

McLean CONNECTION



McLean artist Yasmine Iskander, center, poses with her parents Silvia Sagari and Magdi Iskander at the opening reception of the March Melee exhibit at Del Ray Artisans in Old Town, Alexandria.

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Fairfax County Schools to Apply for FEMA Relief Funds

January blizzard cost
FCPS \$7.2 million.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Winter Storm Jonas, Snowmageddon, Snowpocalypse 2.0 — no matter what it's called, the county-crippling January 2016 blizzard cost Fairfax County Public Schools \$7.2 million to pay for employee overtime compensation, additional contractors and equipment rental.

At the March 10 regular meeting of the School Board, Superintendent Karen Garza said the school system will be applying for Federal Emergency Management Agency relief funds to reimburse that total.

"We'll see what happens," Garza said, pointing out that it's uncertain how much the agency might hand out. "It may take some time, but that's good news. We'll con-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FCPS

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza said the school system is eligible and will be applying for relief funds from FEMA for snow removal costs associated with the January blizzard.

tinue to monitor that."

Schools are eligible to submit for relief funds, as well as counties, towns or cities and certain nonprofit organizations. If FEMA determines the costs are eligible, the agency could reimburse three-quarters of the expenses, with the Commonwealth of Virginia kicking in another 12 percent.

Fairfax County director of Public Affairs Tony Castrilli said the preliminary estimated

Springfield District School Board representative Elizabeth Schultz.

costs from the blizzard for Fairfax County, the town of Herndon and public schools is \$19.5 million, according to the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management.

"This was the most expensive snow event in the county due in part to large expenses relating to snow removal activities," Castrilli said in an email.

If FEMA determines the submitted costs eligible for reimbursement, it would be welcome, if not immediate, assistance for the Fairfax County government and school system, whose budgets are at odds with one another: Garza's FY2017 budget featuring

no additional cuts to programs or services, and notable increases to teacher compensation sits under-funded by roughly \$68 million from the advertised County transfer.

"The good thing about that," Springfield District School board member Elizabeth Schultz said about the potential FEMA reimbursement, "hopefully that'll give a little bit of breathing room to the other side."

At the March 10 meeting, the School Board unanimously approved revenue and expenditure adjustments from the Third Quarter Budget Review of FY2016 — including the snow removal costs.

Coming out of the review, the school system ended up with \$5.3 million in available funds, a result of \$2.8 million in increased revenue and \$2.5 million in decreased disbursements in the school operating fund.

Nothing will be done with those additional funds until the FY 2016 Final Budget Review, when the School Board may need them to cover one-time costs or the obligations for the beginning balance for FY 2018.

Removing Roadblocks

Aspiring nurses receive
scholarships in honor of
Harriet H. Fatzinger.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Amina Amisi of Falls Church and Ashley French of Great Falls are second-year nursing students at Northern Virginia Community College, each expecting to graduate with completed associate degrees in May this year.

Amisi has been accepted at The George Washington University, to begin work this fall on her bachelor degree, and eventually wants to work in the operating room on open-heart surgeries.

"It's the nurse who sews you back up," Amisi said, "not the doctor."

French plans to begin her career as a registered nurse over the summer and start her bachelor's degree in fall of 2017.

Both of these aspiring young women said their goals wouldn't be within reach without help from the Harriet H. Fatzinger Nursing Memorial Scholarship. This year's awards were presented during a luncheon at the Mount Vernon Inn on George Washington's estate, March 9.

"Finances have always been a roadblock to pursuing nursing education," said French, who had to drop out after one semester of previous coursework in Roanoke because she couldn't afford it any longer.

"This has just made that path so much more attainable," she said. "Now I can focus much more on school, and back off on work."

Amisi reflected on the experience that inspired her to become a nurse in the first place, watching other nurses work with her daughter back in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"It touched my heart," she said, seeing the way

they cared for her daughter, even though they were strangers.

"You don't know me," Amisi said to the donors and friends of the scholarship foundation, "but care enough to invest in my life."

Each partial scholarship is worth \$1,200, Fatzinger said.

Amisi said the relief of financial stress also means a lot to her, is inspiring her to do better as a student and eventually be a better nurse.

"I appreciate what other people are doing for me," she said. "Much has been given, so I also can give back."

Fatzinger's husband Dr. Glenn Fatzinger, a Mount Vernon resident and adjunct professor at Northern Virginia Community College, said jokingly that his late wife would've been embarrassed by the large gathering.

"She was a quiet person," Dr. Fatzinger said. "She always wanted to be a nurse, but was a late bloomer; she had a lot in common with our community college students."

According to Dr. Fatzinger, the scholarship foundation has awarded \$70,000 to aspiring nursing students, so far.

Northern Virginia Community College president Dr. Scott Ralls helped Dr. Fatzinger present the scholarships.

"Students at community college have such remarkable stories," he said, "heroic stories, American dream stories."

During the program, Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) commended the people in the room for caring deeply about each other in the community and about health.

"We're trying to make a difference in all our lives by giving a hand up to the next generation," Storck said, "and little bit of money goes a long way."

For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation to the Northern Virginia Community College Educational Foundation, visit www.nvcc.edu/foundation.



Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) congratulates Harriet Fatzinger Nursing Memorial Scholar Ashley French (left) of Great Falls.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



Dr. Glen Fatzinger (left) and Northern Virginia Community College president Dr. Scott Ralls (right) present Ashley French (center left) and Amina Amisi (center right) with the 2016 Harriet H. Fatzinger Nursing Memorial Scholarships.

Student Peace Award recipients pose after the ceremony.



PHOTOS BY
REEM NADEEM/
THE CONNECTION

Mission: Promoting Peace

22 receive Student Peace Awards for efforts to promote peace.

BY REEM NADEEM
THE CONNECTION

With causes ranging from anti-bullying efforts to human trafficking awareness to interfaith dialogue, students in Fairfax County were recognized for their peacemaking efforts at the 11th Annual Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County on March 13.

Students and student groups in any of 29 Fairfax County Public high schools, as well as three private high schools, were eligible for nomination. This year, 22 students or student groups received the Student Peace Award, for their efforts to promote peace.

"As one of their counselors said, these are people who not only looked for opportunities to do good things, they went out and created the opportunities. So many, many of these students have gone and created their own organizations and their own clubs to help whatever the issue is they wanted to work on," organizer Margaret Fisher said.

Mason Professor Al Fuentres, who travels to areas affected by war and natural disaster, spoke at the ceremony. Fuentres congratulated the recipients and spoke about his personal and professional experiences with fostering peace. Students received awards for a variety of peacemaking activities, however.

"As long as a student's contribution is something for peacemaking or nonviolent resolution of conflict, the schools could decide for themselves what that meant, because we didn't want to limit their thinking, and there's just millions of ways you can make peace either in your life, or in your school, or the greater community or the world as a whole," Fisher said.

EACH HIGH SCHOOL is responsible for selecting students to receive the recognition. Club leaders or counselors make recommendations and some schools allow students to self-select. Recipients of the award were informed in December so that they could include the recognition on college applications.

Because the awards are given to high school

juniors and seniors, the Student Peace Awards program aims to give students another achievement to strive for, in addition to academics and athletics.

"What we want to do is find a way to promote peace, that's the only goal of this is to promote peace. We thought that encouraging young people to find projects that do that would be worth doing and we wanted to get the word peace into the conversation in schools," Fisher said.

In addition to rewarding good student behavior, The Awards also aim to promote nonviolent solutions within the community, which in turn can spread globally, according to planner Paul Murphy.

"We need to reward positive behaviors. And to get people thinking in problem solving modes, not just whenever there's a problem in the world, to think that it requires a military solution, but beginning with our communities, expanding nationwide and then internationally," Murphy said. "I think it's very important for people to see that there are alternatives to violence, and these kids are beginning to show it at a very young age and we want to encourage them."

Once nominated for the award, recipients were guided through the process by representatives. Nancy James, who has served as a representative for several years, said she was assigned to work with senior Laith Abuhajja of the Islamic Saudi Academy, who was recognized for his interfaith efforts and volunteer work.

As the award program has grown, so has its importance to families of nominees. Luis Urbina drove from North Carolina to attend the ceremony for his daughter and award recipient, Renata Urbina Dela Flor, a senior at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

"We talked and she mentioned some stuff, but it's good to see that it's a lot more than what she said. You know, she's very humble so it's nice to see something like an award," Urbina said.

RECIPIENTS were awarded \$250 as well as \$100 to be donated to an organization of their choice. However, according to organizer Nancy Davis, the monetary reward is certainly not the most valuable gift.

"I love to see the families' expressions," Davis said. "The families are just so happy to see their children recognized for this type of work. It's not the athletic field - which is important too - and the monetary gift isn't great but I think it's wonderful seeing the parents so proud."

VIEWPOINTS

What Did You Do to Win Peace Award; What Inspired You to Get Involved?

—REEM NADEEM

Kenzie Hines, senior, James Madison High School

"I'm the president of Amnesty International and Girls Learn International at my school. Mostly through Amnesty, we try to involve the student population in mostly Socratic discussions about tolerance, things that are happening around the world. And since we live in such a diverse area, how we affect that, how we feel about it because in this bubble nothing really seems real. So it's a lot of trying to educate the student population, my friends and people around me on how different the world is and how to accept that. Education breeds tolerance.

When I was an underclassman, I knew a bunch of seniors who were really in-



involved in Amnesty and the Amnesty club at my school is extremely welcoming, we do a lot of events that are a lot of fun and I wanted to be a part of that, so now I lead it."

Senior Drew Dean, Anti-Bullying Committee, Cedar Lane School

"We are accepting the Fairfax County Peace Awards for our anti-bullying work on the Anti-Bullying Committee at our school. Some other things we do on our committee, we try to unify the school more with activities through team building, just sort of to get everybody together, work together, settle differences, stuff like that.

With me, I've been bullied throughout a lot of my childhood and teen years so I just sort of wanted to give back to the community."



Arnaz Carter-Newman, Drew Dean, Jake Geyer, Seniors - Cedar Lane School

Doreen Ndizeye, senior, George C. Marshall High School

"I was nominated to be the recipient for Marshall High School for the Student Peace Award. I filled out the application after knowing that I fit a majority of the requirements and the things that they were looking for.

I'm very service oriented, so I like to do things that help out the community or help out my siblings because I'm an older sister. So I like to focus on things that help out younger generations. A lot of the things that I do in my spare time



are all to assist the younger generations and what they're going to do with their futures, so everything that I do is more of a mentorship program."

Scottie Tran, Britney Phan, juniors, and Yenni Tran, sophomore, of the Stepping Stones Club at Oakton High School

Phan: "We're here for our club, Oakton Stepping Stones, we're a sex trafficking awareness club, and we host awareness weeks and we just reach out, educate the school."

Tran: "I had a friend who was interested in starting this club, and we just basically came up with this idea because we were really passionate about this topic, we watched a documentary on sex trafficking, and it just really affected us. That's why we started this club.

Phan: One of the local Fairfax County detectives talked to us about this issue and I think all of the members and all officers were really affected by the issue when we heard him talk to us.



Scottie Tran, Junior, Britney Phan, Junior, Yenni Tran, Sophomore - Oakton High School

FAITH NOTES

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

The **Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna**, 543 Beulah Road, is offering the course "Your Faith, Your Life: An Invitation to the Episcopal Church." Classes will be April 17; May 1, 15, 22; June 5 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Light lunch and childcare provided. Visit <https://ttsu.me/1tg> to sign up for a book and

40th Annual Easter Sunrise Service will be held outdoors at Great Falls Park on Sunday, March 27 at 6:30 AM. The event is offered by the eight churches of the Great Falls Area Ministries. Free parking. All are welcome. 703-860-2276. Call for exact location.

St. John's Episcopal Church in McLean welcomes everyone to special music and worship at afternoon and evening Good Friday services on **March 25**.

***From Noon until 3 p.m.** Meditations will be given by the Rector on "The Seven Last Words of Christ" and "The Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross" by Théodore Dubois will be sung by the St. John's Choir with organ, harp and timpani. All are welcome to attend any portion of the service.

***At 7:30 pm** "Christus (An Unfinished Oratorio)" by Felix Mendelssohn will be sung by the St. John's Choir with organ and string quartet. The service begins with a brief Good Friday Liturgy. All are welcome. No tickets are required.

Other Lenten services are as follows:

Maundy Thursday, March 24: 7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 26: 8 p.m. First Eucharist of Easter

Easter Day, Sunday, March 27: 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist - Music with brass and timpani at each morning service.

St. John's Episcopal Church is located one mile east of Beltway Exit 44, at 6715 Georgetown Pike in McLean. For more information, call the Parish

Office at 703-356-4902 or visit www.stjohnsmclean.org.

Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, will host annual yard sale/flea market on Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. You can now reserve a 10x10' space (\$25) to sell your own treasures or donate items to the church (they would pick up). Come shop, donate and/or sell your own things. 703-582-1640.

Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., NE, Vienna, offers Passages DivorceCare. If you are experiencing the pain of separation and divorce, this program offers a path toward healing. Fourteen-week series held Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. beginning Feb. 23. \$20. Scholarships available. For registration or information call 703-938-9050 or go to www.viennapres.org, or email Passages@ViennaPres.org. (Editor's note: Delete entry after April 11).

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls: Experience Lent in a New Way. Each Thursday, Feb. 18 through March 17, partake of a free supper of native foods, discuss how those who lack food, money, or resources in five countries are coping and how the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is assisting, and join in prayer and remembrance of those in need. Visitors are welcome to come for one or all meals: 6 - 7:15 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 18 (Bolivia), Feb. 25 (Cambodia), March 3 (Colombia), March 10 (Costa Rica), and March 17 (Egypt). For information: 703-759-6068 or <http://www.gflutheran.org/>

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including a 7:45 a.m. worship service without music; 9 a.m. worship service, children's chapel and children's choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday school and adult forum; and 11 a.m. worship service with adult choir. 703-759-2082.

- ATTENTION - Fairfax County Public School Employees

If you are a participant in the **Fairfax County Public Schools 403(b) Plan**, we would like to speak with you about our investigation of the fees charged on your **Great-West Mutual Funds**.

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OPINION

Purple State

Nonpartisan redistricting could support the best interests of the population, not the politicians.

While the case of Virginia gerrymandering argued before the Supreme Court on March 21 does not impact Congressional Districts in Northern Virginia, it shows again that partisan efforts have diminished voter power in the Commonwealth.

This is one of multiple challenges in the courts about how political boundaries are drawn in Virginia.

Consider that in statewide elections, Virginia voters have chosen Democrats in the last two presidential elections, for U.S. Senate, for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, as we have said in previous editorials.

Here are the actual numbers:

In 2013:

McAuliffe (D) 1,069,789; Cuccinelli (R) 1,013,389

Northam (D) 1,213,155; Jackson (R)

980,257

Herring (D) 1,103,777; Obenshain (R) 1,103,612

In 2012:

Obama (D) 1,971,820; Romney (R) 1,822,522

Kaine (D) 2,010,067; Allen (R) 1,785,542

It's reasonable to assume that a state so evenly divided would be about evenly divided in political representation.

How is possible then that Virginia House of Delegates consists of 67 Republicans and 33 Democrats?

Why is it that Virginia's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives consists of 11 Republicans and three Democrats?

Virginia's 11 Congressional districts should be split about evenly. You could understand a split of five Dems and six Republicans; or five Republicans and six Democrats. A four and

seven split would smack of some unusual circumstance. But three and eight?

The answer is gerrymandering. Political parties should not control the drawing of political districts. Gerrymandering thwarts the will of the voters.

Both political parties have been guilty of this when in power, although new technology and better data have made the process more egregious, the effects more damaging.

The courts will have a hand in redrawing boundaries in some Virginia districts. It's past time for courts to challenge political gerrymandering in general. Virginia's current system is an incumbent protection plan. Every incumbent who sought reelection to the General Assembly last November won. Why? Their districts were drawn for them, not for the voters who live there.

Virginia should embrace nonpartisan redistricting that supports the best interests of the population, not the politicians.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Misleading Headline

To the Editor:

The March 16-22 edition of The Connection carried an "Education=Learning=Fun" column headlined "Do You Keep a Gun In Your Home?" I thought the topic a bit unusual for that column. I also noted that the headline was misleading since the column focused not on whether the reader has a gun in the home, but whether the reader should ask other people whether they have guns in their homes.

My children are grown, but when they were younger, I focused on knowing the parents of their friends to determine whether I believed it was safe for my children to visit their homes. Admittedly, it was a time when parents seemed to worry less, and when they did worry, it was more about real danger.

That said, I understand parents wanting to keep their children safe, accordingly I would recommend parents inquire concerning the following about the homes their children might visit. I am basing my recommendations on 2009 statistics from the Center for Disease Control concerning "unintentional deaths," which we regular people call "accidents." (Dated numbers because it takes awhile for the USG to put our their figures.)

1. Does the home have a swim-

ming pool? (drowning was responsible for 31 percent of deaths of 1-4 year olds; 15 percent of 5-9; 10 percent of 10-14)

2. Are they going to drive anywhere? (motor vehicle - responsible for 25 percent of 1-4; 49 percent 5-9; 68 percent 10-14.)

3. Do they have fire extinguishers and smoke detectors? (fire/burns responsible for 11 percent 1-4; 11 percent 5-9; 6 percent 10-14.)

To put things in perspective, homicide (all causes) was responsible for 8 percent, 5 percent, and 6 percent of the deaths in those respective groups. Unintentional death by firearm for children 0-14 in 2006 (as reported in the CDC's 2009 report) was just over one percent of all deaths in that age group. (That is about where it runs every year.)

Unfortunately, in this country people are rather bad about assessing relative risk. Many people are afraid of commercial flight, but are much more at risk in their private automobile; are terrified of snakes, but many more die from insect stings and bites. Parents obsess about guns but think nothing of letting their children be around swimming pools or ride in boats without wearing personal flotation devices; frighten their children so much about "stranger danger" that they won't seek help from people they don't know, even though most abuse and abduction of children is carried out by people the children know.

(Many of the figures I quoted are not current. Reliable statistics concerning accidents, death, and other social and economic information about this country is increasingly difficult to obtain for the average person since the Department of Commerce in 2012 ceased publishing, in order to save \$2.9 million and eliminate 24 jobs, the very useful reference, "Statistical Abstract of the United States" which the government had published since 1878. Commercial versions are available at 300 percent to 400 percent of the former cost.)

H M Padon
Great Falls

Time to Speak Out for Quality of Life in Fairfax County

To the Editor:

Fairfax County is a composite of many things that make the quality of life rich for people living here.

❖ Low crime rate thanks to the police whose budget also pays for the School Resource Officers and the School Crossing Guards;

❖ Access to a variety of good health care including a Health Department whose Health Department budget pays for school nurses;

❖ 500 square miles of public parks, 300 miles of trails and the nation's only national park for the performing arts; libraries to enjoy with a variety of programs;

❖ Public Schools with great staff, a graduation rate of 93 percent, and 74 percent of graduates going on to postsecondary programs;

❖ Safety net services for people in need, including Family Services and diversity of economic housing;

❖ County Government recognized for environmental excellence, innovation, and technology;

❖ Desirable location for businesses and access to skilled and talented workforce: two times as many Fairfax County adults hold a bachelor's degree or higher compared to the national average, home to Virginia's largest university and community college;

❖ Close to museums, theaters, restaurants, shopping, fit and healthy living that is accessible by public transportation.

The county's proposed budget is \$3.99 billion of which almost 60 percent is directly (52.2 percent) or indirectly (School Resource Officers, Crossing Guards, Nurses, and debt service for interest paid on bonds for construction or renovation of school buildings and athletic fields) going to public schools. This year it is proposed to give the schools an additional 3 percent or \$54.75 million. About 27 percent of county households

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McLean
CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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NEWS



Cooper Middle Team Wins Regional Tournament

Team "Royal Flush," comprising Sophia Framountie, Jackson Frankel, Daniel Silvestri, Matthew Zheng and Mustafa Syed took first place in the Odyssey of the Mind Regional tournament held at Oakton High School. They performed in Division II, for sixth through eighth graders, in Problem 2 titled Something Fishy. Their first place win has ensured their advancement to the state competition to be held in Newport News on April 16 where they will compete against seven other teams for a chance to advance to the World Odyssey of the Mind competition in May.

MCLEAN CRIME REPORTS

Notable incidents from the Fairfax County Police blotter from March 16-21.

Police Seek Assistance Identifying Commercial Robbery Suspects

Two men entered a 7-Eleven store, at 1436 Chain Bridge Road in McLean, around 2:12 a.m. on Friday, March 11 and robbed an employee, a 22-year-old man. One suspect allegedly displayed a gun and demanded money. The clerk handed over an undisclosed amount of cash and the suspects fled. The victim did not require medical attention.

The suspects were described as black, between 20 and 25 years old. One suspect was about 6 feet tall, with a thin build and long braided hair. He wore glasses, a black coat and hat and khaki

pants. The other was about 5 feet 8 inches tall, with a medium build and wore all black with a black cap.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Burglary - 2900 block of Dover Lane, March 17, 5:30 p.m. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

Burglary - 8200 block of Richmond Highway, March 20, 10:07 a.m. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

have children in the public schools. This ratio of increasing taxes paid to schools and the percentage of households with children in the public schools is not sustainable to keep all quality of life services at the current level, especially with the huge increase in the 50+ age population the county is expecting in the next decade.

Residents who care about

these quality of life programs should speak out to the Board of Supervisors during the budget cycle through April 9, 2016. Email, call, write, or testify that you want the entire elected Board of Supervisors to fairly and equally represent all interests and all services for all county residents. Speak out for the total quality of life in Fairfax County.

Johna Gagnon
Franconia

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Finding Love, Friendship and Family

Oakcrest School's production of "Anne of Green Gables: The Musical."

BY ENI OYELEYE
WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE AND JOHN PAUL PLUTA

From left: Isabela Wilson, Alexandra Dauchess, Kate Waggoner, Katie Hale, Mary Leaver, Katie McNeish in Oakcrest School's production of "Anne of Green Gables: The Musical."

A precocious and spunky orphan with red hair, a wild imagination, and a name that begins with "A"? No, our protagonist is not that girl with a hard-knock-life, but a girl named Anne who lives at Green Gables. Anne finds love, friendship, and most importantly, family in Oakcrest School's production of "Anne of Green Gables: The Musical."

Anne of Green Gables is based on the beloved 1908 novel of the same name and premiered at Canada's Charlottetown Festival, where it has been performed annually since 1965. It is the world's longest running annual musical production, a testament to its enduring popularity. A young girl named Anne excitedly searches for her new adoptive father at a train station, but her new father Matthew is not searching for her. Matthew is under impression that his new child is going to be a boy and when he is presented with Anne due to a mix up at the orphanage, he confusedly takes her home and introduces her to his sister Marilla who is none too pleased. Marilla and Matthew, a brother and sister pair who together adopt Anne, contemplate giving Anne up but ultimately decide to keep her. Anne's wild imagination and melodramatic nature cause tension with a stoic Marilla, but endear her to a warm Matthew. She takes her antics with her to school and faces the ire of her classmates and teacher, except for a girl named Diana who quickly becomes her best friend. A boy named Gilbert teases her, but only because he wants to be her "beau." As the years go on, Anne flourishes in her new environment and begins to call Green Gables home.

Oakcrest, an all-girls school, faced the challenge of portraying believable characters and creating believable relationships, and they did so commendably. The production benefited from strong vocal performances all around, with impressive soloists and incredibly well blended harmonies to boot.

Clare Kolasch gave a tour de force performance of a tour de force character. Kolasch's humorous, heartwarming, and at times hilariously histrionic portrayal of Anne was a pleasure to watch from curtain until bows. Her coming of age from an excitable and quirky little girl to a confident, but still quirky young woman did justice to the beloved character. Her beautiful soprano was to be applauded, but her stand out vocal moment happened in the form of a hysterical five minute facetiously apologetic ballad named "Oh Mrs. Lynde!"

Jill Collins was charming as Anne's one-time prospective beau, later her rival, and finally her friend. She shone in the longingly romantic "Wondrin," the dueling "I'll Show Him," and the conciliatory "Wondrin" (reprise). Kiley Hatch was adorable as Anne's best friend Diana Barry. From explaining to Anne the wonders of ice cream to imagining their future as "Kindred Spirits," she developed a believably loving relationship with Anne.

The set made an effective use of limited stage space and was a beautiful representation of an Avonlea farming community in the early 20th-century. Set transitions were seamless, although there were problems with the volume and cutting in and out of mics.

At the beginning of Oakcrest High School's wistful production of "Anne of Green Gables," Matthew and Marilla grumbled upon receiving Anne that they had "Clearly Requested a Boy." By the end of the evening, an emotional Matthew sang this of the little red-headed girl who had become a not-so-little red-headed woman: "Anne of Green Gables, never change, I like you just this way."

MEET AREA CHEFS

Serving Creative Wine Dinners

Profiles: Edwin Amaya and Moreno Espinoza of Wildfire.

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY
THE CONNECTION

Sometimes in life, two heads are better than one. And in the case of the super busy kitchen at Tyson's Galleria Wildfire Restaurant corporate chef Moreno Espinoza and executive chef Edwin Amaya do work well together, and when Espinoza comes to town from the Chicago headquarters, the two collaborate on some interesting fare. Example: Bourbon-Marinated Lamb Chops with asiago and Yukon gold potato gratin, caramelized Brussels sprouts, and a honey-bourbon glaze. Indeed, as Amaya said, without the professional guidance of his boss, he would not be where he is today, overseeing the Tyson's kitchen.

A native of Honduras, Amaya grew up in a family and a culture in which only girls spent time in the kitchen, he said. The men were expected to work in the fields or undertake some other form of manual labor. "My dad never wanted me in the kitchen," he said. But like his mother, Amaya found cooking to be a real passion. "She was my role model," he added, though he finds cooking as well as she did a real challenge. "She is surprised that I am working in a kitchen and that I am successful."

Espinoza, a native of Michoacan, Mexico has risen to the top of his field even though he has never had formal training. He attributes his success to the many long hours over many years working every station in a professional kitchen. He, too, attributes his cooking passion and skills to his mother. "She was my best teacher," he said. "I have always challenged myself to be as good as she. She never had any-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Edwin Amaya and Moreno Espinoza at Wildfire

thing written down, but I bought all the ingredients stated in her recipes and eventually figured them out."

When Amaya moved to the United States at the age of 18, he lived with his brothers in California, who were both working in local restaurants, and he ended up working with them. When they moved to Virginia for more opportunities in 2000, he worked at Maggiano's, Legal Seafood, Daily Grill, Capital Grill, and Bonaroti

Chicken Moreno

Chef Moreno Espinoza's very popular chicken dish! The marinade recipe makes 3 cups.

Serves 4
Four 6-ounce marinated chicken breast halves
2 tablespoons olive oil
4 tablespoons thinly sliced garlic
Two 8-ounce strips oven dried tomato
1/2 pound marinated artichoke quarters
2 tablespoons Moreno's herb marinade
10 whole basil leaves for garnish
1 cup arugula leaves
2 teaspoons lemon vinaigrette
1 sprinkle Parmesan shavings

Chicken Moreno Herb Marinade

1 pound Spanish onions, diced
1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
1/2 cup chopped parsley
1/2 cup fresh basil, chopped
1/4 cup lemon juice
1 1/3 tablespoons Dijon mustard
1 1/3 tablespoons mixture salt and pepper
2 teaspoons dry mustard
1 garlic clove, minced

Place all ingredients in a large container and blend until smooth. Refrigerate.

To cook the chicken breasts, spray a hot grill, and grill both sides until cross marks appear, about 2 minutes per side.

Heat a 10-inch skillet over medium heat. Add the oil, and sauté the garlic. Add the oven-dried tomato strips and the artichoke quarters, and sauté for about 45 seconds. Add the marinade, and toss the ingredients. Add the basil leaves, and sauté for about 10 seconds. Remove from the heat.

To serve, arrange the chicken breasts on each plate, top with equal portions of the artichoke mixture. Deglaze hot sauté pan with chicken juice and drizzle over chicken. Garnish with arugula leaves, lemon vinaigrette, and Parmesan cheese.

fast the chef can learn. It has to come from within, and I recognized early that potential within him. I wanted to work with him so he could understand the systems." He added that when he looks at Amaya, he sees himself who is always hungry for new challenges.

As a long-time employee with the Wildfire brand, Espinoza does know a thing or two about kitchen work. When he started with the group, he had to learn all the stations in the kitchen— food prep, pantry, oven, grill/broiler, and ro-

tisserie—and when he had achieved that, he was offered kitchen manager in 1989. "One year later, I became the executive chef," he said.

Most recently, the two chefs have worked on developing gluten-free dishes that are packed with flavor and texture. They are also challenged with creating outstanding wine dinners. "Wine dinners give us a chance to play around and be creative," said Amaya.

Wildfire is located at Tyson's Galleria, third floor, 703-442-9110.

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McLean Community Center
The Center of It All

Here's What's Happening at MCC

Spring Fest
Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m.–Noon
\$5 per person; Free, infants to 36 months

Onstage @ The Alden
American Shakespeare Center on Tour

"Julius Caesar"
Tuesday, March 29, 7:30 p.m.; Live music begins at 7 p.m.
\$35/\$20 MCC district residents

"The Importance of Being Earnest"

Wednesday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.; Live music begins at 7 p.m.
\$35/\$20 MCC district residents

Public Hearing on FY 2018 Programs
Wednesday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.
District residents, come share your thoughts on MCC programs and services.

The Old Firehouse Family Movie Night "Inside Out"
Friday, April 1, 7–9:30 p.m.
\$3 per person

Onstage @ The Alden
U.S. Navy Commodores
Saturday, April 2, 8 p.m.
Free Admission

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711

Journey with us through Holy Week
Remembering the compassion of Jesus' life and preparing our hearts for the resurrected Christ.

Maundy Thursday
March 24
7 p.m.

Good Friday
March 25
7 p.m.

Easter Sunday
March 27
Sunrise 6:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Celtic 6 p.m.

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CALENDAR

Send announcements to north@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

THURSDAY/MARCH 24

Game Night: Codenames. 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Bring friends, grab a snack from the Cafe and get ready for some board game fun. Free. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

Rodin Lecture. 7-8:30 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Join Jeffrey Allison, Paul Mellon Collection Educator and Manager, Statewide Programs and Exhibitions, as he explores the life and work of Auguste Rodin, the greatest sculptor of the 19th- and early 20th-centuries. mpaart.org. 703-790-1953.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Meet Biscuit. 2 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Special Storytime with one of the most beloved children's book characters of all time - Biscuit! A brief Meet and Greet with Biscuit will follow Storytime. Free. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

Springfest. 10 a.m.-noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Spring Fest is a special event that includes self-guided arts and crafts projects, entertainment and the opportunity for children to get a professional-quality photo with "Bunny." \$5, Free to children up to 36 months. mcleancenter.org. 703-790-0123.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rescheduled performance of "The Importance of Being Earnest" will be at The Alden Theatre on Wednesday, March 30.

riverbend-park/calendar.htm.

SUNDAY/MARCH 27

Easter Brunch at Tysons. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sheraton Tysons Hotel, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Tysons. Modern buffet. Easter bunny. \$22/\$46. sheratontysons.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 28

Native American Crafts and Games Workshop. 9 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Shoot a bow and arrow, launch a spear and make cool crafts as you learn about daily Native American life long ago. Bring snack, lunch and drink. Register and download forms at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/>

TUESDAY/MARCH 29

"Julius Caesar." 7 p.m. The Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Presented by the American Shakespeare Center. Shakespeare shows us a world on fire; a world turned upside down; a world where some of history's most famous men commit horrific crimes in the name of patriotism and honor. \$35/\$20. aldentheatre.org. 703-790-0123.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 30

"The Importance of Being Earnest." 7 p.m. The Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean.

Presented by the American Shakespeare Center. Wit and style, brilliant and wicked comic masterpiece. 35/\$20. aldentheatre.org. 703-790-0123.

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

Game Night: Lanterns. 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Bring friends, grab a snack from the Cafe and get ready for some board game fun. Free. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Build Your Own Bat House. 9 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Bats help eat mosquitoes, and pollinate plants, but they are having a hard time. Help these important animals thrive by building a bat house to hang in your yard. \$8. \$15 per bat house. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.

Wagon Ride to Poohsticks Bridge. 10 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Meet at the Nature Center. Journey through the woods to Poohsticks bridge. Listen to Winnie the Pooh's story and play Poohsticks on the bridge. \$6/\$8. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.

Trunk Sale. 9 a.m.-noon. Colvin Run Elementary School Parking Lot, 1400 Trap Road, Vienna. Come and spend a fun morning shopping for treasures. Spring bargains can be found on gently used household and children's items. Free parking and admission. Rain date April 9th. Free. cresevents@gmail.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 2-3

Spring Book Sale. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Bag sale on Sunday. Sponsored by Friend of Patrick Henry Library. 703-281-3831.

SUNDAY/APRIL 3

Salamanders Undercover. 10 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Learn about the secret lives of these important amphibians through hands-on discoveries. \$8/\$10. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.
Author Allan Topol. 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Book signing of "The Italian Divide: A Craig Page Thriller." <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

TUESDAY/APRIL 5

Book Launch. 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Richelle Mead's "The Glittering Court." Book signing and reading. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

Creativity and Aging. 7-9 p.m. Great Falls Community Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Discussion focusing on the exciting connection between creativity and aging by Caroline Edasis, Manager of Art Therapy for Mather LifeWays. Free. GreatFallsStudios.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2018 Programs

Please Note Date Change
Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2018, which runs July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas on considerations for class offerings, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours, youth events and teen activities during the renovation period.

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

The McLean Community Center
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Questions?
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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

Fairfax Volunteer Awards. 8 a.m. The Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Join Volunteer Fairfax, Chairman Sharon Bulova and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and other community leaders to celebrate the work of volunteers. Purchase tickets by April 4. \$50. For information and tickets go to www.volunteerfairfax.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 10

Camellia Society Plant Sale. Noon-4 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Sponsored by the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley (CSPV). Members will be on hand with tips on growing camellias. 703-356-6878.

THURSDAY/APRIL 14

Spanish Storytime with CommuniKids. 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Give your child the love of language at a fun, engaging Storytime in Spanish. Join us as we welcome the animated teachers from CommuniKids Preschool for a fun-filled Storytime. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

FRIDAY/APRIL 15

Steve Case. 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Internet entrepreneur Case will speak, take questions and sign copies of "The Third Wave." <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

Flower Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Small Standard Flower Show presented by The Great Falls Garden Club. A competitive exhibition of floral designs and horticulture, affiliated with National Garden Clubs, Inc. 703-759-3130.

MONDAY/APRIL 18

50+ Employment Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sheraton Tysons Hotel, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Meet job recruiters. Attend seminars on changing careers, online job searching, continuing education, starting your own business, job training, and job interviewing. Chief meteorologist Doug Hill from ABC 7/WJLA-TV News is the keynote speaker. Free. Find out more at www.accessjca.org/50plusjobexpos or call Micki Gordon at 301-255-4209, TTY 711.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Meet Corduroy (Costume character event). 2 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. brief Meet & Greet with Biscuit will follow Storytime. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

SUNDAY/APRIL 24

Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce 5K. 8:30 a.m. Near Bloomingdale's Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. \$25-30+. <http://www.tysonscharity5k.com/>.

TUESDAY/MAY 3

Small Standard Flower Show. 1-2:30 p.m. Vinson Hall Retirement Community, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Presented by The



COURTESY PHOTO

Springfest at the McLean Community Center on Saturday, March 26 will have a visit from the "Bunny."

Spring Calendar

ONGOING

Spring Delights. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. April 4-May 2. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. NW, Vienna. Exhibition of Vienna Arts Society members. viennaartssociety.org. 703-319-3971.

Great Falls Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, year round. Great Falls Village Centre, 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Springfest. 10 a.m.-noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Spring Fest is a special event that includes self-guided arts and crafts projects, entertainment and the opportunity for children to get a professional-quality photo with "Bunny." \$5, Free to children up to 36 months. mcleancenter.org. 703-790-0123.

Bring Back Bluebirds. 10 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Discover the world of bluebirds while making a difference. Build your own bluebird box and learn how to monitor for success. \$10 paid to instructor at class for each box. Meet at the Nature Center. Discover the world of bluebirds while making a difference. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 2-3

Spring Book Sale. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Bag sale on Sunday. Sponsored by Friend of Patrick Henry Library. 703-281-3831.

SUNDAY/APRIL 24

Vienna 5K and One-Mile "Run for Fun." Starting at 8:10 a.m. 128 Center St. S, Vienna. Sponsored by the Vienna Elementary School PTA. \$15-\$30. www.vienna5krun.org. 703-282-0084.

Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce 5K. 8:30 a.m. Near Bloomingdale's Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. \$25-30+. <http://www.tysonscharity5k.com/>.

Oakton Elementary Family 5K. 8:30 a.m. Centennial Park, 131 Church St., Vienna. Proceeds benefit enrichment program at Oakton Elementary. \$12-\$35. family5kandfunrun.com.

Gardeners of the Junior League of Washington. Free. 703-970-3712. fredj@vinsonhall.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 5

Jennifer Knapp. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Knapp will perform songs from her new album Set Me Free. \$80. www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 7

Document Shredding. 9 a.m.-noon. Long and Foster, 1355 Beverly Road, McLean. Free, secure paper shredding for the community. Here's your opportunity to clear your home or office of paper clutter! Spring clean your office and shred outdated documents. 703-903-8643.

Yard Sale/Flea Market. 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. To reserve a space to sell or for more information call 703-582-1640.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 13-14

Annie, Jr. Great Falls Elementary School, 701 Walker Road, Great Falls. 571-512-2760. Wall, run, strollers welcome. Music, raffles, cake and food. \$30 adults; \$15 for 12 and under till April 7. wolftrappta.org.

MONDAY/JUNE 6

Annual Charity Golf Tournament.

Starts at 6:45 a.m. Hidden Creek Country Club, 1711 Club House Road, Reston. The tournament includes a 4 person scramble, lunch or dinner and awards. Receptions follow both the morning and afternoon shotguns. Lots of prizes and lots of fun. Proceeds benefit our three local elementary schools. www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

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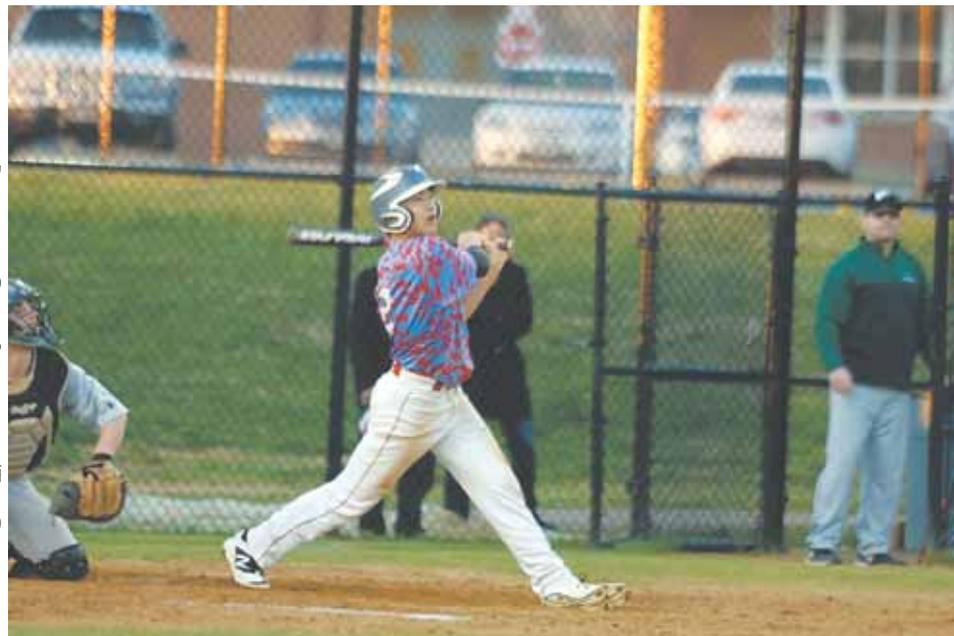
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SPORTS



Steven Johel is the Marshall baseball team's most experienced returning pitcher.



Senior second baseman Justin Han earned VHSL first-team all-state honors last season.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Marshall Baseball Enters 2016 with High Expectations

Statesmen reached 5A state final last season.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Marshall baseball program graduated a trio of all-state players from its team that reached the 2015 5A state championship game. While the Statesmen have a different look in 2016, head coach Aaron Tarr said he expects similar results.

Marshall enters the season with a pitching staff featuring seniors who have waited their turn, and a lineup led by returning first-team all-state second baseman Justin Han. The Statesmen won their first three games, beating Wakefield, Manassas Park and Centerville.

Gone are catcher and VHSL state Player of the Year Mitch Blackstone, first-team all-state pitcher Will Brooke and second-team all-state third baseman Matt Borowski from the 2015 team that won the Conference 13 title and finished 5A North region and state runner-up behind Stone Bridge. Tarr, however, said this year's Statesmen can succeed with depth.

"The team dynamic is really different," Tarr said. "There's a ton of roster turnover, so it doesn't feel like the same group of guys. ... My expectation is that we get to the [state final] or win that game. I think we're capable of that. I don't want to say it's better team, it's just different."

This year's pitching staff is led by senior

Steven Johel (Coastal Carolina). As a junior, the right-hander saw limited time on the mound during the regular season, but his workload increased during the playoffs. Tarr said Johel can throw 90 mph with a quality curveball and should benefit from pitching in pressure situations last season.

"That's everything," Tarr said. "If there's going to be a question mark on us going forward, it's going to be [Johel's] returning [with] a ton of innings and [experience with] pressure stuff and the other guys not as much."

Senior right-hander Jamie Handley, and senior left-handers Ben Kerns (Ursinus) and Nick Cintron (Cornell) have limited varsity experience on the mound but will be key members of this year's Marshall pitching staff. Tarr said Handley throws in the mid-

80s with quality curveball, Kerns throws in the low 80s but is a fierce competitor, and Cintron throws 85-87 mph with a strong splitter.

Marshall's lone returning all-state player is second baseman Han (Middlebury). Tarr has plenty of confidence in the senior, who hit .493 last season started this year 7-for-9 with four doubles and a triple.

"[Han batting] over .500 [for the season]?" Tarr said. "I'd bet the ranch on that, for sure."

Junior Robert Guenther returns at short-stop, and junior catcher Jack Jones takes over for Blackstone behind the plate. Senior third baseman Nate Scheinman will play for Skidmore College.

Marshall will travel to face Falls Church at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29.

Langley's Galiani, Shafer First-Team All-State Selections

The Langley girls' and boys' basketball teams each had a player receive VHSL 6A first-team all-state honors.

Senior guard Paige Galiani and senior forward Nate Shafer were each all-state selections for the Saxons.

Galiani became the girls' program's all-time leading scorer during the 2015-16 season. She helped the Saxons win the Conference 6 championship, the program's first district/conference title since 1988, and reach the state tournament for the first time. Langley beat Landstown in the state quarterfinals and upset previously unbeaten Oakton in the semifinals before falling to Cosby in the championship game.

Shafer was a 6-foot-5 defensive presence for the boys' team, which finished 20-6 and won the Conference 6 championship.

Girls' first-team selections: Galiani, Noe'll Taylor (Fairfax), Genesis Parker (Stonewall Jackson), Jocelyn Jones (Cosby), Tyra Whitehead (Cosby), Cynita Webb (Landstown) and Asia McCants (Woodbridge). Jones was named Player of the Year and Cosby's Rachel Mead earned Coach of the Year honors.

Boys' first-team selections: Shafer, Tyler Scanlon (Westfield), James Butler (Lake Braddock), Keaton Simmons (Stonewall Jackson), Jerry Carter (Hylton), Chris Orlina (Woodside), Donald Hicks (Oscar



PHOTO BY WILL PALENSCAR

Langley senior guard Paige Galiani was a 6A VHSL first-team all-state selection.

Smith) and Daryus Evans (Landstown). Scanlon was named Player of the Year and Westfield's Doug Ewell was named Coach of the Year.

Langley Boys' Lax Splits First Four Games

After winning its season opener against Westfield, 12-9, on March 15, the Langley boys' lacrosse team dropped a double-overtime contest against Yorktown on March 17 in Arlington.

The Saxons opened Conference 6 play with a 9-8 loss to the Patriots, during which Langley overcame a two-goal fourth-quarter deficit to force overtime. After neither team scored during the first four-minute OT, Yorktown's C.J. Stowell scored the game-winner in the second OT.

Langley senior midfielder Jon-Michael Duley scored four goals — all in the second half. Junior attackman Daniel Orme, junior midfielder Michael Levetown, junior midfielder Michael Killion and senior midfielder Parker Kaplan each had one.

The Saxons defeated Battlefield 14-9 on March 19 and lost to Chantilly 10-4 on March 21 — both games were at Robinson



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Langley senior midfielder Jon-Michael Duley scored four goals against Yorktown on March 17.

Secondary School.

Langley, led by first-year head coach Bo Ingalsbe, will travel to face two-time defending 6A state champion Robinson at noon on Wednesday, March 23. The Saxons' home opener is scheduled for 8 p.m. on Friday, April 1 against Dominion.

PEOPLE

Exhibit curator Joshua Oliveira, right, talks with Yamine Iskander about her work as Magdi Iskander and Tristann Brown look on.



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

March Melee

McLean special needs artist featured in Old Town exhibit.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Like most children growing up, Yamine Iskander liked to color with crayons. And like most mothers, Silvia Sagari was proud of everything her daughter created. But four years ago, when someone suggested to Sagari that Yamine genuinely had talent, she took notice. Because Yamine Iskander is not like most children. “Yasmine has a complex medical history,” Sagari said of her 19-year-old only child. “Among other things, she is deaf and has intellectual disabilities. But when she is painting, she comes alive.”

A chance meeting with John Bordner, the vice president of the Del Ray Artisans in Alexandria, led to Yasmine entering one of her paintings in DRA’s latest exhibit, March Melee. Her work was accepted and Yasmine and her family attended the March 4 opening reception at the Nicolas A. Colasanto Center.

“When Silvia showed me some pictures of Yasmine’s work on her phone, I thought ‘Wow! What color, what vibrancy, what life!’ Bordner said. “I thought the theme of March Melee exactly described Yasmine’s work – just a riot of color and cheer so I encouraged her to submit one of her paintings. This was a very competitive show but I am not at all surprised that one of her pieces was accepted.”

Yasmine’s painting, “The Volcano,” was not only accepted, it was awarded one of only four Curators Awards.

“I’m very excited to be here tonight,” said Yasmine as she mingled among the crowd. “I love art. It makes me happy and when I paint, I feel it in my heart.”

Yasmine, who has also begun working in pottery, said that most of her ideas just “pop into my head.”

“I make art because it is fun and creative,” Yasmine said. “Art is something that is always new.... there is always something I can learn and I like to learn new things.”

Yasmine, a senior at McLean High School, has un-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

McLean artist Yamine Iskander puts the finishing touches on a painting.

dergone 25 surgeries, including five procedures on her heart and three on her brain.

“I am so proud of her,” said Yasmine’s father Magdi Iskander. “She is always so full of kindness — she wins the Good Samaritan award every year at school. To me, she is the face of God on earth.”

When asked if Yasmin inherited her talent from either of her parents, Sagari laughed.

“Us? Heavens no,” Sagari said. “We’re economists. Yasmine’s talent for art is a gift she was blessed with.”

Yasmine continues to take classes, studying with Marsha Staiger and Sharon Malley, and hopes to enter more shows like those with the Del Ray Artisans.

“DRA is not in the business of creating art,” Bordner said. “We’re here to create opportunity, hope, joy. It humbles me to see the kind of excitement and joy that being here tonight has sparked in Yasmine.”

The March Melee exhibit runs through March 27 at the Del Ray Artisans Nicolas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. For more information, call 703-838-4827 or visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

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MAY

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Cheesetique Ballston LLC trading as Cheesetique, 800 N. Glebe Rd. Arlington, VA 22203. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On & Off Premises, Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages, Philippa Erber, member
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