

# Great Falls CONNECTION



The Lego Crushers Junior First Lego Team from Great Falls Elementary School presents their "Diningsaurus Snack Attack 5000" at the JFL expo at Colvin Run Elementary Saturday, March 17.

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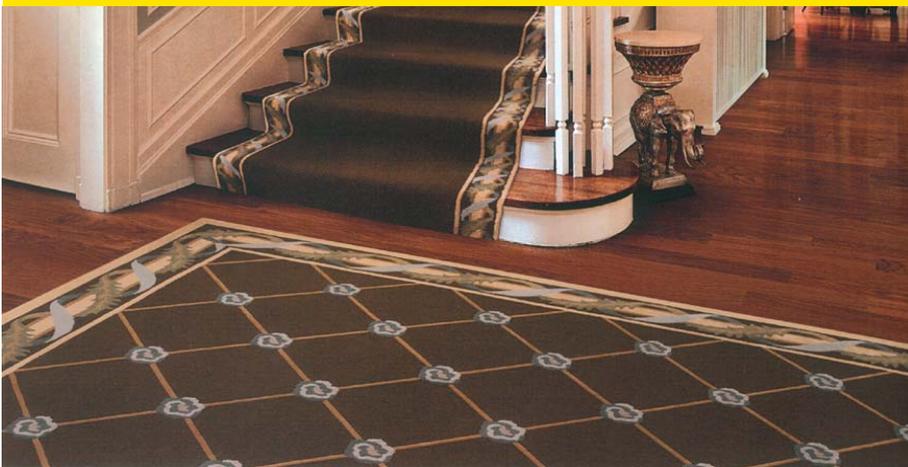


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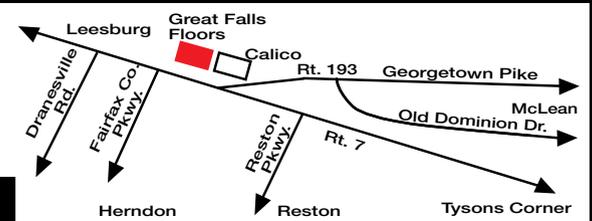
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# NEWS



From left, Justices Caroline Costle, Stu Mendelsohn, John Scalia, Frank Shaw, Cary Greenberg, Mark Haskell and Nathaniel Howe (a Langley senior) listen to cases presented during Langley Case Day.



PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH / THE CONNECTION

Matthew Moser, counsel for the respondent in Miller v. Alabama, presents his case during the 20th annual Langley High School Case Day.

## Langley Seniors Make Their Case

### School hosts 20th annual Case Day.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Langley High School's senior class spent Monday, March 19 going over two Supreme Court Cases with a fine-tooth comb, as part of the school's annual Case Day. The event, now in its 20th year, allows the class to break down an upcoming case that will be heard by the Supreme Court, with students serving as counsel, justices, presenters and many other roles.

This year's cases, which will be heard starting March 20 by the Supreme Court, are Miller v. Alabama and Jackson v. Hobbs. Both cases involve young men aged 14 and whether or not they should receive life in prison without the possibility of parole, and whether this violates the eighth amendment, prohibiting cruel and unusual punishment.

In 2003, 14-year-old Evan Miller, along with 16-year-old Colby Cameron beat Cole Cannon with a baseball bat, then proceeded to set his trailer on fire, killing Cannon. Miller was tried as an adult in 2006 on charges of capital murder and first degree arson, and sentenced to life without parole.

In 1999, 14-year-old Kuntrell Jackson was with two older boys who murdered a video store clerk. He was sentenced in 2003 to capital felony murder and aggravated robbery, and was given a mandatory life sentence without parole.

**BOTH BOYS** came from abusive households and had previous records with substance abuse and other juvenile offenses.

"Jackson's mother was a convict, arrested when he was 6 years old for shooting someone, and his brother was arrested when he was 13 for shooting someone. Jackson only saw violence from his parental figures. Similarly, Miller, whose parents were both alcoholics, whose father beat him, his mother and his siblings constantly, had no other means to learn how to display his anger,"

### History Honor Society Makes Predictions

Since its inception in 1993, the Langley Supreme Court's decision has coincided with the Supreme Court's decision 14 out of 19 times.

This year, the History Honor Society researched the current justices and tried to guess how each justice would decide. Here are their predictions.

For life imprisonment without parole for juveniles who commit homicide: Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, John G. Roberts and Samuel Alito.

Against life imprisonment without parole for juveniles who commit homicide: Justices Stephan Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Anthony Kennedy and Elena Kagan.

The Supreme Court began hearing Miller v. Alabama and Jackson v. Hobbs on Tuesday, March 20. Several Langley students will be in attendance.

said Nick Rifken, giving a presentation on social and developmental psychology as a member of the Psychology Club. "Neither of these children saw socially acceptable behavior from their parents. The only thing they saw from their parents, the first teachers in their lives, was violence."

Seniors Shams Haidari and Sabrina Khan were given the task of defending Jackson and Miller's petition, saying that 14 is too young to impose life in prison with no possibility of parole to people who hadn't even fully developed brains yet, and whose background made them susceptible to violence.

"They were certainly gruesome crimes, especially involving a 14-year-old, but the first thing you have to do is reconcile the emotional conflict with the law," Haidari said.

The counsel, also made up of Matthew Moser and John Studabaker, made their arguments to a nine-person Supreme Court that included local lawyers, two students and John Scalia, son of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia serving as chief justice.

"The process certainly got my interest up in law, I feel like after this experience I know some of what it takes to put your full heart

into studying, reading and fully forming an argument," Studabaker said. "I feel like that has prepared me for any profession I might choose, however law is certainly one of those options that I will consider."

In the end, the justices voted five to four in favor of the respondent, saying that life without the possibility of parole does not violate the eighth amendment. Justice Nathaniel Howe, a Langley senior, read the majority decision.

"It is not clear that [Jackson] affirmatively desired to end the life of another human being. However, he involved himself in the commission of a violent crime, in which homicide was a possible, if not likely result. So long as we continue to allow states to impose life without parole for felony murder when committed by adults, we find no principled reason to hold differently for juvenile that exhibits a similar degree of criminal intent."

Spencer Shabshab, the other Langley senior serving as a justice, composed and read the dissenting opinion.

"We would extend the protections afforded to juveniles and prohibit life sentences without the possibility of parole in the cases presented to us," he said. "Juveniles are less able than adults to consider the potential consequences of their actions, extricate themselves from the situation that would result in the loss of human life or execute independent judgement. These inherent psychological and physiological disadvantages diminish their legal and moral culpability."

Even students who weren't presenting or arguing had duties to fulfill leading up to the event. Justin Strahan headed up the finance committee, and it was their job to procure sponsorships, donations and set a budget.

"It was a really interesting process, a mix of hands-on distribution, marketing and more," Strahan said. "It was so multi-faceted that you couldn't help but learn a lot about a lot of different areas. I'm hoping to study finance in the future, and I think this was a valuable experience."

Members of the education committee  
SEE CASE DAY, PAGE 7



From left, Langley Case Day coordinators Sun Park, Chaffee Duckers and Alicia Underhill thank the audience for participating in the 20th annual Case Day.



Langley Senior Mikey Adams, one of Case Day's masters of ceremony, speaks to the audience at the Langley Library.



Langley senior Shams Haidari presents her argument for the petitioner in Miller v. Alabama.

Looking for activities for your child during **Spring Break?** MCC offers Spring Break Camps for ages 4 to 9.

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## NEWS

The MACHINE team from Colvin Run Elementary School at the Junior First Lego League Expo at Colvin Run Mill Elementary Saturday, March 17.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/ THE CONNECTION

# Colvin Run Hosts Lego League Expo

**Eight Junior First Lego League teams present food safety projects.**

## Lego Expo Awards

- Amazing Movement award:** MACHINE, Colvin Run Elementary School. Harrison Langpaul, Maxwell Dumas, Alec Butler, Danny O'Connor, Will Piper and Dean Angles.
- Simple Awesome Machine award:** Lego Spies, Colvin Run Elementary School. Christian Hansen, Shilai Li, Parker Hoang, Cameron Beem, Nicolas Musy, Gavin Smith.
- Magnificent Minds award:** Lego Crushers, Great Falls Elementary School. Jack Bateman, Will Kiser, Gabe Paier, Shibli Nomani, Colleen Sherry, Andreas Voyages.
- Reaching for the Sky award:** Boloubots, Hallaboulou, Ruth Morgan, Eric Gamble, Jake Wilson, Bella Boson, Asa Moran.
- Explosive Ideas award:** Flaming Foodineers, Greenbriar West Elementary School. Adrian Kim, Ryan Chee, Ryan Choi, Ria Agrawal, Rakendu Malladi.
- Brilliant Brains award:** Soaring Eagles, Floris Elementary School. Dhriti Gampa, Raj Vats, Advika Jhingran, Maansi Taori, Arnav Batra.
- Rising Stars award: All Star Lego Team:** Floris Elementary School: Vikas Nanduri, Anand Vinod, Ryan Tuller, Raghav Tirumale.
- Fantastic Design award:** The Brick Tank, Leesburg, Va.: Alexandra Danilowicz, Matty Coyle, Auston Johnson.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Junior First Lego League Teams from around the county gathered at Colvin Run Elementary School Saturday, March 17 for a day to show what could be the future of food safety. Eight teams, including two from Colvin Run and one from Great Falls Elementary School, participated.

Students were invited to use Lego bricks to create models of inventions that could help with food safety. Teams picked foods or services they like, such as potato chip or a doughnut shop, and created a system for making sure their "products" could be prepared, stored and served in a safe way.

**THE LEGO SPIES TEAM**, from Colvin Run Elementary, created a chocolate chip cookie factory out of their Lego bricks. The team designed a bakery in the back and restaurant in the front, with a conveyor belt taking their freshly made donuts from the back to the customers.

"Everybody eats cookies, and though they may not be as healthy as vegetables, they taste really good, and that's why people like them," said Colvin Run team member Christian Hansen.

Cameron Beem, another team member, said he enjoyed the research part of the project. The team went on three separate field trips as part of their preparation.

"We went to a place that made food for airplanes, and we got to see how much food they made, but also how clean they kept it at all times," he said. "We also went to the Potomac Vegetable Farm to learn about where milk, eggs and butter came from, and the same day we went to Colvin Run Mill, where we saw how grain is turned into flour."

The Brick Tank, a team made up of students from Leesburg, also had a sweet tooth in mind for their project. They created a donut shop, and team member Gage Bennett predicted that "this shop could make about a million dollars per day, that's how much everybody loves the doughnut shop."

The Lego Crushers, a group of third graders from Great Falls Elementary School, created the "Diningsaurus Snack Attack 3000," a device that had

SEE LEGO LEAGUE. PAGE 5



From left, Harrison Langpaul and Alec Butler, students at Colvin Run Elementary School, examine their potato chip factory made of Lego bricks during the Junior First Lego League Expo Saturday, March 17 at Colvin Run Elementary.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2014 Programs**  
Wednesday, March 28, 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 2014, which runs July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014.

**The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas for classes, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours and youth and teen activities.**

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: ellen.barial@fairfaxcounty.gov.

**The McLean Community Center**  
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101  
703-790-0123/TTY: 711  
www.mcleancenter.org

# NEWS

## Lego League Expo at Colvin Run

FROM PAGE 4

a wide variety of applications, including food delivery, cheese grating and an emergency delivery vehicle to make sure all food deliveries get through.

"We started simple, but when we got the idea of a dinosaur, we started to add more and more," said team member Colleen Sherry. "Our research was fun too, we went to the Safeway and saw how food was delivered, stored, packaged and sold."

Team member Will Kiser said the process consisted of "a lot of trial and error, but we were able to put a lot of our ideas on top of each other, and they fit together better once we started adding wheels."

**EACH TEAM** won a prize for their efforts, and students from the First Lego League team based out of Kilmer Middle School and members of the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Ambassadors program served as judges.

"Our goal as ambassadors is to support events like this and other science events to help students get involved in the science and technology mindset from an early age," said Thomas Jefferson freshman Annie Tho-



**Gavin Smith, of the Lego Spies team from Colvin Run Elementary School, examines another team's project during the Junior First Lego League Expo at Colvin Run Elementary Saturday, March 17.**

mas. "That way, they'll be able to figure out what they like early on."

Kilmer eighth grader Dhriti Vij said the experience was a welcome window into the world of the younger members of First Lego League.

"I never did Junior First Lego League, so it was cool to see how these students start off with their designs," she said.

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## NEWS

Bluebells line the hiking path along the Potomac in Riverbend Park in this oil painting by Hwa Crawford. An exhibition of Crawford's paintings, many of Great Falls scenes, will open March 31 in Middleburg.



# Ready for the Bluebells in Great Falls

The most spectacular wildflower display in Great Falls coincides with a new oil-painting exhibit by a local artist.

The Tidal Basin in Washington may have its famous cherry blossoms, but Great Falls residents need only walk down to the river for a display of shimmering, luminescent blue that some botanists say is the better show: the annual explosion of a riverine wildflower called the Virginia Bluebell.

Every year in mid-April, the forest floor along the Potomac erupts in an understory of lush blues and occasional pinks, but this year, following an unseasonably warm winter, the show is likely to begin much earlier, which is just fine with Great Falls painter Hwa Crawford. Crawford, a student of the bluebell, is offering her interpretation of the annual botanic wonder with a display of landscapes that opens March 31 in a fine art gallery in Middleburg. Many of her oil paintings feature the flower—and just in time for the natural display along the river.

The bluebell, also known less romantically as the Virginia Cowslip or Lungwort Oysterleaf, is a denizen of the Potomac river bottomlands and islands in the Potomac. It has a tubular flower that starts as a pinkish-blue blossom, graduates to an intense blue and fades to a softer, more pastel color as Spring progresses. In Riverbend Park and along the river further north, masses of the plants dazzle the eye, particularly in the early light of morning.

The subtle transformation of the bluebell's color relates to the flower's annual dance with pollinators. These include various bees, butterflies and even hummingbirds. The change from a pinkish pigmentation to intense blue is precipitated by a change in the plant's alkalinity. When the bluebell is ready for the pollinators' visits, it takes on a hue more likely to attract them.

FOR GREAT FALLS RESIDENTS, one of the best places to see the flowers is Riverbend Park. From the visitor center, walk either north or south on the

hiking path along the river. Good viewing is also available from the recreation area at the end of Seneca Road, although this is more difficult to traverse and requires good hiking skills.

In normal years with cold winters, the peak viewing time is around April 18. For those who want to see the colorful wild display this year, determining the best time to go is tricky. The flowers could peak as early as March 25, depending on the weather. For the best advice on timing, call Riverbend Park (703-759-9018), which will revise its blooming forecast daily, based on temperatures in late March and observations of the plants in the park.

In the meantime, you can get a different perspective on the wildflowers by checking out Crawford's paintings. They will be on display at the Barrel Oak Fine Art Gallery and Tasting Room, 8 East Washington Street in Middleburg. A reception will be held on Saturday, March 31, from 4 to 7 p.m., with wine and light refreshments. The exhibit, which also includes other Crawford landscapes and riverscapes from the Great Falls area and nearby, will hang throughout the bluebell blooming season. You can also see some of Crawford's work on her website: [www.hwacrawford.com](http://www.hwacrawford.com).

CRAWFORD'S CONNECTION with the flowers is personal. "Our family is very musical and whenever I think about bluebells, I think of trumpet players. The shape of the flower is the main reason—like a trumpet. I get excited and feel I'm moving with the rhythm. I'm not just painting. I'm observing all the changes in the flowers. I talk to them like little babies."

Crawford is a member of Great Falls Studios, a group of about 100 artists who live or work in Great Falls ([www.GreatFallsStudios.com](http://www.GreatFallsStudios.com)). The organization conducts an annual trek along the river so that artists and photographers can find inspiration in the bluebell display, which it bills as one of the "Seven Wonders of Great Falls."

If you walk along the Potomac, you may find Crawford painting on location (she is a "plein air" artist, referring to painting outdoors). Talk to her, and you'll discover a cheerleader for the colorful little plant and its promise of coming Spring. "I'm just waiting for the bluebells to come out," she said recently. "That's a sign the days are getting longer and sunnier, and it makes me happy to think about it."

# Case Day

FROM PAGE 3

went to elementary, middle and even fellow Langley students to explain what Case Day was and what it hoped to accomplish.

“My job was to focus on getting in touch with the junior class, to get them involved and get them a glimpse of what happens so they’re ready to pick it up next year as seniors,” said Tommy Orme of the education committee. “We were able to speak to government classes and get people involved, because we wanted them to be in the audience asking questions.”

Other school clubs were also involved. The History Honor Society created Facebook pages for each Supreme Court Justice using their past decisions to guess what they might think about the current cases. The Science Honor Society gave a presentation about how adolescent brains might not develop the adult level of decision making until they were older, bringing into question whether or not it is just to imprison someone whose brain hasn’t fully developed yet.

**THE DAY** also featured discussions by groups who wrote amicus briefs for the Supreme Court case, including Amnesty International, the Equal Justice Initiative, the Former Juvenile Court Judges, the National District Attorney’s Association, the American Probation and Parole Association, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the National Organization of Victims of Juvenile Lifers.

“It’s really energizing to see so many people so wrapped up and interested in advocating for people who are in need of it,” said Benjamin Maxymuk of the Equal Justice Initiative. “It motivates me to work harder.”

For the event coordinators, Chaffee Duckers, Sun Park and Alicia Underhill, Case Day consumed their lives since they were chosen last December. While the trio, as well as their classmates, put in months of hard work, Underhill called it an amazing experience.

“My favorite part of putting together this whole day has been talking to the students and seeing how we’ve all come together with various talents and combined effort to bring it together,” she said. “I’ve met so many people that I didn’t know before, I’ve seen sides of people that really impressed me and I think we’ve done a really great job in our last big project together as a senior class before graduation.”



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# OPINION

## 'Practices That Undermine Trust'

### Virginia gets a failing grade on ethics rules.

The State Integrity Investigation is “designed to expose practices that undermine trust in state capitols — and spotlight the states that are doing things right.”

Virginia got a failing grade, ranking 47 out of 50 states for vulnerability to corruption. Corruption in the Commonwealth is probably not any more rampant than voter fraud. But in terms of practices that could undermine trust, Virginia has vast room for improvement.

Here are a few comments about Virginia from the investigation (can't call them highlights):

“The Old Dominion is one of nine states with no statewide ethics commission, one of four states with no campaign finance limits and one of only two states (South Carolina is the other) where the part-time legislators handpick the

judges before whom many of them practice law.

“With 8.1 million residents, Virginia is the 12th most populous state in the union. But its part-time lawmakers have one of the shortest meeting schedules in the country — 30 days in odd-numbered years and 60 days in even-numbered years. At that speed, lobbyists of necessity have been elevated from influence peddlers to trusted advisers and authors of laws.”

Virginia has admirable disclosure of campaign contributions, earning a near perfect grade on citizen access to campaign finance records. The credit on the transparency of actual contributions to candidates belongs to the Virginia Public Access Project, vpap.org, more than the Commonwealth.

But the benefit of access to information on campaign finance is overshadowed by “lax oversight rules, weak consumer representation protections, dwindling capitol press corps and coziness between political and economic elites. ... Meanwhile, the few ethics and disclosure requirements that do exist tend to be flawed,

limited or fraught with exemptions and qualifications,” according to the report.

A couple of examples of laws and practices that could undermine trust:

❖ Virginia has no limits on financial contributions to political candidates. Literally. Companies and individuals can give unlimited amounts to any and all state and local elected officials, with some very limited restriction on timing.

❖ The licensing of car title loan companies, and allowing those companies in Virginia to lend to out-of-state car owners is clearly not in the interests of consumers or the communities where these storefronts are located.

❖ Despite a groundswell of indignation about a state law that sets the start date for public schools rather than allowing local school districts to set their own calendar, the entertainment industry prevailed this year again.

❖ Votes in subcommittees, where many important reforms go to die, are not recorded and not available to the public.

See Virginia's report card (overall grade: F) <http://www.stateintegrity.org/virginia>

## Delegate Lists Assembly's Legislative Successes

By BARBARA COMSTOCK  
STATE DELEGATE (R-34)

The General Assembly completed the 2012 regular session on Saturday evening, March 10, shortly after 10 p.m. The last week was extremely busy as the House and Senate worked to negotiate joint compromises on many bills that will now be sent to the Governor. Many of these important initiatives never make the headlines but they do impact our everyday lives and these are the areas where I have worked to make a difference in improving our jobs and economy, our schools, our transportation network and our quality of life. We also just received the great news that Virginia's unemployment rate hit a three year low of 5.8% — a testament to the fact that we continue to make jobs our #1 priority and Virginia remains #1 for jobs.

The following highlights some of the key measures that I promoted and passed during this session:

### ❖ Economic Development and Reform:

HB 33, The Fair and Open Competition in Government Contracting Act: This bill I introduced provides for fair and open competition in contracting bids and allows our 96% non-union workforce to fairly compete with union workers. My bill was passed in the

House and the Senate. This will increase the creation of Virginia jobs, increase competition, and provide our taxpayers with more miles of transportation and infrastructure solutions for every dollar we spend, while guaranteeing a level playing field for Virginia workers. This bill received strong support throughout the business community, including the Fairfax and Loudoun Chambers and the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

HB 216, Retail Sales And Use Tax Exemption For Data Centers: This bill I championed provides tax incentives for the large and growing business of data centers. The industry is expected to grow by hundreds of millions of dollars in the coming years and we want to keep Virginia a top destination. We need to continue to diversify our economy by focusing on private sector commercial markets where we have a competitive advantage. This bill passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate. The bill was also supported by our state and local Chambers of Commerce, and was a top priority of the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC).

HB 1013, Extending The Capital Gains Tax Exemption: I introduced this legislation to extend the current capital gains exemption for new tech investments in the Commonwealth to free up our entrepreneurs to risk their capital and create jobs across the Commonwealth. Again, this measure

passed overwhelmingly in the House and the Senate with the broad support of our NOVA business community and has already been signed by the Governor.

HB 551, Extending The Telework Tax Credit: This bill will extend the Telework Tax Credit, which I passed last year, through December 31, 2016. The Tax Credit is already being utilized by over 174 employers and we will continue to work with our business community and state and local officials to promote the tax credit to more businesses. The bill passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate. This bill was also supported by NVTC and our technology community as well, as state and local Chambers of Commerce.

### ❖ Transportation:

HB 545, VDOT Incident Management: I introduced this bill to allow VDOT vehicles to drive on a portion of the highway other than a roadway at, en route to, or from the scene of a traffic accident. Congestion related delays can cost millions. This will help relieve traffic congestion at the site of a traffic accident, allowing VDOT to reach the scene sooner and clear blocked roads more quickly. This bill was passed unanimously in the both the House and Senate and has already been signed by the Governor.

HB 599, Northern Virginia Transportation District: I sponsored this bill to require the Com-

monwealth Transportation Board, in cooperation with VDOT and local governments, to objectively evaluate all Northern Virginia highway and transit projects and provide a quantitative rating as to the ability of each to cost effectively reduce traffic congestion. This will help ensure that tax dollars are being spent on highway and public transit projects that will do the most to relieve traffic congestion. The bill passed in the House this year and last year and this year we were able to rally support to get the Senate to support it this year despite the opposition of some Northern Virginia Senators last year.

### ❖ Education:

HB 1063, Starting School Before Labor Day: I sponsored HB 1063, which would have eliminated the so-called King's Dominion law and allow local school boards to set the school calendar and determine the opening of the school year, and eliminate the post-Labor Day opening requirement. It would give all our students an equal opportunity to learn and perform better on standardized tests. The bill was endorsed by the Governor, the Speaker, the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, and the Virginia School Board Association. This bill was passed in the House with a strong bipartisan vote of 76-23 but was killed by the Senate and unfortunately opposed by a Fairfax Senator on a key committee.

SEE COMSTOCK, PAGE 9

Great Falls  
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# OPINION

## Comstock

FROM PAGE 8

### ❖ Human Trafficking:

HB 546, Cracking Down On Crime And Human Trafficking: I introduced this bill to crack down on the heinous and growing practice of gang crimes expanding into human trafficking and prostitution. This legislation was requested by gang investigator with the Fairfax County Police Department after observing, over the past years, the growth of gangs such as MS-13 operating prostitution rings in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria. These traffickers are forcing minor girls as young as 12 into these criminal enterprises. These unspeakable crimes against young girls and children must be attacked with the full force of the law. It passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate and will soon be signed by the Governor.

### ❖ Health Care Bills:

HB 83, Information on Breast Density: I sponsored HB 83, which will require the Board of Health to establish guidelines requiring all mammogram reports to include information on breast density and inform women with dense breast tissue, as determined by the physician, that supplementary screening tests may be beneficial, depending on individual risk factors. This bill passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate and was already signed by the Governor.

HB 1106, Insurance Coverage for Autistic Children: Early this session we passed emergency legislation, which the Governor has signed, to license behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts who treat children with autism. This bill clarifies legislation

that we passed last year, HB 2467, which mandated health insurance coverage for autism and behavior analysis.

### ❖ Veterans:

HB 548, Higher Education For Active Duty Military: I introduced this bill at the suggestion of a George Mason University employee to require higher educational institutions to implement policies that help provide accommodations for students called to active military duty to complete their college degrees. This bill was passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate and has already been signed by the Governor.

### ❖ Water Quality Issues:

Restored Virginia Membership In The Interstate Commission On The Potomac River Basin. I am pleased that I was also able to work with my colleagues and the Governor's office to reinstate Virginia into the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, the entity that promotes watershed based initiatives with an intergovernmental focus and educates the public about water quality and resources issues.

To see the bills I have introduced this year and co-patroned and their outcome you can go to the General Assembly website: <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?121+mbr+H214> and to my website: [www.delegatecomstock.com](http://www.delegatecomstock.com) Next week, I will provide an update on the Budget situation which unfortunately has not been completed. While the House passed a budget, the Senate refused to vote on a budget at all and negotiations are still continuing.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Democrats Default on their Duty

To the Editor:

With a lot of our attention focused on the Presidential and Congressional races this year, we need to keep in mind what has been happening in the Virginia General Assembly session in Richmond.

In short, the Senate Democrats failed in their constitutional duty to pass a state budget. The session adjourned without approving a budget, which is the first time that this has happened that anyone can remember. So, an upcoming special session is required to pass a budget.

Importantly, one of our newest senators, Barbara Favola, who represents

parts of Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun Counties (and also my Senator), was AWOL in the Senate when the budget vote was taken. Where was she you ask? She was taping a TV show with a national media outlet. That shows where her priorities lie — not with her constituents.

This is a disgrace to all Virginians. Please let Senator Favola know how displeased you are with her behavior of holding the budget hostage and harming our local governments, schools, and kids, just for reasons of raw political power.

**Howie Lind**

Chairman, 10th Congressional District  
Republican Committee

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# A Wrong Way to Feel Cool

Area high school students discuss risky behaviors.

## Viewpoints

The Connection high school interns – **Nikki Cheshire** (Langley High), **Monika Bapna** (Marshall High) and **Mary Grace Oakes** (Madeira) – asked area high school students:

- ♦ What type of risky behaviors do some youth engage in and what do you think poses the greatest risk?
- ♦ Are there certain activities that can lend themselves more to risky behavior because of the nature of the group?

Here are their responses.



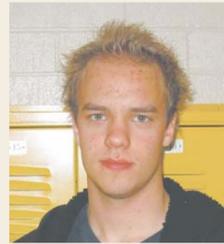
**Sherwin Zahirieh, Grade: 12, Langley High School**  
 “People drive recklessly, risking their life, which can obviously result in disaster. People do all sorts of drugs and drink alcohol every weekend. Drunk driving definitely poses the greatest risk, since people think they’re invincible.”



**Meigan McManus, Grade: 12, Langley High School**  
 “I think something like drunk driving is especially risky. If a person is using drugs, it only really affects them, but drunk driving poses a highly dangerous situation toward other people.”



**Adrienne Schmidt, Grade: 11, Langley High School**  
 “When parents aren’t close with their child, they have the tendency to rebel. It depends on the person, but if you have a better relationship with your parents then risky behavior is less likely.”



**Magne Bugten, Grade: 12, Langley High School**  
 “Parties outside of school-related activities, definitely cause risky behavior. I feel like people who don’t do extracurriculars are more likely to party.”

—NIKKI CHESHIRE

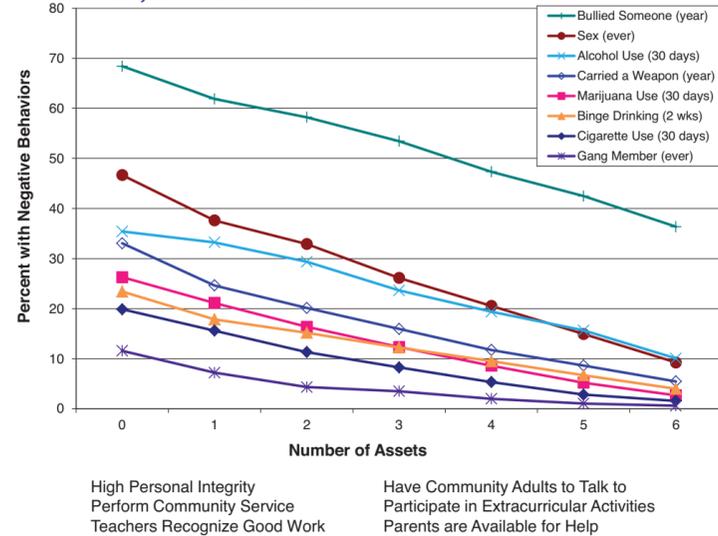


**Sam Kyung, Grade: 11, Marshall High School**  
 “The most risky behaviors in my opinion are drinking, and drinking and driving. Drinking and driving, though, poses the greater risk because it affects everybody.”

SEE VIEWPOINT, PAGE 11

## Asset Graph for Fairfax County (Grades 8, 10, 12)

Three to Succeed: Youth who have three assets are less likely to engage in risky behavior than youth who have none.



The 2010 Fairfax County Youth Survey shows how the presence of at least three “assets” can dramatically reduce the odds of students engaging in risky behaviors such as sex, drug abuse and violent behaviors. Six assets are: high personal integrity, performing community service, being recognized by teachers for good work, having adults in the community to talk to, participating in extracurricular activities and having parents available to help.

# Risky Behavior by the Numbers

Youth Survey highlights risks, assets for students.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
 THE CONNECTION

## FIRST IN A THREE PART SERIES.

Periodically, Fairfax County conducts a youth survey which polls thousands of students to get a glimpse into issues of substance abuse, antisocial behaviors as well as factors such as mental health and civic engagements. This is the sixth year the survey has been conducted (the first was in 2001), and in the 2010 Fairfax County Youth Survey was completed by 32,953 students in eighth, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade, representing 85.6 percent of enrolled students in those grades.

The survey was previously conducted in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2010. Over time, more specific questions regarding risk factors and general health questions have been included. In 2008, the survey was administered in random English classrooms in every school, but in 2009 the county adopted a census-like approach, where all students in the targeted grades were encouraged to participate.

“For the last few years, we’ve conducted the survey every year, because it helps us learn about certain behaviors our youth are doing, and that’s information we can use to plan our prevention efforts,” said Marcus Allen of the county’s Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. “The data shows us the way behaviors are trending and we use that for short and long-term planning.”

Of the completed surveys, 2,554 were rejected due to fewer than eight questions answered, information

was missing, the student reported a use of a fictitious drug called BTM that was mentioned or a student answered “I was not honest at all” on the final question.

The survey itself consisted of 203 questions, which were derived from such sources as the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration’s Communities That Care Youth Survey, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey and others.

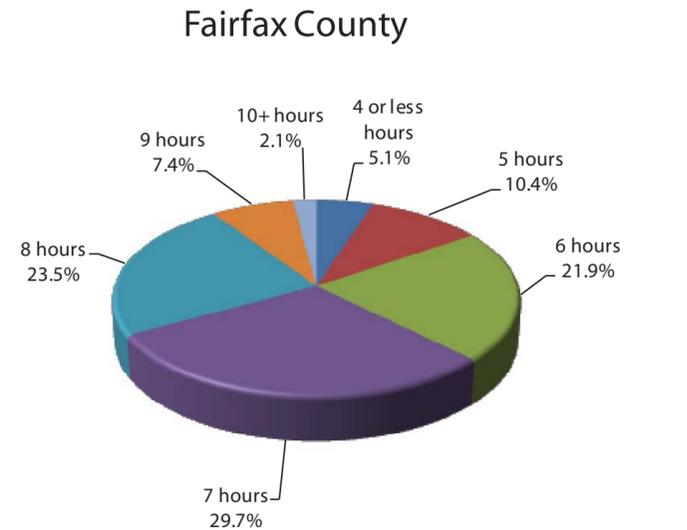
**A PRIMARY FOCUS** of the 2010 survey was on “assets” by students, which, according to the survey are “strengths in young people, their families, schools and communities that help them thrive in health, in school and daily life and in a safe environment.”

The county polled students on six of these: personal integrity, regular community service, recognition by teachers for good work, having adults to talk to, extracurricular activity participation and having parents available for help.

“We’ve found that the presence of three of these assets dramatically reduces the risk of these students engaging in risky behavior. It’s simple really: the more assets they have, the less likely it is they’re going to engage in these behaviors,” Allen said. “It’s not all negative, we want to make sure we’re reinforcing how important these assets are, because it directly affects the likelihood of success.”

For example, students with at least three assets are almost half as likely to have had sex, used marijuana in the last 30 days, binged on alcohol in the past two weeks, smoked a cigarette within the last 30 days or

## Hours of Sleep per School Night (Grades 8, 10, 12)



CONTRIBUTED

## Viewpoints



**Nick Nelson, Grade: 11, Marshall High School**  
 “Fatigue, I think, is the biggest problem with teens these days. When students drive to school, for example, it can lead to so many accidents in the morning if they are tired.”  
 “Procrastination, extracurricular activities, and all the things that teenagers have to do these days causes fatigue.”



**Joey Phoon, Grade: 11, Marshall High School**  
 “Teenage parties are where most kids get access to these things, so any events that have a lot of teenagers together and no parent supervision lend themselves to alcohol and drug use.”

—MONIKA BAPNA



**Annie Wattenmaker, Grade: 12, The Madeira School**  
 “The most common risky behavior is drinking and driving. So many kids in this area drink and drive all the time without thinking of the risks.”



**Kristen Bilowus, Grade: 12, The Madeira School**  
 “I think DUIs pose the greatest risk to kids because so many deaths are caused by this every year, and the legal repercussions are so severe.”



**Makenzie Parent, Grade: 12, The Madeira School**  
 “Binge drinking is probably the most dangerous behavior because it can easily and rapidly get out of hand, causing hospitalizations.”  
 “I think when there is a big group involved, that group mentality creates more peer pressure, so kids might feel forced to do something they would not if they were just with a small group of friends.”



**Jennifer Oler, Grade: 12, McLean High School**  
 “I think drunk driving definitely poses the greatest risk because you’re not only putting yourself in danger but everyone else driving then too.”  
 “When there is a larger group of people, teenagers tend to do stupid things that they most likely wouldn’t do if they were by themselves or just with a couple of people.”

—MARY GRACE OAKES

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Students from Westgate Elementary School in Falls Church joined members of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra for the “Overture to Orchestra” program. The program introduces elementary school students to the instruments and sounds of a symphony orchestra. Students (from left): Aidan Ordovery, Agnes Holmberg, Adam Haizoun, Matteo Betancourt, Katrina Maranon, Tharini Vayuvegula and Yusra Adan. FSO members (from left): Ashley Batten, narrator; Eric Moore, horn; Paul Johnson, trumpet; Mike Bunn, tuba; Andrew Skaggs, trombone; Chris Ferrari, trumpet.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MCLEAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Oboist Elise Favia plays a solo during a McLean Youth Orchestra concert. Experts say playing music can develop analytical thinking and boost reading and math skills.

# Does Music Make Children Smarter?

**During Music In Our Schools Month, musicians raise awareness of the impact of music education on the lives of students.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Can playing the piano strengthen a child’s reading and math skills? Can joining a school band be a catalyst for building self-confidence? Does one develop strong analytical abilities by taking violin lessons? Some music experts say yes.

“Every minute that you’re engaged in music, you’re applying more than one concept or one knowledge,” said Dr. Kevin Strogher, Head of Music at The Heights School in Potomac. “Music develops analytical thinking because it requires students to be creative. They don’t just regurgitate memorized facts. They have to apply those facts.”

March is Music in Our Schools Month and some music aficionados are trying to raise awareness about impact of music education on the lives of students. The National Association of Music Education in Reston cites a strong body of evidence which shows that participation in musical activities can enhance a student’s education. “For today’s



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Helen Fall of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra mentors students from the Sandburg Area Orchestra. Experts say students can benefit from exposure to professional musicians through educational programs sponsored by local symphony orchestras.

## Considering Private Music Lessons?

**When should students start taking music lessons?**

Between the ages of 5 and 6 for piano. Between the ages of nine and ten for wind instruments or band instruments because students have to have the lung capacity and the finger stretch to perform on the instrument.

**What is a good first step?**

The piano is a great instrument to start on because it plays in every key and gives students a deep understanding of musical harmony and how music works in terms of cords, melody and harmony.

— HOLLY VESILIND,

MUSIC INSTRUCTOR AT WESTGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## McLean Youth Orchestra

The McLean Youth Orchestra presents MYO Rocks! Sunday, March 25 at 3 p.m. at Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road in McLean. Admission is \$10 (free admission for children under 13). Visit <http://mcleanyouthorchestra.org>.

students to succeed tomorrow, they need a comprehensive education that includes music taught by exemplary music educators,” said Elizabeth Lasko, Assistant Executive Director, NAME. “Music In Our Schools Month gives music teachers the chance to...let everyone know how learning music benefits kids, and how it contributes to their growth and development both as students and as future adult citizens.”

Instructors say playing music can boost brain power. “Music helps build and develop cognitive skills because you have to do three or four things at the same time to perform music,” said Holly Vesilind, music instructor at Westgate Elementary School in Falls Church and a private flute instructor in Fairfax. “It builds math skills because it involves counting and fractions.

Experts say music activities can affect social development. “Music ensembles work much like team sports, students learn the necessity of teamwork and collaboration,” said Dr. James Criswell, director of the Middle School advanced band and Upper School wind ensemble and orchestra at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria.

Strogher dispels the notion that the discipline attracts social misfits. “It is not just the choir geeks or the band nerds,” he said. “When [The Heights Men’s Chorus] was

SEE MUSIC, PAGE 13

# Music in Our Schools Enhances Education

FROM PAGE 12

performing in Austria recently, we had the [school's] best lacrosse player with us, we had baseball players, basketball players. In fact, most of our top athletes are also in the music program. It is actually a cool thing to be in music."

So, what do students think? "Music allows people from different social groups to bond and come together over a common interest," said Connor Ortman, a sophomore at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.

"Regardless of a student's level, participation in music education teaches the importance of teamwork and collaboration as a group as well as individual discipline and preparation, much like athletics," added St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School sophomore Kathryn Cavallo.

**EXPERTS SAY** early musical experiences benefit even the youngest musicians. "We focus on experiences, the process and overall music making through movement, singing and instrument playing," said Julie Mueller, a music teacher at Arlington's Jamestown Elementary School.

Earlier this month, the Jamestown Elementary School chorus joined other student choral groups from around the world

for the "Concert for Music in Our School's Month," an annual musical experience sponsored by The National Association of Music Education. "Events like these are wonderful opportunities to encourage the students to develop their musical abilities and to be part of activities with musicians from all over," said Dr. Maritza Sadowsky, a music teacher at Jamestown.

Music educators want musical interest to extend beyond a month-long effort. "We hope that because of advocacy efforts such as [Music in Our School's Month]...that parents will encourage their children to get and stay involved in music," said Lasko.

One means of involvement say educators is exposure to professional musicians through educational programs sponsored by local symphony orchestras. "Having been a school strings and band teacher, myself, I understand how the voices of professional musicians who come into the classroom can reinforce the instruction the teachers give," said Helen Fall, a Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Violist.

Hall and other FSO members mentor students as part of programs like Symphony Creating Outreach Resources for Educators (SCORE) and Overture to Orchestra. Overture to Orchestra is designed to introduce elementary school students to the instru-

ments and sounds of a symphony orchestra through in-school concerts performed by chamber ensembles from the FSO. The SCORE program offers extensive master classes, individual sectional instruction, and "side-by-side" rehearsals to middle and high school bands and orchestras.

"The students are always excited to have us come. They feel they are getting extra special attention, and having a pro on every instrument makes them all feel important," said Fall who teaches violin and viola in her home studio in Fairfax.

The FSO allows students ages 6-18 to join the Student Passport Club where members get \$5 tickets to symphony performances. Young music enthusiasts also have an opportunity to play symphonic instruments and meet members of the orchestra.

"The FSO concentrates on providing its programs to areas where students have limited access to private music instruction or consistent support for their music studies in the home," said Elizabeth Murphy, FSO President and CEO. "These are the students who will benefit most from one-on-one exposure to the instruments and professional musicians."

**OFFICIALS FROM THE MCLEAN ORCHESTRA** created the McLean Youth Or-

chestra (MYO) to cultivate the talent of musically advanced middle and high school students. "MYO students not only learn to read and play music better, but working with our conductors and section coaches, they also learn the discipline, team work, self-reliance and confidence required to be an effective ensemble member," said Aileen Pisciotta, President-Elect of the McLean Orchestra.

On Sunday, March 25, MYO musicians will present MYO Rocks! "This is [the orchestra's] first-ever 'fusion' concert," said Pisciotta. "The students will perform a couple of classical selections as well as accompany accomplished rock musicians on some current as well as classic rock favorites. This is an MYO outreach effort intended to be a really fun exposure to symphony music for teens who don't normally go to classical concerts."

MYO oboist and Vienna resident Elise Favia, believes the concert will be a hit with her peers. "I am really big on modern songs," said Favia, who is a 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Student at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria. "I actually don't like classical music as much as I do the others, but classical music on the oboe is fun because the oboe is used a lot."

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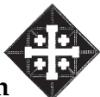


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| Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777                | Wesley United Methodist ...<br>703-938-8700                           |
| <b>Church of Christ</b>                            | <b>Non-Denominational</b>   |
| Berea Church of Christ ... 703-893-7040            | Celebration Center<br>for Spiritual Living<br>... 703-560-2030        |
| <b>Disciples of Christ</b>                         | Christian Assembly Church ...<br>703-698-9777                         |
| Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753          | <b>Presbyterian</b>   |
| <b>Episcopal</b>                                   | Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church<br>...703-560-6336                 |
| Church of the Holy Comforter ...<br>703-938-6521   | Korean Central Presbyterian ...<br>703-698-5577                       |
| Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991          | Vienna Presbyterian ...<br>703-938-9050                               |
| St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082             | <b>Quaker</b>   |
| <b>Jehovah's Witness</b>                           | Langley Hills Friends...703-442-8394                                  |
| Jehovah's Witnesses ... 703-759-1579               | <b>Seventh-Day Adventist</b>  |
| <b>Lutheran</b>                                    | Northern Virginia Christian<br>Fellowship ... 703-242-9001            |
| Emmanuel Lutheran Church...703-938-2119            | Vienna Seventh Day Adventists ...<br>703-938-8383                     |
| Christ The King Lutheran Church...<br>703-759-6068 | Unitarian Universalist<br>Congregation of Fairfax ...<br>703-281-4230 |
| St. Athanasius Lutheran Church...<br>703-455-4003  | <b>Unity</b>  |
| Methodist  | Unity of Fairfax ... 703-281-1767                                     |
| Andrew Chapel United Methodist ...<br>703-759-3509 |   |
| Church of the Good Shepherd ...<br>703-281-3987    |   |
| The Vine Methodist Church ... 703-573-5336         |   |
| Ephiphany United Methodist ...<br>703-938-3494     |   |
| Great Falls United Methodist...<br>703-759-3705    |   |

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- Vienna Assembly of God ...  
703-938-7736
- Washington Christian Church...  
703-938-7720
- Cristo Es Mi Refugio...  
703-938-7727

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

- Baptist**
- Global Mission Church ...  
703-757-0877
- Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462
- Bethel Primitive Baptist Church  
... 703-757-8134
- Cartersville Baptist Church ...  
703-255-7075

- Fellowship Baptist Church ...**  
703-385-8516
- First Baptist Church ...  
703-938-8525
- The Light Mission Church ...  
703-757-0877
- Vienna Baptist Church ...  
703-281-4400
- New Union Baptist Church...  
703-281-2556

- Buddhist**
- Vajrayogini Buddhist Center...  
202-331-2122
- Church of the Brethern
- Oakton Church of the Brethern ...  
703-281-4411

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## ENTERTAINMENT

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

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 21

**"Orphans of the Storm."** 8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. D.W. Griffith's 1921 silent film, starring sisters Lillian and Dorothy Gish in the story of two young women in peril during the French Revolution. \$6-\$8. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

**Digitour with Dave Days, DeStorm, Ricky Ficarella, Alex Goot, Asher Monroe, Nice Peter, The Key of Awesome and WhatADayDerek.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Celtic Crossroads.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Bluegrass, gypsy-folk and jazz. \$27. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Judging of Vienna Photographic Society Photojournalism Entries.** 7:30 p.m. Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Mary Ann Setton, past president and past competition chair of the Northern Virginia Photographic Society will judge. 703-451-7298.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 22

**David Choi and Jeff LeBlanc.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Youth Art Show Reception.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Featuring artwork by McLean area middle and high school students. 703-790-1953.

**Art History Lecture Series.** 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Second of four Introductory Art History Lectures. 801-361-5464.

**The Second City: Laugh Out Loud.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Comedy. \$24. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**"A View from the Bridge."** 7 p.m. McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Tragedy by Arthur Miller. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. [mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com](mailto:mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com).

### FRIDAY/MARCH 23

**Virginia Opera: The Mikado.** 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Gilbert and Sullivan's masterpiece, set in the fictional Japanese town of Tiputu. Sung in English with English supertitles. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu).

**Family Skate Night.** 6:30-8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna. Admission \$1. Bring your own roller skates or inline skates (no scooters) and safety equipment. Parents required to stay with their children. 703-255-6360 or [www.viennava.com](http://www.viennava.com).

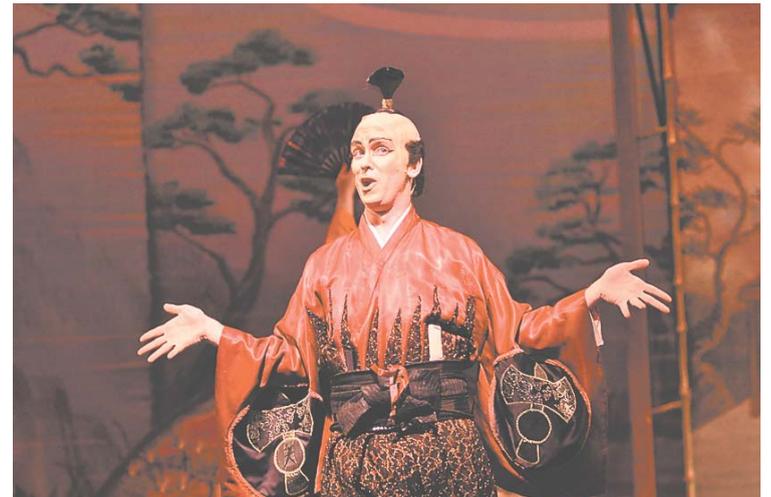
**The Second City: Laugh Out Loud.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Comedy. \$24. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

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

**Derek Webb and Sandra McCracken.** 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**McLean Art Society.** 10 a.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With Susan Ellis, realistic pastel artist. 703-790-0123.

**"A View from the Bridge."** 7 p.m. McLean High School, 1633 Davidson



**Bass Kevin Burdette as Ko-Ko in Virginia Opera's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado". The Virginia Opera will present "The Mikado" on Friday, March 23 at 8 p.m. and again on Sunday, March 25 at 2 p.m. in George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets are \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu).**

Road, McLean. Tragedy by Arthur Miller. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. [mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com](mailto:mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 24

**McLean High School Historical Reenactment Society.** 1-4 p.m. Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Members of McLean High School's historical reenactment society will conduct demonstrations about science in the 1700s. Explore the Apothecary and its large variety of objects, from poison bottles to dragon's blood. \$6, includes a tour of the museum. Reservations required at 703-746-3852.

**Fairfax County Mega Job Fair.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. This year's event includes a training vouchers program for veterans to enhance their job skills, a section for youth employment services plus recruiters from a wide variety of employers and government agencies. Co-hosted by Congressman Gerry Connolly, the Fairfax County SkillSource Centers and Business Development Assistance Group. Participating employers, business resources partners, and program agenda at [www.fairfaxmegajobfair.com](http://www.fairfaxmegajobfair.com).

**Black-Top Banquet & Auction.** 6 p.m. Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Gourmet dinner, entertainment and a live auction. Proceeds will go toward resurfacing the church parking lot. Tickets \$50. 703-582-1640 or [c.wright@longandfoster.com](mailto:c.wright@longandfoster.com).

**McLean Orchestra.** 8 p.m. Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Ralph Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis, Percy Grainger's Irish Tune from County Derry (Danny Boy), Pietro Mascagni's Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana, Maurice Ravel's Mother Goose Suite and Bolero. Reception to follow. <http://mclean-orchestra.org>.

**VVFD Spring Bazaar.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St., Vienna. Crafts and home based businesses, holiday decorations and more. Lunch and baked goods available for purchase. Proceeds raise funds for life-saving fire and rescue equipment. Free admission. 703-309-3468 or [Dancers1023@aol.com](mailto:Dancers1023@aol.com).

**"The Revenge of the Space Pandas or Binky Rudich and the Two-**

**Speed Clock."** 3 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. For ages 6 and up. A comedy by David Mamet. \$8-\$10. [sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Children's Shows: Ralph's World.** 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Chris Ayer, Matt Simons and Adam Barnes** at 7 p.m.; **Adrenaline Dance Music Party** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Harlem Globetrotters.** 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets available at [www.harlemglobetrotters.com](http://www.harlemglobetrotters.com) or 1-800-745-3000.

**"A View from the Bridge."** 7 p.m. McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Tragedy by Arthur Miller. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. [mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com](mailto:mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com).

**DC/VA 2012 MDA Muscle Walk.** 8 a.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Help raise funds to fight muscular dystrophy, ALS and related muscle diseases. Register at 703-476-5780 or [musclewalkmda.org/DCVirginia](http://musclewalkmda.org/DCVirginia).

### SUNDAY/MARCH 25

**Virginia Opera: The Mikado.** 2 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Gilbert and Sullivan's masterpiece, set in the fictional Japanese town of Tiputu. Sung in English with English supertitles. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu).

**Merrifield Lions Club Snow Crab Legs and Shrimp Feast.** 1-4 p.m. Dunn Loring Fire Department, 2148 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. All you can eat crab, shrimp, hot dogs, baked beans, cole slaw and more. Beer available. Adults \$35-\$37, ages 5-11 \$13. 703-573-2733 or [www.merrifieldlions.com](http://www.merrifieldlions.com).

**Animal Rescue: A Musical Adventure.** Colvin Run Mill Historic Site, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. With string trio Virginia Virtuosi and music by Berlioz, Tchaikovsky, Saint-Saens and more. \$2. Registration required at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks).

**"The Revenge of the Space Pandas or Binky Rudich and the Two-Speed Clock."** 3 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside

SEE ENTERTAINMENT. PAGE 15

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 14

Ave., McLean. For ages 6 and up. A comedy by David Mamet. \$8-\$10. [sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Breakfast Buffet.** 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna American Legion, 330 Center St. N, Vienna. Omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon and more. Adults \$8, children \$3. 703-938-6580.

**This Century, The Getaways and Foreverisforever** at 2 p.m.; **A Tribute to the Rolling Stones on their 50th Anniversary with Anthony Fiacco, Luke Brindley, Todd Wright and Michael Pearsall** at 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Harlem Globetrotters.** 2 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets available at [www.harlemglobetrotters.com](http://www.harlemglobetrotters.com) or 1-800-745-3000.

**"A View from the Bridge."** 2 p.m. McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Tragedy by Arthur Miller. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. [mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com](mailto:mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com).

## MONDAY/MARCH 26

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

**No Blitz, Aside Oceans, The Red Letter and Me and This Army.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

## TUESDAY/MARCH 27

**Literacy Council of Northern Virginia.** 1 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Tutoring. 703-356-0770.

**Merrin Karras, Brockway and Logan Venderlic.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**"A View from the Bridge."** 7 p.m. McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Tragedy by Arthur Miller. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. [mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com](mailto:mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com).

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 28

**Hop, Fly or Run.** 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Birds, toads and other animals are on the move in the springtime. Meet an animal and enjoy activities. Presented by Riverbend Park. 703-356-0770.

**French Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Introduce your child to a foreign language with storytime in French. Ages 3-5 with adult. 703-757-8560.

**Communion: Austin To Boston with Ben Howard, The Staves, Nathaniel Rateliff and Bear's Den.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**"A View from the Bridge."** 7 p.m. McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Tragedy by Arthur Miller. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. [mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com](mailto:mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com).

## THURSDAY/MARCH 29

**Art History Lecture Series.** 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Third of four Introductory Art History Lectures. 801-361-5464.

**Nneka and Bajah & The Dry Eye Crew.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Annual 10th District Congressional Art Show.** 6-8 p.m. George Washington University



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Patrons of The Old Brogue in Great Falls fill the front porch during their annual St. Patrick's Day celebration Saturday.

## Old Brogue Celebrates St. Patrick's Day

Crowds line up early for annual celebration.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

On Saturday morning, the electronic clock that hangs on the wall of The Old Brogue in Great Falls read "0 Days, 0 Hours, 0 Minutes and 0 seconds" for the first time in 366 days. The clock spends most of the year counting down to St. Patrick's Day, and it hadn't read zero for long before people started showing up.

"I try to get here as early as possible, because this is one of my favorite parties of the year, and it always seems to fill up quick," said John August of Great Falls. "You know for sure everyone's going to be wearing green and ready to have a good time."

Old Brogue owner Mike Kearney said that more than 300 cars were there first thing in the morning for the weekly Cars and Coffee Event, and the crowd only grew from there.

Visitors were treated to music throughout the day, as well as a selection of traditional Irish fare.

"The bangers and mash are



From left, Deborah Hall, Kelly Laurienti, Dana Bowman and Amy Papanu celebrate St. Patrick's Day at The Old Brogue Saturday, March 17.

one of my favorites anyway, and they're pretty authentic here," said Sean DeWitt of Vienna. "I lived in Ireland for a few years after college, and this is the closest I've come to getting that same taste with the sausage, mashed potatoes and mushy peas."

Dana Bowman of Great Falls and several friends came complete with green buckled hats with bright red pigtailed attached.

"This is one of our annual traditions every year," she said. "And it's one I think we'll keep up for a while."

Loudoun County Campus, Bldg. 2, 44983 Knoll Square, Ashburn. Hosted by Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10th). Featuring works by area high school students. All submitted artwork will remain on display at the GWU campus until April 19. The winning piece will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for a year alongside other

"Best in Show" entries from congressional districts across the country. 540-667-0990 or [Wolf.house.gov](http://Wolf.house.gov).

**"A View from the Bridge."** 7 p.m. McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Tragedy by Arthur Miller. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. [mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com](mailto:mcleantheatrecompany@gmail.com).

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## Exciting All-Star Afternoon

Concorde/Patriot All-Stars beat the Liberty/National team 109-108 in overtime.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**B**ryant Fultz wasn't among the top performers in the dunk contest during NVABBC all-star festivities on March 17, but the West Potomac senior made his mark during the main event.

Fultz threw down a fourth-quarter alley-oop dunk from fellow Wolverine Randall Brobbey, scored a team-high 15 points and earned game MVP honors as the Concorde/Patriot All-Stars defeated the Liberty/National team 109-108 in overtime at Wakefield High School. The all-star game featured some of the top players from the Northern Region, and matched a team composed of athletes from the Concorde and Patriot districts against players from the Liberty and National districts.

"With the dunk contest, it was really hard because I'm not really a trick dunker," Fultz said. "I'm more of a go-up-and-do-it kind of guy."

Fultz made up for any lack of flair in his dunk-contest performance. With the Concorde/Patriot squad leading by four late in regulation, Brobbey threw an alley-oop pass off the backboard, which Fultz slammed home for a 99-93 advantage.

"In practice," Fultz said, "we do it all the time for fun."

After the 3-point shootout, South County's Oren Burks held off Lake Braddock's Tyler Snow to win the dunk contest. Jumping over a human prop became the unofficial theme of the event. T.C. Williams' T.J. Huggins was one of the first to attempt the maneuver, leaping over fellow Titan Jordan Byrd, who stands 6 feet.

"It was his idea at the last minute," Byrd said. "I was just supposed to throw the [alley-oop]. He missed it a couple times and then at that time he just changed it and said, 'Can I dunk over you?' I said, 'Go ahead, I'll give it a try, but you better not hurt me.'"

**THE ALL-STAR GAME** provided an exciting end to the afternoon. The Liberty/National team overcame an 11-point second-half deficit to force overtime and held a one-point lead late in the extra period. But after allowing the go-ahead bucket to Hayfield's Nate McShay of the Liberty/National team, Huggins, the region Player of the Year, drove to the rim and scored the game-winner for the Concorde/Patriot team.

The Concorde/Patriot All-Stars, led by Woodson head coach Doug Craig, featured a balanced scoring attack. South County's Marqueice Johnson and Westfield's Quentin Basil each scored 11 points, and Lake Braddock's Snow had 10. Centreville's Evan Fuller and Robinson's Robert Pillow each tallied nine points, while Huggins added eight.

Johnson, a rebounding force for the Stallions, said it took some time to settle into a rhythm while playing with athletes from other schools, but the teams eventually found a groove. He also said there was a relaxed approach in terms of competition, but that didn't stop hip from hustling.

Chantilly's Brady Caslavka (7 points), Robinson's Tristian Crenshaw (7), T.C. Williams' Byrd (6), Centreville's Robert Coker (5) and Lake Braddock's Brendan McHale (2) also competed for the



South Lakes' JD Wallace scored 15 points for the Liberty/National All-Stars.

Concorde/Patriot team.

Edison head coach Terry Henderson led the Liberty/National All-Stars. Henderson received a good-natured ribbing for calling a timeout in the closing seconds of the first half to design a play for Langley's Daniel Dixon. The play worked, as Dixon buried a 25-foot 3-pointer at the buzzer to give his team a 49-48 halftime lead.

"It's fun. You get some talent you don't normally have," Henderson said. "It's kind of like coaching at a private school or something. You've got your shooters, you've got big men [and] you've got ball handlers. I was like a kid in a candy store; I didn't know what to do and what to call."

Dixon, who also had the ball in his hands near the end of regulation and overtime, said he enjoyed having opportunities during crunch time.

The play prior to halftime "was drawn up to get me the ball, but probably in a different spot than near half-court," Dixon said. "But I just pulled it from there."

Hayfield's McShay led the Liberty/National team with 20 points. Dixon scored 17 points, South Lakes' J.D. Wallace finished with 15 and McLean's Gordon Rogo added 11.

Edison's Tyrone Mackall (9), Wakefield's Justin Glenn (8) and Corey Aldrich (5), McLean's Sango Amolo (7) and Thomas Van Wazer (6), South Lakes' Jordan Francis (4), Langley's Joey Robinson (4) and Marshall's Latrell Watkins (2) also competed.

Wakefield head coach Tony Bentley hosted the festivities for the third consecutive year. He said the all-star game was the best it has been and he enjoyed watching his players — Glenn and Aldrich — participate.

### Game Reports Wanted

Coaches, team managers/parents - Please send high school team game results to sports editor Rich Sanders at richsand8@aol.com, or contact him on twitter at richsand8. In game reports, please include date and place of game, game highlights, team win-loss record, and any other newsworthy items. Photos are also accepted.



The Great Falls Everton Blue under-11 boys' soccer team captured the championship at the recent Arlington Cup showcase event. Top row, left to right: Craig Scott, John Greenhalgh, Shane McPartland, Alex Marinescu, Justin Duenkel, and Olufemi Adu. Bottom row: Wiley Simonds, Rohan Chaturvedula, Jonathan Merrill, Alex Robles, Joseph Mejia, Jack Van Volkenburg, Adrien Cushing.

### SPORTS ROUNDUPS

**The Great Falls Everton Blue U11 Boys** competed in both the Arlington Cup and nationally ranked Jefferson Cup (Richmond) the first two weekends in March. From March 3-4, Everton competed in the Arlington Cup and swept the competition, bringing home the Championship Cup to Great Falls. The following weekend, Everton traveled to Richmond to compete in the nationally ranked Jefferson Cup. There, they faced stiff competition and defeated their first three opponents to make it to the championship again. However, they lost 3-1 to a strong YMS Wolves team from Pennsylvania. Nonetheless, Everton did an outstanding job and made the parents and the Great Falls Soccer Club proud.

The Langley High girls' varsity softball team started their 2012 spring season with a home game versus the Robinson Secondary Rams on March 16. The Saxons had a strong game at the plate on way to a 16-4 victory.

Langley set the non-district game's tone by getting three home runs in each of the first three innings - a two-run homer by senior Julia Weeks in the first inning; a solo shot by junior Ashley Panetta, the first homer of her Langley career, in the second inning; and a two-run blast by sophomore Emily Templin, also her first career four-bagger, in the third inning.

Saxon singles in the win came from freshman Melanie Dronfield, freshman Carina Sturm, freshman Maggie Natal, sophomore Kaitryn Evans and senior Hope Albers. Senior Lauren Mensing and junior Ashley Panetta both hit doubles.

Langley's defense played a solid game behind freshman pitcher Haley Falkenberry, who made her high school debut on the mound. Falkenberry worked two strong innings before senior Jenna came in and pitched well the remainder of the game.

Great play in the outfield came from center fielder Carina Strum and right fielder Lauren Mensing, who both made stellar gems. The Saxons' infield was well managed by second baseman Kaitryn Evans, shortstop Maggie Natal and first baseman Emily Templin.

However, the play of the night was the calm, cool reaction of third baseman Julia Weeks, who stopped a mad grounder without a flinch before throwing the ball to first for the put-out tag.

Langley, in all, collected 16 hits. The game was halted in the middle of the fifth inning.

Langley was scheduled to travel to Marshall for a Liberty District game on Tuesday, March 20 of this week. This Friday night at 6:30, the Saxons will host district opponent Fairfax.

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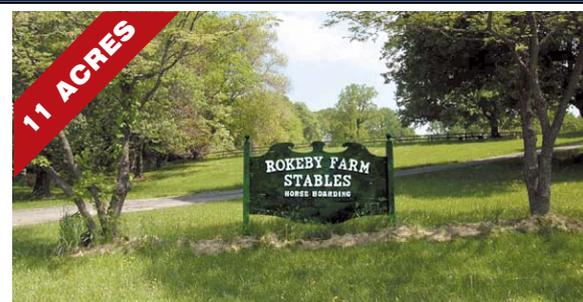
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