what I yam." And so am I. I'm Kenny-wath-cancer. So what else is new?

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

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Oakton sophomore Lydia Montanino scored four goals against Langley on March 21.



Oakton junior Tori Anderson scored three goals, including the game-winner, against Langley on March 21.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Oakton Girls' Lax Beats Langley in Frigid Conditions

Cougars win rematch of last year's state final.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

With temperatures in the low 30s, the Oakton and Langley girls' lacrosse teams braved the elements on March 21 for a rematch of last season's AAA state championship game.

"[The cold weather was] the first thing we talked about down in the locker room," Oakton head coach Jean Counts said. "I said, we can make excuses and really be affected by it, or we can chalk it up to another experience. You're never going to forget this really, really, really cold game against a really, really, great team."

Thanks to junior attack Tori Anderson, the Cougars' memory would not involve overtime.

Anderson scored from free position with

15 seconds remaining, saving the Cougars from additional time on the field while lifting Oakton to an 8-7 victory during a frigid night at Oakton High School.

Last season, Oakton defeated Langley three times, including a 9-7 victory in the Northern Region championship game and a 12-7 win in the state final. On Thursday night, the combination of Anderson and sophomore attack Lydia Montanino helped the Cougars once again top the Saxons.

"[I] just had to make that goal," Anderson said about her thought process in the final minute. "... Composure, composure, composure."

Montanino, a second-year varsity player, finished with four goals and Anderson, a three-year varsity starter, added three.

"They both have this — you can call it boys' style — but they just play [with] a different style," Counts said. "They're the kind of players that [make] you ... do a double take. You're very impressed with what they've done because it's not as conventional on the girls' side. ... They're just

playing so great. ... When [Anderson is] going to goal, it might not always be a goal, but you know it's going to be a quality take and it's so great to see her have the confidence, see her have the strength to do so. Lydia is the same thing. She's got the first-year-freshman-on-varsity [challenge] behind her and she's really starting to mature right in front of our eyes. It's beautiful."

Oakton junior Danielle Palmucci also scored a goal.

Montanino scored a pair of early goals as Oakton built a 3-0 lead in the first 10 minutes. Langley scored four of the next five goals, including two from senior attack Rachel Wagner, but Anderson answered with a goal from free position late in the first half to give the Cougars a 5-4 halftime advantage.

Montanino's second goal of the second half gave Oakton a 7-5 lead with 13:01 remaining, but Langley freshman midfielder Halle Duenkel and senior midfielder Hayley Soutter each found the net to tie the score at 7-all with 5:50 remaining.

Wagner, Soutter and senior midfielder Grace Goettman each scored two goals for Langley. Duenkel finished with one.

The loss dropped Langley's record to 1-2. The Saxons opened the season with a 13-6 loss to Westfield on March 12, and beat Woodson 15-13 on March 14. Langley, which finished Liberty District, Northern Region and state runners-up last season, will travel to face McLean on Friday, April 5.

Oakton improved to 2-1, including a season-opening loss to The Hill Academy on March 12 and a victory against Lake Braddock on March 15. Oakton, the defending Concorde District, Northern Region and state champion, will host Cold Spring Harbor at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 28.

"I want them to connect. I want them to find their own identity," Counts said. "We graduated an excellent, ridiculously talented class last year — not only on the field, but as leaders and personalities. We're more of a subdued group in personalities, but I don't think that makes you any less on the lacrosse field."



Langley's Olivia Sisson shoots against Oakton on March 21.



Langley's Rachel Wagner scored two goals against Oakton on March 21.

Some Crimes Never Fade Away

"Never the Sinner" at 1st Stage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

It was the "trial of the century" that mesmerized the nation in 1924. Two teenage college students, Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, went on trial for the murder of a 14-year-old boy. They were defended by the most famous defense lawyer of the day, Clarence Darrow. These facts and the ultimate outcomes are easily found on Wikipedia.

Yet with so many later trials of the century with their own lurid details for new generations, perhaps interest in Leopold and Loeb has faded, except for a very few?

The 1st Stage production of "Never the Sinner" by John Logan shows that a good tale, no matter how well known, still with some mysteries left to explore, can be absorbing in the right hands. "Never the Sinner" is well worth a visit, even with script flaws that drag the piece with some cumber-



From left, Stephen Russell Murray as Nathan Leopold, Michael Kramer as Clarence Darrow, and Alex Mandell as Richard Loeb in the 1st Stage production of John Logan's "Never the Sinner."

some details.

Under the deliberate, laser sharp, almost restrained direction of Jeremy Skidmore, the audience becomes both witness and jurors as "Never the Sinner" unfolds to its foreordained conclusion. Thankfully playwright Logan has left one meaty mystery item for the last line; one that brings an unexpected twist to who did what and why.

Where and When

1st Stage presents "Never the Sinner" at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, showing now through April 14, 2013. Performances: Fridays 8 p.m., Saturdays 2 & 8 p.m., Sundays 2 & 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15-\$25. Call 703-854-1856 or visit www.1ststagetysons.org.



PHOTOS BY TERESA CASTRACANE

Stephen Russell Murray, left, and Alex Mandell as Leopold and Loeb in the 1st Stage production of John Logan's "Never the Sinner."

Who could imagine a nickname could have such significance.

Skidmore's almost hushed approach to the production delves deeply into the personal relationship between Leopold and Loeb, their thinking, their feelings, how they speak, even their kisses. They are treated as living without arousal even as they intellectually contemplate taking someone's life, just to see if they can do it.

The actors are up to the task. Leopold (Stephen Russell Murray) and Loeb (Alex Mandell) are cool in their throttle-down mode and mood. Voices are rarely raised, though at times more emotion might have added some menace. As Clarence Darrow, Michael

Kramer is whip-smart folksy. He comes across as a man who wants to reshape how punishment is meted out in his aria-like monologues with an unseen judge and his debates with the prosecutor (Eric Lucas).

The technical aspects of the 1st Stage production are of a sepia tone in this jazz age radio style drama. The set, lighting and sound design are seamlessly one. They fit together like handsome, bur-nished, expensive wood.

For those who crave stimulating theater, with something to chew on and a challenge to their regular entertainment fare, "Never the Sinner" is a good catch. And it's in the neighborhood.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Christ the King Lutheran Church offers Holy Week Services at 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, on Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m., on Good Friday, March 29, at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and on Easter Sunday, March 31, at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., following an Easter breakfast from 7:30-10:45 a.m. 703-759-6068.


St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean, welcomes the community to Good Friday worship on March 29 from noon to 3 p.m. The service of meditations and music on the theme of the seven last words of Christ will be given by Rector and Reverend Edward O. Miller, Jr. with the choir's rendition of "The Seven Last Words of Christ," by Theodore DuBois, woven throughout. The St. John's Choir will sing St. John Passion Oratorio by George Frederic Handel at 7:30 p.m. at a service beginning with the Good Friday Liturgy. The church also offers Holy Week worship services on Holy Saturday, March 30, with an Easter Vigil at 7:30 p.m. with the Holy Eucharist and baptism; and on Easter, March 31, at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. services with music. 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

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Children's Sunday School ~ 10:00 am
Adult Sunday School ~ 9:00 am
Nursery/Childcare ~ 9 to 11:00 am
Youth Group ~ 5-7 pm

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Assembly of God
Vienna Assembly of God ... 703-938-7736
Cristo Es Mi Refugio...703-675-0144

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

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 ... 703-759-3509
Church of the Good Shepherd ... 703-281-3987
The Vine Methodist Church ... 703-573-5336
Ephiphany United Methodist ... 703-938-3494
Great Falls United Methodist... 703-759-3705
Oakton United Methodist ... 703-938-1233
Vale United Methodist ... 703-620-2594
Smith Chapel United Methodist ... 571-434-9680
Wesley United Methodist ... 703-938-8700

Non-Denominational
Celebration Center for Spiritual Living ...
703-560-2030
Christian Assembly Church ... 703-698-9777

Presbyterian
Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church ...
703-560-6336
Korean Central Presbyterian ... 703-938-9577
Vienna Presbyterian ... 703-938-6950

Quaker
Langley Hills Friends ... 703-442-8394

Seventh-Day Adventist
Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ...
703-242-9001
Vienna Seventh Day Adventists ...
703-938-8383

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Fairfax ... 703-281-4230

United Church of Christ
Emmanuel United Church of Christ ... 703-938-1555

Unity
Unity of Fairfax ... 703-281-1767

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SUNDAY WORSHIP, 7:45 AM & 11:00 AM
CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30AM-10:30AM
MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM

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

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10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066
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Preschool: 703.759.6935

HOLY WEEK & EASTER
7:30 P.M. Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion
7:30 P.M. Good Friday Tenebrae
8:30 A.M. Easter Sunday with Holy Communion
11:00 A.M. Easter Sunday with Holy Communion

Nursery available at all services  Rev. John Bradford
PastorJohn.Bradford@verizon.net

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Donations are needed!!!

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Contact Helen Kruger (703-748-4068) to make pick-up arrangements

Join us at this incredible event and get unbelievable items at ridiculous prices!!!

You cannot afford to miss this event!!!

Small items and clothing drop-offs may be made to the front of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Tysons Corner with the Bell Staff. Please indicate that the items are for the Boys and Girls Clubs Rummage Sale. Donation receipts will be available at drop-off.

On-site moving company available for hire for large item purchases.

For more information, visit our event site.

<http://www.fairfaxbgcgw.org/index.php/rummage-sale>

Admission: \$5 per Person

Members of the Military FREE with Military ID



PEOPLE

Jacques Haeringer Featured in Communicating Today

On Monday, April 8, the long-running local television program Communicating Today will be producing a brand new cooking segment, titled "Gourmet Chef," on Channel 10, Fairfax Public Access. John Monsul, the creator and producer, has invited the first guest—Master Chef Jacques Haeringer, long time proprietor of the LAuberge Chez Francois country restaurant in Great Falls.

Haeringer, one of America's most respected and innovative culinary personalities, originally trained in Paris, came back to the U.S., eventually taking over the LAuberge following in his late father Francois' footsteps. Jacques' culinary roots began when his father opened Chez Francois, an authentic Alsatian restaurant near the White House in Washington, D.C., in 1954. Many U.S. presidents and celebrities have dined there. When the building was sold in 1976, LAuberge Chez Francois moved to Northern Virginia, in a setting reminiscent of the French countryside, and today remains one of the D.C. metro area's most popular French restaurants. They have won many awards for excellence.

Chef Jacques hosted a PBS series based on the book "Two for



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

John Monsul, producer/host of Communicating Today with Chef Jacques Haeringer.

Tonight" and "Les Desserts," as well as hosting "A Bite of History" for the History Channel. He has also appeared on the "Good Morning America" and "Talk" TV shows. His articles and recipes have been featured in Bon Appetite, Gourmet, Wine & Spirits, Southern Living and Better Homes & Gardens, to name a few.

This premier production on

Communicating Today's new "Gourmet Chef" segment can be seen on Channel 10 on Wednesday, April 10, at 8:30 p.m., Friday, April 12, at 6:30 a.m. and Sunday, April 14, at 3:30 p.m. For further information, contact the producer at www.communicatingtoday.com. To find out more about LAuberge Chez Francois, visit www.laubergechezfrancois.com.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Megan Jungers

GFES Swimmer Shines at Junior Olympics

The best swimmers in the National Capital Area assembled at the University of Maryland Eppley Recreational Center for the 2013 Potomac Valley (PVS) 14 & Under Junior Olympic (JO) Championships, held Tuesday, March 12, through Sunday, March 17.

Among their ranks was Great

Falls Elementary School fifth grader Megan Jungers, swimming for Machine Aquatics swim club, who qualified for the maximum six Junior Olympics Championship final events. She placed first in the 50 yard butterfly, second in the 100 yard backstroke and 100 yard Individual Medley (IM) events while also placing third in the 50

yard backstroke, fifth in the 50 yard and seventh in the 100 yard freestyle events.

Jungers' swim times in the 50 yard butterfly (30.06), 100 yard backstroke (1:08.29) and 100 IM (1:10.99) qualify her for the 2013 Eastern Zone Age Group Short Course Championships held March 28-30 in Upstate New York.

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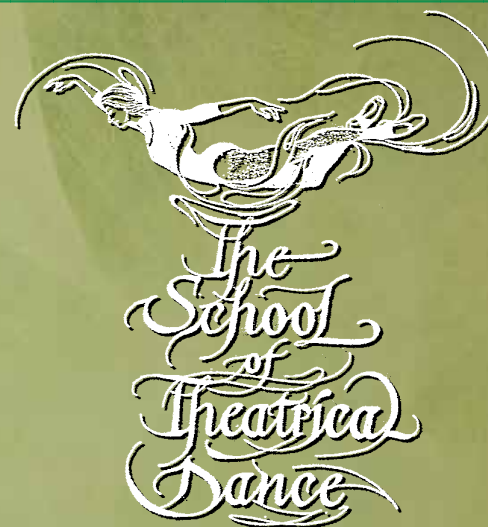
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Plan to get moving this Summer!**

- Summer Company I (Ballet and Contemporary)
July 8-12, 5-8pm
- Summer Co II Modern Intro
July 15-19, 4-7pm
- Summer Co.III (Ballet and Contemporary)
July 22- 26, 5-8pm
- Summer Co. IV (Ballet and Contemporary)
July 29-Aug 2, 11-2pm
- Summer Company V (Broadway)
Aug. 5-9, 11-2pm
- Summer Company VI (Pointe and Variations)
Aug. 12-16, 5-8 pm
- Summer Co. VII (Hip Hop and Jazz)
Aug. 19-24, 5-8pm

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Zumba (Th 10:30-11:30)...
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