

McLean Community Players present "Time Stands Still," Sept. 20-Oct. 5, at the Alden Theatre. From left, Richard (Jon Roberts), Sarah (Leta Hall) and James (Michael Himes).

Love in Wartime

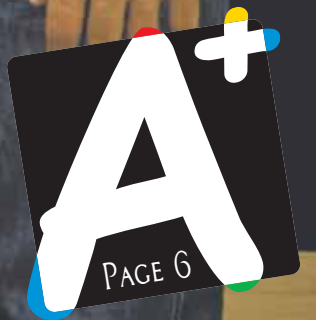
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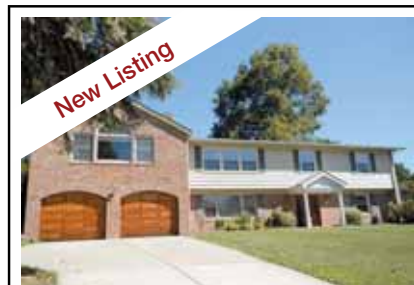
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PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION



From left, Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance President Bob Chase moderates a panel discussion featuring Marty Nohe, chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, Doug Allen, CEO of Virginia Railway Express, Shyam Kannan, managing director of Planning for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, Alan Pisarski, transportation consultant, Del. Dave Albo (R-42), Helen Cuervo, Virginia Department of Transportation Northern Virginia district administrator and Bob Buchanan of The 2030 Group.

Planning Area's Future Transit

Transportation officials discuss transportation funding, projects.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance hosted their annual "What You Need to Know About Transportation" seminar Thursday, Sept. 12 at the Gannett building in McLean.

Unlike previous years, which mainly dealt with ways to procure funding, this year's event was more optimistic due to the transportation bill passed by the General Assembly in May.

"A year ago we were sitting here talking about a lack of revenue making it difficult to accomplish some of the priorities of this region, such as trying to maintain mobility but increase capacity at the same time," said Mark Looney, chair of the NVTA. "Today, with the new sustained funding we have in place, as opposed to one-time bond revenues, it's really changed the dynamic for what we need to do. Now we're more focused on how do we spend the money properly."

Bob Chase, president of the NVTA, said that the transportation bill has led to a complete re-thinking of the plan for Northern Virginia transportation projects.

"The plan is a long list of projects, many of which stretch the definition of regionally significant. However, since there wasn't much money, the thinking was no harm, no foul," he said. "The authority's most recent update tested some 200 additional projects, even though I'm not sure there [is] anything approaching 200 regionally significant projects. But that was then. Today we've got new money, more than \$300 million annually, which is half of the \$700 million in annual needs that we identified a couple of years ago. So we've got to be smart. There's a difference between wants and needs."

Del. Dave Albo (R-42) said that the new funding means strict criteria for new projects.

"The regional plans have two non-negotiable rules,"

he said. "Rule number one is money raised here, stays here. Rule number two is the money is going to go to move bodies. It's not going to go to make pretty bus shelters and silly little things people might want. These concepts are embedded many times in the bill."

Albo said there is what he calls a "kill switch" in the bill that stipulates that the second any money from the fund is spent for something outside of Northern Virginia or on something other than transportation, "all revenue sources die."

Marty Nohe, chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, said the challenge for planners is coming up with criteria to weigh projects against one another.

"When you have literally billions of dollars of needs, figuring out which ones are most cost effective is the challenge we have. The good news is, we have a lot of need. There's no doubt we'll have a lot of projects to choose from. As we move forward, we'll see a lot of work from the authority on prioritization," he said. "One of the things that has been a source of criticism is that the projects so far don't seem to constitute any sort of regional plan. When taken by themselves, perhaps they don't. But we're not here to spend one year's worth of money. We're here to implement a plan that unfolds over the course of time."

Nohe said the authority will begin work on a six-year plan at their upcoming meeting.

When it comes to evaluating the effectiveness of improvements, Shyam Kannan, managing director of planning at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority said there are two schools of thought when it comes to measuring project effectiveness.

He said the NVTA can look at improvements in terms of people moved per hour, or cost per trip.

"On the Orange Line, we can move about 15,400 passengers per hour on peak hours in peak direction, compared to about 6,000 persons per hour on Route 66 during the same time," he said. "Or if we're looking at cost per trip, let's say we have to add half a million trips per hour, a number I made up for now, but that's what we're going to be looking to at some point in time. If I were to move those trips onto I-270, it's going to cost about \$7.50 per trip. On Route 66 alone, it's going to cost about \$3.50 per trip. On transit, it's going to cost about \$1.50 per trip."

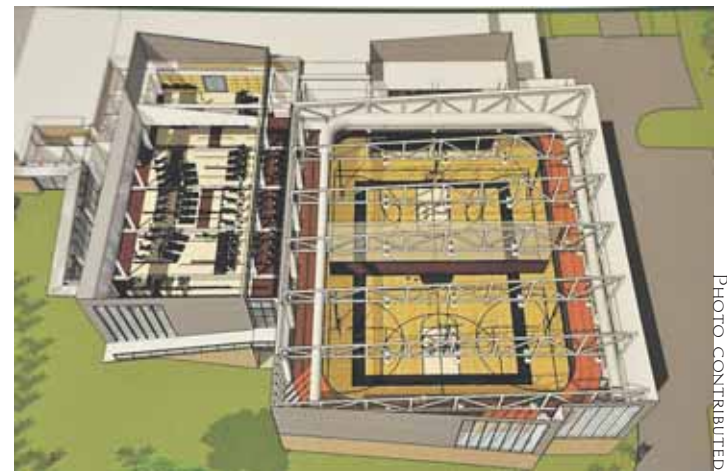


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The diagram for the 36,000 square foot addition to the Spring Hill RECenter, which will run through February 2015.

Spring Hill RECenter Set For Renovation

New fitness center, basketball court, renovated facilities part of \$7.1 million project.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Spring Hill RECenter in McLean will be renovated and expanded by 36,000 square feet over the next year and a half. The project, which was funded through the 2012 Park Bond, will commence with a groundbreaking ceremony Saturday, Sept. 21.

"We're very excited about the project. It's been on the master plan since 1984, and was included in the revisions in 1988 and 2003. Each time the master plan has been modified, an expansion of the gym has been a high priority," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). "Over the next 18 months, the center will still be open and useable, and at the end of that period, we'll have a brand new gym and more."

The project will consist of a new addition of approximately 36,000 square feet, and the renovation of approximately 7,500 square feet of the existing building.

THE ADDITION WILL INCLUDE a 15,000-square-foot high-school basketball court with two overlay basketball courts and an overlay volleyball court. There will be a running track that is elevated above the basketball court, a 14,600 square foot, two story fitness center and 400 square feet of new office space.

The renovations of existing

space will include: converting the existing fitness room into a multipurpose room, five new family change cabanas, renovation of the locker room showers, enclosing of the mezzanine, which will be turned into a multipurpose room, a new control desk, new office space, new flooring and painting.

The project will be spread out over four phases, which will break ground Saturday, Sept. 21, and is expected to continue through February 2015.

The first phase will consist of building the new fitness center and adjoining spaces, and will run through December 2014. The second phase will renovate the existing locker rooms and run from August 2014 to November 2014.

The third phase will involve the construction of the new family change cabanas, and will run from August 2014 to November 2014. The fourth phase will involve the renovation of the existing fitness center, and go from December 2014 to February 2015.

During construction the RECenter will remain open, with the exception of three separate 24-hour closures over the course of the project, which are to be determined.

The pool will be closed during the center's biannual shutdown for six weeks from August to September 2014. The existing fitness center will be in operation until the new one is

SEE SPRING HILL. PAGE 13

SCHOOLS

PHOTOS BY KIM MORAN



Churchill Road cafeteria hostess Debbie Backes gives kindergarten student Lillian Teague a high-five for using proper recycling and composting procedures, while her classmates await their turns.



Churchill Road kindergarten assistant Shannon Perry helps Jamil Parsi-Semlali with his lunch selection while fellow kindergarteners Marianne Wang and Max Brooke wait their turns.

Getting Used to School Cafeteria

The first week of school was especially exciting for Churchill Road's 100 new kindergarten students. One of the first-time experiences was eating lunch in the school cafeteria. The students learned how to make healthy food choices, pay for their meals through their lunch accounts, and compost and recycle procedures.

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Art Matters

Local experts say art classes help children develop new skills.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

If you walk into Art at the Center in Mount Vernon on a Tuesday morning, you might find a group of preschool students and their parents or caretakers squishing potting clay with their fingers. In the same room, several other tots could be brushing an array of paint colors across art paper, making a mess but having fun. The children are part of the Center's Art Explorers class, designed for children ranging from 18 months to 5 years old.

"Parents say it is their happy place where they can explore with their child without worrying about a mess," said Kathryn Horn Coneway, director of Art at the Center. "It brings both parent and child into the present moment."

In addition to having fun, art educators say that art can help children develop a myriad of skills and abilities that range from self-expression to self-confidence.

"Creating art can help them work through their emotions," said Gioia Chilton, an art therapist who teaches art at Marymount University in Arlington. "It gives them a place where they can be confident, and where they can feel powerful and in control over something."

Creating art teaches patience, said Coneway. "When children are working with clay, for example, there is little instant gratification. You make a piece, it has to be fired and then glazed. It is a process. But at the end, they can tell the story of how they made it."

Chris Haggerty, a professor of fine and applied arts

at Marymount University, says research shows that art develops the right side of the brain, which affects perception rather than logic. "Creating art teaches problem-solving skills," she said. "They get to try things out, see if they work, change their minds and start over."

Coneway, who is also an art therapist, said she has seen first-hand how art can help children share feelings that are difficult to verbalize. "Making things is a wonderful way for kids to connect ideas, express emotions and share what is going on with them," she said. "Additionally, art is noncompetitive. Children progress at their own rate."

Art also helps establish a sense of community, she added. "Sometimes connections happen when children share their art," she said. "It is neat when kids ask questions of each other. The sharing of what they make is as important as what they make."

Carolyn Webber, an art teacher at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md., said, "Art is a universal language. Art education enables students to make creative connections with art and the world around them. [It] provides life-long learning in areas of visual arts, art history, interdisciplinary connections, multiculturalism and job opportunities."

Haggerty said, "The most successful people are creative thinkers, people who don't just think linearly, but who think outside of the box."

Coneway hopes that both her classes and others establish a life-long appreciation for art. "One of the things that I hope is happening is that parents and children are leaving my classes, going home and asking, 'Can we set up a corner of our basement and have an art studio at home?'"



Students in the Art Explorers class at Art at the Center in Mount Vernon explore mediums like clay, collage, painting and drawing. Experts say creating art helps children build relationships.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ART AT THE CENTER



Creating art projects, such as these, which were made by students at Art at the Center in Mount Vernon, helps strengthen artistic behaviors such as observation, persistence and reflection.



Churchill Road sixth graders were forced to launch their Alka-Seltzer rockets under the school's awning as a result of inclement weather. From left: Ethan Hsaio, Armin Taheripour, Connor Hohl, Colin Arner, Sun-Ho Oh, sixth grade teacher Chrissy Frantz, Stepanie Bi, Elena Moy, Megan Vandre, Caitlin Cunningham, Will Wheat, Spencer Brooks, Ashley Zu, Dora Wu, Ulia Ahn, Brandon Torng, Jackson Greehan and Massimo Frix.



Churchill Road sixth graders Diana Liddell, Wilton Dougherty, Muhammad Al-Atrash, Brian Feinstein, Lee Peterson, Jake Yates, Jonathan Noh and Wonsup Song can't match the excitement shown by their science teacher, David Ericson, when their rocket is launched.

PHOTOS BY KIM MORAN

Launching Rockets at Churchill Road

On Friday, Sept. 13, Churchill Road sixth graders conducted a scientific experiment using the rockets they built in science class. The

cardboard rockets were fueled with a mixture of Alka-Seltzer and water in their boosters (film canisters). Science teachers Chrissy Frantz and David Ericson assisted the

groups of students with the rocket "fuel." After the launch, the students measured the height each rocket traveled; then looked at the correlation between rocket weight and

launch height. The students discovered that the lighter rockets gained the most height. The top rocket went more than 14 feet.

WEEK IN MCLEAN

A Meeting On McLean Central Park

On Monday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m., the Fairfax County Park Authority will hold a public meeting to present changes to the McLean Central Park Master Plan, made in response to comments from the June 2013 public meeting and afterward.

The event will be held at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean.

In fall 2012, the Fairfax County Park Authority initiated revisions to the master plan that will serve as a guide for the future vision of McLean Central Park.

Volunteers Needed For MPAartfest

McLean Project for the Arts needs volunteers for its 7th annual MPAartfest in McLean Central Park, Sunday, Oct. 6. Volunteers are needed to help with pre-event promotional activities and, during the event, setup and breakdown of artist tents, volunteer check-ins, greeting and counting visitors, entertainment setup, assisting with creative activities and projects for attendees and assisting artists with miscellaneous activities. Sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/70A054EACA6283-mpaartfest or e-mail us at mpaartfestvolunteers@gmail.com.

Metro Launches Silver Line Website

Metro has launched a website—www.silverlinemetro.com—for information on the Silver Line. The site will be updated frequently with new service details, destinations and partner information. If you have additions to suggest or links you would like Metro to include, email your comments to externalrelations@wmata.com.

Police Concerned About 'Molly'/ Ecstasy Use

Fairfax County Police Organized Crime and Narcotics Unit (OCN) detectives have seen approximately 168 cases involving MDMA—also known as ecstasy or "Molly"—an average of eight per month between January 2012 and August 2013.

SEE WEEK, PAGE 13

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OPINION

Addressing Virginia's Economy

Ending gridlock in Congress and supporting health care reform would be huge steps in supporting economic recovery in Virginia.

The strength of Virginia's economy, especially Northern Virginia's economy, comes significantly from federal spending.

So while the governor and other elected officials claim that Virginia's success is because Virginia is a low-tax state with fewer regulations, it's worth considering that the sequester and continuing gridlock in Congress threaten Virginia's most important resource, federal spending.

Virginia receives more federal money per capita than any other state except Alaska. Virginia received \$136 billion in federal funds in

2010, more than \$17,000 from the feds per capita, and paid \$2,807 per capita in federal income taxes. (Data from Consolidated Federal Funds Report for Fiscal Year 2010 by state and county from the Census Bureau.)

EDITORIAL Two examples: \$1.3 billion in federal transportation money came to Virginia. Virginia was on the receiving end of more than \$5,000 per capita in defense spending.

Current Virginia elected officials have barricaded the doors against expansion of an industry that would add more than 30,000 quality jobs in Virginia at no cost to taxpayers. The

expansion of Medicaid, which would provide healthcare to as many as 400,000 Virginians who currently cannot afford health insurance, would give Virginia's economy a significant boost, and create more than 30,000 jobs. Virginia taxpayers will still pay the taxes that will fund the expansion of Medicaid in other states without reaping the benefits of a healthier population and economic stimulus.

Private sector growth in Virginia depends on its educated and sophisticated workforce, on top school systems and universities. It depends on reliable transportation systems and access to high-speed Internet. And it depends on continuing to attract federal contracting dollars.

Virginia's U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner both work in the best interests of the commonwealth when they work to promote a culture of moderation and compromise in Congress.

Combatting Human Trafficking in Our Own Communities

BY DELEGATE BARBARA COMSTOCK R-34TH DISTRICT



“You're pretty. You could make some money.”

That was the headline of a recent Washingtonian Magazine article about young girls in our region who are lured through social media into the terrifying world of human trafficking.

The piece featured the experience of a Fairfax County girl who responded to that message on Facebook only to find herself utterly vulnerable in a car with four complete strangers. One of the men told her they were going to prostitute her as a type of initiation. She pushed the man's hands away when he offered her cocaine. When the white powder spilled over the car seat, the man then smashed her head into the window.

She was pulled out of the car and led around the corner of an apartment building. Her nightmare was just beginning to unfold. The man held a knife to her neck and when she refused his sexual demands sliced her across the forearm with the knife. She was raped 15 times that night—first by the man in the car and then subsequently by a string of other johns. Early the next morning, the men called her a “whore” and a “slut” as they drove her home and threatened to kill her if she ever told anyone what happened.

These horrific events happened in Fairfax County—right in our community. That is why over the past four years, we in the Virginia

General Assembly have put together a bipartisan coalition that is working with groups like the Polaris Project, a leading anti-trafficking organization which administers the national human trafficking hotline, US Attorney Neil MacBride, and The Richmond Justice Initiative to pass new laws to combat human trafficking.

Our legislation cracks down on these predators and the gangs involved in this activity; increases penalties for those engaged in any way in this inhumane industry; and provides more public information and outreach to victims as well as parents, teachers and faith communities so this crime can no longer operate in the shadows. We used to think human trafficking only happened in foreign countries (which of course it does) or to women illegally smuggled into this country (which is also true). But this growing criminal enterprise knows no boundaries—it is present right in our backyard and must be battled on all fronts.

Since new laws have been implemented, police and federal agents have arrested 28 juvenile sex traffickers in Northern Virginia, and have identified 41 juvenile victims, and 100 reported adult victims—all of them American citizens, a majority from middle or upper-class families. We know this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Three years ago, Virginia was at the bottom of the Polaris Project's Anti-Human Trafficking State Rankings. Since we began our work with the coalition, my col-

leagues and I have been successful in passing significant legislation and finding partners in the law enforcement, business and religious communities to collaborate with in fighting this growing crime. Just last week, the Polaris Project announced that Virginia is now ranked in the top category (Tier 1) for our efforts in fighting human trafficking.

We have a great local partner in this effort, Fairfax County Detective Bill Wolf, whose work in cracking down on this crime led him to recommend numerous pieces of legislation to the General Assembly. HB546, which I introduced on the recommendation of Detective Wolf and other law enforcement supporters, provided additional penalties and tools for prosecutors pursuing traffickers, particularly in the area of gangs such as MS-13, who are now operating prostitution rings in our area that exploit local girls.

We also passed legislation that makes the soliciting of a minor a Class 5 Felony. Another bill passed this year, HB1870, would allow a multi-jurisdiction grand jury to investigate human trafficking activities in cases where the suspect received money for procuring another individual to engage in prostitution.

In May we hosted a Human Trafficking Forum to raise awareness of this growing issue. I was joined by our Congressman Frank Wolf, a leader in Congress on this issue; Detective Bill Wolf, our local law enforcement champion battling this crime; our House Republican Caucus Chair Delegate Tim Hugo; Sara Pomeroy, director of the Rich-

mond Justice Initiative; and Dr. Courtney Gaskins from Youth For Tomorrow, a residential facility that works with at risk youth—including those who have been victims of human trafficking. This forum was held as part of our continuing efforts to ensure that residents are educated on recent developments and can help us in preventing and exposing the human trafficking in our area.

This summer, I brought Sara Pomeroy as a guest speaker to our Young Women's Leadership Program Event. I established this summer program for young women currently enrolled in middle school or high school in the Northern Virginia area. The program's aim is to provide an opportunity for the participants to meet a variety of women leaders involved in various sectors, roles and occupations so that they can ask questions and engage in their own personal and career development. Sara Pomeroy was able to share with the young women her story, talk about how she became a leading advocate against human sex trafficking and educate the women so that they are better equipped to become leaders themselves on halting sex trafficking amongst their peers.

Our community efforts can and will have a real impact on the health and safety of our children and neighbors. Stopping this modern day slavery is very much a 21st century abolition effort. With increased tools to battle this growing crime and a growing group of partners, we can work together to halt this violence in our own communities and throughout the world.

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LETTERS

Supporting Comstock

To the Editor:

Recently Kathleen Murphy, who is running against our current delegate, Barbara Comstock, called me to ask for my support. She said her friend, former Delegate Margi Vanderhye, told her I was open minded, liked to support the best candidate regardless of party and that she should talk with me.

I did, in fact, support the then-incumbent, Ms. Vanderhye, in Delegate Comstock's first race in 2009. But I explained to Ms. Murphy that Barbara had done a great job on technology issues and jobs legislation and that she works tirelessly on our local community traffic issues, power issues and quality of life issues, and that I supported Barbara enthusiastically in 2011 and was going to continue to do so again in 2013. At this point Ms. Murphy spent 15 minutes attacking Barbara, trying to change my mind.

It didn't work. Instead, this politics-as-usual attack (which I hate) reinforced the wisdom of my decision to support Barbara. From the time she was elected, Barbara has worked together with a large cross section of our community—those who supported her and those who

didn't—to get things done. Weeks after she won her first election, she reached out to me, knowing that I supported her opponent. She asked for my advice and she listened and then she acted. We need more politicians like that—who listen to real people, including those who did not initially support them.

On the state front, she has been a leader promoting Northern Virginia's technology community and a go-to person to sponsor key legislation such as the important Data Center legislation that has kept this industry growing and thriving in the commonwealth; the first ever telework tax credit bills that had languished in committees for years before Barbara's leadership; and an extension of the capital gains exemption for new tech investments in the commonwealth to free up entrepreneurs to risk their capital and create jobs across the commonwealth. She wrote the law requiring competitive bidding on state projects which already is estimated to have saved up to \$400 million on Phase II of Dulles Rail and will save the commonwealth hundreds of millions more in years to come.

Since all politics is local, on the hyper-local front, she was a leader in stopping the dangerous two lane turn that VDOT had planned to install at Georgetown Pike and Route

7, worked with a Great Falls coalition, including GFCA, that totally reversed the misguided plan, and is now involved in providing guidance for the long needed widening of Route 7. When the "Go Ape" proposal for Riverbend Park surfaced, Barbara worked with many of us in Great Falls to stop this crass commercialization of our local park and she became part of the solution in raising more money for our parks by supporting the Friends of Riverbend Park Foundation (of which my wife, Caren, is a board member) and through the Fairfax County Parks Foundation on which Barbara's husband, Chip, serves.

With her husband Chip serving in Fairfax County Schools for 30 years now, she also has a family dedication to education that is reflected in her fighting for more resources for Northern Virginia schools and our colleges and universities.

I strongly endorse Barbara Comstock to continue as our delegate. She is a true leader, a problem solver, someone who listens to and works with everyone, and who has established a strong record of results for our community. She has earned my support and deserves re-election.

John Backus
Great Falls

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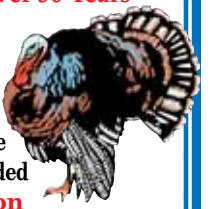
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COMMUNITY

Love Story Set Against a Wartime Backdrop

McLean Community Players present "Time Stands Still."

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

"When I look through that little rectangle... time stops... all the noise around me... everything cuts out. And all I see... is the picture." But what happens when a wounded wartime photographer comes home? What's next in a life and a relationship based upon the passion and excitement that wartime can bring? Can a normal family life be enough?

According to veteran director Jessie Roberts, "the playwright, Donald Margulies, explores love and friendship against a backdrop of the moral dilemma of journalists and photo-journalists who record wars, famines and genocide without intervening to affect the outcome of what they are reporting. The result is a play that will have the audience thinking, empathizing and even laughing as the characters move through the intricacies of their lives."



Cast of McLean Community Players' "Time Stands Still," from left: Michael Himes, Leta Hall, Andra Dindzans and Jon Roberts.

"Time Stands Still," written by Pulitzer Prize winner Margulies, was nominated for two Tony Awards including Best Play in 2010. The McLean Community Players production is an area community theater premiere. It is "a love story at its heart," said Roberts. It is an honest tug of domestic war as the four characters take a look at themselves with wide-open eyes, humor and toughness, according to Roberts. They also examine the role of photographers in any situation, is it to observe, or to become part of the action? The storyline revolves around Sarah (played by Leta Hall), a photojournalist returned from covering the Iraq war after being injured, and her reporter boyfriend James (McLean newcomer Michael Himes). Now back in Brooklyn,

they are visited by their friend Richard (Jon Roberts), a photo editor, who introduces them to his new and much younger girlfriend Mandy (McLean newcomer Andra Dindzans). The play focuses on the characters' relationships and prospects at a more conventional life. According to Himes, the Sarah character "is so exciting, she is an adrenaline rush in a relationship. But now he wants to settle down into a more conventional family life." Dindzans described her character as "a seeming air-head to start, but she has great growth over the course of the play. She becomes the moral center of the show, asking questions of the others to bring clarity to the proceedings."

PHOTO BY TRACI J. BROOKS STUDIO/COURTESY OF McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Where and When

McLean Community Players present "Time Stands Still" at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Performances: Sept. 20-Oct. 5. Fridays-Saturdays 8 p.m., Sunday matinees 2 p.m. Tickets: \$14-\$16. Call OvationTix at 1-866-811-4111, or the McLean Community Center Box Office at 703-790-9223 or visit www.mcleanplayers.org. Note: suitable for ages 13 and up.

pects at a more conventional life.

According to Himes, the Sarah character "is so exciting, she is an adrenaline rush in a relationship. But now he wants to settle down into a more conventional family life." Dindzans described her character as "a seeming air-head to start, but she has great growth over the course of the play. She becomes the moral center of the show, asking questions of the others to bring clarity to the proceedings."

"Time Stands Still" is of the "right now," almost ripped from the headlines, as it brings to full life the deep layers, sometimes knotty matters and humor that people face in relationships even as war may surround them.

THE TEAM LEADER WHO SAW A DISEASE STEAL HER MOTHER'S PAST AND IS DETERMINED NOT TO LET IT TAKE HER DAUGHTER'S FUTURE.

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Artistic Talents Unlocked

Stimulating "The Pitmen Painters" at 1st Stage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

A quiet stunner. Under the fine eye and caring direction of Stevie Zimmerman, the 1st Stage production "The Pitmen Painters" by Lee Hall is inspired. It is a fleshing-out of the mysteries of creativity from quite unlikely sources. Audiences will lean forward admiring what is set before them as this insightful production takes hold.

Hall based the play upon the lives of the Ashington Group, British miners from the 1930s-1940s. They worked long hours in difficult conditions. Then they unexpectedly unlocked their artistic talents while taking an art appreciation course offered by their union.

For Hall, the play is "a play about real conflict." He is fear-



MiRan Powell as Helen and Dylan Myer as Oliver in "The Pitmen Painters" at 1st Stage.

less in probing the usually unspoken question; "Is it possible to be a working class person, an ordinary person, and still be an artist?" His pedigree includes the Tony Award winning "Billy Elliott, The Musical" and the screenplay for the Academy Award winning "War Horse." Zimmerman has a pleasing

SEE "PAINTERS." PAGE 14

PHOTO BY TERESA CONTRERAS/COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE



Virginia Police Benevolent Association ENDORSES DELEGATE BARBARA COMSTOCK



"Barbara Comstock's knowledge and experience on issues that are important to law enforcement professionals makes her a deserving recipient of our endorsement. The Fairfax County Chapter of the Virginia Police Benevolent Association is proud to put our support behind Barbara Comstock and ask that the citizens of Fairfax County do the same. A vote for Barbara Comstock is a vote for the men and women of law enforcement and the citizens they serve."

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BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 18

Vinson Hall Low Vision Group. 10:30 a.m., at Vinson Hall, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. All are welcome; call for more info. 202-234-1010.

Vienna Woman's Club Meeting. 7 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. The club kicks off its first meeting of the club year; the program speaker, from Final Salute, shares on her mission to provide homeless female veterans with safe and suitable housing; non-members are welcome. 703-281-2664, 703-283-1070 or laine@live.com.

Civil War Re-enactment. 7 p.m., at the Great Falls Library Meeting room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Rick and Debbie Turner, Civil War re-enactors, make a live presentation in character. Refreshments served.

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT 18-21

Stretch to the Cure. Various times, at Body Grace Fitness & Yoga, 215 Mill St. N.E., Vienna; other yoga studios. The National Foundation of Cancer Research's campaign partners with yoga studios to offer free classes in hopes yogis of all levels will donate proceeds to cancer research. www.nfcr.org/stretch.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Taste of Tysons. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., 8829 Boone Blvd., Vienna. The Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce

presents a day of food, wine and beer, community vendors, entertainment and the Kidz Zone. Vendors are welcome to showcase their businesses. For information regarding restaurant vending, 703-749-3141; exhibitors, 703-281-1333; logistics, 703-286-7735; publicity, 703-876-4848; sponsorships, 703-281-1333. <http://www.tasteoftyson.com/>.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

10th annual Super H 5K Run, Walk & Wheel. 7 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. race, 9 a.m., after-race party at Tysons Sport & Health, 8250 Greensboro Drive, McLean. A walk/run/wheelchair course to benefit MedStar NRH Adaptive Sport Program, helping those with physical disabilities enjoy recreation. Those who register get a free two-week membership any Sport & Health Club. firstgiving.com/nrh/superh5k.

MONDAY/SEPT. 23

Park Authority Meeting: McLean Central Master Plan. 7 p.m., at MCC, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold a public meeting to present changes to the McLean Central Park Master Plan, made in response to comments from the June 2013 public meeting and afterward. 703-356-0551 or Jane.Edmondson@FairfaxCounty.gov.

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY/ SEPT. 24, 26

Registration for ESL. 7 p.m., at St. Mark Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. All students wishing to take fall ESL classes in the

10-week term with seven proficiency levels, from Beginner 1 to Advanced 2, must be registered and tested. A citizenship preparation class will be available to students eligible to apply for citizenship who have attained at least an intermediate proficiency level (6:30-8 p.m.). \$25 (optional English conversation group 7-7:45 p.m. for registered intermediate and advanced students for an additional \$10.) 703-626-3585 (English or Spanish); 703-994-8510 (Korean); 703-879-7296 (Mandarin); 505-400-7026 (Vietnamese), st.mark.esl@gmail.com, or <http://service.www.stmark.org/esl/>.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 25

Gubernatorial Debate. 7-8 p.m., at Capital One Bank Headquarters, 1680 Capital One Drive, McLean. Fairfax Chamber and NBC4 host Republican candidate Ken Cuccinelli and Democratic candidate Terry McAuliffe in a debate moderated by Chuck Todd, NBC News political director and chief White House correspondent and host of MSNBC's "The Daily Rundown." Panelists include Julie Carey and Aaron Gilchrest of NBC4 and Ben Pershing of the Washington Post.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 26

i2B Business Mixer. 5:30-8 p.m., at the Tower Club on Crescent Drive, Suite 1700, Vienna. McLean Orchestra's own Bluegrass Band "The Rogue Farmers" plays at a networking event hosted by the orchestra; complimentary appetizers and drink tickets included with admission. \$38 for those who pre-register and \$45 at the door.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Forty-four undergraduate researchers at the University of Virginia have been selected for the Harrison Undergraduate Research Awards, which allow them to conduct independent research projects during the summer of 2013. The research awards support students who present detailed plans for projects that have been endorsed by a faculty mentor. A faculty senate committee selected the winners, who receive up to \$3,000.

Among the award recipients is **Matt Lycas**, 20, of McLean, a third-year neuroscience major in the College, who is researching the mechanism for a potential neuropharmacological treatment for alcoholism, examining why Topiramate is able to reduce ethanol consumption in rats.

Jason Jain Miller, of McLean, joined Sigma Alpha Lambda, a national leadership and honors organization at the University of Virginia. The organization is dedicated to promoting and rewarding academic achievement and providing members with opportunities for community service, personal development and professional opportunity.

The Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges (VFIC) 14th annual statewide collegiate Wells Fargo Ethics Bowl will be held at Randolph College in Lynchburg, Va.

The debate involves ethics and social media. Participating from Bridgewater will be seniors **Gillian Eiserman** of McLean.

Rodney A. McLaren of McLean was one of 125 students to receive a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine on Saturday, May 11 at the U.K. Singletary Center for the Arts.

Harvest Happenings
Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013
11 a.m.-2 p.m.

A great afternoon of fun for children ages 3-8 and their families.

\$5 per person; Free for infants up to 36 months. General Admission (Cash at the gate)

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FAITH

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

Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean holds an evening service Sundays at 5:30 p.m. This informal service with faith-sharing moments features music led by guitar and piano, and the same sermon offered during the morning service. The "Second Season Premiere" of "Immanuel in the Evening" at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 22 precedes an ice cream social. Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1125 Savile Lane, McLean. <http://ipcmclean.org>. Author Brian McLaren discusses his book, "Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha and Mohammed Cross the Road? Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World" at Immanuel over the weekend of Oct. 19 and 20 (see <http://ipcmclean.org/> for additional details).

Passages at Vienna Presbyterian Church, on the corner of Maple Avenue and Park Street, offers a 15-week Divorce Care series Tuesdays, 7-9

p.m., beginning Sept. 24 for those going through the pain of separation or divorce. \$20 (covers materials, scholarships available). 703-938-9050, Passages@ViennaPres.org or www.viennapres.org.

GriefShare, a weekly support group for adults grieving the death of a loved one, meets Sundays 6-7:30 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Part St., Vienna with a video/discussion format through Dec. 8. \$20 for workbook. GriefShare@viennapres.org.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul Fitness. Gain

balance, energy and strength at 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean, holds a third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. which allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m.

Vienna Christian Healing Rooms are open, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com.

Chesterbrook United Methodist Church is at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for adults and children. 703-356-7100 or www.ChesterbrookUMC.org.

Centering Prayer Group meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap

Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. E-mail Martha Thomas at mmthomas211@hotmail.com or call the church at 703-759-3509.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

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

Spring Hill

FROM PAGE 3

completed and open for use. Brian Laws, site operations manager with the Fairfax County Park Authority, said they plan to have an open house with local athletic clubs to determine usage of the expanded indoor facilities, and they will work to balance uses between county programs, youth sports and regular use.

SPRING HILL FITNESS DIRECTOR John Bartok said that the new fitness center will include cardio equipment such as treadmills, ellipticals, seated ellipticals, upright and recumbent exercise bicycles and rowers.

There will also be a section with selectorized weight equipment and free weights.

The total cost of the project is \$7.111 million, which is funded by the 2012 Park Bond.

According to Melissa Emory, a project manager with the park authority, construction will be mostly confined to between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. during the week. She said there could be some night work, and ample notice will be given to the community when necessary.

WEEK IN MCLEAN

FROM PAGE 7

MDMA is a semi-synthetic, chemical compound that has been increasing in popularity across the nation, especially among high school and college-aged students. While it is most often seen in pill form, it also comes in powder and capsules.

This drug "Molly" can be a mixture of caffeine and speed and other stimulants; it's known as a recreational psychoactive. And between January 2012 and August 2013, the OCN Unit seized some 16.67 pounds of MDMA and more than 3,000 pills.

Police remind residents that parents are still the strongest

influencers in their children's lives. They urge parents to help make their children, of all ages, safer by having a discussion about illegal drugs.

The Unified Prevention Coalition and the Partnership for a Drug-Free America suggest that parents "Make time to talk with children; explain the risks of these drugs. Learn the

signs of drug use and how to intervene. Go to www.drugfree.org/. Educate family members on the harmful effects of drugs; make it clear you don't approve of drug use. Be vigilant and don't panic; help is available. Secure prescription drugs in the home. Get involved; learn more at <http://unifiedpreventioncoalition.org/>."

McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of members of the McLean Community Players, Inc. will be held at the McLean Community Center at 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia 22101 at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2013. Agenda will include reports of officers, election of directors, and such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

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 Arlington Baptist Church...703-979-7344
 Bon Air Baptist Church...703-525-8079
 Cherrydale Baptist Church...703-525-8210
 First Baptist of Ballston...703-525-7824
 McLean Baptist Church...703-356-8080
 Memorial Baptist Church...703-538-7000
 Mt. Zion Baptist Church...703-979-7411
 Westover Baptist Church...703-237-8292
Baptist - Free Will
 Bloss Memorial Free Will Baptist Church...703-527-7040
Brethren
 Church of The Brethren...703-524-4100
Buddhist
 The Vajrayogini Buddhist Center...202-331-2122
Catholic
 St. Luke Catholic Church...703-356-1255
 St. Agnes Catholic Church...703-525-1166
 Cathedral of St. Thomas More...703-525-1300
 Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek Catholic Church...703-734-9566
 Our Lady of Lourdes...703-684-9261
 Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic...703-979-5580
 St. Ann Catholic Church...703-528-6276
 St. Charles Catholic Church...703-527-5500
Vatican II Catholic Community
 NOVA Catholic Community...703-852-7907
Church of Christ
 Arlington Church of Christ...703-528-0535
Church of God - Anderson, Indiana
 Church of God...703-671-6726
Christian Science
 McLean - First Church of Christ, Scientist...703-356-1391
 First Church of Christ, Scientist, Arlington...703-534-0020
Episcopal
 St. Andrew Episcopal Church...703-522-1600
 St. George Episcopal Church...703-525-8286
 St. Johns Episcopal Church...703-671-6834
 St. Johns Episcopal Church-McLean...703-356-4902
 St. Mary Episcopal Church...703-527-6800
 St. Michael S Episcopal Church...703-241-2474
 St. Paul Episcopal Church...703-820-2625
 St. Peter's Episcopal Church...703-536-6606
 St. Thomas Episcopal Church...703-442-0330
 Trinity Episcopal Church...703-920-7077
Lutheran (ELCA)
 Advent Lutheran Church...703-521-7010
 Faith Lutheran Church...703-525-9283
 German Lutheran Church...703-276-8952
 Lutheran Church of The Redeemer...703-356-3346
 Resurrection Lutheran Church...703-532-5991
Lutheran (Missouri Synod)
 Our Savior Lutheran Church...703-892-4846
Nazarene
 Arlington First Church of the Nazarene...703-525-2516
Non-Denominational
 New Life Christian Church - McLean Campus...571-294-8306
Metaphysical
 Arlington Metaphysical Chapel...703-276-8738
Orthodox
 St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church...703-893-1759
Presbyterian
 Arlington Presbyterian Church...703-920-5660
 Church of the Covenant...703-524-4115
 Clarendon Presbyterian Church...703-527-9513
 Immanuel Presbyterian Church...703-356-3042
 Little Falls Presbyterian Church...703-538-5230
 Trinity Presbyterian Church...703-536-5600
 Westminster Presbyterian...703-549-4766
Presbyterian Church in America
 Christ Church of Arlington...703-527-0420
Synagogues - Conservative
 Congregation Etz Hayim...703-979-4466
Synagogues - Orthodox
 Fort Myer Minyan...571-236-1189
 Chabad Lubavitch of Alexandria-Arlington...703-370-2774
Synagogues - Reconstructionist
 Kol Ami, the Northern Virginia Reconstructionist Community...571-271-8387
Unitarian Universalist
 Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington...703-892-2565
United Methodist
 Arlington United Methodist Church...703-979-7527
 Trinity United Methodist Church of McLean...703-356-3312
 Charles Wesley United Methodist...703-356-6336
 Calvary United Methodist...703-892-5185
 Cherrydale United Methodist...703-527-2621
 Chesterbrook United Methodist...703-356-7100
 Clarendon United Methodist...703-527-8574
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COMMUNITY

“The Pitmen Painters”

FROM PAGE 10

brush stroke level touch as the production quietly lassos the audience to care about the miners’ journey even as some of Hall’s Act II dialogue can sound a bit like stale dry political rhetoric from a by-gone time. Zimmerman is a miniaturist painter with her eight-member ensemble. Each actor provides distinctive personality for their “archetype” character, even when dialogue is sparse.

The cast includes 1st Stage veteran Matt Dewberry as Lyon, the upper-class, at first impermeable teacher who helps awaken the miners to their talents; Dylan Myer as Oliver, with perhaps the deepest creative talent and questioning mind; Alden Michels, a union steward played like the comic Dilbert’s boss and James Miller, giving group-think Marxism some heart. MiRan Powell plays the imperious, moneyed woman dabbling in people’s lives as if they were just art to be bought and hung up. Ryan Alan Jones has a formidable outburst at the top of Act II that brought Picasso’s iconic, anti-war “Guernica” to bleeding, breathing life.

Steven Royal’s set design with Tewodross Melchishua’s video projections provide



PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

From left—James Miller as Harry, Alden Michels as George, Ryan Alan Jones as Young Lad, Dylan Myer as Oliver and Jason Tamborini as Jimmy in “The Pitmen Painters” at 1st Stage.

lovely visual clues like silent dialogue using actual Ashington painting images. Lighting by Kristin Thompson and sound by Bradley Porter seamlessly support the verbal action and during the many “brown-out” scene changes. A shout-out to Alexander Strain for his British dialects coaching as well.

“The Pitman Painters” is a handsome evening that takes the audience on a feisty journey. Don’t let “thought-provoking” scare you away. Don’t pass up this production.



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Copland: Clarinet Concerto
Beethoven: Symphony No. 7



OCTOBER 26, 2013 – 8 PM
Tony Arnold, Soprano
Haydn: Symphony No. 60, “Il Distratto”
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World Premiere
Stravinsky: Pulcinella Suite



NOVEMBER 16, 2013 – 8 PM
Carrie Koffman, Saxophone
Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite No. 1
Larry Alan Smith: Concerto for Soprano
Saxophone and Strings
Rachmaninoff: Symphonic Dances

Program and artists subject to change



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ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 18

VPS Photography Competition. 7:30-9:30 p.m., at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Alan Goldstein, a specialist in architectural judges the show with theme of "children." www.vpsva.org.

Balducci's Free Chocolate Days. 8 a.m.-8 p.m., at Balducci's McLean, 6655 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. A chocolate and wine tasting event on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 2-5 p.m., and free samples along with the chance to win a Chocolate Lover's Gift Basket. 703-448-3828 or Balduccis.com.

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY/SEPT 18-OCT 4

Artists Atelier Exhibit: Carol Howard and Lisa Tureson. Reception Saturday, Sept. 28, noon-4 p.m., at The Artists Atelier, 1144 Walker road, Suite G, Great Falls. Meet the artists at the reception and view Tureson and Howard's work highlighting contrast as seen in both artists' style.

Shari MacFarlane's Student Art Show. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Saturday, Sept. 21 reception. 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The art of 22 students, ages 4 to 12 will be displayed. A reception is slated for Sept. 21.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

Meet the Artist. Morning hours, at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Terri Parent's fine art photographs are displayed in a show during the month of September. Meet and chat over coffee with Parent

Thursday mornings.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/ SEPT. 19-29

Home of Distinction Tour. Thursdays-Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays noon-5 p.m., with parking at The Surge Community Church, 1988 Kirby Road, McLean Thursdays and Fridays; Saturdays and Sundays at Longfellow Middle School. See a McLean-area ABC 7 Home of Distinction. \$10 tours, proceeds benefit Easter Seals Veteran Staffing Network program.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 20

Encaustic Art Talk. 7-9 p.m., at the Emerson Gallery at McLean Project for the Arts, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Susanne K. Arnold gives an art talk on her three dimensional encaustic techniques. <http://www.mpaart.org/exhibitionsfutr.php>.

Tony Denikos. 8 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Maryland-based contemporary singer-songwriter Tony Denikos, the grand prize winner in the 2012 Mid-Atlantic Song Contest, is among the artists from Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. paying tribute to Bruce Springsteen and Van Morrison during a special "Dream Discs" show. \$25. www.jamminjava.com/events/dream-discs/seats.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Encaustic Art Workshop. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., in the Susan B. DuVal studio at



Robert Thoren demonstrates the "en plein air" artistic process from sketch to finished painting at Color Wheel 65 Gallery in McLean Saturday, Sept. 21.

MPA, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Artist Susanne K. Arnold works with artists interested in the medium of encaustic, or hot wax and pigment, also using charcoal, tools and brushes to create works on panels; bring additional paper, tools, pastels, collage material, if desired, and a smock. \$60 per person (max of 10). info@mpaart.org.

Painting Demonstration: Robert Thoren. 1-4 p.m., at Color Wheel Gallery 65, 1374 Chain Bridge Road,

McLean. Robert Thoren presents a painting demonstration and talk about painting and the "En Plein Air" artistic process. He will be demonstrating the painting process from initial drawing, to blocking in, to refinement and completion. 703-356-6345, X165.

Pickling Day. 1-4 p.m., at Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Help the colonial farm wife prepare vegetables and other tasty treats for pickling. Learn how to combine salt, water, vinegar and spices to preserve summer crops. \$3 for adults, \$2 for children. <http://www.1771.org/directions.htm>.

Ballroom Dance. 8-9 p.m., lesson, 9-11:30 p.m. dance at Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. American Tango lesson followed by a dance with DJ music by Bill Powers & TJ Ra playing favorite dance tunes from the 1930s to today. Attire is ballroom casual, no partner or experience is needed. 703-759-2685 or www.colvinrun.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 21-29

Around Town: A Plein Air Event. Various times, around Vienna; enter at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society calls artists to enter a plein air painting competition to win up to \$700 in awards. For entry details, artists may either drop by the Vienna Art Center, call 703-319-3971 or check the website www.ViennaArtsSociety.org. The paintings inspired by Vienna will be judged, with awards presented at a reception at the art center on Oct. 5, 3-5 p.m.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

America's Adopt a Soldier 5K/10K Fun Walk/Run. 10 a.m., at Lake Fairfax Park, 400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Wear red, white or blue and run or walk varied terrain in support of America's Adopt A Soldier projects and programs; donate coats for homeless veterans or other items (see at <http://run-walk.eventbrite.com/>) for care package assembly during and after the event. Preregistration only. \$40. <http://run-walk.eventbrite.com>.

Tea 101: The Basics of Premium Teas. 1-3 p.m., at Salud Healthy Pantry, 1137 Walker Road, Great Falls. Learn about white, wulong and pe erh teas, the difference between scented, blended and flavored, and taste teas from a variety of regions in the seminar. Advance reservations and payment required. \$25. 703-757-6209 or www.greatfallsteagarden.com.

MONDAY/SEPT. 23

The Art of Bonsai. 1 p.m., at the Ayr Hill Garden Club Meeting, Emmanuel Lutheran Church-Front, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Dr. Joseph E Gutierrez will explain and demonstrate the art of bonsai at the next meeting of the **Ayr Hill Garden Club**. One of Dr. Gutierrez's favorite activities is collecting trees in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, each to become a carefully-tended tree-in-a-pot. Besides finding and taming old trees that have been dwarfed by nature, he works bonsai magic on such readily available plants as azalea, maple and boxwood. Refreshments provided. RSVP. 1-203-400-3668 or Latripp24@gmail.com.

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SPORTS

Beckford Carries Episcopal Football Past Flint Hill

Senior running back runs for 312 yards, 5 touchdowns.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Episcopal head football coach Panos Voulgaris stood on the field at Flint Hill School and described Maroon running back Nigel Beckford following the team's season opener on Sept. 13.

"He's a Division I running back," Voulgaris said. "Someone's going to get real lucky when they get him at the next level."

While Beckford's future appears bright, the senior from Bridgeport, Conn., showed on Friday the Episcopal football team is lucky to have him now.

Beckford rushed for 312 yards and five touchdowns on 33 carries during Episcopal's 48-28 victory over Flint Hill. Ripping through the Huskies as part of the Maroon's no-huddle offense, Beckford scored on runs of 1, 5, 18, 1 and 36 yards.

"He's the best running back I've coached," Voulgaris said, "and as long as he stays disciplined, he can have a great year."

Episcopal's potent, up-tempo offense was on display early, as the Maroon marched 70 yards in eight plays during the game's opening drive. Beckford punched it in from 1 yard, capping the 2-minute, 20-second drive and giving Episcopal a 7-0 lead.

AFTER FLINT HILL'S ENSUING DRIVE stalled at the Episcopal 11-yard line, the Maroon drove 89 yards in five plays, taking just 66 seconds off the clock. Beckford's 5-yard touchdown gave Episcopal a 14-0 advantage.

"[This offense is] a new thing for me coming to Episcopal under Coach Voulgaris," Beckford said. "It's a fun offense. I'm new to the zone [scheme]. I'm a downhill-type runner, but ... [it has made me more] versatile."

Beckford's 18-yard touchdown run with less than 9 minutes left in the third quarter gave Episcopal its largest lead of the day at 28-6.

"I think he's a very good running back," Flint Hill head coach Tom Verbanic said. "I think he does a lot of things very well. ... To go along with that, we were out of position and against a back like that, when you put yourself out of position, you're in real trouble."

After falling behind by three scores, Flint Hill showed resiliency. A 28-yard pick-six by Jake Salewski and a two-point conversion cut the Episco-



Flint Hill running back Christian Martey carries the ball against Episcopal on Sept. 13.

pal lead to 28-14. Beckford scored on a 1-yard run to push the Maroon lead to 21 with 4:02 remaining in the third, but the Huskies quickly answered when Jonny Howard returned the ensuing kickoff 80 yards for a touchdown.

Flint Hill running back Christian Martey broke a 33-yard touchdown run with 10:17 left in the fourth quarter, pulling the Huskies within one score at 35-28, but Episcopal closed the contest with a pair of touchdowns, including a 68-yard interception return by defensive back Gary Williams, who picked off a pair of passes.

"We didn't do many things well today," Verbanic said. "... I just think that they came out and they outplayed us today. We fundamentally did not play very well. ... It was almost chaotic, to be very honest with you, which means that I didn't do a very good job, either."

Episcopal senior quarterback Will Hollister (Leesburg) completed 11 of 17 passes for 128 yards, one touchdown and one interception. He also rushed five times for 38 yards.

Maroon receiver Brian Chase (Baltimore) hauled in a 30-yard touchdown recep-

tion.

FLINT HILL'S MARTEY carried 24 times for 120 yards and a touchdown. Sophomore quarterback Justin Saleh completed 15 of 32 passes for 205 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions.

Episcopal will travel to face Bishop Ireton at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21.

Flint Hill dropped to 1-1, including a 27-18 victory against Paul VI on Sept. 6. The Huskies will travel to face Collegiate at 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20.



The McLean Galaxy Green U11 boys' soccer team won Maryland's August Cup. Pictured are: Coach Yuri Bogdanov, Jaz Bisset, Philip Bogdanov, Christopher Coppola, Hayden Evans, Michael Fields, Ian Gresenz, Jad Kanaan, Nico Karagounis, Luke Maloney, Luke Micale, Sami Qusrawi, Aidan Singer and Ryan Wiener.

McLean Galaxy Green Wins August Cup

The McLean Galaxy Green U11 boys' soccer team won a championship in Maryland's August Cup on Aug. 25.

The team advanced to the finals undefeated by winning against Loudoun Soccer Red, DC Stoddert Blue Metros and Maryland Rush Academy Blue. They went on to beat Braddock Road Youth Elite 4-0 in the finals. The team is coached by Yuri Bogdanov.



The Great Falls Soccer Courage Blue U10 girls' soccer team won a championship over Labor Day Weekend. Pictured are: Coaches Blake and Davorin, Elsa Billingslea, Lynley Birchard, Isabel Butler, Raya Davidson, Alexa Gianoplus, Macey Jacobs, Maya Kanaan, Avery Perez, Lexie Perez, Gianna Russo, Teresa Ryan and Caitlyn Shumadine.

Great Falls Soccer Courage Blue Wins Title

The Great Falls Soccer Courage Blue U10 girls' soccer team won a championship in the Pride Division of the PWSI Toys for Tots Tournament over Labor Day Weekend. The team advanced to the finals undefeated by winning against McLean Gold, and two PWSI teams. They then beat McLean White U10 Girls 1-0 in a hard fought final championship game. The team is coached by Langley High School girls' soccer head coach Billy Blake and Coach Davorin Husazinovic.

McLean Football Beats Marshall

The McLean football team defeated Marshall 32-3 on Sept. 12. The victory improved the Highlanders' record to 1-1. Marshall dropped to 0-2.

McLean will travel to face Falls Church at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20. Marshall will host Freedom at the same time.



Kidsinger Jim and Friends will bring all-original "POSITIVE-ly Fun" songs to the McLean Community Center on Sept. 28.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Children ages 3-8 can experience the fun and excitement of the changing of the seasons as they participate in a variety of activities at the McLean Community Center's Harvest Happenings.

Celebrating the Change of Season

Children can welcome the change of season at McLean Community Center's Harvest Happenings.

Young children ages 3-8 can experience the fun and excitement of the changing of the seasons as they participate in a variety of activities at the McLean Community Center's Harvest Happenings. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28, at the center, located at 1234 Ingleside Ave. General admission is \$5 at the door; admission is free for children up to 36 months old.

Kidsinger Jim, a children's entertainer who sings and plays guitar while his farm animal friends roam and interact with the audience, will perform at the

event. Jim has been singing his all-original "POSITIVE-ly Fun" songs exclusively for children and families for 20 years. A former preschool through elementary school music teacher, he has performed more than 3,500 concerts to date.

Activities include amusement and carnival games and arts and crafts projects. Participants can purchase and decorate small pumpkins. A variety of child- and adult-friendly food choices will be available for purchase as well.

For more information, call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit the center's website: <http://www.mcleancenter.org/kids/events>.

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Green Paradise, LLC trading as New Grand Mart, 6326 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, VA 22044.
The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer and Wine off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Lydia Lee, Director
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
V@P of Pentagon Row, LLC trading as Thaiphooon, 1301 S. Joyce St, #D4, Arlington, VA 22202.
The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises, Mixed Beverages on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Vinai Kulnarong, Managing Member of V@P of Pentagon Row, LLC NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

OBITUARY
Robert Ray, III passed away February 6th, 2013 at 90 years of age. A funeral service will be held September 30th, 2013 at 2:45 PM at the Old Post Chapel on Ft. Myer, followed by burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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Northern Virginia Deli and Restaurant Corp. trading as Deli Italiano, 9911 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises/Delivery Permit license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Yasser Baslios, Member
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A Study in Contrasts



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The decision for yours truly to participate in a Phase 1 Study at N.I.H. or Johns Hopkins (depending upon availability and qualifications) discussed in last week's column has been put on hold, temporarily. It seems that my oncologist was thinking about me over the holiday weekend and called me on Wednesday following Labor Day to say he had a diagnostic idea concerning me: a 24-hour urine collection (a "Creatinine Clearance Study") which would provide a more accurate reading (than the regular lab work I have; from blood) of my kidney function. Although the logistics haven't been worked out - insofar as exactly how I get a sample to their lab - "the idea" as my father used to say, "has merit," so I happily agreed in principle and awaited a phone call from my oncology nurse to explain the dos and don'ts.

Apparently, there is yet one more chemotherapy drug - of recent vintage, and design, that my oncologist would like to try. He hasn't suggested its infusion previously, because like many drugs, it is filtered through the kidneys; and after four-and-a-half years of varying types of chemo/targeted therapy, (I.V. and oral) the damage to my kidneys - particularly as evidenced by my elevated creatinine level and below-average "glomerular filtration rate" (45 when 60 is normal) is and always has been cause for concern and caution. Collateral damage as I call it, is still damage, and renal failure/kidney dialysis is all it's cracked up to be: not good, so diagnosis-to-date, we've avoided the risk. I've always agreed that since trouble has already found me, I'm hesitant to look for it. Perhaps there will yet be a reward for our prudence and patience.

Per the over-the-phone instructions I eventually received, I submitted my 24-hour sample on Monday morning. At 10:11 that evening, my oncologist e-mailed my test results. Although the colors were not flying, the test results were nonetheless improved, sufficiently so that we are indeed going ahead with I.V. chemotherapy once again. Therefore, for the immediate future, anyway, N.I.H. and Johns Hopkins are "back-burnered." Alimta, the I.V. chemotherapy drug which I will be infusing, is my new best friend. A drug designed specifically for the treatment of patients with non-small cell lung cancer (me); every three weeks living forward, I will be infused at the Infusion Center. The entire process will take about two hours, I was told. "Two hours" I can do in my sleep, which sometimes is exactly what I do (the BarcaLoungers are extremely comfortable and the warm blankets are super cozy). So here we go, again. Nevertheless, it feels right.

If I had been accepted into a Study, my treatment would have been experimental and as much - if not more, about the next person. As it was explained to me by my oncologist, I would have been sort of a guinea pig, being injected with an experimental, non-FDA-approved medicine that previously had showed some promise when treating mice. I have no problem with this process and understand that such pursuits occasionally provide miraculous outcomes, and I'm certainly open to reconsidering should the opportunity present itself. However, going from a definite maybe at N.I.H. to an FDA-approved for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer drug seems like a no-brainer, even for me. Granted, I'm still a long way from anywhere, but it feels good to be back in the game, rather than being on the sidelines, sort of (with all due respect to N.I.H. and Johns Hopkins).

My future is now and thanks to this most recent diagnostic test, my treatment with Alimta can also be now; Friday the 20th, actually.

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

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