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Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION

WELLBEING
PAGE 10

Warhawks Finish Their Season at 16-9

SPORTS, PAGE 11

Madison's Aaron Thompson #2 soars towards the basket in a March 3 game against the South County Stallions; Warhawks lost, 41-40.

Full Conversation Requires Money on the Table

NEWS, PAGE 3

Vienna Police Officer Receives Meritorious Action Award

NEWS, PAGE 4

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14
PHOTO BY WILL PALENSCAR/THE CONNECTION

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Money on the Table Required

Board intends to keep options open for a full conversation by advertising tax increase.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Sharon Bulova indicated that the Board of Supervisors will advertise the tax rate March 6 with the full 2.5-cent increase proposed in County Executive Bryan Hill's budget.

"That's not to say that's what we will end up with," she said during a joint budget meeting with the Board of Supervisors and School Board on Feb. 27. School Superintendent Scott Brabrand also attended.

Hill's proposed budget would fully fund the school's budget request, fully fund compensation increases for county employees, and many county priorities.

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay heads the supervisors' budget committee. "I think we need to make sure we are able to have a full conversation with our community about the budget that's on the table and knowing that the budget funds our highest priorities, but the only way to do that is to implement a tax increase," he said.

Bulova said she understands the impact the tax rate would have. "We are concerned about that," she said.

"When we advertise the tax rate, that will become the ceiling for what the tax rate can be. It can be lower, it can be the same, but it cannot be higher than what we advertise

"That's not to say that's what we'll end up with."

— **Chairman Sharon Bulova on proposed rate increase**

on March 6," said Bulova.

The board will officially adopt the FY2019 budget on May 1 after a series of community meetings and public hearings on the \$4.29-billion budget.

If the Board of Supervisors were to adopt the full 2.5 cent tax rate increase, it would amount to an additional \$268 on the average homeowner's annual tax bill.

Sully Supervisor Kathy Smith said she fears talking about an average increase when all homeowners will have different property bills and property assessments. "When talking about averages, I also think it's useful to talk about medians," she said.

Hill came on board as county executive on Jan. 2, 2018.

"We cannot sustain what we are doing. In my view, this is a one year deal that al-

lows us to have a five year strategic look forward," he said.

"It is key that we become a prioritized county so we can effectuate the change that we need to go forward."

The budget would transfer \$2.26 billion to the school system, 52 percent of the total. Funding the school's proposed budget

would bring teacher salaries closer to market rates, said Brabrand.

"Every year we wait is a year teachers can make a choice to go elsewhere," said Brabrand.

See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget for more.



Sharon Bulova



Jeff McKay



Kathy Smith



Bryan Hill



Scott Brabrand

FILE PHOTOS

FAIRFAX COUNTY TOWN HALL BUDGET MEETINGS

- ❖ **Wednesday, March 7, 7 p.m.**, Sully District Town Hall, Rocky Run Middle School Little Theater, 4400 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly
- ❖ **Thursday, March 8, 7 p.m.**, Hunter Mill Community Summit, South Lakes High School Lecture Hall, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston
- ❖ **Monday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.**, Great Falls Budget Meeting, Great Falls Library Meeting Room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls
- ❖ **Wednesday, March 14, 7 p.m.**, Providence Community Budget Meeting, Providence Community Center, First Floor Multipurpose Room, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax
- ❖ **Wednesday, March 14, 7:30pm**, Braddock District Council Annual Budget Meeting, Location To Be Determined
- ❖ **Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m.**, Mason District Budget Town Meeting, Mason District

- Governmental Center, Main Community Room, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale
- ❖ **Monday, March 19, 7 p.m.**, Mount Vernon District Budget Town Hall, Location to be determined
- ❖ **Wednesday, March 21, 7 p.m.**, Lee District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Franconia Governmental Center Community Room, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria
- ❖ **Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m.**, Springfield District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Springfield Governmental Center, Community Room, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield
- ❖ **April 10-12**, Board of Supervisors Public Hearings on FY 2019 Budget and FY 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan. See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form to sign up.

Extracurriculars: Secret Sauce of Success

Superintendent's budget eliminates barrier of \$50 activity fee.

School Superintendent Scott Brabrand's budget would eliminate a \$50 extracurricular activity fee that went into effect this year. Eliminating the fee will cost the schools \$1 million, but Brabrand said it was important.

"I believe that extracurricular activities in Fairfax County are the secret sauce of success for our kids," Brabrand said, during a joint budget committee meeting held with members of the Board of Supervisors and School Board on Feb. 27.

Brabrand said he conducted grade point average research every year when he was a principal. "We looked at every kid, and regardless of background, regardless of race," he said, when students were in-

"Extracurricular activities ... are the secret sauce of success for our kids."

— **Scott Brabrand, School Superintendent**

involved in extracurricular activities they had higher grade point averages.

"Frankly, our kids that do get involved in sports and extracurricular activities already pay a mountain of fees as part of travel, as part of going places and being a part of booster clubs," said Brabrand. "So I don't think an additional fee does anything but set up a barrier for our kids to participate."

Brabrand said two other fees were implemented by the school system for FY2018. Fees will still be mandated for families whose children transfer out of boundary to another school and for students who take

more than six Advanced Placement or I.B. tests.

"The school system pays for the first six," he said.

— KEN MOORE



PHOTO BY WILL PALENSCAR/THE CONNECTION

The Oakton Cougars defeated the Westfield Bulldogs 59-54 to win the Concorde District Championship on Feb. 16. This year, students who participated in extracurricular activities like sports paid a \$50 fee, but the superintendent of schools proposes eliminating the fee.

NEWS

From left, Colonel James Morris and Master Police Officer Michael Finelli.



PHOTO COURTESY VIENNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Vienna Police Officer Receives Meritorious Action Award

On Feb. 2, the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office held its 8th Annual Awards Ceremony and banquet dinner to honor their awards recipients. Vienna Master Police Officer Michael Finelli was the recipient of a Meritorious Action Award. While working with the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force on a temporary assignment, MPO Michael Finelli's investigation lead to the arrest of multiple MS-13 gang members who were conspiring to abduct and murder an individual. MPO Finelli's investigative efforts

helped prevent the death of an innocent person. MPO Michael Finelli also received from the United States House of Representatives a Certificate of Congressional Recognition signed by U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10). This award recognizes an individual, or team of individuals, who have demonstrated exemplary action in response to a specific situation of an emergency nature, or as part of a routine event, where the member's exceptional performance merits special recognition.

VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna Police Department from Feb. 23 – March 1, 2018.

INCIDENTS

Embezzlement — Purple Onion Catering 416 Maple Avenue West Between July 1, 2016, 7 a.m. and March 24, 2017, 7 a.m. An employee reported that a former employee had embezzled money from the business.

Petit Larceny — Vienna Community Center 120 Cherry Street SE Feb. 9 between 3:29 p.m. and 3:43 p.m. Two subjects stole money from unattended backpacks.

Fraud — 100 Block of Shepherdson Lane NE Feb. 21, 12 p.m. A resident reported that someone was able to fraudulently transfer money out of her bank account.

Grand Larceny — Affordable Lawn, Sprinklers and Lighting 133 Patrick Street SE Between Feb. 22, 4 p.m. and Feb. 23, 7 a.m. An employee reported some items were stolen.

Animal Case — 700 Block of Kingsley Road SW Feb. 23, 12 p.m. A resident's dog bit his owner. The dog was placed on a ten day quarantine. **Police Service** — 400 Block of Colin Lane NW Feb. 24, 9:16 a.m. A resident reported a missing person. The person was located by police unharmed. **Welfare Check** — 500 Block of Woodland Court NW Feb. 24, 4:37 p.m. Officers responded to the residence to check on the welfare of a person. After speaking with the person officers determined the person was not a threat to themselves or

others.

Suspicious Event — Patrick Street SE Feb. 25, 8 p.m. A resident reported a suspicious event.

Suspicious Event — 1100 Block of Desale Street SW Feb. 26, 4:42 p.m. A citizen reported a juvenile shooting a BB gun in a backyard. Police investigated the allegations and determined it was actually an airsoft gun and that no violation of law had taken place.

Suspicious Event — Church Street NE / Center Street NE Feb. 26 between 6:15 p.m. and 6:39 p.m. A citizen reported a road rage incident.

Arrest - Domestic Assault - The Wolftrap Hotel 430 Maple Avenue West Feb. 26 9:38 p.m. Police responded to the hotel on a tip of a wanted subject. Officers were able to announce themselves and briefly make contact with the subject before he sprinted away from the officers. Officers chased the subject on foot but lost sight of him. A K-9 unit and a helicopter were requested. The subject was eventually located in the backyard of a nearby home. The 45-year-old man with no fixed address was arrested and transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. A warrant for Felonious Assault and Obstruction of Justice from the earlier event were served. An outstanding warrant for Contempt of Court and an Emergency Protective Order were also served. The man was remanded to the custody of the Fairfax County Deputies.

Domestic Dispute — 1000 Block of Moorefield Creek Road SW Feb. 27,

SEE POLICE, PAGE 5

St. Patrick's Day Parade of Homes



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NEWS

Transforming Lives

Assistance League to host annual spring luncheon and auctions.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia will hold its annual fundraiser on April 27 to support its community outreach programs. The public is invited to attend the event which will raise funds for the nonprofit's three major programs: Weekend Food for Kids, New Clothing for Kids, and Reading Express. Through these programs, the all-volunteer nonprofit organization helps more than 6,000 disadvantaged students each year.

Started in 2010 with a delivery of 500 bags of food to one school, Weekend Food for Kids now provides food to children living with food insecurity in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria who receive free or reduced-price meals on school days but lack adequate food resources on weekends. Today, with financial and hands-on support from the community, Assistance League delivers 1,650 bags of supplemental food to children in six Title I schools every month during the school year.

Last school year, with the help of Dominion Energy, Intelsat, Tee Off for Tots Children's Charities, Quadrant and other charitable organizations, the program provided 15,672 bags of food to children who may otherwise go hungry on weekends. The population served is multicultural, and the school counselors identify the children to receive the food.

Through the New Clothing for Kids program, clothing, shoes and personal groom-



Tony Perkins

ing products are provided to more than 2,870 children whose families cannot afford those items.

Reading Express targets at-risk first grade students by providing one-on-one tutoring to improve the reading skills of students at Providence Elementary School in Fairfax. In 2016-17, members gave 521 hours of support in the classroom and, to encourage reading at home, also provided new books to students enrolled in the program.

Through fundraising efforts and grant awards, members lend their time and talent to raise funds to support the organization's mission.

Assistance League will again conduct its primary campaign to raise money to sustain its philanthropic programs in the 2018-19 school year. The "Transforming Lives" Spring Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, April 27 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, in Fairfax. Ticket price is \$65 (\$30 is tax deductible).

This year's luncheon will include silent and live auctions and feature Keynote Speaker Tony Perkins, Fox 5 News Anchor and Co-Host MAJIC 102.3/92.7. Local businesses donate a variety of goods to support the cause. Current event sponsors include: Quadrant, Joyce Koons Honda Buick GMC, Manassas Spine Care Chiropractic Center and NOVEC. To attend or contribute, contact: ALNorthernVA@gmail.com. Visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

FROM PAGE 4

9:42 a.m. A resident requested police to assist with a domestic dispute. Police investigated the allegations and determined that no violation of law had taken place.

Suspicious Event — 100 Block of Wilmar Place NW Feb. 28 1:08 p.m. A resident reported that someone hacked his email account.

Service — Apple Federal Credit Union 419 Maple Avenue East Feb. 28, 3:12 p.m. A citizen requested police assistance with an emotionally disturbed person. The person had already left the area prior to police arrival.

Vehicle Tampering — 900 Block Desale Street SW Between Feb. 27, 11p.m. and Feb. 28, 7 a.m. A resident reported that someone entered her unlocked vehicle and stole several items.

Emotionally Disturbed Person — 200 Block of Ross Drive SW Feb. 28, 12:39 p.m. A citizen reported that a person was in need of medical assistance. Officers responded to the residence and spoke to the person. It was determined that the emotionally disturbed person was in need of immediate medical assistance. The person was transported to a medical facility.

Police Service — Cunningham Park Elementary 1001 Park Street SE March 1 between 10:37 a.m. and 11:47 a.m. An employee wanted to make police aware of a suspicious event.

CRASHES

Hit and Run — 100 Block of Branch Road SE Feb. 22, 6:20 p.m. Vehicle #1 was parked in the row across from Massage Envy, 126 Branch Road SE. When Vehicle #1 driver returned to the vehicle, she noticed front-end damage to the driver's side.

Accident — Nutley Street SW / Tapawingo Road SW Feb. 23, 8:14 a.m. Vehicle #1 and Vehicle #2 were stopped at a red light on Nutley Street SW at Tapawingo Road SW, when the light turned green Vehicle #1 sped up a little too fast tapping the rear bumper of Vehicle #2. Vehicle #2 insisted the incident be documented.

Accident — Nutley Street SW/ Tapawingo Road SW Feb. 24, 4:34 p.m. Vehicle #1 was traveling north on Nutley Street SW. Vehicle #2 was traveling south on Nutley Street SW. Vehicle #1 was making a left onto Tapawingo Road SW. From the turn lane. Vehicle #2 struck Vehicle #1 on the right rear corner panel. Both drivers stated they had a green light. Accident — Maple Avenue East / East Street SE Feb. 26, 7:21 a.m. Vehicle #2, was driving north on Maple Avenue East, approaching the intersection of East Street SE. As traffic slowed Vehicle #2 slowed at which time Vehicle #1, who was also traveling in the same lane and direction,

SEE POLICE, PAGE 8

DELIGHT

— to feel or express joy or triumph —



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No Guns in the Classroom

Gun safety is an American value.

BY MONTE F. BOURJAILY, IV

In the aftermath of the horrific school shooting in Parkland, Florida, the President of the United States and the head of the National Rifle Association, have advocated arming teachers and hardening schools in other ways. These are shriveled, reactive measures that appeal to fear and rely on the false statement that “to stop a bad guy with a gun, you need a good guy with a gun.”

Introducing guns into the classroom doesn't demonstrate the virtue of the Second Amendment, it poisons the educational environment, increases the risk that innocents will be hurt and simply challenges “the bad guy” to creatively get around the armed target. We can uphold the Second Amendment, and the rule of law, and ensure Americans' safety and sense of security with common sense measures, like repealing the Dickey Amendment, that focus on preventing unsafe and malevolent use of firearms.

Arming teachers is a terrible idea. First, it changes the dynamic in a classroom, placing

the weapon between the teacher and the students. Even if its purpose is to protect students, the weapon is a distraction and a barrier. Second, and more importantly, you are introducing more projectile weapons into a chaotic environment, dramatically increasing the likelihood of friendly fire killing children, other teachers and law enforcement seeking to assist. How well do police and soldiers perform in the high stress conditions of an actual confrontation? Does the stress and opportunity for errors increase or decrease when multiple shooters (friend and foe) are added to a situation? Third, in response to the argument that a shooter will avoid schools knowing that teachers are armed, what is to prevent the shooter from wearing body armor? It is easy to buy. We need to stop reacting and problem-solve and innovate, which is our true nature.

Guns are tools, like cars, that can cause serious injury or death when used improperly or with ill-intent. I also am a hunter who grew up respecting guns.

Why is there a “gag rule” (the Dickey Amendment of 1996) on Centers for Disease Control research into the effects of gun violence? How are guns different than cars? The National Highway Transportation Safety Commission collects data on motor vehicle fatalities through the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS).

Gun owners have a Second Amendment right to own and use guns responsibly, not unconditionally. All Americans have a right to gain a better understanding of how guns are used in ways that harm other Americans and in ways that can pose a risk to all of us.

We must respect the Second Amendment, like we uphold all of the Constitution as the rule of law. However, there are few absolutes under the Constitution, including how far we interpret the right to bear arms. Freedom of Religion does not permit the practice of human sacrifice and Freedom of Speech does not permit fighting words. In short, my right to swing my arms ends at the tip of your nose. We Americans are at our best as problem solvers and innovators. We use data and common sense to find solutions. We confront threats, rather than fearfully wait for them. Can we find common ground on reasonable gun control by listening to each other and recognizing reasonable rights and reasonably accepting certain limits in respectful recognition of the rights of others?

Monte F. Bourjaily, IV is a lawyer who teaches US Government, American History and Philosophy at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. All submissions are in his personal capacity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not Paying Attention in Logic Class

To the Editor:

I was very surprised at the honesty of the headline on your Feb. 21-27 editorial, but then someone pointed out to me that “Another Assault on Common Sense” probably wasn't referring to the content of your editorial. My mistake.

Since I was wrong about that, maybe I don't understand the cartoon either. As I understand it, a deranged individual murdered 17 people in a school in Florida; many of that person's peers “knew” that he was dangerous, but apparently did not mention that to school authorities until after the shooting; school authorities considered him dangerous, but did not go to police; police made dozens of visits to his house, but two investigators concluded that he was not a danger to himself or others; the adults with whom he was living did not notice the aberrant behavior that so many others saw; the FBI was “unable to identify” him as the author of a post indicating he wanted to be a school shooter, and when the FBI received two separate tips actually naming him as dangerous and threatening to become a school shooter, the Bureau ignored one, and failed to send the

second to the local Field Office for action, and when he became the school shooter he said that he wanted to be, the Broward County deputy on duty at the school failed to do his duty and remained outside the building where the shooting was taking place, where he was joined by other Broward deputies who also did not enter the building – and so the NRA was responsible for the atrocity.

I must not have been paying attention in Logic Class.

H. M. Padon
Great Falls

Conversation Stopper

To the Editor:

If I hear the word “conversation” in the media one more time, in relation to another massacre of humans, I might be driven to violence. “Conversation” is not a solution to any of our social diseases. It is particularly unnerving when the calls for a “conversation” usually relate to gun control, and come from folks who don't even know the meaning of the words they are chanting. “Automatic” weapons have already been banned for decades. “Assault Rifles” have the same capability as many other guns, but they are just designed to look cool. They are a

legal version of a rifle that a veteran can own as a reminder of the automatic rifle he carried while risking his life for his country.

But the demands for a “conversation,” or for the President to do something rather than nothing, keep getting louder and louder. The hysteria usually includes mantras about the NRA having too much influence. Yet no one seems to grasp the idea that maybe it's the influence of the National Education Association (NEA) that is too weak and misdirected regarding the interests of teachers who can easily identify kids, as early as first grade, who should never have access to a gun. Maybe the NEA should lobby harder for increased regulation of dysfunctional kids, and the parents that are irresponsible. Even without access to guns, these kids can eventually get a driver's license, and propel a car or a truck into their schoolmates during a fire drill.

Gene Phillip
Great Falls

Cowardice and Complicity

To the Editor,

I'm one of the lucky parents. Like most parents, I worked hard during the 18 to 20 or so years it takes to raise my children, educate

them, instill values, help them become productive adults and, hopefully, parents themselves. All those playdates, sports practices, trips to the library, school events, college visits, illnesses, successes, and disappointments we gladly work through, enjoy, suffer through, and, if we're lucky, our children actually survive and move on. I can think of nothing worse for parents than to have their child, their gift to the future and image of themselves, taken horribly before his or her time.

A parent should never outlive his child. Even a nuclear holocaust is preferable, because then we'd all die, and the parent would not have to pretend to celebrate the memory of what might have been had the promise of this nation been kept. That's right, the core promise of this nation is embodied in our elected representative's oath of office to protect its citizens from enemies, both foreign and domestic.

I call out every Republican in Congress and the President and Vice President for violating their oath, sworn on a bible. If they had any integrity, they would resign. There is a moral duty to act to save a life when you have the opportunity, ability and means. Failing to act is cowardice, and worse, complicity.

Les Halpern
Herndon



NEWS

Lawmakers in Richmond approve access on demand to feminine hygiene products in jails and prisons but deny adding pads and tampons to the back-to-school tax holiday.



Mixed Success on Menstrual Equity

Increased availability behind bars, but not during back-to-school sale.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Several lawmakers from Northern Virginia arrived in Richmond this year hoping to push a cause known as menstrual equity — making sure that feminine hygiene products are affordable, safe and available. But success has been mixed. Lawmakers are moving forward with making sure that tampons and pads are available on demand to inmates in Virginia jails and prisons. But they are not willing to move forward with eliminating the sales tax on feminine hygiene products, even if that's limited to the school tax holiday.

"Currently under the tax holiday you can buy things like garter belts and wedding dresses," said Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86). "But menstrual supplies are not included in that tax holiday, and girls have to have those products to go to school."

When asked whether feminine hygiene products are available at jails across Virginia, sheriffs across Northern Virginia say they are provided on demand. But talk to inmates, and you hear a different story. In Virginia prisons, pads are provided at no charge but tampons are available for sale at commissaries. But after Del. Kaye Kory (D-38) introduced a bill to force the issue, "The regional jails and the Department of Corrections have now announced that they are going to provide feminine hygiene menstrual products to women who are incarcerated at no cost," said Kory, whose bill is on the way to the governor's desk. "Public shaming works sometimes. I'll have to do it more often."

ADVOCATES SAY SHAME has been a problem for too many women for too long. The idea that Viagra and Rogaine are tax free in Virginia but pads and tampons are not has been a sticking point among many for years. They praise lawmakers for taking action in jails and prisons but are concerned that Virginia will continue to tax

these products even during the sales tax holiday.

"Incarcerated women don't necessarily get that much empathy, so we thought this was something we were really going to have to fight for," said Holly Seibold, founder of an organization known as Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters. "In terms of the sales tax, I think this is politics at its worst."

Virginia is not one of the seven states that exempt sales tax for feminine hygiene products, although states across the country are moving in that direction. Illinois is the latest state to create one, and Connecticut's new sales tax exemption will begin this summer. The Virginia Department of Taxation estimates that eliminating the sales tax on pads and tampons would cost about \$5 million a year.

"I believe that there is a will in the governor's office to make up for the revenue loss from the sales tax," said freshman Del. Debra Rodman (D-73), who also introduced a bill to eliminate sales tax on these products. "Even if it didn't go anywhere this year, everything doesn't always happen at once. But making laws is a process, and we need to show there's bipartisan support for this."

ELIMINATING THE SALES tax is one thing. But adding feminine hygiene products to the list of items exempt from the back-to-school sales tax holiday is a different story. Advocates were hopeful that they could at least add pads and tampons to a list that includes bowling shoes and fur coats. The Department of Taxation estimates that would cost about \$40,000 a year, a price Republicans in the House Finance Committee weren't willing to pay.

"Unfortunately it never received a hearing at all," said Boysko, whose bill was rejected without a recorded vote. "I'm disappointed but I'll try again next year. I think the focus on Medicaid expansion has been the top priority, and that's huge so I'm glad we are looking at that."



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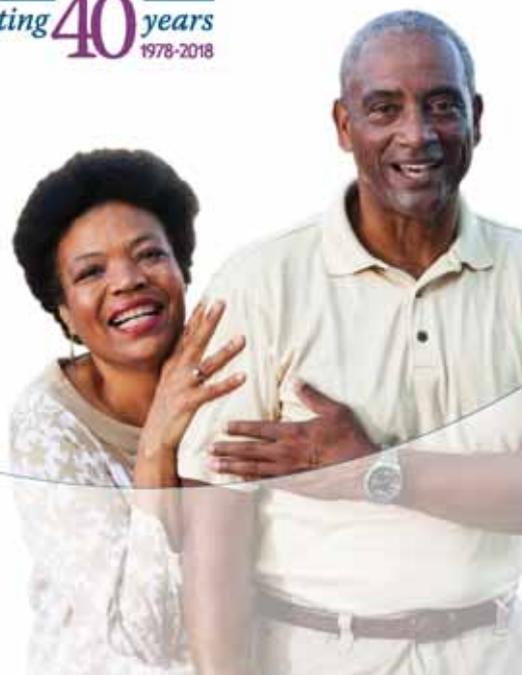
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NEWSPAPERS

CAPPIES REVIEW

From left: Devon Bogucki, Jane Kearns, Angela Diaz-Bonilla, Kiley Hatch, Lourdes Navarro in Oakcrest School's production of "Little Women."



PHOTO BY
DR. MOLLY KLOTE

A Thoughtful Take on Classic Tale

Oakcrest School's production of 'Little Women.'

BY ANNA KRELOVICH
WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

“Christopher Columbus,” exclaims an excited Jo to her three sisters as they learn how to live on their own for the first time, only depending on each other. Emphasizing the importance of familial love, Oakcrest School's production of “Little Women” provides a thoughtful take on the classic tale.

Based on Louisa May Alcott's 1869 novel of the same name, “Little Women” was adapted for the stage by Kristin Laurence. This unique all female edition follows the four March sisters, Jo, Meg, Beth, and Amy, living in Concord, Mass., after their father goes off to fight in the Civil War. After their father falls ill and their mother Marmee goes to attend to him in Washington, D.C., the girls are left to face the tribulations of life, and their expected roles in 19th century society, on their own, with only the support of each other to guide them.

Each of the four March sisters showcased a distinct trait, indicating their goals and values in life. Jo, portrayed by Jane Kearns, is brashly tomboyish, completely disregarding the expectations of her to be a proper young lady. Kearns is bold and quick-tongued in her temper, and hilarious when mocking her sister Amy's (Devon Bogucki) request to act more prim and polite. Portraying Meg, Kiley Hatch is longing for a greater life of luxury, while still retaining a matronly responsibility expected for being the eldest sister. Hatch is kind and loving

to her sisters, even in the face of resistance, and when confronted for her love of a poor man, is passionate and defensive, communicating a security in her beliefs. Lourdes Navarro is the quiet and contemplative Beth, becoming visibly weaker as she falls ill. Bogucki's portrayal of the youngest sister Amy is bratty and self-centered, yet still caring. She desperately longs for a life of proper normalcy, twirling around in her fanciest dress and fantasizing about marriage. Together, the four girls create a well-rounded family dynamic, being both dependent and resentful of their sisters.

The March sisters' mother Marmee is portrayed by Angela Diaz-Bonilla, who is composed and wise, always there to offer her daughters sage advice. Her composure served to mellow the girls' often exuberant and inflated personalities and bring them to a place of reason. Portraying Aunt March, Eli Crishock is materialistic and rude, commendably embodying the society Jo condemns.

The simple home features aged yellow wallpaper and a grand bay window overlooking a snowy landscape, complete with homey furniture and cozy fireplace. The hair serves to set the period well, and Beth's increasingly pale makeup notably indicates her worsening disease.

Sitting together reflecting on their past year, the March family excitedly rushes to the door to greet their father. With thoughtful actresses and hilarious moments, Oakcrest School's production of “Little Women” dutifully teaches that family bonds come above all, and devotedly mocks the societal expectations of women in 19th century America.

VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

FROM PAGE 5

failed to slow causing it to strike Vehicle #2 in the rear. There were no injuries as a result of the accident and no summons was issued. Driver #1, is held at fault.

Accident — Locust Street SE/Glyndon Street SE Feb. 26, 4:45 p.m. Two vehicles collided at the four way stop intersection. Vehicle #1 was on locust at the stop sign headed westbound crossing Glyndon Street SE when Vehicle #2

made a left turn, causing both vehicles to collide. Vehicle #2 was trying to make a left turn from Locust Street SE onto Glyndon Street SE when the accident occurred. Since there was no witnesses and fault could not be determined no one received a citation.

Accident — Maple Avenue/Center Street Feb. 26, 6:47 p.m. Vehicle #1 was driving Eastbound on Maple Avenue/Center Street. A pedestrian ran onto Maple Avenue hitting the side of Vehicle #1. The pedestrian was running for the bus across the street. The

pedestrian admitted fault. No EMS transport. Accident — Pleasant Street NW Feb. 26, 7:39 p.m. Driver 1 had just turned right off of Maple Avenue West, onto Pleasant Street NW, when he approached the intersection of Pleasant and Church Street and observed when he believed to be a cat run in front of his vehicle. He swerved to avoid the animal and ended up on the curb of the left hand side of the road, striking a no parking sign and forcing it to bend.

Budget Brinkmanship

Lawmakers poised to leave town without passing budget.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Budget showdowns are rare in Virginia, but not unprecedented. Back in 2004, Gov. Mark Warner clashed with Republicans over a sales tax increase. Then in 2014, Gov. Terry McAuliffe engaged in brinkmanship over expanding Medicaid. Now lawmakers are poised to end the session once again without passing a budget. The final deadline for reaching an agreement is the end of June, when the new fiscal year begins.

“Looking at past budget standoffs, this one surpasses anything I’ve seen,” said Del. Ken Plum (D-36), the longest serving member of the House. “The issues are so big in terms of the number difference, but also in terms of philosophical differences in how we might put programs together.”

After experiencing an earthquake election last year, House Republicans changed course on expanding Medicaid. Their budget has \$371 million in new revenue from the federal government under the Affordable Care Act. Senate Republicans remain steadfastly opposed to expanding Medicaid. So far, only one Senate Republican has sided with Democrats, Sen. Emmett Hanger (R-24), although he’s opposed to the hospital bed tax that would fund the part of Medicaid expansion not funded by the federal government. That means conferees from the House and Senate will spend the next few weeks hashing it out.

“The House conferees all voted for the House budget, and they all support Medicaid expansion. The Senate conferees are mixed,” said Barbara Favola (D-31). “Right now I don’t see a clear pathway for them unless they are identifying some particular incentives



MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

House and Senate leaders are deadlocked over the budget, a debate that expected to unfold over the next few weeks as budget conferees hash out the details.

that they want Governor Northam to consider.”

IF PAST IS PROLOGUE, the next few weeks will see some dramatic new development that will shift the discussion. Back in 2004, lawmakers left town at loggerheads over a sales tax increase. The Senate supported the idea, but the House resisted it. After weeks of negotiation, several key Republicans flipped and eventually supported the idea, giving Warner and the Democrats a major victory.

“This has been the most trying time that’s ever been in my political career,” said House Appropriations Chairman Vince Callahan (R-34) during the 2004 negotiations. “Hopefully we’ll go to the middle of June, and we’ll have it all wrapped up and I can enjoy my life again.” Callahan died in 2014.

The budget standoff of 2014 didn’t play out quite so swimmingly for Democrats. McAuliffe was ending his first General Assembly session as governor, and he was pushing hard for Medicaid expansion.

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 14

Oakcrest Awards Veritas Scholarships

Oakcrest School has selected Therese McGovern, a current Oakcrest student and Abigail Adams, a newly accepted student to the Class of 2022 as Veritas scholarship recipients. Miss McGovern and Miss Adams were chosen from a highly competitive applicant pool of 30 eighth-grade students.

The prestigious merit scholarship award consists of a \$5,000 tuition remission renewed annually through graduation. It is granted to two outstanding students each year who best display high academic achievement, leadership, and strong moral character.

More than just a monetary award, Veritas scholars receive one-on-one mentoring by school administrators and develop leadership skills in their role as school ambassadors. They represent Oakcrest, an all-girl liberal arts school in Northern Virginia, at various events during the school year, lead tours at open houses, and speak to prospective students, parents, and donors.

“I can say with confidence that, looking back, receiving the Veritas award has been the fundamental stepping stone in my discovery in what it means to lead by example and act with the inten-



Therese McGovern



Abigail Adams

PHOTOS COURTESY OF OAKCREST SCHOOL

tion of service,” reflected Makena Kiara, a Veritas award recipient from the Class of 2017. “The Veritas award has allowed me to grow in self-confidence and self-knowledge.”

To qualify, students had to submit an original essay, video or art project on the topic “We Each Make a Difference.” Candidates attended a reception in early February as the last step in the application process where they were interviewed by Oakcrest alumnae. For more information, visit www.Oakcrest.org

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Discussing School Shootings with Children

Open dialogue is key to quelling fear, say mental health professionals.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Helping parents who are grappling with their children's feelings of anger and fear following the recent Florida school shooting and subsequent fallout was a recent topic that Lisa Jackson-Cherry, Ph.D., department chair and program coordinator, Pastoral Clinical Mental Health Counseling & Pastoral and Spiritual Care programs at Marymount University, had with her graduate students. The class discussed how high profile acts of violence can frighten children who might feel as though they or someone they love could become a victim or find themselves in danger. From mass shootings to natural disasters, an open dialogue with children is key to dealing with thoughts and feelings.

"In most instances, talking about the incident helps to gain some control over what is not controlled," said Jackson-Cherry. "Normalizing feelings and thoughts like fear, sadness, anger, and confusion can help children know they are not abnormal in how they are feeling or thinking."

"First ask what they heard rather than starting by telling them about it," added Joanne Bagshaw, Ph.D., professor of psy-

chology at Montgomery College. "I wouldn't get too stuck on the details. Just get a sense of what they know and make sure it's accurate."

In fact, exploration is key. "Encourage children to express their feelings and validate them," said Bagshaw. "You can start by saying, 'I can understand why you're feeling that.'"

Monitor both the amount and source of information that children receive about high profile incidents, advises Bagshaw. "I would really limit their social media and news intake about the violence," she said. "Videos about the shooting are too traumatic, and watching them can be too traumatizing and too dramatic."

Reviewing the family's safety plan can help children feel secure, advises Bagshaw. It's something she did in her own family. "At my daughter's middle school, you can't just walk into a building like they did in Florida," she said. "I reminded my daughter of this and explained the safety differences between her school and the school in Florida. One thing that you don't want to say is that 'That will never happen here.' You want to focus on what's real and what's realistic."

Maintaining a sense of normalcy follow-

ing a public display of violence can help quell fear that children might be feeling, advises Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University and a licensed clinical psychologist. "Parents play a key role by staying calm, maintaining household routines, explaining that many events we worry about seldom happen, and stating that we will cope with whatever happens," he said. "Parents should place the highest priority on helping children stay safe."

"I would caution against using leading questions like, 'Are you scared?' because this question already implies they should be scared of something and that may not be accurate," continued Jackson-Cherry. "Depending on their answers, parents can assist in having the child integrate aspects of power and control in a situation where they may not be in control."

While putting national events into perspective in a way that children can understand, Short also advises parents to explore emotions. "Ask children what they are feeling and empathize and validate what they say. Ask children how they feel about school," he said. "Is there anything at school that worries them? Be reassuring that you will help protect them."

Reviewing safety guidelines can help children feel secure, says Short. "Parents [can say that] local police are working to keep the community safe. We need to look out for each other," he said. "Say that high-profile violence is unlikely to happen at local schools because of safety procedures. For example, there are more than 130,000 elementary and secondary schools, and we focus on relatively few schools where shootings have occurred."

Even those children who don't express emotions or appear unaffected by news reports of violence might still be anxious about the event. "Many children may not display outward anger or fear but that does not mean they are not fearful, angry, or sad about what they have heard or experienced," said Jackson-Cherry. "I think in most circumstances, parents asking about a child's knowledge of the event would be a good way to start."

Limit a child's exposure to media coverage of acts of violence and discuss it in an age appropriate manner, advises Jackson-Cherry. "If the parent is watching or listening to the news together with their child, try asking, 'What are you thinking or feeling about what just happened or was reported?'" she said. "I asked my 15 year old, 'Has the school discussed the shooting in Florida? Have you had drill in case it were to happen?'"

Call for Candidates
McLean Community Center
2018 Governing Board Election

Qualification:
 Must be a resident of Small Tax District 1A-Dranesville.

Petition to Become A Candidate:

- Candidate must pick up own petition packet at the Center, and return own petition.
- Adult candidate must have ten (10) signatures of adult tax district residents on petition.
- Teen candidate must be 15-17 years old as of McLean Day (May 19) and have ten (10) signatures of teens also 15-17 years old who live in the tax district and in the candidate's high school boundary area.

Positions:

- Three (3) Adult Seats - Three-year terms.
- Two (2) Youth Seats - One-year terms. One (1) each for the Langley and McLean high school boundary areas.

Key Petition Dates:

- **January 22:** Petition Packets are available at the McLean Community Center Administrative Office, 6631 Old Dominion Dr., McLean, VA.
- **March 16:** Completed petitions are due to the Center's Administrative Office by **5 p.m.**

For more information visit the Center at:
 6631 Old Dominion Dr., McLean, VA 22101
 call: 703-790-0123, TTY: 411
 email: elections@mcleancenter.org
 or visit: www.mcleancenter.org/about/candidates



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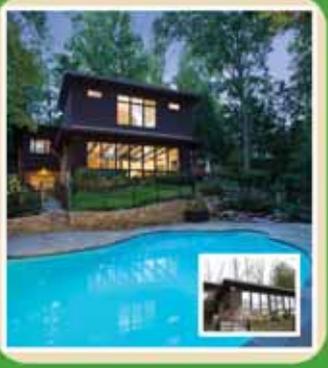
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SPORTS

Warhawks Finish Their Season at 16-9

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR/THE CONNECTION

Madison loses to South County, 41-40.

The Madison Warhawks (16-8) took on the South County Stallions (24-3) on March 3 in the 1st round of the VHSL Class 6 State Championship at Robinson Secondary. With the 41-40 win, South County (25-3) advances to the quarterfinals to take on Battlefield, who were winners over Hayfield 68-61. The game will be played on March 6 at Patriot HS at 6 p.m., with the winner going to the State Final on March 8 which is held at the Siegel Center on the Campus of Virginia Commonwealth University. Madison finishes their season at 16-9.

In the first eight minutes both teams were able to score 13 points. South County was led by Branden Powe with 5 points and Quentin Millora-brown with 4. Madison was led by Nick Hugie with 5 points and Johnny Hecht with 4.

In the 2nd quarter South County narrowly edged Madison, scoring 7 while holding the Warhawks to just 5. Quentin Millora-brown would pace South County with 3 points. Madison's Aaron Darab converted on a long range 3 pointer, led the Warhawks with 3.

With Madison trailing at half 20-18, Aaron Darab had his best quarter, scoring 7 points. however, Millora-brown would add another 7 points. South County scored 11 points and Madison added 10, giving the Stallions a 3 point advantage, 31-28 with a quarter to play.

Both teams continued to battle it out with both teams scoring 11 in the 4th quarter. Millora-brown's 6 points for South County was enough for a game high 20 points. Branden Powe added 9 more for the Stallions. Madison was led by Aaron Darab's 12 points and John Finney's 11.

Madison Loses Regional Championship

The Madison Warhawks traveled to Haymarket, Va to take on the Battlefield Bobcats for the 6D Regional final on Feb. 24.

Madison arrived after defeating Herndon, Patriot, and Westfield. Battlefield advanced to final by beating Washington-Lee, Oakton and Marshall.

After both teams scored 13 first quarter points, Madison took a 25-22 lead to half time.

In the 3rd quarter both teams added 15 points to their totals.

In the 4th quarter Battlefield would score 19 points and Madison was held to 14 and Battlefield would hoist the Regional Cham-



Madison's Aaron Thompson #2 soars towards the basket in a March 3 game against the South County Stallions; Warhawks lost, 41-40.



South County's Quentin Millora-brown #42 and Branden Powe #4 challenge Johnny Hecht's shot in a game against Madison. South County won, 41-40.



After an offensive rebound, Quentin Millora-brown of South County Stallions floats a shot towards the basket in a game against Madison Warhawks, which South County won, 41-40.



South County's Quentin Millora-brown was a defensive nightmare for the Madison Warhawks.

pionship trophy after a 59-51 victory.

Battlefield was led by Brayden Gault with 19 Will Bounds added 14 and Austin

Estridge added 11. Madison was led by John Finney with 11 points. Johnny Hecht and Nick Hugie each had 10 points.

Both teams advanced to the Virginia State Championships.

— WILL PALENSCAR

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/.
The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

“The Farnsworth Invention.” Through March 11, Thursdays-Sundays, various times at 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Writer Aaron Sorkin’s signature style lends itself to the story of the invention that changed our lives. In 1929, two ambitious visionaries race against each other to invent a device called “television.” Who will unlock the key to the greatest innovation of the 20th century: the ruthless media mogul, or the self-taught Idaho farm boy? \$33 general admission, \$30 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Purchase at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

Art Exhibit. Through March 31 at Great Falls Library (Small Conference Room), 830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. View an exhibit of watercolors by Artist Betty Ganley featuring her love of nautical scenes. Visit bettyganley.com.

Art Exhibit. Through April 7 at Village Green Shopping Center, 513 Maple Ave. NW, Vienna. Vienna Arts Society presents First 100 Weeks, paintings by Deborah Schneider. Free and open to the public. Visit viennaartsociety.org/.

Art Exhibition: “Bon Appetit.” Through May 6, during gallery hours at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Oakton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Year-round weekly farmers market in Oakton. Local produce, meats/eggs, dairy, baked goods, and more. Admission is free. Visit community-foodworks.org.

Great Falls Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org for more.

Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners’ Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org for more.

The Freeman Store & Museum Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is

dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna’s heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. Historicviennainc.org

Bingo Night. Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. www.vvfd.org/bingo.html.

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women’s softball league, is looking for players through April. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. Games are on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. Visit www.goldengirls.org.

Colvin Run Mill open 11-4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County’s operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

CLASSES, CAMPS & WORKSHOPS

MCC Summer Camps. Plan now to register children for MCC’s enriching summer camp programs for children ages 3 through 18. Summer Camp Registration begins Monday, Feb. 5, for MCC district residents and Monday, Feb. 12, for all others. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

The Arts of Great Falls School offers winter classes for adults and children of all skill levels. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 8

Vienna Arts Society Membership Meeting and Demo. 10:30 a.m. at Vienna Arts Society, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Ruth Ensley will discuss and show how she builds the intensity of



“Viet Nam” by Ruth Ensley

Vienna Arts Society

Ruth Ensley will discuss and show how she builds the intensity of watercolor using transparent layers and builds the depth of textures shown in her work. Thursday, March 8, 10:30 a.m. at Vienna Arts Society, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

watercolor using transparent layers and builds the depth of textures shown in her work. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 9

Registration Deadline. A Brunch and Mah Jongg Fun Day for players of all skill levels at Temple Rodef Shalom 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church on Sunday, March 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. In addition to lots of mah jong games, there will be food, prizes, gorgeous luxe raffle baskets, one-of-a-kind silent auction items and more. All proceeds will go support charities and organizations. \$50 by March 1; \$60 between March 2-9 (space permitting). Email mjacknow@aol.com or call 703-698-8702 or visit bit.ly/2Arwv08.

MARCH 9-24

“Harvey.” Friday-Saturday, 8-10:30 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The McLean Community Players will present Mary Chase’s Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy, “Harvey.” Matinees on Sundays, March 11 and 18. \$18-\$20. Email info@McLeanPlayers.org or visit McLeanPlayers.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 10

Spring Bazaar. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 400 Center St., S., Vienna. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary presents their spring bazaar, featuring crafts, clothing and home businesses, as well as home baked bake sale, and Fire Department cook books, tumblers and Vera’s Attic table – offering gently loved attic treasures. Email dancers1023@aol.com or call 703-309-3468.

Black History Concert. 3 p.m. at Historic Pleasant Grove, 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Historic Pleasant Grove is hosting the acclaimed Washington Revels Jubilee Voices for a free concert celebrating African American musical traditions. This event will take place in a quaint 1895 church setting, now an historic site. Visit www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org.

Artist Reception. 5:30-8 p.m. at The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. The Landscapes of Ten Artists features work by Sheila Blake, Marsha Gallo, Gary Goldberg, Linda Greigg, Barbara Johnson, Robert McBride, Be Sargent, Thomas Xenakis, Susan Yanero, and Ellen Zeland. Visit www.theframefactory1.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 10-11

“The Snow White Variety Show.” 2 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. All the fun of just about every TV show genre you can imagine is jam-packed into this wild and fast-paced comedy. This is a part-talk-show, part-reality show dramatic retelling of a classic story you thought you knew performed by talented local young actors! The dwarves team up to share their own side of Snow White’s story. \$10-\$15. For ages 6 and older. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for tickets.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

‘Harvey’ Comes to Great Falls

McLean Community Players presents Pulitzer Prize winning comedy at Great Falls Grange.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where & When

McLean Community Players present “Harvey” at Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Performances: March 9-24, 2018. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$18-\$20. Group rates available. General admission tickets through Brown Paper Tickets at 800-838-3006 or visit www.McLeanPlayers.org.

A whimsical comedy, the timeless Pulitzer Prize winning “Harvey” is the tale of a middle-aged bachelor named Elwood P. Dowd; a man with a number of eccentricities. One of his idiosyncrasies is having a distinctive friend. That friend is a 6-foot-tall rabbit named Harvey; invisible to most everyone, but not Elwood.

Harvey the Rabbit and Elwood have lively conversations about all sorts of things, even as a daft group of relatives and friends scratch their heads wondering about Elwood’s sanity.

For “Harvey” director Eleanore Tapscott the show is a joy, “I’m enthralled by one of the play’s central themes; that our dreams or illusions are more important than we think they are.”

The McLean Community Play-

ers’ (MCP) production of “Harvey” will be performed at the Great Falls Grange as the McLean Community Center continues its renovations. “Harvey” was last produced on the Great Falls Grange stage in 1986. Now the MCP will be treating new generations of Great Falls theater-goers to the comical and serious question; is the talking rabbit seen by Dowd, a man who may drink a bit, real?

Kevin Dykstra, who plays Elwood P. Dowd, said “Elwood’s innocence and likability will come through as he glides along while surrounded by hysteria, chaos and suspicion.”

“Audiences will enjoy the over-

all zaniness of ‘Harvey’ and get a kick out of how various characters react and relate to Elwood and Harvey,” said Anne Hilleary who portrays Elwood’s sister. “The show demonstrates how patience, kindness, and tolerance toward other people are qualities that never go out of style.”

Cast members Amanda Spellman, Louis Lehrman, Michael Himes and Caroline Peterson, each invited the audience to “Harvey” in their own way. For Spellman, “Harvey” is a sharply written show that is hilarious as it is heartwarming.” Lehrman added; “the audience can expect a comedy of errors that asks the serious question; whether it’s better to be smart or



IRISH EYES PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOBY/COURTESY MCLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Rehearsal of “Harvey” by McLean Community Players
From left: Veta (Anne Hilleary) discusses the party she is hosting with her daughter Myrtle Mae (Caroline Peterson).

pleasant in life.”

“Harvey” is a feel-good comedy where you’ll leave with a smile on your face,” said Himes. As for Peterson, “Audiences can expect to laugh. I laugh at the same jokes over and over because they are just that funny.”

“Harvey” was made possible be-

cause of the support of Great Falls residents and “the cooperative posture of the Fairfax County Park Authority in making the Grange available,” said Mike Scott, co-producer.

Be ready for quirky fun as “Harvey” visits the Great Falls Grange.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

SUNDAY/MARCH 11

“Something Old! Something New.”
4 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE, Vienna. The McLean Symphony presents its spring concert, “Something Old! Something New!” Marvin Camacho Villegas, renowned Costa Rican composer, gives the McLean Symphony the honor of performing the world premiere of *Ritual y Celebración*. This piece brings together music, nature, and the sounds of the rainforest. Guest pianist Thomas Pandolfi performs a trio of pieces. Students \$15; adults \$25; seniors \$20; children 12 and under free. Get tickets at mclean-symphony.org and at the door.

Winter Traditional Celtic

Concerts. 4 and 6 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Al Petteway and Amy White perform fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance through the link at oldbrogue.com: \$18 general admission/\$12 children under 12. Season ticket: \$96/\$60 children. Call 703-759-3309.

MONDAY/MARCH 12

“Abra Cadaver.” noon-2 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel, DeSales Hall, 8601 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. The Shepherd’s Center of Oakton-Vienna’s Lunch N’ Life presents a murder mystery play provided by the Stage Coach Theater Company – “Abra Cadaver.” \$30 per person includes lunch and theatrical performance. Prepayment required by March 7. No refunds. To register, call 703-281-0538.

TUESDAY/MARCH 13

A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time. 7 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Paula Whitacre discusses *A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time*: Julia Wilbur’s *Struggle for Purpose*. Learn about this abolitionist’s/suffragette’s commitment to equal rights in the 19th century and her impact on today’s world. Free. The public is invited. Visit vienna-va.aauw.net/.

McLean Historical Society. 7:30 p.m. at the Old Firehouse Teen Center 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The program will feature genealogist Elaine McRay who will discuss “Family Reserach on the Internet.” The pu is invited. Call 703-356-8223.

THURSDAY/MARCH 15

Bunco Fundraiser. 7-9 p.m. at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Vienna Art Society Bunco fundraiser. \$20 reserves a seat



PHOTO COURTESY OF STAGECOACH THEATER COMPANY

‘Abra Cadaver’

The Shepherd’s Center of Oakton-Vienna’s Lunch N’ Life presents an afternoon of love, betrayal, magic, and laughter audience members are immersed into this interactive murder mystery. “It is Commoner’s Day in the Realm where everyone is equal and all are subject to the law - even the King and the Queen. The greatest Wizard of all time, Marvelous Merlin, has been found dead. Was it dark magic or something worse – murder?” Monday, March 12, noon-2 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Counsel, DeSales Hall, 8601 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. \$30 per person includes lunch and theatrical performance. Prepayment required by March 7. No refunds. To register, call 703-281-0538.

for an evening of hors d’oeuvres, beer, wine, prizes, 50/50 raffle, and of course a game of Bunco. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 17

Model Railroaders Open House. 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE. Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, including Viva! Vienna and the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 17-18

“The Snow White Variety Show.” 2 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. All the fun of just about every TV show genre you can imagine is jam-packed into this wild and fast-paced comedy. This is a part-talk-show, part-reality show dramatic retelling of a classic story you thought you knew performed by talented local young actors! The dwarves team up to share their own side of Snow White’s story. \$10-\$15. For ages 6 and older. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for tickets.

SUNDAY/MARCH 18

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-noon at Vienna American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N., Vienna. Get omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, sausage, biscuits

and gravy and more. Adults \$9, children 12 and under \$3. Call 703-938-6580.

Joy Stember Judaica Trunk Show.

10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. Metal-smith Joy Stember will be featured at the tPassoverPalooza trunk show. Her Judaica, made from pewter, bronze, brass, silver and copper is sold in museum stores and synagogues nationwide. Contact Faith at wotr@templeroodefshalom.org.

Nowruz Festival. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Tysons Corner Center, 8100 Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Persian festival will feature family-friendly fun and food trucks. Visit nowruzfestival.org.

“The Trojan Women.” 4 p.m. in the Chapel Auditorium at The Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Trojan Women by Euripides is widely considered history’s oldest existing anti-war play, depicting the suffering and enslavement of women surviving the destruction of Troy. Tickets are \$10 at the door, and \$5 for children 6 and under. Recommended for ages 13 and up. Visit www.travelingplayers.org or call 703-987-1712.

Spring Fling. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Bloomingdale’s Tysons Corner. The New Dominion Women’s Club will host the 11th annual Spring Fling benefit fashion show. Enjoy delicious food and drink as well as bid on a raffle while viewing the newest trends in spring casual, business, and resort fashion. Visit www.ndwc.org.



McLean Community Center
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Here’s What’s Happening at MCC

The Old Firehouse Friday Night Trips Rebounderz, Fuddruckers and a Movie

Friday, March 9, 3:30-10 p.m.
The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$50/\$40 MCC district residents



Alden Spring Production “The Snow White Variety Show”

Saturday and Sunday
March 10-11 & 17-18, 2 p.m.
The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents



The Old Firehouse 5th & 6th Grader Party St. Paddy’s Day Party

Friday March 16, 7-9 p.m.
The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$35 each/\$25 MCC district residents.



Presented by The Alden “Sing Faster: The Stagehands’ Ring Cycle” Movie

Saturday, March 24, 2 p.m.
The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
Free admission

The Old Firehouse Spring Break Trips

Monday, March 26-Friday
March 30, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
Prices vary by destination



Presented by The Alden Clue Spring Break Quote-Along Movie

Friday, March 30, 7 p.m.
The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
Admission and popcorn are free.
Prop bags are \$5 each.



spring fest

Saturday, March 31, 10 a.m.-noon
New Location! St. Luke’s School
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www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org
Administrative Offices
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McLean, VA 22101
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Budget

FROM PAGE 9

House and Senate leaders were deep in negotiations when Sen. Phil Puckett (D-38) unexpectedly announced his resignation, giving Republicans control of the chamber. Democrats cried foul, charging that Republicans had offered Puckett a seat on the Tobacco Commission and proposed his daughter get a judicial appointment. Nevertheless, Republicans successfully blocked Medicaid expansion.

"The momentum is different now," said Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34). "When McAuliffe was governor, Obama was still president and there was still a lot of fear that the ACA was not a long-term program and once Obama was gone it would go away. I think even the most ardent conservatives would have to concede at this point that the ACA is here to stay."

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE between the House budget and the Senate budget won't be easy. Aside from the ideological differences on the Affordable Care Act, the two budgets have a long list of differences. The Senate budget includes \$5 million for home health care; the House budget has \$1 million to train personal care attendants. The House spends \$46 million for financial aid to in-state undergraduate students; the Senate slashes that in half to \$23 million. The House invests \$88 million in a 2 percent raise for teachers; the Senate budget has no money for teacher raises.

"When we don't pass a budget, all 130 local governments around the state start screaming at us," said Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36). "They can't plan their budgets — especially their school budgets — until they know how much money allocation they're going to get from us for their direct aid."

For now, local governments across Virginia will have to live with uncertainty. Most House members and senators believe lawmakers will leave town without passing a budget, leaving it to the conferees to hash out the details. A resolution could emerge as early as April or as late as June, although the possibility still exists that a last-minute fix could emerge. Del. Tim Hugo (R-40), who voted against the budget, predicts a solution will happen before lawmakers leave town on Saturday.

"I'm always the optimist," said Hugo when asked for a prediction. "But if I'm wrong, I'm sure you'll tell me."

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Obituary



Russell Willard Simpson

Russell Willard (Russ) Simpson, 95, passed away on Monday, February 12, 2018 at The Gardens Assisted Living in Fairfax, VA, where he had moved to from his house in Vienna, VA three months earlier. Russ was born on November 19, 1922 in Madison Township, WV, and grew up in Belpre, Ohio. He graduated from Belpre High School in 1940, where he excelled in mathematics, played violin in the orchestra, and ran track. He enlisted in the Navy on March 4, 1941. He was on the USS Philadelphia for most of World War II. He married the former Mary Ann Wieder of Parkersburg WV in 1947 and was in the Navy for a total of 22 years, retiring as Master Chief Radioman. He then worked in Civil Service, Army Staff for 17 years. He moved to Vienna, VA in the fall of 1962 near the end of his Navy service. He joined the American Legion Post 180 in Vienna in 1967, and over time it became his home away from home to enjoy the comradery of other veterans of all ages. Russ was an avid coin collector for decades, and read many books after retiring about World War II, cryptography, and related subjects.

Russ is survived by daughters Dian Carr (Joe) of Greensboro, NC, and Gloria Simpson (John Bloom) of Arlington VA, and their children Amanda and Ryan. Russ's son, Donald, pre-deceased him in 2012. The family wishes to recognize and express its deep gratitude to Jane Kennedy for her service, companionship and caring of Russ for many years, particularly during his final months.

The service for Russ will be on Sunday, March 18, 3:00 pm, at Money & King Funeral Home in Vienna, VA. The family will receive visitors before the service at 2:30. Russ will be buried at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery where his wife Mary Ann was buried in 2003, who also served in the Army during World War II. In lieu of flowers, friends may consider honoring Russ Simpson's memory with a gift to the American Legion Post 180 for their Service Officer Program, which goes to Veterans' hospitals, c/o Jason Feimster, 330 North Center Street, Vienna, VA, 22180, or the charity of one's choice. Online condolences and fond memories can be made at www.moneyandking.com.

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BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SOBER-RIDE FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Free Sober Rides. Saturday, March 17, 4 p.m. through Sunday, March 18, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's St. Patrick's Day SoberRide promo code will be posted at 2 p.m. on March 17 on www.SoberRide.com. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept. 30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration.

GOVERNING BOARD CANDIDATES

The McLean Community Center (MCC) is seeking candidates to run for seats on its 2018-2019 Governing Board. A candidate must reside in the Center's tax district (Small District 1A-Dranesville). To have their names placed on election ballots, candidates are required to obtain the signatures of 10 McLean tax district residents in their respective categories (either adult or youth). Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. Key Election Dates:

- Friday, March 16: Completed Petition Packets are due at MCC by 5 p.m.
 - Monday, March 19: Candidates' Orientation, 7 p.m., The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
 - Monday, April 9: Absentee Voting begins at the MCC Administrative Office, 6631 Old Dominion Dr., and The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.
 - Sunday, May 6: Candidates Meet and Greet, 2-4 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of MCC, at the Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.
 - Wednesday, May 16: Absentee Voting ends at the MCC Administrative Office and the Old Firehouse Center at 5 p.m.
 - Saturday, May 19: Elections at McLean Day from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- For more information on the MCC Governing Board Elections, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit the Center's website: <http://bit.ly/2ix7qc1>.

MONDAY-THURSDAY/MARCH 7-8

Unclaimed Property. Virginians can visit any of the four events below and find their unclaimed property. This free public service is facilitated by The Virginia Department of Treasury. Learn more at www.VaMoneysearch.org.

- Wednesday, March 7, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Jennings Judicial Center Cafeteria, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax
- Thursday, March 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Hollins Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 7

1 Million Cups. 8:30 a.m. networking; 9-10 a.m. program at Make Offices at Tysons, 1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 600, McLean. Each week a different business owner gives a brief six-minute presentation about where they are in their business. They then offer up a challenge question about a new idea, product, expansion or something they are facing in their business. The group then masterminds solutions. Free and open to the public. Visit www.1millioncups.com/.

Members Coffee. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at St. Luke Orthodox Church, 6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean. McLean Newcomers and Neighbors will host a coffee for members and for non-members who might be interested in joining. Visit www.McLeanNewcomers.org.

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Reflections



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

A few weeks back at my last post CT-scan appointment with my oncologist (when all continued to be amazingly stable), he finally asked me the question I've been wondering if he'd ever ask: "Mr. Lourie, I talk about you all the time, how well you're doing; is there anything I can tell people about what you're doing that might help them?"

My first reaction was to laugh and then ask if I even have cancer. I mean, typically, one diagnosed with an incurable disease doesn't just live life merrily along as if the diagnosis was a mere inconvenience, no matter what he or she may or may not be doing. My oncologist assured me that I indeed have cancer and even offered up some news about my tumors with which I was totally unfamiliar.

Five years ago when I was hospitalized (due to excessive fluid in my lungs), in the course of the procedure, the thoracic surgeon did a DNA profile of my tumors to determine if I had a specific mutation (allowing for more targeted treatment). Unfortunately, the ALK and ROS-1 mutations were not confirmed. In pursuit of more current information, more recently, I had a liquid biopsy (a blood test) which tested for the EGFR and T790 mutations. Again, no confirmation. As it stands now, I am as unclassified. For the nine-year moment then, I remain in treatment without the targeted precision so many of my fellow cancer survivors have been extraordinarily fortunate to have. Yet life goes on.

So what am I doing? Other than laughing in the face of death (my best attribute), which if anecdotal reports are to be believed, truly is the best medicine, a bit more. Remaining positive and generally upbeat is a parallel corollary to humoring yourself and those around you.

But more specifically and perhaps uniquely, I am supplementing my standard of care with some non-Western care: alkaline water, organic apple cider vinegar, and about 60 pills a day, most chosen for their qualities of strengthening my immune system and/or eliminating the toxins from my body. I can't say I'm eating really right, but neither will I admit to not eating totally wrong. Reducing stress and exercising are popular advisories in my control. One out of two will have to do.

However, as I told my oncologist, whatever I'm doing I've been told to do by my holistic health and fitness coach. She knows what, how and why. (I might as well be Sergeant Schulz from "Hogan's Heros: "I know nothing.") I don't feel qualified to speak to any of what I do.

Yes, I've survived but, I'm a sports and chocolate guy not a science and medicine man. All I can do is list what I'm doing. I can't chapter and verse any of it. I'm not NIKE, but I just do it. It's a routine and I rarely stray. I do add stuff occasionally but to think any of what I do might have a bearing on another cancer patient's survivability? Not hardly, and that's what I told my oncologist. Dina suggested the alkaline water. I suggested my "coach."

I guess I'm just not that deep of a thinker. I trust people the same way that as a salesman I want them to trust me. I'm not leading anybody astray, and I'm providing them the best available knowledge. I'm not manipulating. Nor am I maneuvering. I'm simply managing dos, don'ts, maybes, what ifs and why nots.

Moreover, I'm trying to think outside the box while respecting and appreciating that the box has its purpose as well.

Heck, for all I know, my non-Western stuff has had minimal impact on my life expectancy and the standard of care from my oncologist has provided the most.

Maybe I'm just an anomaly, pure and simple: a nine-year-plus non small cell lung cancer survivor. What am I doing? Trying not to abuse the privilege, that's what.

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



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