

Great Falls
CONNECT

Running For Gianna

NEWS, PAGE 12

Travis, Gianna, 1, and Suzanne Hess receive a check from the Joe Cassella Foundation Sunday, May 20. Gianna Hess has a rare form of liver cancer, and the foundation raised the funds during their third annual 5K in Great Falls.

DATE May 20, 2012

001

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/00 DOLLARS

The Joe Cassella Foundation



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Celebrate
Great Falls
Kicks Off
Summer

NEWS, PAGE 3

Langley
Dedicates
Courtyard

NEWS, PAGE 6

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The crowd at the Great Falls Village Green takes in the one of the annual Concerts on the Green, which will kick off Sunday, June 3.



PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Celebrate Great Falls Kicks Off Summer

Baseball game, concert series, June Fest highlight Celebrate Great Falls Days.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

During the first weekend of June traditions old and new will be taking place throughout Great Falls. Cars and Coffee, the Concerts on the Green and the annual Golf Tournament to benefit local elementary schools will all be taking place, as well as a few new elements.

After Cars and Coffee from 7 to 9 a.m. Saturday, June 3, the Langley High School varsity baseball team will face off against Langley alumni from years past.

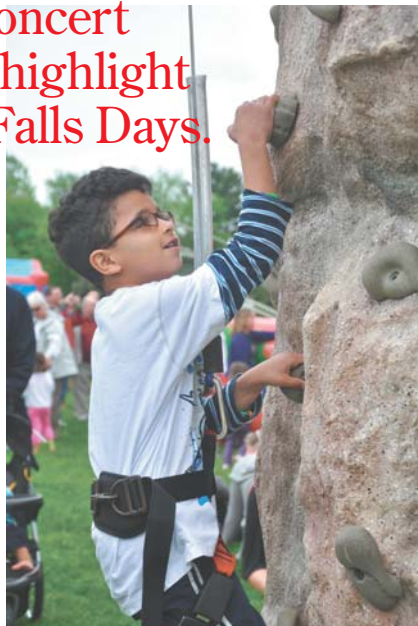
"In the 1930s, the Great Falls Spring Festival was a baseball game," said Sandra Even of Celebrate Great Falls, one of the coordinators of the events. "We're trying to make sure we get as many people as possible involved. Great Falls Little League will be there selling food and drinks, the Great Falls Historical Society will have a uniform from the 1890s and other memorabilia."

Jim Mraz, who is helping coordinate the game, says that he's gotten a good response from the alumni he's recruited for the team.

"Everyone's definitely feeling a little competitive, but in a fun way," he said. "The alumni team has some guys who are more into having fun, and some who are staying serious."

Mraz also said he hopes the game can serve as a catalyst to establish a Langley High School baseball alumni program that will connect multiple generations.

"We hope that everyone who comes out will really feel part of a family, because they'll all have something in common, playing baseball for Langley," he said. "Hopefully we have success and keep this as an annual thing."



Kamal Labriny, 7, tries to scale the climbing wall at the Great Falls Spring Festival. This year's June Fest will take place Sunday, June 3.

THE LANGLEY VARSITY BASEBALL team versus Alumni game will take place from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 2 at Nike Field 5.

On Sunday, June 3, the Village Centre Hill (behind the Post Office) will host the June Fest festival, which will feature an assortment of carnival games, rides, community organization booths and local businesses.

June Fest will feature rides for all ages, including the first-ever use in Great Falls of a mechanical ride and a five-person climbing wall. It will take place from noon to 5 p.m.

The festival will segue into the inaugural edition of the Concerts on the Green, the weekly musical series that takes place during the summer on the Village Green.

The opening night will feature The Shields Brothers, a pop group recently featured on

NBC's "The Voice."

"We decided to move up the start time for the first concert only, because we want to make it easy for people who decide to spend some time at June Fest, and then want to catch the concert," Even said.

FUTURE CONCERTS ON THE GREEN will take place every Sunday until July 29 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Wrapping up the events on Monday, June 4 will be the annual golf tournament to benefit Great Falls, Colvin Run and Forestville Elementary Schools.

Taking place at the Hidden Creek Country Club in Reston, the tournament will have morning and afternoon shotgun starts, and admission includes a four-person scramble, lunch or dinner and awards.

"This is our fifth year of the tournament, and its grown to encompass more schools and more people every year," said Tim Burke, one of the coordinators for the tournament. "We're trying to raise funds to supply the school with things they don't get from the county."

Last year's tournament raised \$18,000, which was distributed evenly between the three schools.



From left, Lynette Terpak and Daria Powell have a conversation while watching Diamond Alley perform at the Summer Concerts on the Green series. This year's series kicks off Sunday, June 3.



Shane Parcelles, 11, of Great Falls, tries to free himself from the Velcro wall at last year's spring festival. This year's June Fest will take place Sunday, June 3.

Governor Signs Voter ID Bills

McDonnell directs state to send every voter a new voter card before Election Day.

By VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Governor Robert McDonnell (R) signed watered-down versions of Virginia's Republican-backed voter identification bills on Friday, adding the Commonwealth to the growing list of states adopting stricter voting standards.

Under the new law, voters will be required to show ID before they cast their ballots, a measure that Democrats in the Virginia General Assembly have said will disenfranchise many voters, especially minorities, the poor and the elderly.

To subdue critics, the Governor signed measures expanding the type of ID acceptable at the polls – which include a utility bill or a Virginia student ID card – and directed the State Board of Elections to send every registered voter a new card before the 2012 presidential elections in November.

“Every qualified citizen has the right to cast one vote. Not two votes; not zero votes,” McDonnell said in a statement released Friday. “This legislation does two things. It increases the forms of identification that can be used for purpose of voting, while helping to further prevent voter fraud and ensuring Virginians that they can have faith that votes have not been fraudulently cast.”

THE PREVALENCE – or absence – of voter fraud is at the heart of the debate over whether Virginia or other states need any new legislation.

“The ‘voter identification’ bills are a solution in search of a problem,” said State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) in an email on Saturday. “Our current system is working fine. By agreeing to these gratuitous changes, the Governor is making the system less open and convenient to law-abiding citizens.”

State Sen. David Marsden (D-37) has said that using voter fraud as a justification for new voter identification rules is a smokescreen for voter suppres-



The Burke Centre polling place at the Commons Community Centre preps for Election Day.

Acceptable Forms of ID

Under the new legislation and existing law, the following are acceptable forms of ID for voting:

- ❖ Virginia voter registration card
- ❖ Social Security card
- ❖ Valid Virginia driver's license
- ❖ Any other identification card issued by an agency of the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States
- ❖ Any valid student identification card issued by a Virginia institution of higher education
- ❖ A valid identification card issued by an employer containing a photograph of the voter
- ❖ A copy of a current utility bill
- ❖ A copy of a bank statement
- ❖ A government check
- ❖ A paycheck that shows the name and address of the voter

sion. “When we’ve asked these legislators (in Virginia) to cite one example of voter fraud, they just can’t do it,” Marsden said.

Even McDonnell noted Virginia’s “tradition of honest elections” and a voter compliance rate of nearly 100 percent in a survey of localities from the last presidential and gubernatorial elections in 2008 and 2009.

Currently, Virginia voters are allowed to vote without ID by signing a sworn affidavit affirming their identity. Under the new law, voters without ID cards will still be able to vote provisionally, on the condition they provide proper ID later for the vote to be counted.

“Some have argued that there are voters who do not have any form of ID to bring to the polls. For that reason, we will be sending every voter in Virginia a free voter card between now and Election Day to ensure they have at least one form of ID to bring with them to the polls,” McDonnell said.

In addition to issuing every active voter a new card, McDonnell also ordered election officials to

coordinate a public education campaign to help raise awareness about the approved ID to the polling place on Election Day, and the process for obtaining a free voter card if someone does not have a form of ID.

“Every qualified citizen has the right to cast one vote. Not two votes; not zero votes.”

— Governor Robert McDonnell

McDonnell said the additional steps his administration is taking to implement this legislation ensure that no voter is “overly burdened by the provisions included in this legislation.”

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, a bipartisan research organization, Voter ID continues to be a high-profile and highly-contentious issue in many state legislatures. Currently, 32 states have voter ID legislation pending, and several states have pushed for rigorous

Voter Information

- ❖ If you have not received a new card, but would like to check your voter registration status and information, go to the Virginia State Board of Elections at www.sbe.virginia.gov/
- ❖ For more information, go to Fairfax County Office of Elections website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections
- ❖ Or contact the Office of Elections at 703-222-0776, TTY 711.

laws that require voters to present a state-issued photo ID card.

JUST BEFORE McDonnell’s pronouncement, the Fairfax County Office of Elections launched a campaign to alert voters to new voter registration cards the state is in the process of mailing to approximately 195,000 county voters this week.

But the cards are being mailed only to voters affected by Congressional redistricting and voters still holding a card that included their Social Security Number (SSN), which will be replaced with a system-generated identification number.

Now, every registered voter will get at least one new voter card. The cards mailed out this week also indicate a language preference.

According to Cameron Quinn, Fairfax County’s chief elections official, as a result of the 2010 Census, Fairfax County falls under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, which requires the county to provide voting and elections-related materials in English and Spanish.

She said Fairfax County is now providing voter information and materials for Spanish speakers. And the county’s website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections has a Google Translations line that can translate information into Spanish and several other languages.

Quinn said that while the Fairfax County and state websites are updated, not all voter election web pages and links have been updated with the new congressional district information.

“Those voters whose congressional district changed as a result of redistricting are currently being mailed a new voter card,” Quinn said. “Whether or not you received a new voter card, if you have questions or to be certain you know your congressional district information, refer to the county or state election office’s website for the correct information or call us at 703-222-0776.”

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

THURSDAY/MAY 24

Fairfax County presents Legal Tools for Caregivers. 7 p.m. Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church. Free. Register at 703-324-5205, TTY 711, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices or caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov.

TUESDAY/MAY 29

Lunch Bunch of Italian Heritage Lodge, Order Sons of Italy in America. 12 p.m. Sfizi Café, 800 W. Broad St., Falls Church. Open to the public. \$8.95-\$13.95. Reserve at 703-354-2454 or www.italianheritagelodge.org.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 30

Auditions for Vienna Youth Players’ Summer Production. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. Ages 11-18 invited to audition for “Footloose.” Call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 to schedule an audition.

THURSDAY/MAY 31

DEQ Public Meeting on Water Quality in Holmes Run and Tripps Run. 6:30 p.m. Woodrow Wilson Library, 6101 Knollwood Drive, Falls Church. Holmes Run and Tripps Run do not meet water quality standards due to poor health in the benthic biological communities. Learn what the state is doing to address the problem. 703-583-3859 or jennifer.carlson@deq.virginia.gov.

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

Vienna Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna Caboose, 131 Church St. N.E., Vienna. Producers only, Saturdays through Oct. 27. viennafarmersmarket.com.

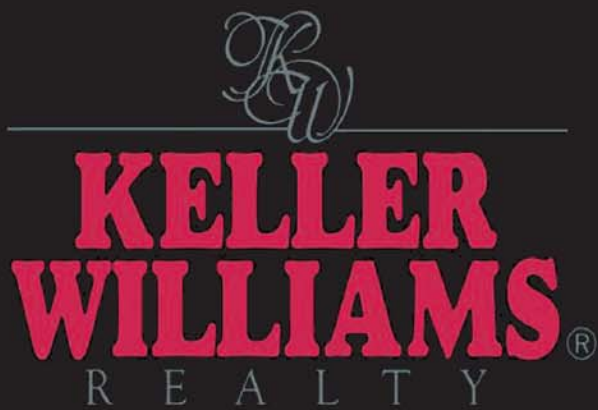
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SUNDAY/JUNE 3

Dog and Cat Adoptions. 1-4 p.m. PetSmart, 8204 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Every Sunday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

TUESDAY/JUNE 5

Senior Housing and Care Program. 12 p.m. Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Buckley Fricker, J.D., GCM, Certified Geriatric Care Manager and an attorney with a background in Elderly Law, on Senior Housing and Care: What are the Options and How Much Do they Cost? Brown-bag lunch. 703-281-3987 or www.GoodShepherdVA.com.



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FX7818120 - \$1,350,000 - Great Falls
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From left, Langley science teacher Deanna Den Hartog and volunteer Lala Johnson examine the woodland habitat in the Langley High School Courtyard Friday, May 18.



Langley High School students examine artwork on display during the dedication and open house of the Langley Courtyard, Friday, May 18.

Langley Dedicates Courtyard

Improvements include wildflower section, wildlife habitat certification.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Langley High School welcomed students, faculty and staff to their courtyard Friday, May 18, showing off student's artwork and the Eco Club's recent garden plantings.

The courtyard has also been certified as a Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation, meaning it meets the four basic elements for wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover and places to raise young.

For Lala Johnson, who volunteered for years at Langley, returning to the courtyard was a reunion of sorts.

"I feel like I have a familiar relationship with almost every planting here," said Johnson, who led a group on 2003 to start trimming back plants to make the courtyard presentable. "I remember when it looked like a jungle in here, but as we got students involved they really took ownership and it became a point of pride for the entire student body."

Many of the courtyard's flowers bloomed early this year due to the warm weather.

"They came out with our early Spring, but we've had some cold nights, which has helped things last a bit," said Langley science teacher Deanna Den Hartog.

Students could attend the pen house between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Friday, to enjoy the weather, see the plants and examine some nature-themed artwork on display from the art classes.

"It's pretty cool to see my piece on display in the courtyard where people will be hanging out most of the day," said sophomore Owen Lee, who had a piece on display.

Senior Paige Stuhlmuller has two pieces on display in more permanent locations. She designed signs for the wildflower section on the north side and the woodland habitat in the southeast corner. The names are made to look like part of a natural landscape,



Langley High School senior Paige Stuhlmuller stands next to one of the signs she designed for the Langley courtyard.

interwoven with flowers, branches and other plants. "I went through a lot of pictures of native flowers, and figured out ways to combine them together and fit the words in," said Stuhlmuller.

The plants in the various sections are labeled, and the Eco Club spent time cataloguing them.

"We put together a binder of all the plants here, so we know what's there, what berries or flowers it produces and how it looks in bloom," said Jill Baker, a parent with the club.

Den Hartog said the information gathered can also be used by other schools that might be interested in a garden.

The Langley EcoClub has had a busy year, kicking off the county's pilot program for athletic field recycling, securing a grant that allowed them to work on the courtyard and helping recycle 165 cell phones.

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Analemma Society to Present Transit of Venus

The planet Venus passes in front of the sun only on very rare occasions. Seeing this is a once in a lifetime event, the next one after this will not occur for 105 years. On Monday, June 4, at 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Library the Analemma Society will do a presentation on the Transit of Venus. Charles Olin and Jeff Kretsch will lead the discussion. The Transit will occur the following late afternoon/evening.

Members will describe the events to occur the following day, Tuesday, June 5 and plans to observe at Observatory Park and present a general history of the importance of the transit of Venus in history.

In the 18th and 19th centuries great international scientific expeditions were launched across the world to observe the Transit because it provided a means to determine the actual scale of our solar system – how far earth actually is from the sun and other planets that orbit the sun with us. In addition to covering what transits

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OPINION

Remembering on Memorial Day

Time to honor, also time to ensure proper care of veterans.

In February, Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, 49, of Fairfax, was the highest ranking military officer to die in the war on terror. Hildner died Feb. 3, 2012 in Kabul province, Afghanistan.

On Memorial Day, we remember all of those who have died in military service, more than 400,000 in World War II, more than 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,400 U.S. military service men and women have died in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2012, there is just one reported death in Iraq, and more than 115 in Afghanistan.

Nearly 50,000 U.S. Military service members have been wounded in the war on terror, although that number is likely to be revised upward. The New York Times reported earlier this month that the military confirmed traumatic brain injury in more than 220,000 of the 2.3 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The long-term consequences of many of these injuries are unknown, but they will require a national commitment to excellence in health care for both active duty military personnel and veterans.

On Memorial Day, we honor and thank all those who have served in the military, in times of war and peace. It is also a time to reinvigorate efforts to provide the best services and opportunities to our veterans. The Post-9/11 GI Bill dramatically increases the educational benefits extended to members of the military who have served at least three months of active duty since Sept. 11, 2001. Steps to provide better, faster and more responsive health care to veterans, including mental health care are underway, but have a long way to go. This is one place where we must commit the resources to do better.

More than 175 U.S. Military service personnel from Virginia have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, including several in the last year.

Aaron Carson Vaughn, 30, was one of 30 American service members and 22 Navy SEALs killed Aug. 6, 2011 when their Chinook helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. Vaughn's family has ties to McLean and Burke. He is survived by his wife, Kimberly, and their two children.

Spc. Douglas Jay Green, 23 of Sterling, died Aug. 28, 2011. when insurgents attacked his unit using a roadside bomb in Kandahar province, Afghanistan. Green enlisted in 2007, after attending Potomac Falls High School.

Other Virginia losses since Memorial Day 2011:

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, 28 of Prince George, Va., died earlier this month on May 20, 2012 in Afghanistan when enemy forces attacked his unit with a roadside bomb.

Constructionman Trevor J. Stanley, 22, of



Command Sgt. Maj. Guitaud Leandre, 13th ESC, hands Cindy Hildner an artillery shell moments after it was fired from a cannon in her husband's honor at Fort Hood Feb. 9. Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner of Fairfax died in Afghanistan Feb. 3.

EDITORIAL

Virginia Beach, Va., died April 7, 2012 while deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Stanley, a Seabee, was assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3

Pfc. Michael W. Pyron, 30, of Hopewell, Va., died Jan. 10, 2012 in Parwan province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 25th Signal Battalion, 160th Signal Brigade, 335th Signal Command Theater, East Point, Ga.

Maj. Samuel M. Griffith, 36, of Virginia Beach, Va., died Dec. 14, 2011 in combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. James Ronald Leep Jr., 44 of Richmond, died Oct. 17, 2011 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu near Iskandariya in Babil province, Iraq.

Spc. Levi Efrain Nuncio, 24 of Harrisonburg, died June 22, 2011 when enemy forces attacked his unit with small-arms fire in the Narang district of Kunar province, Afghanistan.

Capt. Michael Wray Newton, 30 of Newport News, died June 11, 2011 in Meymaneh, Faryab province, Afghanistan.

HERE ARE the names of other local men and women who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan and in support of the "war on terror." We repeat these names at least twice a year on Memorial Day and Veterans Day to honor their service and to keep their memories in our consciousness.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

Capt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Midlothian was one of eight airmen who died April 27, 2011, at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, from gunfire. Sgt. Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton was one of two Marines who died April 23, 2011 in combat in Helmand, Afghanistan:

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Venetz Jr., 30, of Prince William died Jan. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan, in a non-combat incident. Venetz had been seriously wounded months before.

Spc. Sean R. Cutsforth, 22, of Radford, Va., died Dec. 15, 2010 in Afghanistan, when insurgents attacked his unit using small arms fire. Spc. William K. Middleton, 26, of Norfolk, was one of two soldiers who died Nov. 22, 2010 in Afghanistan, when insurgents attacked with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Cabacoy, 30, of Virginia Beach, was

one of two soldiers who died July 5, 2010, in Kandahar, Afghanistan, when insurgents attacked their vehicle with a roadside bomb.

Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25, of Fairfax Station, Va., died June 18, 2010 at Zhari district, Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23 of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19 of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18, 2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23 of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29, 2009, in Afghanistan. Stephan L. Mace, 21 of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghanistan.

Bill Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After 9/11, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. After his application to become a Marine had originally been denied because of his age, he lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq Oct. 29, 2005.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. "He loved his country, and we're so proud of him," said his mother.

2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Ga. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington.

Pfc. David Sharrett II, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. But the senior Sharrett has battled to learn the truth about his son's death, that he was killed by his lieutenant in the confusion of a firefight. Just last month, April, 2012, Sharrett Sr. obtained documents confirming some of the details of his son's death and a subsequent cover-up, according to Tom Jackman of the Washington Post.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept. 23, 2008, while serving in Iraq. His unit came under small arms fire, and Brown, 26, died from his wounds.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet. His father, Ed Kirkpatrick, calls him the "warrior poet," and he and his wife help injured vets at Walter Reed through the Yellow Ribbon fund (www.yellowribbonfund.org).

Ami Neiberger-Miller of Sterling lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. He was 22. Since her brother's death, Neiberger-Miller has devoted herself to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (www.taps.org), an amazing organization which provides emotional support and other services for families of the fallen. This Memorial Day weekend, TAPS will bring together survivors in Arlington for the 18th National Military Survivor seminar, along with a "good grief" camp for children who have lost a parent.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, when an IED exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006.

Airman 1st Class LeeBernard E. Chavis, 21, was killed Oct. 14, 2006, by sniper fire in Iraq, trying to protect civilians from a roadside bomb.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

SEE TIME TO HONOR. PAGE 19

Great Falls CONNECTION

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WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

FROM PAGE 7

are and the current importance to astronomy, as will cover safe means of viewing the upcoming transit.

Great Falls Essay Contest

The Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial invite rising 5th and 6th grade students in Great Falls to describe "A Virginia Hero!" Contestants must

choose three words from the 31 words circling the Great Falls Freedom Memorial and explain how those words describe the characteristics of their hero. Entries may be brought or mailed to the Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066-2634 and must be received by close of business Aug. 25, 2012.

A \$50 money card will be awarded for the best essay in each of these four student groups – Colvin Run Elementary School,

Forestville Elementary School, Great Falls Elementary School, and rising 5th and 6th graders who are home-schooled or enrolled

in a private school. Entry forms are available at the Great Falls Library, 703-757-8560, as well as contest details and rules for those who have not received this information at school.

Winners will be contacted on Sept. 29, 2012 and an Essay Contest awards ceremony will be held on Oct. 6, 2012 at 2 p.m. in the Great Falls Library.

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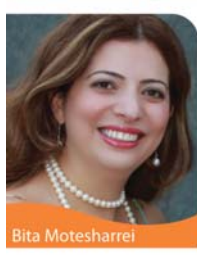
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Cars & Coffee

Saturday, June 2nd
7am to 9am
Katie's Coffeehouse

A car enthusiast's dream. Both the old and young will delight in sipping freshly brewed coffee while perusing antique, classic, new and exotic automobiles. A rapidly growing event that is uniting car lovers near and far.



Langley Varsity versus Alumni Baseball Game

Saturday, June 2nd
2pm-5pm
Nike Field 5 (off Utterback Store Road)

A little known fact-- in the 1930's, The Great Falls Spring Festival revolved around a baseball game. The Langley High School Varsity Baseball Team and Langley Alum are resurrecting a bit of Great Falls tradition. Join us at Nike Field 5 to cheer for the Varsity Team led by Kevin Healy and the Langley Alum coached by Charlie Ayoub while we recreate a little history.

All Snack Shack proceeds to benefit Great Falls Little League



June Fest

Sunday, June 3rd
12pm-5pm
The Village Centre Hill (behind Post Office)

Featuring:
Yummy festival food and goodies
Fun filled rides for all ages
A shopper's delight of Market Lane vendors
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Entertaining performances

Music by MegaWatt www.megawattinc.com

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Concert on the Green

Sunday, June 3rd
5pm-7pm
Great Falls Village Centre Green (at the Gazebo)

Join us for Opening Night
Pack a picnic basket, grab the family and welcome summer with old friends, new friends, and the delightful sound of

The Shields Brothers
As seen on NBC's "The Voice"

Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, June 4th
Hidden Creek Country Club

Take your pick, 2 shotgun starts

Morning Round	Afternoon Round
6:45 am Registration	12:15 pm Registration
7:30 am Shotgun Start	1:30 pm Shotgun Start
Lunch Following	Dinner Following

To register, please follow link at www.celebrategreatfalls.org
Proceeds to benefit our local elementary schools: Colvin Run, Forestville and Great Falls
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For further information and volunteer opportunities, please visit us at www.celebrategreatfalls.org and like us on Facebook.

Runners take off from the finish line at the start of the third annual Joe Cassella 5K in Great Falls Sunday, May 20.

PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION



Cassella Foundation Runs Third Annual 5K

Event raises \$45,000 for family of 1-year-old with liver cancer.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

In her year on the Earth, Gianna Hess has already been through more than enough medical procedures. She was diagnosed with hepatoblastoma, a rare form of liver cancer, and on Feb. 21 had a biopsy done, which confirmed that the cancer had spread, in the form of three lung nodules.

Three days later, Gianna Hess began chemotherapy at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to shrink the liver tumor enough so it can be removed. During treatment, Gianna's father Travis, a math teacher and Boys Varsity Basketball Coach at Langley High School, stepped down from his coaching position.

Suzanne Hess, a fifth grade teacher at John Adams Elementary School in Alexandria, recently stepped down from her job to care for Gianna and the couple's son, who was born premature.

On Sunday, May 20, the Hess family was presented with \$45,000, money raised at the third annual Joe Cassella 5K in Great Falls.

"I usually avoid talking about what it's been like to work with the Joe Cassella Foundation, because it's just so hard to put into words without getting emotional about what they've done," Travis Hess said. "To see so many people out here to support us, it's just overwhelming."

The foundation is named after the founder of Elite Fitness Concepts who passed away in 2009 at the age of 40 from mesothelioma [See the story, Page 13].

Every year for the past three years, the foundation has gathered hundreds to run to raise money for families of ill children in the area. The first year they had almost 500 runners, this year it was more than 900.

"Bad things happen. Gianna has a tough battle ahead of her, and we've

lost Joe, but we've shown for the past three years that something good can come out of the bad," said Pat DeRocco, Cassella's brother-in-law. "This event is to celebrate a great life and give another an assist."

After running the 3.2 miles around the neighborhood south of the Great Falls Village Centre, runners and their supporters could bid on auction items, enjoy refreshments and even enjoy a massage, courtesy of the Northern Virginia School of Massage.

"I love running, and I always like doing it for charity, but I've never had the luxury of a readily available massage after my morning run," said Stephanie Douglas of Falls Church. "It was just an amazing event for a good cause, and we get treated so well as runners it's truly a pleasure to participate. I'll be back as long as they have one."

The Gianna Hess team, which contained many members from John Adams Elementary School won the award for most team participation, and members of the Langley lacrosse and basketball teams, fresh from prom night, also showed up to support.

"At events like this, you can just feel the good feelings in the air, its tangible in everyone you see and everyone you talk to," said Fred Engle of Vienna, who came to watch his daughter and son-in-law run. "I'm so astounded by the vibe here, I just know this is a group of people that are truly dedicated to doing some good."

More information on the Joe Cassella Foundation can be found at www.joecassellafoundation.org.



Members of Gianna's Miracles team stand together after the third annual Joe Cassella 5K Sunday, May 20. The team is running for 1-year-old Gianna Hess, who has liver cancer and is undergoing treatment. The event raised \$45,000 for the Hess family.



Affie Ambrose of Reston crosses the finish line with a time of 20:52, the best women's time, at the third annual Joe Cassella 5K in Great Falls Sunday, May 20.



Children take off during the Children's Run during the annual Joe Cassella 5K in Great Falls, Sunday, May 20.

A Heart of Gold

"He was a man dedicated to his community, devoted to family and friends, and whose character was unparalleled."

— Diana Sievers

Remembering Joe Cassella.

BY COLLEEN SHEEHY ORME

He slowly pushes the weight. Every fiber of his being aching and begging for relief.

"Come on, donkey push it," commands the voice spotting him. "If you don't believe it you can't achieve it." The inspiration compels him through another set of reps. The words reverberate throughout the gym.

They champion hope that with hard work, a positive attitude, and support there will be a "New day, a new chance." The man who speaks them believes them and lives them himself.

His voice is warm and steady with a calm conviction as the words of wisdom spring from his smiling lips.

The man is Joe Cassella, co-founder of Elite Fitness Concepts. He was an insurmountable



PHOTO BY DIANA SIEVERS

Joe Cassella

presence that was content to helping others in a quiet way. Just simply living life one person at a time.

ELITE FITNESS was intended to be a non-intimidating gym. A place for all people. A "cheers" of the gym world. It was meant to be a home for all who entered and they were all to be treated as best

friends. Cassella wanted a community based gym.

In large part, he was extending the same sense of belonging that resonated in his small hometown in upstate New York. A place where everyone was tight and extremely supportive. He carried that feel with him to Virginia and ultimately Great Falls. That sense of connectedness was Joe's personality. He fit seamlessly into Great Falls because for Joe there were no lines between his business and personal lives. He was the baseball star, the year round fitness fanatic who opened the doors of his heart and his business with the same breadth.

"Joe was so family oriented," says Pat DeRocco, Joe's brother-in-law and a trainer at Elite. "He had an ease about him that made everyone feel at peace. That's why he left his mark on anyone from a family member to a friend to a stranger. He was a pure person with a heart of gold who wanted to do everything for his family. Joe's mode of success was to help others."

Cassella hoped to build his business and slowly get everyone in his family to move down to Virginia. He married his wife Gina and before long, his brothers and brother-in-law found their way to Virginia as well.

It was Joe's desire to help children that prompted the birth of the 5K Walk in Great Falls. He followed that dream until he left our world far too young, in July 2009.

Three of the family members that he loved so completely, established The Joe Cassella Foundation (www.JoeCassellaFoundation.org). Vivi and Frank Cassella, Joe's brother and sister-in-law and Pat DeRocco established a means of continuing to allow Joe to touch others lives. Their mission is to "offer financial assistance to the families of children who are ill in the Washington D.C. Metro area to allow families to better focus on supporting their children in their time of need."

"Joe's life goal was to keep helping kids. We keep that going through the foundation so that Joe lives forever because Joe was too valuable of a person to pass away

and just be a plaque on the wall," says DeRocco. "Through the walk his spirit, energy and good will can live on forever. He had too much to give and he knew this. While he was sick he was frustrated because there were so many people to help."

"Joe's legacy is a reflection of a multifaceted individual," says employee and friend, Diana Sievers. "He was a man dedicated to his community, devoted to family and friends, and whose character was unparalleled. But it was his sweet nature and sense of humor that drew people toward him. To me, he embodied all that is good."

"Joe's absence will forever be greater than someone else's presence," says DeRocco. He is repeating the powerful phrase he wrote and spoke for Cassella's eulogy.

Well, Joe, my friend, our friend, it is with a lump in our throats and tears that miss your sweetness, that we might have to envy you. As your legacy attests to on the website of your "community 'Cheers,'" you were, "A man's man. A gentle, but strong soul ... with an unselfish nature."

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE



A Depression-era bread line in the 1st Stage production of the musical "Flora the Red Menace." From left, Kelsey Meiklejohn, Sherry Berg, Mary Beth Luckenbaugh, Mikey Cafarelli, Joshua Dick, Sam Edgerly, Davis Hasty, and Stephen Hock. The show runs through June 17 in Tysons Corner.

A Musical About Tough Times

**1st Stage
present
'Flora the
Red Menace.'**

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

It is daring of 1st Stage to take up the not often produced musical "Flora the Red Menace." It is a show that ran for only 87 performances in mid 1965. It is a musical about out-of-work actors putting on a musical about the search for love and jobs set in the Depression when lives were hurting.

While it didn't last long on Broadway, "Flora, the Red Menace" is a show with a great pedigree. It was the debut for the young Liza Minnelli. She won the Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical for her performance as Flora. It was also one of the first collaborations for the Kander and Ebb, who went on to write award-winning musicals such as "Cabaret" and "Chicago."

The "Flora" story is set in 1935 New York City. The economic woes of the Depression abound. Lives are stressed out. And there is Flora, a determined young woman who wants a job in the fashion industry. She meets Harry, a young man who wants her to become a signed-up, dedicated Communist Party member. Love and politics begin to float about.

With lively direction by Susan Devine, the cast of nine take on any number of characters though each has a central presence throughout the production. Under musical direction by Paul Nasto, a seven-piece band slides through a score of 18 diverse songs that range from ballads to spirited, up-tempo pieces. There are times when the cast can seem played over by the band

Stefan Sittig's choreography keeps the action



From left: Sherry Berg as Charlotte gives her report to a local Communist Party meeting as Mikey Cafarelli, as a party member, looks on in the 1st Stage production of the musical "Flora the Red Menace," which runs through June 17 in Tysons Corner.

Where and When

1st Stage presents "Flora the Red Menace," 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, VA. Performances thru June 17. Friday-Saturday evenings 8 p.m., Saturday matinees at 2 p.m. Sunday's at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$30, Visit www.1ststagetysons.org or call 703-854-1856.

moving with determined actors turned dancers. One of the "wow" choreographed scenes is when Kelsey Meiklejohn and Sam Edgerly tap dance an energetic, synchronized duet.

There are no show-stopper songs that carry beyond their purpose within the musical itself. Their titles give a sense of their function, "Express Yourself," "Unafraid," "Sign Here," "You are You" and "Sing Happy." Mary Beth Luckenbaugh in a supporting role has a stand-out lovely voice that comes through even in larger ensemble offerings.

The earnest Dani Stoller is a sweet, caring Flora. At times, a needed passion seems missing to nail her role. Joshua Dick, her love interest, flourishes more when paired with Sherry Berg, a dynamic comedienne. Berg energizes the production with a voice that saturates the theater along with a big glint in her eyes.

"Flora" is another step for 1st Stage's building regional reputation.

THURSDAY/MAY 24

Place Flags on Veterans' Graves.

10 a.m. Flint Hill Cemetery, Route 123 between Hibbard St. and Courthouse Road, Vienna. The American Legion Auxiliary of Vienna welcomes volunteers to help decorate veterans' graves for Memorial Day. Meet inside the cemetery beside the tool shed. All welcome. 703-938-1379.

Dangermuffin and David Mayfield

Parade. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

"Sleuth." 7:30 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Providence Players in a whodunit classic. \$15-\$18. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 25

An Evening with Steve Forbert at 7 p.m.; **In The Lobby Bar with The Blackjacks** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

"Flora the Red Menace." 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tyson's Corner. A musical by John Kander and Fred Ebb, set in the Great Depression. \$15-\$30. www.1ststagetysons.org.

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

"Sleuth." 7:30 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Providence Players in a whodunit classic. \$15-\$18. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 26

Model Railroad (HO Scale) Open House and Display at Via Vienna Days.

1-5 p.m. Historic Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. The layout depicts the Western North Carolina Railroad (now a portion of the Norfolk Southern) during the period of transition from steam to diesel. Free, donations accepted. www.nvmr.org or 703-938-5157.

Children's Show: The Smithsonian and Jammin Java present Shine & the Moonbeams. 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

"Flora the Red Menace." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tyson's Corner. A musical by John Kander and Fred Ebb, set in the Great Depression. \$15-\$30. www.1ststagetysons.org.

Plant Clinic hosted by the Master Gardeners. 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Answers to gardening questions. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Vivacious, Bandits & Beggars and Crush Atlantic at 6 p.m.; **Bands and Beats: DiaZill, Maple, Raw Auras and Cigar Etiquette** at 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

"Sleuth." 7:30 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Providence Players in a whodunit classic. \$15-\$18. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 27

Model Railroad (HO Scale) Open House and Display at Via Vienna Days. 1-5 p.m. Historic Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. The layout depicts the

Western North Carolina Railroad (now a portion of the Norfolk Southern) during the period of transition from steam to diesel. Free, donations accepted. www.nvmr.org or 703-938-5157.

"Flora the Red Menace." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tyson's Corner. A musical by John Kander and Fred Ebb, set in the Great Depression. \$15-\$30. www.1ststagetysons.org.

Ketura, The Storyboard and Typefighter. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

National Men's Chorus Memorial Day Concert. 5 p.m. Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. With Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge, pianist Thomas Pandolfi and oprganist Paul Skevington. Patriotic music, including a selection of songs from WWII. Adults \$15, students and children free. 202-244-7191 or www.nationalmenschorus.org.

Music Friends' Concerts Final Season Concert. 3 p.m. Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Young Soloists recital, featuring pianists Anna Wang, David DiMeglio and Grace Wang plus violinist Mabelle Young-eun Park, in a program of classical music. Free. 703-620-9535 or 703-324-8344.

"Sleuth." 2 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Providence Players in a whodunit classic. \$15-\$18. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

MONDAY/MAY 28

Memorial Day Ceremony. 11 a.m. Freedom Memorial, Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Sponsored by Great Falls Freedom Memorial Committee, with speaker LCDR John A. "Sandy" Pidgeon, a retired Navy SEAL. Boy Scout Troop 55 will raise the flags. 703-759-3282.

Photographers' Field Day. 5:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Join area photographers and Meadowlark staff for a day of learning and field shoots. \$5. www.nvrpa.org or 703-255-3631.

Twilight Hike. 8:30 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Learn the history of the property, the wildlife and plant life. \$5 admission fee, hike is free. Photographers welcome. Reservations required at 703-255-3631.

In The Lobby Bar: A Couple of A-holes present Comedy Open Mic Night. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/MAY 29

Personalized Internet Training. 2:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. A 45-minute Internet training session with a technology volunteer. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Book Talk for Book Lovers. 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Moon Hooch. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 30

Who Hatches from Eggs. 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 14

Ridge Ave., McLean. Discover the many kinds of animals that lay eggs. Activities, songs, and stories. Presented by Riverbend Park. Children. 703-356-0770.

Dopapod. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 31

Kopecky Family Band and MyNameIsJohnMichael. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

"Sleuth." 7:30 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Providence Players in a whodunit classic. \$15-\$18. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

"Another Op'nin', Another Show." 7:30 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Langley choirs perform selections from Wicked, Hair, Chicago, Shrek the Musical, Sweeney Todd, Once on This Island, Spamalat and more. \$10. smayman@verizon.net.

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Comedy Show at the Teen Center. 5 p.m. Club Phoenix Teen Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Club Phoenix's Teen Improv Club's Second Annual Improv Group Comedy Show, performed by youth in grades 6-8. Free. 703-255-5721 or bwyatt@viennava.gov.

"Flora the Red Menace." 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tyson's Corner. A musical by John Kander and Fred Ebb, set in the Great Depression. \$15-\$30. www.1ststageysons.org.



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ment runs 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Recyclable e-waste collection center open noon to 6 p.m. Monday, May 28: Food, rides, vendors and live entertainment run 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. E-waste collection center open noon to 6 p.m.

Free ViVa! Vienna! web app at <http://www.vivavienna.org/app/>.

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Twice the Thrill for McLean Highlander Soccer Teams

Both the McLean girls' and boys' teams capture Liberty titles.

By RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The athletic grounds within Madison High School's Norman Bradford Stadium were, for one night at least, a Highlander Haven last Friday, May 18 as both of the McLean High varsity soccer programs - the Highlander girls' and boys' squads - earned Liberty District champion status for 2012 as a result of tournament finals victories.

In a double-header evening of district tournament title games, both of the McLean teams won their respective finals games by 1-0 scores. The Highlander girls, the defending state AAA champions, bested No. 1-seed Stone Bridge in the first game of the soccer twin bill. That was followed by the Highlander boys' triumph over local rival Langley.

"It's awesome," said McLean boys' senior goalie Rob Maffei, whose simple sentiment, while specifically referring to the No. 4 Highlander boys squad's triumph over No. 2 Langley, could also have summed up the euphoria surrounding both the boys' and girls' teams on this night.

Both McLean championship teams were scheduled to begin play in their respective 16-team Northern Region tournaments this week.

THE MCLEAN GIRLS (11-5), seeded No. 3 going into the eight-team district tournament, were on their heels for much of the first half in their championship match versus Stone Bridge, a contest played on a gorgeous spring evening on Madison's turf field. The Bulldogs had controlled much of the play throughout the 40-minute half. But within a moment, the game's flow turned with a rush when Highlander forward Melanie Horton, during a first half Highlander possession, gathered a pass from her left from teammate Rose Sommovigo before, from 15 yards off the right wing area, sending a soft bouncer across the goal and into the far side net with less than a minute remaining until intermission, stunning Stone Bridge and giving McLean a 1-0 lead with about 40 seconds showing.

"Stone Bridge had the momentum and had outplayed us the whole half," said McLean head coach Rob Bouchard. "Melanie did a great job and made it count."

As it turned out, the late first half goal would stand the remainder of the game for McLean, which played a much better second half on way to the title game win.

Stone Bridge, in the game's closing seconds, was making a rush before McLean defender Liz Overby made a clearing kick towards the right side of the field just as the final horn sounded to end the contest.

"This is invigorating," said McLean de-



Brianna Nielsen (17) played an excellent game for the Highlanders in their district title match win over top-seed Stone Bridge. Nielsen, despite hampering health issues, has put together an outstanding season for the defending state champions. For more, please go to Connectionnewspapers.com, and go to McLean sports.

fender Brianna Nielsen, part of a bend-but-not-break back line which also included Caroline Gray, Audrey Freeman, Evelyn Robinson, and Overby. "I felt as a team we played great, kept it together. This has definitely been a goal for us from the beginning [of the season]. We wanted to win the district and did that."

One of the game's dramatic moments came about six minutes into the second half when McLean starting goalie, freshman Maddie Daizell, was knocked hard to the ground on a Stone Bridge free kick scenario. Annie Bolulic sent a fairly long free kick from the right side of the field towards the right goal area. Daizell came out a few steps in an attempt to catch or knock away the ball as it made its downward descent. As she went for it she was slammed to the turf by a charging Bulldog player. It was not clear who, if anybody, actually touched the ball which, while not moving rapidly, teasingly crossed the goal, left to right. The spherical did not go into the net, instead going wide left.

MEANWHILE, Daizell was on the ground, apparently having hit her head to the turf. She remained down and was attended to for eight minutes or so. Finally, she sat up, to the delight and applause of the fans on hand. A few moments later, with help, she stood up and was helped off the field.

"She's a tough fighter," said Bouchard. "I thought Maddie did everything to get the ball [on the free kick play]. There happened to be a collision. The first thing she asked me was, 'Did they score?' when they were taking her out. You can't ask for much more [heart] than that."

Backup goalie Grace Desmarais, a sophomore, replaced Daizell in the net. Over the remainder of the game, the Highlander substitute, with the help of her defender teammates in front of her, would fend off the

best she could several Stone Bridge rushes.

"Grace did a great job as a backup goalie who didn't have but three or four minutes to warm up," said Bouchard.

Daizell, following the game, was tested for concussion symptoms on the field. Later, she tried to recollect what had happened on the play in which she was injured.

"I don't really remember," said Daizell, who was told she might have suffered a mild concussion. "I just remember coming out [towards the ball] and ...I was on the ground. I never went unconscious."

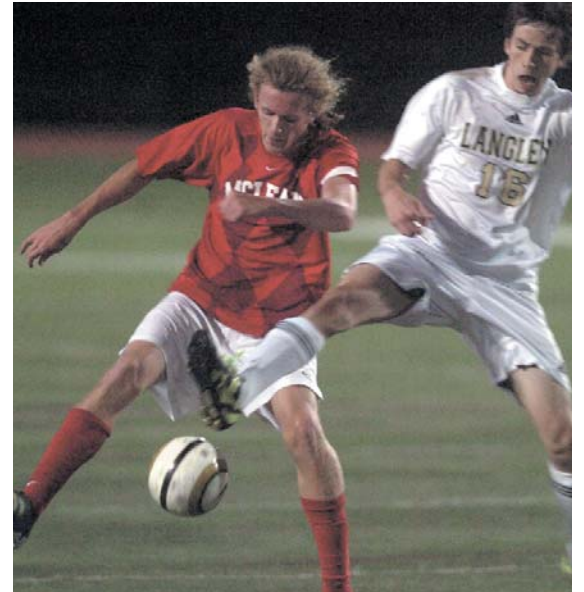
The net-minder did recall watching the remainder of the game and the play of her back-up.

"I'm very proud of Grace," said Daizell, with a smile. "It was real stressful to watch the game. But I'm just real proud of the team. Our whole goal was to win districts."

McLean reached the district finals with playoff wins over No. 6 Fairfax, 1-0, and No. 2 Langley, 2-1.

THE NIGHTCAP BOYS' championship contest had all the drama one could want with two McLean-area cross-town rivals - Langley and McLean - once again playing one another for the district title. McLean had beaten the Saxons two years ago in the 2010 district finals.

In Friday's title game meeting, both squads played with great heart and determination throughout the 80 minutes of play. The game's lone goal came with just over six minutes remaining in the first half when Highlander senior forward Mark Saunders, after receiving an up-field pass, made a couple of sweet moves with the ball in order to create room from a Langley defender before spinning and sending a well-struck grounder off his left foot. The shot came off the right side of the field from about 25 yards out and zoomed into the right side of the goal for a 1-0 Highlander lead, which



McLean's Mark Saunders works to keep the ball away from Langley's Roddy Haight during Friday night's Liberty District boys' soccer finals at Madison High School.

would hold up.

"The ball bounced through," said Saunders, of initially gaining possession of the ball. "I took a touch and saw a spot open. [The kick] was a solid connection."

McLean coach Mike Anderson said Saunders was playing with a high left leg sprain in the title game.

"Mark is the heart and soul of this team," said Anderson, whose team has now captured two district tournament crowns in the past three years. "That was a brilliant goal and he was playing in pain."

Langley hardly went down easily. The Saxons, under head coach Bo Amato, made several strong runs for the goal the remainder of the game following Saunders' score. But the Highlander defense did not break and goalie Maffei was outstanding in the net.

"They were pressing us and we were forced to defend," said Anderson, of the potent Saxon attack.

"That's the best game our defense has ever played," said Maffei. "Our outside backs did a great job stopping their outside wingers."

McLean, which lost in the first round of districts last year and failed to qualify for regionals, is back among the region's elite teams once again.

"It feels good to win the district title again after winning it two years ago," said Saunders.

McLean finished 4-3 in district play during the regular season. One of the losses came to Langley, 2-1, at home on May 2. Since that setback, the Highlanders have won five straight games, including three district playoff wins. McLean reached the district finals with playoff wins over No. 5 Stone Bridge, 2-1, and top-seeded Jefferson, 5-1.

"It's coming together," said Anderson, of his team's play. "We have great senior leadership and we're not making mental mistakes."

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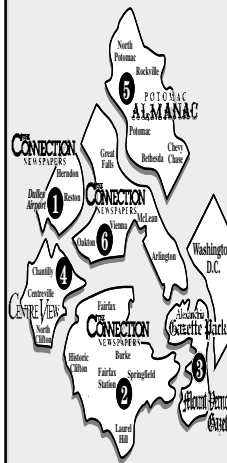
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**THE CONNECTION
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21 Announcements

Notice of intention to file a petition pursuant to Virginia State Code 8.01-324

Hear ye that Local Media Connection L.L.C., publisher of the Arlington Connection newspaper, will petition the CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF ARLINGTON, VA to authorize the Arlington Connection as a newspaper of general circulation for Arlington whereas the Arlington Connection newspaper may be used for legal notices and publications pursuant to Virginia State Code 8.01-324.

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The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition.

-William Van Horne

Living Longer, Sort of Prospering

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Though my column has appeared in the newspaper as usual the last few weeks, I haven't felt much like writing. Typically, I'm weeks ahead with my column inventory, having regularly found the time and inclination to put pen to paper and provide the prose you regular readers have come to expect. To say I haven't been in the mood lately would be an oversimplification of epic proportions. To say that I've been depressed and dealing with the weight (subconsciously for sure, consciously for maybe) of my diagnosis, prognosis, life expectancy, and life as a cancer patient in general, would be more accurate. It's an admission I take no pride in making. I never wanted to be a victim of my own circumstances (unless I was quoting Curly Howard from The Three Stooges) and I never wanted to use my having cancer for an excuse/explanation for anything. However, given my mood and manner these last few weeks and minimal literary output, that's exactly what I'm now doing; and I'm not too happy about it either, which almost makes its use even more disturbing.

Obviously, living with a terminal disease is heavy duty. To think I could shrug it off – all the time, is a bit naive. Not that cancer has a mind of its own, but it does find a way to infiltrate your defenses and occasionally bring you to your knees, literally and figuratively. After all, I am human, not Vulcan. I am ruled by emotion, not logic. Though the good of the many outweigh the good of the one, this one is weighed down pretty good by the one not being so good. When I see and read and hear about real people and even fake people (television, movies, etc.) dying of cancer (and lung cancer is a particularly pernicious player), it's impossible for me, after repeated exposure, to not take it personally; as in: you're next!

So yes, I feel it. And the longer I live beyond my original prognosis, the heavier the weight of inevitability becomes. In spite of lifestyle choices and changes I've made, and the miscellaneous supplements and homeopathic-misc remedies I've employed, there does seem to be a reality that one would be hard-pressed to ignore: a terminal diagnosis (which stage IV lung cancer is) is not identified as such because of where one was diagnosed (at the airport), it's how long one can expect to live based on the best medical and statistical information known at the time. And as much as I want to believe that such prognostications are merely educated guesses and subject to interpretation – and reinterpretation (which of course they are, to a degree), there is some reasonably acceptable medical data to support the notion that cancer kills. Though dismissing that notion and maintaining a positive attitude has thus far been my approach, there are days – and weeks, like now, where that approach seems arrogant and pretentious, and I suffer accordingly, mentally mostly.

Not because of any recent change in my health or results (although this new chemo drug I'm on is exhausting me), it's more about the evolution of the reality: one can't live with terminal cancer forever, can they? I mean, it wouldn't be terminal if you could. There must be an end in sight. Otherwise, the end wouldn't have been mentioned at the beginning, during the original Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist. Sure, doctors can be wrong and I could be an anomaly: "the exception," as my brother, Richard has said, "that proves the rule," statistically speaking, anyway. But betting against long odds seems illogical; and if my years of faithful "Star Trek" viewing have showed me anything, it's that one's feelings can sometimes get in the way of how one acts, and not always with great results.

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

EDITORIAL

Time to Honor

FROM PAGE 8

U.S. Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children. His parents live in Alexandria.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after 9/11. Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in An Najaf, Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005. Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded. Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Samarra, Iraq, Oct. 17, 2005.

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq.

Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria. Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obles-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church; Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria, and Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

— MARY KIMM.

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WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Great Falls to Mark Memorial Day

On Monday, May 28, at 11 a.m., the Great Falls Freedom Memorial Committee will hold its annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the site of the Freedom Memorial (behind the Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike). The speaker at this year's ceremony will be LCDR John A. "Sandy" Pidgeon, a retired Navy SEAL Officer who served in Somalia, Haiti, and Iraq. Members of Boy Scout Troop 55 will raise the flags at the conclusion of the ceremony.

This ceremony is open to all and ample parking is available in the Library parking lot. In case of rain, the ceremony will move into the Library's meeting room.

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