

Dancer Captures The Moment

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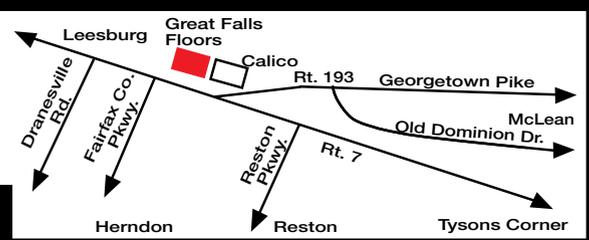
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PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

McLean resident Kathleen Murphy spoke about losing her brother 11 years ago to gun violence. She was one of several speakers during the April 13 candlelight vigil in Vienna urging Congress to support stricter gun control measures.



Sue Langley, a Vienna resident who organized the April 13 candlelight vigil, comforts preschool teacher Raba Letteri, a Lebanese immigrant who attended the vigil with her husband Paul and sons Joseph, 13, and Aaron, 9.

‘We Have Not Forgotten’

Residents rally in Vienna to support stricter gun control measures.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Less than six miles from the National Rifle Association (NRA) headquarters in Fairfax, more than 100 people gathered on the Vienna Town Green Saturday, April 13, to urge Congress to support stricter gun control measures.

“We need to send a strong message to Congress that we have not forgotten Newtown. We have not forgotten Virginia Tech,” said Pat Carol of Franconia, who attended the rally with her two teenage children. “... It’s time to demand that (legislators) protect our children, instead of the gun lobby.”

The event was part of a series of rallies this month co-hosted by Organizing for Action (OFA)—a social advocacy nonprofit that supports President Barack Obama—and Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a bipartisan coalition of 900 mayors co-chaired by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Both groups are calling for stricter gun laws, including background checks for all gun sales, gun safety training for all firearm buyers, and a ban on military-style assault weapons.

Vienna resident Sue Langley, a community activist with OFA of Virginia, organized Saturday’s event, which began at 7 p.m. and ended with a candlelight vigil to remember the children of Newtown, and the estimated 32,000 Americans who die in gun-related deaths every year.

“The Senate will be in its final stages of debate this week, and by standing together we’ll make sure

they know how many people are behind them in passing legislation,” Langley said.

THE EVENT included remarks from political leaders, gun control advocates and gun violence survivors.

“Eleven years ago my brother was murdered. He was 50 years old, and he had a wife and five children. He was shot during a robbery,” said McLean resident Kathleen Murphy, choking back tears.

“This is personal for me, not politics,” said Murphy, who launched a bid to challenge Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) in this November’s House of Delegates election. Murphy, a mother of six children, implored the crowd to keep the pressure on Congress to support measures such as expanded background checks. “We are going to hold them responsible,” she said.

In an emotional speech Earle Mitchell of Springfield, a retired U.S. Navy supply officer, told the crowd that, as a member of the military, “we were always looking for foreign enemies. The enemy I’m talking about is the NRA headquarters on I-66.”

“It’s been only four months since 26 children died in Newtown, and we’ve had 3,300 gun-related deaths,” Mitchell said. “I have young grandchildren, who all live in Virginia. Newtown could happen here. When will we say ‘enough?’”

The event began with a Franciscan blessing read by John Horesji of Vienna, coordinator of Social Action Linking Together (SALT).

“May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can change what others claim cannot be changed, and do what others claim cannot be done,” Horesji recited.

“From a faith perspective, Second Amendment rights need to be balanced with the Second Com

VIEWPOINTS

What motivated you to attend the candlelight vigil?

—VICTORIA ROSS

Jeanne Bierkan of Vienna

“I came here tonight because I want stronger background checks. I have two boys who grew up here, and I can’t understand why we are still arguing about something that’s just common sense.”



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Bob Hatfield of Vienna

“I’m here to support legislation that’s before Congress. We need to bring Virginia into the 21st century, and see that it’s responsible to have sane gun control measures and respect for the Second Amendment. The two are not mutually exclusive.”



Raba Letteri of Reston attended the vigil with her husband Paul and sons Joseph, 13, (right) and Aaron, 9 (left).

“I came here from Lebanon to be safe. I saw the hatred and violence between Arabs and Jews. Now everything I hear on the news is about a shooting. I don’t need to wait to lose one of my children to have a voice.”



Klara Bilgin of Burke with son Alex

“I am originally from Bulgaria. When I travel abroad, people cannot believe that there are 32,000 gun deaths every year in America. They say ‘you don’t have a dictator; you aren’t controlled by warlords, how can this happen?’ We are moving in an awful direction ... we need to demand [measures] to reduce gun violence.”



SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 12



Isabella Tablett has been nominated for a National PTA Reflections award for her Peruvian dance choreography. Tablett is a fourth grader at Great Falls Elementary School.

Dancer Captures the Moment

Isabella Tablett nominated for National PTA Award.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Isabella Tablett has been interested in dance and dance choreography since she was 4 years old. Now a fourth grader at Great Falls Elementary School, Tablett's recent routine has won her awards at the school, cluster, district and state levels.

Tablett entered a two minute and 39 second video of her dancing the marinera, a traditional Peruvian Dance, to the PTA Reflections contest. The contest selects winners among student-submitted works of art in a number of different categories. Tablett's dance has been nominated for the National PTA Reflections award.

"They announced the contest during my school's morning announcement, and I decided I would come up with a dance, and my mom filmed it," she said.

This year's contest theme was "Magic of the Moment," and Tablett said she wanted to find a special moment in her dance to illustrate the theme.

"The magic for me came in the zapateo part of the dance, when I can use the movement of the dress to the rhythm of the music," she said. "There's a middle part when you would usually show your partner the best parts you know."

Isabella Tablett's mom Violeta is a native of Peru. All three of her children are proficient in the dance of their culture.

"We've always believed it's important to allow our children a chance to express themselves," Violeta Tablett said. "In Isabella's case, part of expressing herself through dance includes doing it as much as possible."

"I promised myself I will do any competition there is, even ones where I can't win because I've won before," Isabella Tablett said. "I just like to compete and dance along with other people."

Isabella said even before entering the competition she was used to explaining the traditions of Peruvian dance to people.



Isabella Tablett, a Great Falls Elementary School fourth grader, is nominated for a National PTA award for her dance choreography.

"The magic for me came in the zapateo part of the dance, when I can use the movement of the dress to the rhythm of the music."

— Isabella Tablett

"My friends like to ask questions about the dresses I wear or the hairstyles that go with each dance, and they always ask why I dance barefoot," she said. "Girls don't wear shoes in Peruvian dance. A lot of the moves would be hard if I was wearing shoes, my feet wouldn't be able to bend the right way."

The National PTA Reflections winners will be announced in early May.



PHOTO BY HARRIS LA TEEF

Langley High School will host a Relay for Life Saturday, April 28, the first one at the school in 15 years.

Langley Hosts Relay for Life

Event will be first at school in 15 years.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Langley High School will be the site of the first Relay for Life event in more than 15 years starting Saturday, April 28. The event will be a 12-hour fundraiser walk to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

"One of our advisors approached a group of students with this idea, and we decided this was a great time to bring back the Relay for Life," said Harris LaTeef, a sophomore at Langley.

Students have been planning the event since late last year, which isn't much time compared to many events, some of which are planned for more than a year in advance.

The event will begin with an opening ceremony at 6 p.m. and after sunset there will be a luminaria lighting ceremony. Luminarias are one of the signature parts of any Relay for Life event, they are small bags with candles in them that are lit in memory of those

lost to cancer and those who have survived it.

The event is being organized by students at Langley, and will feature a variety of activities throughout the night and into the morning.

"We'll have a campsite for all participants set up in the middle of the stadium, and we'll have bands playing throughout the night, and probably show a movie from 2 to 5 a.m.," LaTeef said. "In principle, the goal is to have at least one member of the team on the track at all times during the event, as a reminder that cancer never sleeps."

The goal for the Langley-McLean Relay for Life is to raise \$30,000 by the event. As of Sunday, April 7, they were at just under \$25,000. So far, 27 teams consisting of more than 300 people have registered for the event, with teams made up of everyone from students to local church and community organizations.

More information, including how to register as an individual or as a team, as well as how to donate, can be found at

www.relayforlife.org/langleymcleanva. They can also be found on Facebook under "Relay for Life of Langley and McLean."

"In principle, the goal is to have at least one member of the team on the track at all times during the event, as a reminder that cancer never sleeps."

—Harris LaTeef, a sophomore at Langley

NEWS

The Pike At 200

Great Falls Day on May 5 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the historic Georgetown Pike.

The Great Falls Historical Society is presenting Great Falls Day on Sunday, May 5, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the historic Georgetown Pike.

Georgetown Pike began as a buffalo trail. Native Americans used it as a footpath. And early settlers built their homes, cultivated their farms, and grazed their dairy herds along the road. Two hundred years ago, the construction of "The Pike" began in order to connect Georgetown markets with the rich agricultural land and growing manufacturing interests in Leesburg and beyond. It took 14 years to complete this vital byway, and since its inception, the windy and picturesque road has been a key connection for local commerce, a magnet for nature lovers, and the heart of the Great Falls community. The road is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, demonstrating the best of early 19th century road-building engineering standards. Its engineered roadbed remains in tact today.

The Great Falls Historical Society is showcasing this local and national treasure by sponsoring this family-friendly event at the Great Falls Grange Park. The festival will feature 20 history tents of the early families of Great Falls, vividly depicting life along The Pike, work at the grain mills, the farms, and everyday life in the village. There will be four keynote presentations on the origins and early history of Great Falls, including George Washington's role in the development of the area. The Historical Society's extensive collection of historic photos will be projected on a large screen throughout the day that will show all aspects of life in our village—churches and schools, local mom and pop stores of a bygone era, barns, social events and families across the generations.

Live entertainment, food treats from local noted chefs, historic games for the children and more

SEE PIKE, PAGE 6

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THURSDAY/APRIL 18

Literacy Means Business. 7:30-9:30 a.m., at Gannett/USA Today Headquarters, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. A 90-minute forum beginning with a report from the Commonwealth Institute on the state of Northern Virginia's workforce followed by a panel discussion on literacy and STEM. Register. www.lcnv.org/registration.

SATURDAY/APRIL 20

Open House. 10 a.m.- noon, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) is organizing an open house where visitors will be able to meet the instructors, register for classes or learn more about the SCOV's spring schedule, which offers 40 plus classes on a wide range of subjects, from a Health and Wellness series to National and World Affairs to Tai Chi. 703-281-0538 or www.scov.org/ail.htm.

Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Information Session. 11 a.m.-noon, at the

Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn more about advocating for abused or neglected children. 703-273-3526 or www.fairfaxcasa.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 23

FCDOT Public Meetings and Ask Fairfax. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Discuss a Fairfax Connector proposed bus service plan that will coincide with the start of service on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) new Silver Line. 703-877-5606 or www.fairfaxconnector.com.

The Pike at 200

FROM PAGE 5

will be part of the festival, which is from noon to 6 p.m., at 9818 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls. Admission is free.

"We're bringing local history to the community in an enjoyable way," said Kathleen Murphy, president of the Great Falls Historical Society. "Our objective is to make history come alive for local families, to bring the stories of Great Falls and the people and their daily

lives to life in a fun way, and to help people appreciate the local roots of our area."

The Great Falls Historical Society was founded in 1977 as a non-profit group to share Great Falls history, conduct local historical research, promote historic preservation and encourage community spirit.

For more information, contact Kathleen Murphy at president@gfhs.org, 917-673-3149, cell.



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OPINION

Value-added Evaluation?

TJ admissions illustrate growing gap between “haves” and “have-nots.”

More than 181,000 students attend Fairfax County Public Schools. So why do the 480 students who were accepted for next year's freshman class at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology seem so important?

Fairfax County Public Schools have a single elite magnet school, Thomas Jefferson, and TJ is frequently referred to as the top high school in the country. Dramatic disparity in the makeup of admissions at TJ is an indicator of disparity in early identification of students as gifted and talented, of access to advanced classes and enrichment, and in the basic education that the Fairfax County Public school system offers to all of its students.

❖ Fully 25 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. Less than one percent of the incoming class at TJ is similarly economically disadvantaged.

❖ White students will make up just 25 percent of the incoming freshman class at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology; 43 percent of FCPS students overall are white.

Demographics	FCPS	INCOMING TJ
African American	10.4%	1%
Asian American	19.3%	66%
Hispanic	22.1%	3%
White	43.1%	25%
Subsidized Meals	25%	1%

❖ Asian students will make up 66 percent of the incoming freshman class at TJ; 19 percent of FCPS students overall are Asian.

❖ Hispanic students will make up just 3.1 percent of the incoming freshman class at TJ; 22 percent of FCPS students overall are Hispanic.

❖ Black students will make up just one percent of the incoming freshman class at TJ; 10 percent of FCPS students overall are African American.

The local chapter of the NAACP and a group called Coalition of the Silence, led by former school board member Tina Hone, last year filed a civil rights complaint with the Justice Department alleging that FCPS is essentially running “separate-but-unequal” schools systems.

In a statement this month, Hone recently said there is “stark underrepresentation of Black and Latino students at the elementary and middle school level who are identified as eligible to receive instruction at a Gifted and Talented and/or Advanced Academic Program center. ... Because so few Black or Latino students (or poor students) receive instruction

through these centers and because the instruction in these centers is so robust, the pipeline of talented Black, Latino and poor students who are able to compete successfully for admission to TJ is choked.”

The underrepresentation of poor students is in many ways more disturbing than the racial disparities. While the concept of “value added” has been controversial in teacher evaluations (the sample size is too small for that) FCPS could rightly be evaluated on the value added.

Are its top performing schools really based on the value that relatively wealthy families are able to devote to their children's education? Books, computers, tablets and more at home, enrichment programs and camps, tutors, and attention from well-educated parents are the main ingredients to FCPS success.

Perhaps it is best to measure the value added by FCPS based on the performance of its poorest students, the 25 percent who qualify for subsidized meals, and who bring the smallest resources from home to the table.

The School Board has named a new superintendent, pending some final details. She is Dr. Karen Garza, currently superintendent of the Lubbock Independent School District, which serves approximately 30,000 students in Lubbock, Texas. Before that she served as the chief academic officer of the Houston Independent School District, the seventh largest school district in the country with more than 200,000 students. She faces tremendous opportunity here in Northern Virginia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thinking of History in Real Time

To the Editor,

Letter writer Kiran Hampton asks if she is “the only one alarmed by the presence of high schools named after Confederate leaders?” [“Alarmed By School Names,” Connection, April 10-16, 2013]. In response, I would say, “Why yes, I believe she is.”

History cannot nearly be understood in 20/20 hindsight. To understand that period of our nation's history you must examine and analyze the issues as if you were present during those times and not from the perspective of a person living a century and a half later. Obscured by today's political correctness is that the vast majority of people in the South at the time of the Civil War did not own slaves. In 1850, less than 6 percent of white Southerners owned slaves, leaving 94 percent who did not. To presume that some 800,000 young, white Southerners left their homes, families, and loved ones to risk their lives defending the rights of a

small, wealthy minority ignores significant other issues, such as states' rights, that had not yet been settled in our nascent republic.

If Ms. Hampton would like to participate in a present day history naming issue, I would call her attention to the Navy's politically-motivated decision to name a ship after the late Congressman John Murtha. The amphibious transport dock ship, now being constructed and scheduled for commissioning in 2015, will be named after a person known for his very public pre-trial condemnation of the Marines involved in the Haditha incident during the Iraq war, as well as his own ethical issues while a member of Congress. Further, all other ships of the class are named for American cities.

As a matter of fact, I would like to see one of the area's new schools named after Lee's dependable corps commander James Longstreet, because he became a “reconstructed rebel,” embracing equal rights for the newly freed blacks, unification of the nation and reconstruction.

Chris J. Krisinger
Colonel, USAF (Ret)

It Wasn't ‘Good Guys Vs. Bad Guys’

To the Editor:

In a letter regarding local schools named after Confederate generals [“Alarmed by School Names,” Connection, April 10-16, 2013] the author displays an extraordinary lack of understanding of the complexities of the issues leading to the War Between the States as well as a contempt for the courage and sacrifice of those who, often reluctantly, believed that their primary duty was to a sovereign Virginia rather than to what they believed had been conceived as a voluntary union of independent states.

I would ask the author of that letter two questions. First, should the US decide to leave the United Nations, and should the UN General Assembly announce that withdrawal from that body was not to be allowed and call upon other nations to send armies to compel us to remain as members, would we be justified in resisting such compulsion? Second, should we

also cease to honor Washington, Jefferson, and all other such rebels who fought against “their country?”

The War Between the States was the most tragic episode in this nation's history. It produced examples of nobility, generosity of spirit, and almost incredible courage as well as examples of cruelty, incompetence, opportunism and pettiness on both sides of the conflict. To reduce it to a “good guys versus bad guys” melodrama is to trivialize both history and the individuals who made it.

Randolph Bragg
Alexandria

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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LETTERS

A Misreading Of History

To the Editor:

That a few local schools are named for Confederate generals bothers Kiran Hampton ["Alarmed by School Names," Connection, April 11-17, 2013]. The US Army and Navy have named forts and ships after Confederate heroes. The Veterans Administration provides headstones for Confederate graves. That wouldn't have happened if they were traitors. No Confederates were convicted of treason. Hampton's shame that Virginia fought with the Confederacy suggests a misreading of US history.

The 13 colonies seceded from the United Kingdom in 1776. Were our Founding Fathers traitors? The Confederate States of America (CSA) cited adherence to principles of that revolution for opposing Lincoln. Treason is an attempt to overthrow one's national government. The CSA never tried to overthrow the US government. It merely asked to be left in peace. The North answered by invading the South, hence use of the

term "War of Northern Aggression" that Hampton calls ridiculous. The only thing ridiculous was the total war waged against Southerners. The ancestors of many of these same Yankee invaders were the traitors of 1814 at the Hartford Convention who promoted the secession of New England and a separate peace in the War of 1812 with America's enemy, England.

In 1861, people saw themselves as citizens of their state first and Americans second. Union army units comprised almost exclusively and fought as state militia units; the US Army was small.

In November 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president, with under 40 percent of the popular vote in a four-man race. Virginia voted for moderate John Bell. Lincoln did all he could to provoke the Confederacy into war. He rejected reconciliation by Confederate emissaries and the Washington Peace Conference chaired by ex-President Tyler of Virginia. It took six additional months for the commonwealth to move from being pro-Union to supporting secession. Virginia pursued a very deliberate approach. Between No-

vember 1860 and May 23, 1861, the Old Dominion exhausted every avenue to prevent secession and war: citizen meetings, calling a peace conference of the states, creating a state convention to debate secession, and efforts to mediate between the Federal Government and the CSA. As with adoption of the US Constitution, the Confederate states held special conventions to approve secession. Texas, Tennessee and Virginia opted for a statewide referendum on secession. In that referendum, Fairfax County and Virginia voted reluctantly, but overwhelmingly for the ordinance of secession. On May 23, 76 percent of county voters endorsed secession, while statewide 80 percent favored secession. At 2 a.m. on May 24, Union soldiers crossed the Potomac. Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and J.E.B. Stuart fought to deliver our commonwealth from an invasion that had nothing to do with freeing slaves, but rather maintaining the forced economic dependence of the South upon the North.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

Sprays, Dusts, and Aerosols: A Chemical Revolution. 7-9 p.m., at McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. MPA opens a new exhibition of sculptor David D'Orio and printmaker Nils Henrik Sundqvist where they present an alternative version of the world and of man's use of pesticides to attempt to control nature. 703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

Art Opening Receptions. 7-9 p.m., at McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Drawings and portraits in Ousia: Drawings by Rula Jones on paper, executed with sensitivity and a surrealist edge are in the Atrium Gallery; Jessica van Brakle exhibits her delicate drawings of cranes and mechanical objects in landscape settings juxtaposing the natural and manmade in the Ramp Gallery. The exhibitions run through June 1. 703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

Nation Building in Iraq: Lessons Learned? 7:30 p.m., at Neighbor's Restaurant in Cedar Lane Shopping Center, 262D Cedar Lane, Vienna. Harold Bonacquist shares, former foreign service officer in Iraq, shares his perspective of the U.S. extended effort to reconstruct Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom; open to the public. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

An Evening With Melissa Manchester. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna.

The pop icon sings romantic ballads with a powerful voice, featuring international hits like "Midnight Blue" and "Don't Cry Out Loud." \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 19

Ellis Paul and Rebecca Loebe. 7:30 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Join Ellis Paul for a great show followed by a chat about his upcoming new album. \$20. 703-255-1566 or <https://jamminjava.com/events/ellis-paul-0419>.

The Hallelujah Girls. 8 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. A Jones Hope Wooten comedy about a group of women in Eden Falls, Ga., who turn an abandoned church into a day spa where they gather for fun on Friday afternoons. \$11 for seniors and students; \$13. vtcshows@yahoo.com or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

Paula Cole. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Singer/songwriter Paula Cole plays songs from her recently released album *Raven*, featuring poetic lyrics and a strong voice. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 20

7th Annual Great Falls Studios Spring Art Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road, Great Falls. Talk to the 20 artists exhibiting, browse crafts, wares and art and enter to win prizes. www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

Andrea Marcovicci. 7:30 p.m., at the Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Manhattan-born cabaret star known for her captivating performances and refined voice sings Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hart, and

World War II love songs. \$27. www.wolftrap.org.

The Hallelujah Girls. 8 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. A Jones Hope Wooten comedy about a group of women in Eden Falls, Ga., who turn an abandoned church into a day spa where they gather for fun on Friday afternoons. \$11 for seniors and students; \$13. vtcshows@yahoo.com or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 21

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-noon, at the Vienna American Legion, 330 Center St. N., Vienna. Omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, etc.; open to the public. \$8 for adults; \$3 for children. 703-938-1379.

Emeka Nwachukwu. 9:30 a.m., at The Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. A guest speaker from Nigeria shares his journey of faith from Nigeria to the United States. 703-938-6753 or <http://www.antiochdoc.org>.

7th Annual Great Falls Studios Spring Art Festival. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road, Great Falls. Talk to the 20 artists exhibiting, browse crafts, wares and art and enter to win prizes. www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

The 16 Inner Arts Series: The Art of Learning and Teaching. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at 8020 Georgetown Pike, McLean. This workshop will help to recognize the vast opportunities brought to us each day to both learn from and teach others. RSVP. <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/6198894059/rss>.

Spirituality and Growing Up. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at 8020 Georgetown Pike, McLean. This workshop will provide you an opportunity to share and

receive support for guiding children on a spiritual path; children ages 5-12 are welcome to attend. RSVP. <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/6198894059/rss>.

Fundraising Relay for the American Cancer Society. 6 p.m.-6 a.m., at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A group of students from Langley High School are organizing a Relay For Life fundraising event benefiting the American Cancer Society. At the event, teams of students will pitch tents on the Langley HS football field symbolizing the fact that cancer never sleeps. Music, games, contests and activities will last throughout the night. 703-937-1904 or www.relayforlife.org/langleycleanva.

McLean Orchestra Gala Midnight in Paris. 6-11 p.m., at The Hilton McLean, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. McLean Orchestra's annual gala features gourmet foods, an open bar, live chamber ensembles and soprano Melissa Mino, dancing, desirable live auction items, game prizes and local celebrities including NFL Pro Bowl Player Charles Mann, master of ceremonies. \$250 per person (sponsorships available) <http://mclean-orchestra.org/gala/gala-tickets/> or <http://mclean-orchestra.org/gala/>.

TUESDAY/APRIL 23

Garden Club of Fairfax's Oakton/Vienna Tour. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., buy tickets day-of at Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road N.E., Vienna. Tour owners' interiors, outdoor garden rooms, an owner designed home and owner contemporary renovation with yoga studio plus a bonus tour of

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. \$20 if purchased before April 9. 703-978-4130 or mwhip155@aol.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 24

Joe Sample. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The jazz piano legend known for his albums *Street Life*, *Rainbow Seeker* and *Carmel*, plays a gospel-soul-blues-classical fusion show. \$40. www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 25

John McCutcheon. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The singer/songwriter that Johnny Cash declared "the most impressive instrumentalist I've ever heard," known for his Appalachian sound, plays the folk songs that earned him seven GRAMMY nominations. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 26

Hanna Emrich at McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon, at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A presentation from GWU graduate and past student of the Corcoran School of Art and Design who has shown her work and received recognition at local juried shows; guests welcome. 703-790-0123.

The Hallelujah Girls. 8 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. A Jones Hope Wooten comedy about a group of women in Eden Falls, Ga., who turn an abandoned church into a day spa where they gather for fun on Friday afternoons. \$11 for seniors and students; \$13. vtcshows@yahoo.com or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

Robbie Schaefer and Jake Armerding. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The American folk-rock singer, guitarist and Vienna local Schaefer, of Eddie From Ohio, explores spirituality and transition in his music; opener Jake Armerding, Boston-based folk singer, is an energizing artist who has collaborated with Josh Ritter, Nickel Creek and David Wilcox. \$20. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Be Fit McLean Outdoor Adventure Expo. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Old Firehouse Teen Center (OFTC), 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The McLean Community Center's annual expo provides participants with a chance to explore outdoor recreation options in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. Information and interactive displays related to a variety of outdoor activities will be available. Bluegrass band and Circa Blue will perform at the event. \$5. 703-448-8336 or ryan.brookes@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Hidden Life of Bees and Plants. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the McLean Project for the Arts, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A presentation by Sam Droege, scientist, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, on the story of how native bees are deeply entwined with our lives. Artist Nils Henrik Sundqvist will also be present. RSVP. 703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

Holy Trinity Di Gennaro Hart Pipe Organ Concert. 4 p.m., at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 3022 Woodlawn Avenue, Falls Church. Eileen Guenther is a national and international organ recitalist and has performed in Europe, Asia, Africa and

South America. 703-532-6617, www.hluther.org or [facebook.com/HTLuther](https://www.facebook.com/HTLuther).

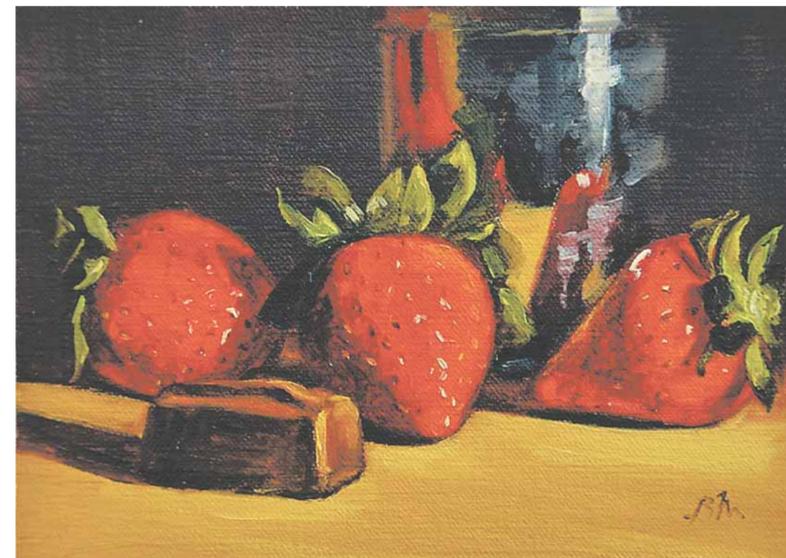
The Hallelujah Girls. 8 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. A Jones Hope Wooten comedy about a group of women in Eden Falls, Ga., who turn an abandoned church into a day spa where they gather for fun on Friday afternoons. \$11 for seniors and students; \$13. vtcshows@yahoo.com or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 28

Ninth annual Vienna Elementary PTA 5K & Fun Run. 8 a.m., at Vienna Elementary School, 128 Center St. S., Vienna. The DC Road Runners Club brings back the chronotrack time chip timing system for runners racing on the USAFTF certified 5K course, which drew 700-plus participants last year. There is also a 1-mile fun run featured. \$25 before April 23; \$30; \$15 for children under 14. www.vienna5krun.org.

The Hallelujah Girls. 2 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. A Jones Hope Wooten comedy about a group of women in Eden Falls, Ga., who turn an abandoned church into a day spa where they gather for fun on Friday afternoons. \$11 for seniors and students; \$13. vtcshows@yahoo.com or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

Requiem. 4 p.m., at the Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Fairfax Choral Society organizes Rossini's overture to "Il Signor Bruschino" and Stravinsky's neoclassical "Pulcinella," among other pieces conducted by A. Scott Wood and directed by Douglas Mears. \$30. Free for students under 17. www.amadeusconcerts.com.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Begona Morton's "Strawberries, Chocolate and Silver" is among the Great Falls art featured at the 7th Annual Great Falls Studios Spring Art Festival, held April 20-21 at the Village Green Day School.

Spring Art Festival April 20-21

Twenty Great Falls Studios artists working in oil, acrylic, watercolor, mixed media, pottery, photography, jewelry, wood carving, stone cutting, layered paper and weaving, are exhibiting at the Great Falls Studios Spring Art Festival, Saturday, April

20, and Sunday, April 21, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road, Great Falls. Talk to artists, browse crafts, wares and art and enter to win prizes. www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

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Residents Call for Stricter Gun Control Measures

FROM PAGE 3

mandment 'to love thy neighbor as thyself.' The Second Commandment also refers to false idols, and we need to question our worship of the Second Amendment," Horesji said.

Del. Ken Plum (D-36) and Purcellville Mayor Bob Lazaro were the only political leaders to attend the event. Lazaro is a member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns.

"There's a Virginia Tech every week in this country," Lazaro said during his remarks to the crowd. "We have background checks for everything. It takes a four-day background check to adopt a dog. We need to demand criminal background checks for anyone purchasing a gun."

Lazaro cited recent independent polls that show more than 90 percent of Americans support background checks for all gun buyers. More than 80 percent of gun owners—including 74 percent of National Rifle Association members—support requiring criminal background checks for anyone purchasing a gun.

Under current federal law, only licensed firearms dealers are required to conduct background checks on potential buyers, according to a report from Mayors Against Illegal Guns. Around 40 percent of U.S. gun transfers are conducted by unlicensed "private sellers" who are not required to conduct a federal check, and who often do business at gun shows and on the Internet—indicating that about 6.6 million guns are transferred in the U.S. every year with no background check for the buyer.

"This 'private sale loophole' a people who are already prohibited from buying guns—including felons, domestic abusers and the seriously mentally ill—to avoid a background check by simply avoiding licensed dealers," according to the report.

Lu-Ann McNabb, a Centreville resident who was instrumental in starting the Angel Fund in memory of Reema Samaha, one of 32 students killed during the April 16, 2007 Virginia Tech shooting, also spoke at the event.

"During Reema's funeral, her mother said to look at her hands, because they were unscathed. But I kissed her forehead, and I could see the exit wound," McNabb said. "How can we continue to let our children be victims?"

Raba Letteri, a Reston preschool teacher, burst into tears after the vigil.

"I came here from Lebanon to be safe. I saw the hatred and violence between Arabs and Jews. Now everything I hear on the news is about a shooting. I don't need to wait to lose one of my children to have a voice," Letteri said.



Children hold up a sign—"Remember the Newtown 26"—at a candlelight vigil in Vienna Saturday, April 13, urging Congress to support stricter gun control measures.

"May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can change what others claim cannot be changed, and do what others claim cannot be done."

— John Horesji, coordinator of Social Action Linking Together (SALT)

THIS WEEK, the Senate is expected to consider several gun legislation amendments, including a breakthrough bipartisan agreement proposed by Senators Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) to expand background checks to online and gun show sales.

"The American people have made it clear where they stand," Langley said. "They want a response to the tragedies caused by gun violence."

For more information on OFA, go to barackobama.com. For more information on Mayors Against Illegal Guns, go to mayorsagainstillegalsguns.org.



Community volunteers who helped with the project.

New Benches at Cooper Middle

Four new benches, nine azalea shrubs and three dogwood trees have been installed in strategic locations around the Cooper Middle School campus as of Saturday, April 6. The benches provide a seating area for students during outdoor physical education lessons and can also be used as seating by the community for recreational activities. Assistant Principal Frank Stevens and Eagle Scout candidate and Cooper alumnus Quan Pham de-

signed the project. Under Quan's direction, members of Boy Scout Troop 869, from Trinity Methodist Church, and students from Langley High School worked together to complete the task. Volunteers logged over 200 hours to construct and install the benches, and to provide landscaping for Cooper Middle School. Special thanks go to Tart Lumber, Meadow Farms, Chick-fil-A and Subway for their contribution to the project.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Connor A. Houston of Great Falls, a 2010 graduate of Langley High School, will be spending the summer in Israel after earning an internship with the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, a national security think tank led by former Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations, Dore Gold. Houston is a junior at Liberty University in Lynchburg, majoring in strategic intelligence studies at LU's Helm's School of Government.

Caroline Craver, a sophomore economics major and Division I soccer player at Lafayette College, was named to the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll for 2012. A resident of Great Falls, Craver graduated from the Langley High School. To be eligible for the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll, a student athlete must earn a 3.20 GPA in the fall semester and participate in one of the Patriot League's seven fall championship sports.

Sally Storch, of Great Falls, a junior international relations major at William Smith College

and a member of the swimming and diving team, has made the Upper New York State Collegiate Swimming Association All-Academic Team. To earn a spot on the UNYSCSA All-Academic Team, student-athletes must be at least a sophomore, have an average grade point average of 3.3 over the previous two semesters, and be a participant in the UNYSCSA Championship meet.

Jason Warren of Great Falls, son of John and Karen Warren, is a freshman in mechanical engineering and has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2012 semester at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Amber Bennett of Great Falls graduated from Langley in 2012 with Academic Honors. She has been placed on the Dean's list of the School of Arts and Sciences "with Distinction" for the fall 2012 semester at Catholic University. Amber is pursuing a degree in Medieval and Byzantine studies with a minor in chemistry.

A False Sense of Security



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that there's anything wrong with that; in fact, as a four-year, stage IV, non-small-cell lung cancer survivor, it's amazing to have any security, false or otherwise, whatsoever. And that's the point, really: how amazingly fortunate yours truly is to still be writing columns, if you know what I mean? Moreover, being relatively asymptomatic (as I've mostly been) is all it's cracked up to be, and I say that with utmost respect, sincerity and appreciation. Yet, unless this particular survivor is delusional, incredibly naive (my two main self-preservation/defense mechanisms) or a lucky aberration beyond any statistical reference (within my limited knowledge of such references), one day – sooner rather than later, the other shoe will most likely drop; and you do know what I mean, don't you?

A few weeks back, I published a column entitled, "Definition of Slippery Slope," which discussed the range and depth of emotions a cancer patient/survivor (let's be honest: this cancer patient/survivor) feels waiting to hear back from the oncologist concerning the results of his most recent diagnostic scan ("CT" for me), the results of which will determine your most immediate future (I'd say between living and dying, but that sounds so dramatic). I readily admit though, I can now absolutely appreciate the anxiety many woman feel awaiting the results of their mammogram. Been there, and thankfully, still doing that.

One of my standard answers to queries about my overall health is: "I'm fine until they tell me otherwise;" this column's true context and another place I can go – figuratively speaking (sort of like "Strawberry Fields" and "A Glass Onion") to endure the ongoing stresses and pressures of being a terminal cancer patient who has so far outlived his oncologist's original prognosis: "13 months to two years." Even though living remains the best reward (I did not say revenge), it also exerts the greatest sense of inevitability, if certain statistical measures/references are to be considered (nor did I say, believed).

Not that I want to buy into that "sense of inevitability," but cancer is likely not most persons' favorite word, and presumably one of their least favorite diagnoses – for a reason. Though more and more cancer patients are living longer (see graph referenced in a previous column entitled "14.8 Percent" citing a National Cancer Institute SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2009), you'd just as soon not take your chances with a malignancy. But sometimes, maybe oftentimes for all I know (and I know very little), diseases/diagnoses really are just a function of chance (nature vs. nurture?) and perhaps so too is surviving beyond the mean (and I don't "mean" unpleasant, either) number of years or months "prognosed" at one's original date of diagnosis (rationalizing is another one of my tools).

I guess what I'm looking for is a guarantee, or at least a fair warning before – you know what (and I'm assuming you know "what" is) But I don't suppose that's realistic, so trying to enjoy the good days and not worry/anticipate the bad days ahead is my M.O.; which I imagine is somewhere between a wish and hope. And in between of course is "a false sense of security," the bane of my existence.

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

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NEWS

Making Every Saturday 'Special'

Great Falls Farmers Market brings community together.

The Great Falls Farmers Market is an idea that was born during the focus groups and later confirmed by the 2020 Vision Survey of what the community would like to be by the year 2020. Rob Watters launched the first Great Falls Farmers Market in May 2007 at St. Francis Episcopal Church on Georgetown Pike. Later that summer, Mike Kearney brought the market to the Great Falls Village Centre, where it operated until the 2011 season when it was moved to the Village Green Day School parking lot. Unfortunately, with minimal parking, the market suffered greatly and barely had a pulse when Mike Kearney asked me to take it over just before the opening of the 2012 season. Thanks to the generosity and consideration of Jorge Kfory, owner of the parking lot next to Wells Fargo Bank, the market once again was returned to its location in the Great Falls Village Centre for the 2012 season and has run all winter, for the first time, in that location.

In the spirit of the original intention, we envisioned the creation of a virtual village square where the community comes together for four hours to shop together, support local farmers, nurture local entrepreneurs, and learn about local community news, talents, offerings, etc. To grow the community toward the fulfillment of that vision, we each share a part in choosing a vibrant village center where friends and family can meet and greet each other—by dedicating some time each Saturday to be together and enjoy a shared moment in the sun. The other option—to take another road that is cheaper, quicker, faster, has more choices, yet diminishes the possibil-

ity of realizing our best hopes for a vibrant sense of community—is always a possibility.

What is the community farmers market? It is a farmers market just for us. It is a market that is striving to bring the best to our community, to encourage entrepreneurs of all ages who want to share something they grow, make, bake or produce with us. Other farmers markets may offer more choices today. However, if you commit to the Great Falls Farmers Market, your presence helps to build a thriving market that reflects our standards, values, and inspirations and encourages the formation of local businesses emerging out of our community and local farms nearby.

We love the families who come by every single Saturday, just to hang out or even just buy a bun for breakfast. We love the book writers, the bracelet makers, the jelly girls, the local bakers, the pumpkin growers, etc. who have joined in our market—even for a short time—to experience what it is like to share their wares and be part of the event. Such forays into community marketing require receivers of the gifts being shared. The conversation between vendor and visitor will become ever more wonderful, as more of us choose the success of our community's farmers market and make the fun happen! We are in the early days of a wonderful journey.

The Great Falls Farmers Market will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. this Saturday, April 20, and is growing in size very week. The summer market begins April 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The summer produce vendors arrive at the market on April 27.

—KATHLEEN MURPHY



Some of the Great Falls Farmers Market vendors (from top left, clockwise): Jeff Rainey, apiarist, Backyard Eden Honey of Great Falls; Eric Weller, oyster and clam fisherman, Lynnhaven River Brand; Karen Politano of High View Farm, Berryville, Va.; Prahba Iyer, owner of Delicious Dainties, Herndon.

FAITH NOTES

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

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

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, offers a 9 a.m. traditional service and a 10:30 a.m. contemporary service on Sundays. There are also two services during the summer, both of which will include children's sermons. 703-356-3346.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, offers a Religious Exploration (RE) program for all children, from pre-K toddlers through high school seniors, emphasizing exploration of all religious traditions while developing a personal spiritual path. Registration for the RE program, which offers classes on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings, is now open by calling 703-281-4230.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday school for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 6 p.m. 703-356-3312 or umtrinity.org.

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SPORTS



Langley senior Cal Jadacki swings against Centreville on Saturday, April 13. The Saxons produced 11 hits, including one by Jadacki, and 13 runs but came up short against the Wildcats.

PHOTOS BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/
THE CONNECTION

Langley's Hot Bats Not Enough To Beat Centreville

Saxons produce 11 hits, 13 runs in loss to Wildcats.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Senior Joseph Aulisi delivered a two-run single in the first inning of the Saturday, April 13, contest against Centreville, helping the Langley baseball team jump out to a 3-0 advantage.

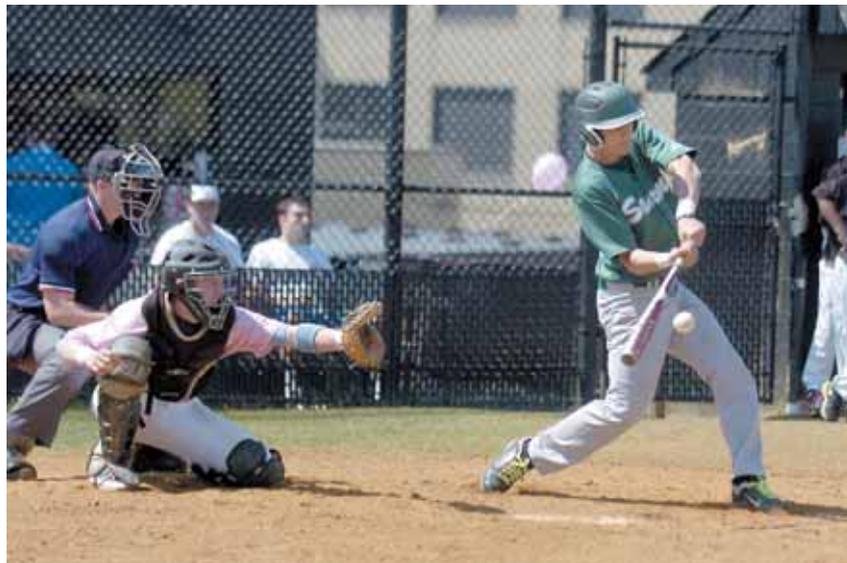
In the third inning, a three-run double by senior Thomas Dungan gave the Saxons a 9-3 lead. Later in the game, senior Bryan Even smacked a two-run homer over the left-field fence.

Langley amassed double-digit runs and hit totals against Centreville. However, the Saxons would need more than their bats to beat the Wildcats.

Centreville defeated Langley 18-13 on April 13 during a battle of teams ranked in the Northern Region top 10 at Centreville High School. The Saxons, ranked No. 8 last week, totaled 11 hits and scored double-digit runs for the third time this season, but the No. 9 Wildcats came roaring back from a six-run deficit to earn the victory.

Centreville finished with 15 hits, including seven of the extra-base variety. Langley pitchers walked nine and hit three batters. The Saxons also struggled defensively, including misplaying multiple fly balls.

Langley junior Nick Casso had one of the Saxons' 11 hits against Centreville on Saturday, April 13.



"We walked [and hit] 12 hitters. That's not going to help the cause," Langley head coach Kevin Healy said. "[Centreville] swung the bats. They came out and they put some pressure on us and we didn't respond very well."

After Langley built a 9-3 lead, Centreville responded with five runs in the fourth and seven runs in the fifth to take control of the game.

Even finished 2-for-3 with a home run and three RBIs, Dungan went 3-for-3 with three RBIs and Aulisi had two RBIs, but it wasn't enough.

"We're swinging the bats. We hung 13 runs," Healy said. "Defensively, we've got to stop people—that's the big thing for us. I think as a team, we're hitting something like [.300]. Defensively, we just haven't stopped people when we needed to."

The loss dropped Langley's record to 6-5.

"We're still 3-2 [in the Liberty District] and we control our own destiny in the district," Healy said. "... The ones that count for seeding are still the ones we're focused on and we're in pretty good shape there. [I'm a] little frustrated with this one but you've got to flush and kind of get past it."

Langley dropped out of the top 10 this week, but bounced back with a 6-1 victory against Thomas Jefferson on Monday, April 15, improving its record to 7-5 overall and 4-2 in the Liberty District. The Saxons hosted McLean on Tuesday, April 16, after The Connection's deadline.

Langley will travel to face Marshall at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 19.



Dan Powers and the Madison baseball team are ranked No. 1 in the Northern Region.

PHOTO BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/
THE CONNECTION

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Madison Baseball Remains No. 1 in Northern Region

The Madison baseball team held onto its No. 1 ranking in this week's Northern Region top 10 poll.

The Warhawks have been ranked No. 1 for about a month. Madison lost its season opener to Fairfax on March 20, but responded with 11 consecutive victories, including a 5-0 win against McLean on Monday, April 15. With the win, the Warhawks' improved to 11-1 overall and 5-1 in the Liberty District.

Defending state champion Lake Braddock is ranked No. 2, followed by Oakton (3), Robinson (4), Centreville (5), West Potomac (6), McLean (7) and Fairfax (8). Stone Bridge and T.C. Williams tied for the No. 9 ranking.

Madison faced Thomas Jefferson on Tuesday, April 16, after The Connection's deadline. The Warhawks will travel to face Fairfax at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 19.

Oakton bounced back from its first loss of the season—an 11-3 defeat against Madison on April 6—by beating Herndon and Chantilly. The Cougars improved to 10-1 overall and 2-0 in the Concorde District.

Oakton faced Robinson on Tuesday, April 16, after The Connection's deadline. The Cougars will travel to face Centreville at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 19.

Madison Girls' Lax Beats Langley

After opening Liberty District play last week with a decisive 24-10 win over Marshall, the Madison girls' lacrosse team (5-1, 2-0) remained focused, notching a key victory over Langley (3-3, 1-1) on April 12.

In a highly anticipated rematch of last year's Liberty District championship game (won by Madison, 18-17), the Warhawks prevailed once again, this time by the score of 16-11. Madison came out strong, scoring the game's first goal in the opening moments before building a lead, which they refused to relinquish. Madison took a 9-4 advantage into halftime, but the Saxons waged an aggressive comeback attempt after the break. Despite a determined effort by Langley, Madison answered with timely goal-scoring and solid defense.

Lead by a flurry of five second-half goals and three assists by Mellissa Kellan, the Warhawks maintained a four-goal lead for much of the game. Also contributing to Madison's crisp team effort were Katie Kerrigan (3 goals, 2 assists), Carly Frederick (2, 2), Erin Callahan (2, 1), Kierra Sweeney (2 goals) and Alex Condon (1 goal). Defensive players Maddie Roberts (1 goal) and Rachel Brennan (1 assist) also joined the scoring.

Goalie Sigourney Heerink had nine saves, including several key stops late in the game.

Madison will travel to face McLean at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 18, and will host South Lakes on April 22.

—COURTESY OF MADISON LACROSSE

Madison Boys' Tennis Beats Stone Bridge

The Madison boys' tennis team defeated Stone Bridge 7-2 on Wednesday, April 10.

In singles' action, No. 1 Chang Zhou, No. 3 Alex Dondershine, No. 4 Dylan Mijs, No. 5 Mark Fertal and No. 6 Neil Feeney were victorious for Madison. The doubles teams of Zhou and Mijs (No. 1), and Albert Chang and Chris Liu (No. 2) also won for the Warhawks.

Countdown to College Decision Day

Local college counselors offer advice on making the right choice.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Marta Daniels recalls the day when her son Will received his first college acceptance letter.

“He was thrilled,” she said. “It was a huge relief to know that he had been accepted somewhere.” But elation soon turned to stress when Will learned that he’d been accepted into all five schools to which he’d applied. “We went from being relieved that he would be going off to college next fall to panicking over whether or not we would choose the best school for Will,” said Daniels.

As the May 1 national college decision day looms, the day students must shell out hefty deposits to secure their spots at colleges and universities, students like Daniels are feeling pressure. Most college counselors agree that it’s important to make sure the school is a good fit for the student academically, financially and socially, and local counselors share ideas for making the decision less daunting.

They urge students to do a thoughtful assessment of who they are and what they need to thrive in an academic environment. “From community college to the ivy leagues, every school has success stories,” said Mike Canfield, director for undergraduate admissions at Marymount University in Arlington. “You can be successful at any school if it is the right one.”

Brie Jeweler-Bentz, Psy.D., a psychologist at The School Counseling Group, encourages students to ask, “Where do I want to be geographically? Do I need a large campus or a school with an urban campus? Will I go crazy in a small town? Do I want to paint my face and cheer on my Division I sports team?” The school’s political and religious climates matter, she said, as does the local weather.

She also stressed that a school must be a good fit both socially academically. “A big rah-rah school is great, but academically



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. STEPHEN'S & ST. AGNES SCHOOL

As the May 1 national college decision day looms, high school seniors like Jack Phillips and Elizabeth Cornick of St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School must decide which colleges they will attend in the fall.

will the student get lost in a big lecture hall with 400 other students?”

Michael Carter, Ph.D., director of college counseling at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, said that fit and balance also matter. “Does the student mesh with the school’s programs academically and extracurricularly? Is there a good blend academically, socially and extracurricularly so that the student can have balance?”

One way to answer these questions is to spend time on campus. “Sit in the cafeteria, have lunch and look around at the students,” said Jeweler-Bentz. “How do the students dress and talk? Do they have piercings, tattoos and nose rings? Does the school click for you? Does it feel like home?”

Randy Tajan, director of college counseling at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School in Potomac, Md., said students should look at colleges through a new lens, that of admitted student. “What is student life like? What about access to professors? Can you be a

student and an active citizen? They should think about again why they applied to those schools originally.”

A school’s atmosphere should not be underestimated, said some counselors.

“Given that our environment often affects us, for better or worse, is this school a good fit for my goals and values?” asked Michael Hude, college counselor at The Heights School in Potomac, Md. He said that students should also ask, “Does it foster an environment that will facilitate the type of growth I’d like both to experience [in college] and take with me for the rest of my life?”

Hude said that the cost of the school is an important consideration: “Will I be going into debt? Does the quality of the education and the school’s reputation justify the expense and debt?”

Meg Mayo, director of college counseling at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Md., agrees. “I think any type of

“From community college to the ivy leagues ... you can be successful at any school if it is the right one.”

— Mike Canfield, director for undergraduate admissions at Marymount University

scholarship money if awarded should play into a decision,” she said. “I really worry about kids coming out of college loaded down with debt and not finding work right away.”

Jeweler-Bentz adds the prospective students should take a look at those who have graduated from the institution. “Some schools have amazing [alumni] networks that can hook graduates up with job opportunities,” she said. “It’s also important to look at statistics on job and graduate school placement to see how good of a job particular colleges do with their students post-graduation.”

Canfield said that once a student has selected a school, the next step is to connect. “Plan for orientation,” he said. “Learn the process for registration. Check out the school’s fan page on Facebook. Some schools host invitation-only closed social media sites.”

Students should also start planning for life on campus. “What [activities are] they going to join when they get to campus? Students who are involved in campus activities or have a job on campus that is limited to 10 hours a week are significantly happier and do better in their classes than their counterparts who have neither,” said Canfield.



PHOTO GALLERY!

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NEWS



PHOTOS BY ADRIANA LUNDGREN

The Forestville Storm Dance Team, comprised of fourth, fifth and sixth graders, under the direction of Robin Lundgren.

Forestville Message: 'Be a Buddy, Not a Bully'

Forestville Elementary students gathered together on Friday, April 12, for a pep rally to wind up a week of spirit activities designed to send the message, "Be a Buddy, Not a Bully."

"We wanted to celebrate the good behavior of students who chose to be a buddy not a bully," says teacher Kaity Rader, who is on the Positive Behavior committee (PBIS) at Forestville.

"Sprit week is a great way to raise awareness and is paired with mini lessons on how to be a buddy."

As part of the pep rally, Forestville's "Storm" Dance Team, under the direction of Robin Lundgren, performed an original dance. The dance team, comprised of 30 students in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades, spent weeks creating a cohesive interpretation of what bullying is and how it can hurt. Music for the dance was created by McLean High School sophomore and DJ Jack Saunders, who combined the empowering



SCA Representative Caroline Keys (front) waves her pink bandana, building enthusiasm among the students for the anti-bullying pep rally.

message of Bob Marley's "Stand Up" with the music of "Don't You Worry Child" by Swedish House Mafia.

"Involving the dance team was pulled from our own personal spirit weeks in high school," says

Rader. "Our hope was to reach all students through multiple messages, and music and dance are just another aspect of expression. The dance team really took it and made the message loud and clear."



The Forestville Storm's dance performance kicked off with a short skit, in which Juliana Wilhelmy (seated) portrayed a student being bullied by her peers, Kat Christie and Hannah Van Gorder.



Forestville Storm dancers (from left) Mackenzie Campbell, Lauren Ertel, Abby Piper and Julia Salassi give their interpretation of bullying through their own choreography.

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