

Spookfest Concert at Langley High

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Mixing Arts And Coffee in Great Falls

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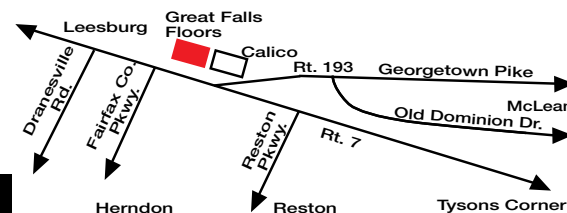
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Negative Campaign

Candidates appear at minority business forum, attacking each other.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Local and statewide candidates for office appeared at an unprecedented forum in Northern Virginia last weekend, a collaboration of minority business groups of blacks, Hispanics and Asians. But as candidates arrived at the Annandale campus of the Northern Virginia Community College for a Sunday afternoon forum, voters realized that the tone of the campaign would remain unrelentingly negative.

"All three of the Republican candidates are Tea Party right wing extremists," said Del. Ken Plum (D-36), who is running unopposed. "Look at their records and their stands on the issues."

Plum attacked Cuccinelli's lawsuit against the Affordable Care Act as well as his investigation into a University of Virginia professor studying climate change. The longtime delegate also said the Republican attorney general candidate Sen. Mark Obenshain (R-25) has a similar record, including a bill that would have required women to report abortions to police. Together with the candidate for lieutenant governor, Plum said, the ticket is Tea Party from top to bottom.

"For some reason, some folks in the Democratic Party think that the label Tea Party is going to stimulate some kind of negative feelings," said Jay McConville, chairman of the Fairfax County Republican Committee. "But I think those people are great patriots, and they are supporting the candidates they think are best for the commonwealth."

AS CANDIDATES for governor took the stage to make their case to voters, the tone of the campaign remained starkly negative. Each of the candidates spent as much time talking about their own vision of the future as they did castigating their opponent as someone who would harm Virginia. For Republican Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli: "My time as attorney general and my time in the state



Republican Ken Cuccinelli speaks at the Annandale campus of the Northern Virginia Community College.

"Politics has become a blame game. They are always talking about what the other candidate is and how that's not working, but they never say how they can fix it or what is going to lead to fixing it."

— Deborah Williams of Fairfax City

Senate leaves me as the only candidate who would show up on day one knowing how Virginia government works from having participated in it. I will not need on the job training if you elect me on November 5th, and I'm the only candidate who can say that."

For weeks, Republicans have been criticizing Democrat Terry McAuliffe for threatening to shut down Virginia government unless the General Assembly agreed to expand Medicaid. McAuliffe attempted to beat back that argument during the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce debate, pledging that he would not force a shutdown. Meanwhile, the Democrat is now criticizing the Republican for appearing at a fundraiser with Texas Senator Ted Cruz, whom Democrats say is the architect of the government shutdown.

"Ken Cuccinelli was apparently more concerned about his reputation with the Tea Party than with ending the government shutdown that is undermining Virginia's economy," said McAuliffe. "It's the obligation of Virginians to send a message to Washington. A govern-

ment shutdown should never be a bargaining chip."

WITH ELECTION DAY only four weeks away, candidates and their advisors are preparing for the most intense and high-stakes portion of the race. Both of the major-party candidates are responding to that dynamic by trying to frame their opposition in the most negative way possible. That leaves Libertarian candidate Robert Sarvis rising in the polls as his opponents take shots at each other. After McAuliffe and Cuccinelli finished Sunday evening, Sarvis offered a critical review. "A lot of negative attacks. Not a whole lot of substance," said Sarvis, who is polling at about 10 percent support. "And if you want to see dysfunction of voting out of fear for the lesser of two evils, look at the federal government right now."

After the candidates were finished making their pitches, many of the voters had a hard time processing what they heard. The stump speeches left many wondering what the candidates would do if elected. Many of the voters at



Democrat Terry McAuliffe takes the stage at the Annandale campus of the Northern Virginia Community College.



Libertarian candidate Robert Sarvis greets voters at the Annandale campus of the Northern Virginia Community College.

the Annandale forum said they felt the tone of the campaign had become distractingly negative, a series of attacks and counter-attacks that left many feeling isolated from the process.

"Politics has become a blame game," said Deborah Williams of Fairfax City. "They are always talking about what the other candidate is and how that's not working, but they never say how they can fix it or what is going to lead to fixing it."

RECENT POLLS have shown a clear and growing lead for McAuliffe, with the Democrat running five to seven percentage points ahead of the Republicans. That lead grows even larger if the Libertarian is included in the polls, giving the Democrat an eight-point lead in one poll. Republicans reject the idea that their candidates are in trouble, though. When

asked about polling numbers, McConville said Republicans seem more motivated than the Democrats.

"I think that there's a lack of feeling of that same kind of excitement on the McAuliffe side," said McConville. "He's obviously a problematic candidate."

Democrats say they feel national Republicans have delivered an October surprise that has harmed their side, the government shutdown. On the campaign trail and in interviews, Democrats are making the case that Cuccinelli and the Republican ticket are aligned with obstructionists in Washington.

"I feel that Ken Cuccinelli is at a desperate point in his campaign," said Del. Charniele Herring (D-46), who is chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Virginia. "He attacked Terry time and time again instead of talking about what he would do for Virginia."

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NEWS

Wear Jeans to Work, Help End Homelessness

Register now to participate in Jeans Day Fairfax Friday, Oct. 18.

By VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Who knew? Just by wearing jeans to work, you can actively help nearly 3,000 men, women and children in Fairfax County who face homelessness and hunger every day.

On Tuesday, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors proclaimed Friday, Oct. 18 "Jeans Day Fairfax," the third annual Jeans Day event in Fairfax County.

Launched in 2011 by the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH), the event is a popular fundraiser for homelessness and other causes nationwide.

Jeans Day is a relatively simple idea. Companies go casual for a cause, inviting employees to wear their jeans to work in exchange for a \$5 contribution to fight homelessness.

Last year, more than 200 employers, schools and community residents became denim dogooders, pulling on a pair of their favorite jeans to demonstrate their support for ending homelessness.

The day of community give-back is sponsored by The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, The Connection Newspapers and Apple Federal Credit Union.

"Northern Virginia businesses step up every day to support our community in many ways, but we're especially excited about this opportunity because it's a chance for employees to get involved directly," said Fairfax Chamber President & CEO Jim Corcoran of the Jeans Day initiative.

"The majority of people without homes in our community are children and working families," said Dean



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Dean Klein, Office to Prevent and End Homelessness; Anna Smith, Pathway Homes; Jim Corcoran, president, Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, and KayAnn Shoeneman, Fairfax Chamber, gather before the Board of Supervisors meeting's proclamation of Oct. 18 as "Jeans Day Fairfax."

Klein, Director of Fairfax County's OPEH.

"Homelessness affects everyone, with social and economic costs to the community, including increased public costs for medical care and education. Everyone can help end homelessness by participating in Jeans Days Fairfax."

Klein said businesses and individuals can make Jeans Day Fairfax another huge success by being creative.

"It's fun and simple to organize. Ask people to come to work in their jeans and make a donation of \$5. It's a great way to bring a team, a floor or the whole company together," Klein said.

Turn \$5 Into \$50,000 to Help End Homelessness

Dean Klein, the director of the county's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, had some good news to share about Jeans Day Fairfax at the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday.

"We have been selected to receive a \$25,000 Challenge grant from the Phillip Graham Fund to support the 3rd An-

nual Jeans Day event," Klein said, adding:

"This exciting grant is intended to help us to challenge businesses, schools, faith groups and individuals to help us meet a larger goal of \$25,000."

When the county meets its \$25,000 goal, the Phillip Graham Fund will provide a matching \$25,000.

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NEWS

Mixing Arts and Coffee

Celebrate Great Falls hosts latest coffee social at Artists' Atelier.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Artists' Atelier in Great Falls hosted Celebrate Great Falls for one of their regular coffees Thursday, Oct. 10. The Atelier, located on Walker Road, is home to 16 members of Great Falls Studios who use the space as a studio.

While several of the resident artists prepared for the upcoming Great Falls Studios Tour, guests at the social mingled with them and discussed everything from the gov-



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Local artists and members of Celebrate Great Falls gather at The Artists' Atelier Thursday, Oct. 10 for a coffee social.

ernment shutdown to the possibilities of flooding over the past few rainy days.

The event also featured a donation by Celebrate Great Falls to the Great Falls Foundation for the Arts, which operates the adjacent art school. Old Brogue owner Mike Kearney presented GFFTA Executive Director Julie Casso with a donation for \$1,000.

"We're very appreciative of the arts in Great Falls, especially The

Atelier, the school and the foundation," Kearney said. "Their work brightens the walls of many places in this community."

Casso said she was grateful for the donation.

"This donation means so much to the foundation, and I promise it will go to benefit a lot of people," she said.

This was the first coffee of the fall from Celebrate Great Falls. Erin Lobato of Celebrate

Great Falls said the organization partners with various groups and businesses for the coffees, which are open to anybody who lives or works in the Great Falls area.

The foundation has hosted previous gatherings at Riverbend Park, The Old Brogue and Brix American Bistro.

Those interested in sponsoring a future coffee social can contact Lobato at erin_lobato@hotmail.com.

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Planning for Veterans Day Ceremony

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

A Marine Corps Reserve Color Guard will present the colors. The sixth grade classes at Great Falls Elementary School will join and the Madrigal Choir of Langley High School will provide music for this event.

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

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Encouraging 'Greatness'

Forestville principal takes holistic approach to learning.

On a typical morning, Forestville Elementary's new principal, Todd Franklin, can be seen greeting children as they exit the bus. "Be great today," he says, as they begin their morning. To Franklin, this is not just cheer but part of an overall philosophy.

"I always like to look at the academic, social and emotional development of young people. I want for them to focus each and every day on how they can be great," he says, referring to his upbeat mantra.

New to Forestville this year, Franklin served as assistant principal at Cooper Middle School, which Forestville feeds into. "I see a lot of familiar faces," he says, as many of the parents have children in both schools.

As a first-time principal, Franklin has welcomed assistance from all quarters. "Everyone has been very supportive. The rapport and support from the parents has been phenomenal. Assistant Principal

Arbach, the entire teaching staff, and the front office staff have helped maintain a team environment," he adds.

Franklin attributes much of his academic approach to his time as a counselor. "I was a guidance counselor for many years. It has helped me understand the wide range of experience that students have, which can influence their development and performance in the classroom," says Franklin, adding, "Work habits begin at a young age."

Enthusiasm has been high. "I can say that my experience with Mr. Franklin has been terrific," says PTA President Jamie Finch after collaborating with Franklin on several projects, including an intensive school-wide running event. "He is a charismatic leader with a heart of gold. The PTA and the school as a whole have thoroughly enjoyed working with our new principal," Finch concludes.

—DAVID KROEGER



Forestville Principal Todd Franklin

PHOTO BY DAVID KROEGER

Honored by the National Kidney Foundation

Thomas P. McDonough, of Great Falls, received the National Kidney Foundation's (NKF) Martin Wagner Memorial Award at the recent meeting of the organization's Board of Directors. Named for one of the NKF's founders, this award is the highest honor the foundation bestows on lay volunteers.

McDonough, former president of Coventry Health Care, served the National Kidney Foundation as a volunteer for nearly three decades, most recently as its national chairman. McDonough's wife, Olivia, is a kidney transplant recipient.

"Tom McDonough exemplifies everything an organization could dream of in a volunteer. He served; he gave; he guided; and he recruited so many others to help further our cause," says Ed Walter, National Kidney Foundation immediate past chairman.

"Tom was also one of the first to support the publication of our landmark clinical practice guidelines that helped improve care and patient outcomes for kidney transplant recipients. He contributed his time and expertise to assist the foundation in nu-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Thomas P. McDonough of Great Falls

merous areas, including finance, risk reduction and prevention initiatives, fundraising, local affiliate relations and more. The impact of his contributions to NKF will be felt for years to come and we know he is a true role model for NKF volunteers all over the U.S.," said Walter.

The National Kidney Foundation is the leading organization in the U.S. dedicated to the awareness, prevention and treatment of kidney disease for hundreds of thousands of healthcare professionals, millions of patients and their families, and tens of millions of Americans at risk. For more information, visit www.kidney.org.

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*Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.; event will start at 10:00 a.m. to prevent a conflict with the Alexandria Breast Cancer Walk.

For more information and to register, visit moran.house.gov or call 703-971-4700.

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Great Falls Man Dies in Silver Spring

Mark Edward Waugh dies, friend Rahul Gupta charged.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls resident Mark Edward Waugh, 23, was found dead in an apparent homicide in Silver Spring Sunday, Oct. 13. According to Montgomery County Police, they responded to an apartment at 1220 East-West Highway at approximately 3:25 a.m. Sunday morning.

Upon arriving at the scene, they encountered a 23-year-old female, who made the 911 call, and two males. One male, Waugh, was found unresponsive with what police called "cutting wounds."

Police took the other man, 24-year-old Rahul Gupta, into custody and he has since been charged with second-degree murder by the Montgomery County Police Major Crimes Unit. He is currently in custody in Rockville, with bail set at \$2 million.

According to police, Gupta has a McLean address on record, but is also "known to frequent the East-West Highway address."

Waugh attended Langley High School and graduated magna cum laude from James Madison University in 2012. He was enrolled in Georgetown University Law School.

He was an active member of Boy Scout Troop 673, earning the rank of Eagle in December 2007.

While at JMU, Waugh was an active member of the school's debate team. In 2009, Waugh and his partner were took first place at Novice Nationals, a national championship for first year college debaters.

He was named Cross Examination Debate Association All-American Team in 2012, an honor reserved for the top 30 debaters in the country.

David Barton, a Langley classmate of Waugh and Gupta, and JMU graduate, told JMU's The Breeze Monday that Waugh was "one of the top debaters that JMU probably ever had."

Waugh is survived by his parents, Bill and Nancy and three brothers, Matthew, James and John.

Capt. James Daley of the Montgomery County Police told ABC7 news Monday that it was apparent that the two men knew each



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rahul Gupta of McLean has been charged with second-degree murder of Mark Edward Waugh of Great Falls, stemming from an incident between the two in the early morning hours of Sunday, Oct. 13.

other, and that it appeared the men were out drinking earlier in the evening celebrating Gupta's birthday, and upon returning to the apartment, a dispute happened.

Gupta is also a graduate of Langley High School, a member of the Class of 2008. He was pursuing his master's degree in biomedical engineering at George Washington University.

Candidate's Forum Postponed

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls Citizens Association postponed its scheduled candidate's forum Tuesday, Oct. 8, citing fears that outside groups were planning on disrupting the program.

The forum was supposed to feature Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) and her Democratic challenger Kathleen Murphy. A shorter program, featuring Republican sheriff's candidate Bryan Wolfe and a proxy presentation on behalf of Democratic sheriff's candidate Stacey Kincaid, was also scheduled.

The night before the scheduled forum, the GFCA learned that the Fairfax County Park Authority had issued a permit for a demonstration at the event, which was to be held at The Grange.

According to the GFCA, this was followed by multiple e-mail campaigns from political groups asking for supporters to show up at the event early. They asked the Fairfax County Police

Department for support in managing traffic and the anticipated crowd. "Four hours before the program, with no assurance of police support, a decision was made that the unfolding event would not serve the community's goals and would violate the ground rules for the event previously agreed to by the candidates and their campaigns," reads a statement issued by the GFCA.

At least one group, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, had planned a demonstration for the outside of the Grange. According to their advisory, they planned to "demand Delegate Comstock stop hiding from her record on guns and provide clear answers to questions on universal background checks for all gun sales and guns in bars." The forum has been rescheduled to Friday, Nov. 1 at a time and place to be determined.

More information, as well as updates, can be found at www.gfca.org.

—SEE REACTIONS, PAGE 10

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OPINION

Don't Let Negatives Keep You from Voting

Choices are stark; think about what principles should guide governance in Virginia for the next four years.

Every Virginia voter will have the option to cast a ballot for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and their member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

While much of the coverage and advertising at the top of the ticket has been negative in the extreme, it will still matter who is governor. Don't turn up your nose, hold your nose if necessary, and go vote. You can vote on Nov. 5; most likely you can vote before that.

Voter Identification

Virginia's existing voter ID requirements will change in July 2014. A law requiring photo identification at the polls was signed into law in May 2013. This new photo identification requirement will not take effect until July 1, 2014. The current law allows for the acceptance of all identification documents listed here.

When you arrive at your polling place, a voting official will verify that your name is on the registration list. Voters will be asked to present one valid form of identification. It can be any of the following: Virginia voter registration card; Virginia driver's license; military ID; any Federal, Virginia state or local government-issued ID; employer issued photo ID card; concealed handgun permit; valid Virginia student ID; current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck indicating the name and address of the voter; Social Security card.

On the Ballot 2013

Check what is on your ballot at <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/>

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Terry R. McAuliffe (D) www.terrymcauliffe.com
Ken T. Cuccinelli (R) www.cuccinelli.com
Robert C. Sarvis (L) www.robertsarvis.com

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ralph S. Northam (D) www.northamforlg.com
E.W. Jackson (R) www.jacksonforlg.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disruptive and Disrespectful

To the Editor:

Democratic candidate Kathleen Murphy and the gun control groups she is working with were so disrespectful to the Great Falls Citizens Association debate that instead of trusting our citizens to ask questions about this issue, they "demanded" that all of their questions be answered and organized a disruptive demonstration before and during the debate in order to bully and threaten GFCA and attendees if their questions weren't answered. As a result the debate between Delegate Comstock and Murphy had to be rescheduled.

So let's take one of their major issues on Ms. Murphy and the anti-gun groups attack Delegate Comstock on: Concealed Carry Legislation. Most people don't re-

alize that concealed carry is the law in 43 states.

Concealed-carry permit-holders must go through a background check—something these gun control groups claim they want more of—before they receive a court approved permit. Democrats and Republicans alike have supported this common sense legislation. Our Senator Mark Warner and former Senator Jim Webb (both NRA "A" rated Members of the Senate) not only supported concealed carry legislation but they supported expanding the law so that Virginia permit holders could use their permits in other states. (And for the record, when Mark Warner was governor, he signed every single piece of pro-gun legislation that hit his desk).

Locally, Democratic state Sen. Chap Petersen long has been a supporter of the concealed carry law and even voted to override

Gov. Kaine's veto of the bill back in 2009. Del. Keam also voted in favor of what Kathleen Murphy and her supporters derisively describe as the "guns in bars" bill. Add Democratic Caucus Chair Mark Sickles and Del. David Bulova to those who support the concealed carry law. If you check out

Ms. Murphy's website you will see that she supports all of these Democrats and has had them at her fundraisers. Has she "demanded" that they change their position on concealed carry? Has she rejected their financial support and help? Did these gun groups protest and demonstrate her fundraiser with Mark Warner, a concealed carry supporter?

I think we all know the answers here. This is the political, silly season where hypocrisy runs rampant and Ms. Murphy's campaign of deception and misinformation has

resulted in no case for her candidacy on this or other issues.

Barbara Gloeckner
Great Falls

Campaign Based On Divisive Issues

To the Editor:

As I look at the staged demonstrations that were organized before the now cancelled debate in Great Falls was clear that first, they were closely coordinated by Kathleen Murphy's team; (one of the key organizers held Ms. Murphy's kickoff), and second, that they were organized because Murphy does not want to debate all of the issues we have before

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mark R. Herring (D) www.herringforag.com
Mark D. Obenshain (R) www.markobenshain.com

HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2013 ELECTIONS

EDITORIAL

District 34 — Democrat Kathleen Murphy challenges Republican incumbent Barbara Comstock.
District 35 — Republican Leiann Leppin challenges Democratic incumbent Mark Keam

FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF'S SPECIAL ELECTION

Stacey Ann Kincaid (D) www.Staceykincaid.com
Bryan A. "B.A." Wolfe (R) <http://www.wolfeforsheriff.com/>
Christopher F. DeCarlo (I) www.honestlyandethics.com
Robert A. Rivera (I)

SCHOOL BOND REFERENDUM

Fairfax County voters will be asked to vote YES or NO on the \$250 million school bond question in the general election. The schools plan to use the money to:

- ❖ Build two new elementary schools, one in the Richmond Highway area and one in the Bailey's area
 - ❖ Help renovate 22 schools including 17 elementary schools, two middle schools (Thoreau and Rocky Run) and three high schools (Langley, Herndon and Oakton)
 - ❖ Buy land for the South West County High School
 - ❖ Enhance the capacity of Westbriar Elementary and South Lakes High School
 - ❖ Replace or improve infrastructure, such as roofs, major mechanical systems and parking lots.
- See <http://www.fcps.edu/news/bond13.shtml> for more details.

Vote Now

From now until Saturday, Nov. 2, you can vote absentee in person for a variety of reasons, but you must sign a form affirming that you do qualify. Almost everyone with a job in Northern Virginia qualifies for one particular reason, however: your work plus commute

time would be 11 hours or more between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Other reasons include planned travel, pregnancy, illness or disability, being a student out of area and more. Voters can also vote absentee by mail.

It's worth looking at the absentee ballot application online before going to vote absentee in person: <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Files/Forms/VoterForms/ABApplication.pdf>.

In Fairfax County, you can vote at Fairfax County Governmental Center or any one of seven "satellite" voting locations.

Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax, VA 22035.

Saturdays: Oct. 19, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday-Friday, Oct. 15-Nov. 1, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

The satellite locations in Fairfax County are also open for absentee in person voting; Saturdays: Oct. 19, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Monday-Friday: Beginning Oct. 15-Nov. 1, 3:30-7 p.m.

❖ Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean, VA 22101

❖ North County Human Services Building, 1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190

For more on voting absentee in Fairfax County, call 703-222-0776 or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm>.

Contact

State Board of Elections, 804-864-8901 Toll Free: 800-552-9745 FAX: 804-371-0194, email: info@sbe.virginia.gov, http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Voter_Information/Index.html

Fairfax County Board of Elections, 703-222-0776, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205; email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

Great Falls CONNECTION

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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

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Chelsea Bryan
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
cbryan@connectionnewspapers.com

Alex McVeigh
Community Reporter
703-778-9441
amcveigh@connectionnewspapers.com
@AMcVeighConnect

Victoria Ross
County Reporter ♦ 301-502-6027
rosspinning@yahoo.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
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Salome Howard-Gaibler
Display Advertising
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Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising
703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Jean Card
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Linda Pecquex
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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NEWSPAPER

NEWS

Spookfest Concert At Langley High

Halloween is coming one week early to Langley High School as the LHS Orchestra presents Spookfest on Thursday, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Symphonic Orchestra players will join with members of the band to present film scores from "How to Train Your Dragon" and "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." Theater students will present chilling poetry by Edgar Allan Poe as the freshman orchestra performs "The Evil Eye" and "The Hideous Heart" and "Two Scenes from the Hallow." The sophomore orchestra will present "Ghosts of Brandenburg" after sophomore pianists play the duet from "The Corpse Bride." Finally, the Philharmonic orchestra will dazzle listeners with incantations and a rendition of Michael Jackson's "Thriller." This concert is free to the public and designed for children of all ages.



PHOTO BY CHI PHAM

Langley HS Orchestra musicians and audience members are encouraged to wear costumes to the Oct. 24 Spookfest concert.

Appropriate costumes are encouraged for performers and audience alike. Come out if you dare and enjoy the show.

HELP WANTED

Part-time graphic artist needed on Wednesdays to help with page layout, ad design and photo processing in small, very busy department in Old Town Alexandria, walking distance to King St. Metro. More hours available some weeks. Send letter, resume to resumes@connectionnews.com

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Questions, contact Linda at 703-759-2959 or Linda.thompson@longandfoster.com

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

our communities—she just wants to discuss her divisive social issues she's based her whole campaign upon.

Consider that on Murphy's webpage she doesn't even include "JOBS" or the "Economy" as an issue! That has been Delegate Comstock's number one priority and she has a string of major achievements on tech jobs, telework and competitive bidding legislation that is already

working for this community. (See her webpage of accomplishments:

<http://www.comstockfordelegate.com/issues/default.aspx>).

So is it any wonder that the Murphy campaign tries to talk about anything but their candidate's background and her knowledge and record on jobs and key issues of importance to our community?

Ken Vogel
Great Falls

The Right Decision

To the Editor:

It is unfortunate that the Great Falls Citizens Association was forced to postpone the scheduled Wednesday, Oct. 8 debate between incumbent Delegate Barbara Comstock and challenger Kathleen Murphy. But, it was the appropriate call in keeping with the civi-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

lized debate process the GFCA has always followed.

At the last minute it was learned that four gun control groups had an "October surprise" for our community and planned to demonstrate both "before and during" the debate and essentially planned on hijacking our local community effort. The GFCA ground rules stipulated that each campaign was limited to three representatives outside the Grange. Both campaigns had agreed to these rules, but the large number of demonstrators obviously did not think they had to abide by any rules of our community. The gun control demonstrators from out of the area also happen to be working closely with the Murphy campaign, who apparently also have little regard for our Great Falls practices.

I appreciate that the GFCA made the right decision for Great Falls to postpone the debate for safety reasons.

Tim Christy
Great Falls

Unanswered Questions

To the Editor:

The debate between the candidates for the 34th District House of Delegates was canceled Tuesday night, Oct. 8. I have seen the various explanations provided by the host, Great Falls Citizens Association, as well as comments that have been posted online which contain statements that clearly are not true. I am a volunteer with the Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence and was there on Tuesday.

According to the original statement, "Eric Knudsen, president of the Great Falls Citizens Association, said he found out Tuesday afternoon that police had issued demonstration permits that were expected to bring a few hundred extra people to the event that had in the past already been crowded. ... 'It got to the point where I didn't feel like we were serving the community, and it was going to be a parking, traffic circus.'" The GFCA posted a separate statement, with a slightly revised explanation: "The night before the program, GFCA learned that a single-issue interest group from outside the community was planning demonstrations both outside and inside the event. On the afternoon of the event, GFCA learned that Fairfax County Park Authority had issued a permit for a demonstration at the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

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THE MAP

The Studios. The numerals in the red squares correspond to the number given to each studio. The numbers run roughly from west to east and north to south on the map. Below, you will find an alphabetical listing of the artists by medium, and the number of the artist's studio. These numbers will also be found on the road sign nearest the studio. Wheel chair accessible is marked , hands-on activities marked .

Sun Design venues. The yellow-and-brown sun icons  correspond to locations where Sun Design is showcasing home renovations. One newly remodeled space is located at 797 Sherlin Lane, open only on Saturday, and another at 9250 Wood Glade Drive, open on Saturday and Sunday. Plan to visit one or both to see the artistry of Sun Design in person.


www.GreatFallsStudios.com

THE ARTISTS

Digital Artists

Michael McDermott.....#13
Richard Sulb.....#7




Fiber Artists

Jinny Beyer.....#21 
Dorrie Emmer.....#32 
Cindy Grisdel.....#27 
Vad Moskowitz.....#4 
Kathy Owens.....#23  

Flower Designer

Binaifer Davar.....#33



Jewelry Designers

Jorge Adeler.....#20 
Donna Barnako.....#10
Richard Masaniello.....#5 
Linda Rosen.....#18 

Layered Paper Artist

Ronni Jolles.....#11

Mixed Media Artists


Roberta Pruett Beasley #27
Brenda Drake.....#27
Jennifer Duncan.....#26 
GuruSangat Khalsa.....#28
Tina Learned.....#27
Sheila Lynch.....#14
Heidi Mraz.....#16 

Studio Tour Headquarters.....#15




Painters

Jill Banks.....#27 
Karen Bateman.....#13 
Patti Chisholm.....#17
Hwa Crawford.....#23 
Coty Dickson.....#18 
Elaine Elinsky.....#27
Jo Fleming.....#8 
Betty Ganley.....#5
Robert Gilbert.....#30 
Lori Goll.....#17
Yeganeh Hejazi.....#18
Carol Howard.....#27
Linda Jones.....#32
Michela Mansuino.....#27
John McCabe.....#27
Mary Ellen Mogee.....#17
Begoña Morton.....#6 
Pat Neuman.....#12 
Vandana Pamecha.....#31
Gail Pean.....#22
Jay Pigeon.....#17
Claudia Samper.....#5
Judith St. Ledger-Roty #27
Karen Zelnick.....#17

Photographers

Jan Bender.....#3
Robin Kent.....#29
Walt Lawrence.....#27
Dee Leggett.....#18
Terri Parent.....#27
Silvia Gonzalez Roman #23 

Potters

Barbara Gatterdam.....#24 
Deborah McDysan.....#1
Laura Nichols.....#13 
Pu-Chin Waide.....#25 

Printmakers

Ralph Dashner.....#5
Will Tuthill.....#9 

Sculptors

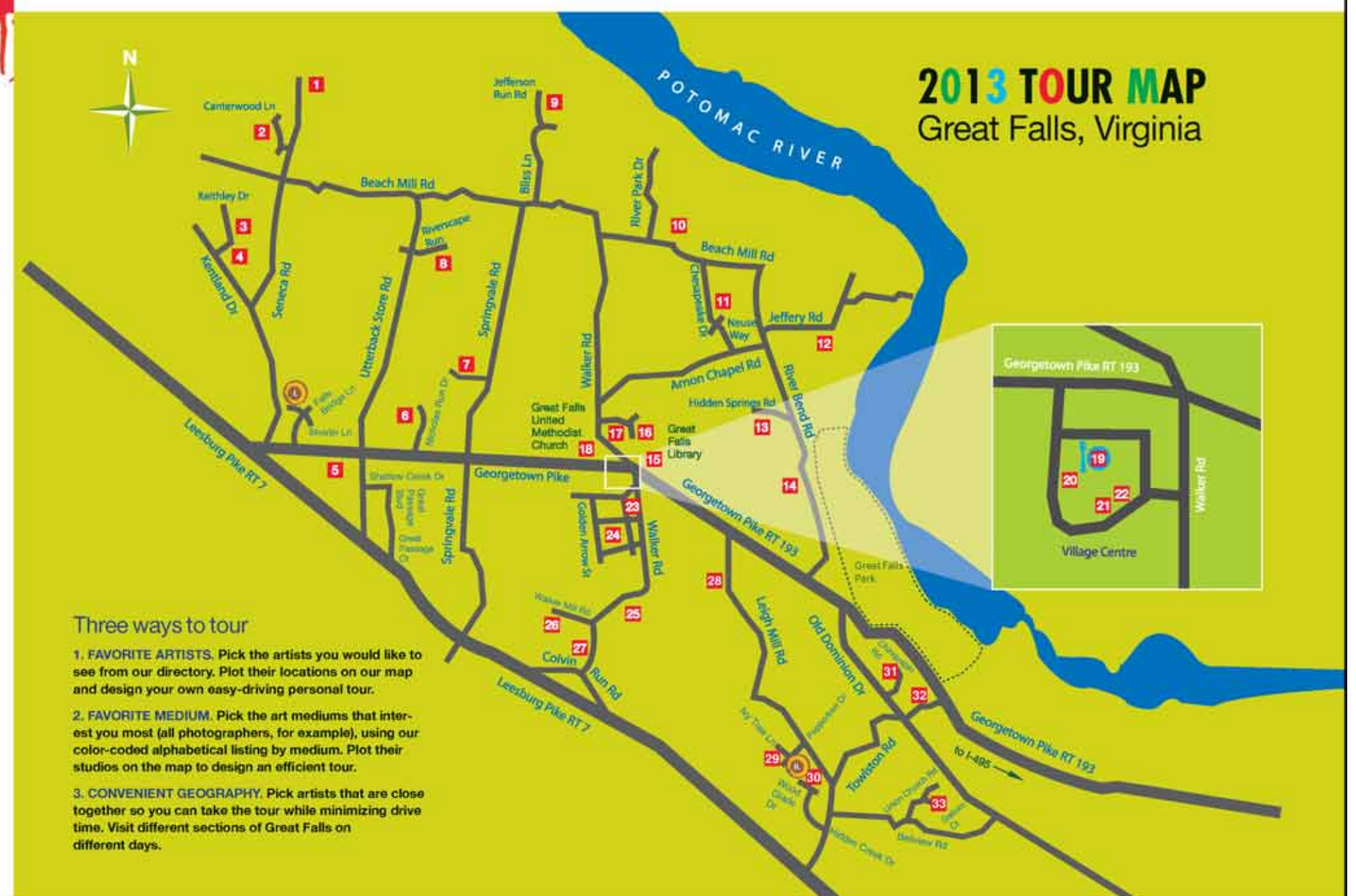
Jonathan Fisher.....#2 
Jan Heginbotham.....#5 

Wood Carver

Michael Long.....#23  

Great Falls School of Art.....#27

The Old Brogue.....#19 



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- 3. CONVENIENT GEOGRAPHY.** Pick artists that are close together so you can take the tour while minimizing drive time. Visit different sections of Great Falls on different days.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Rector Penny Bridges and Associate Rector Ben Shelton offered blessings to many types of animals during the Oct. 6 outdoor service.

Pets Blessed in Great Falls

The day after the St. Francis Episcopal Church Country Fair in Great Falls, the church held its annual Blessing of the Animals service outdoors under a tent. The Saturday, Oct. 6 morning held good weather and much love between pets and owners.



Julia Kerns, age 10, of Great Falls, brought her bunnies to the Blessing of the Animals at St. Francis Episcopal Church.



Emily Nesbitt of Great Falls with her cat, Petunia.



Joe Myers of Great Falls with his poodle puppy, Chilli.



Will Ditmore, age 8, of Great Falls, brought his turtle, Yertle, for a blessing.

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Great Falls Boy Wins Essay Contest

Sidharth Muralidhar, 13, writes "For Love of Country—What Patriotism Means to Me."

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Sidharth (Sid) Muralidhar, 13, of Great Falls is being honored Oct. 17 for winning first place (gold) for his essay, "For Love of Country—What Patriotism Means to Me," a contest sponsored by the Fairfax County Public Library System. He will receive \$100 and a certificate at a reception at Robinson Secondary School.

"It took me about two to three weeks to write," said Sid, named after Siddhartha Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. "It was a long thought process."

The eighth-grader at Kilmer



Sidharth Muralidhar, 13, of Great Falls at the U.S. Navy Memorial on Memorial Day.

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

Middle School was inspired to write about his experience with the U.S. Navy Sea Cadets in the District, which he joined last February. Its mission is to foster patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

was founded by Lt. Col. Henry E. Mooberry, a retired WWII vet who helped 5,000 children get off the streets of D.C. He drove around in his car and brought them to the Washington Navy Yard, where he taught them about military history, leadership skills, good citizenship,

discipline, team work and respect for others. Mooberry died in 2005, and today the Naval Sea Corps has helped 12,000 children nationally, in 392 units across the U.S.

On the first Saturday of the month, Sid's group visits retired war vets at the Armed Forces Re-

tirement Home in the District, where they socialize, and push wheelchairs to Navy Band concerts and play Bingo games. He is working on a community service project to get people to donate iPads to the vets.

On hearing about his first-place win, Sid said: "I felt overjoyed because joining the Navy Sea Cadets has inspired me. I really want to give back to the country by doing community service and helping those who have already helped us."

His mother Shaila, who runs her own editing business, Royal Fern Publishing, edited Sid's essay. His dad Arun is an investment manager with his own company.

"I suppose as a parent that I feel full of pride that Sid has taken time out of his busy schedule to put words to pen what this program means to him," said Shaila. She said the essay was packed with a lot of information. "I told him it was a little too long." At Kilmer, Sid maintains a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the National Junior Honor Society. He is active in math, football and basketball.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/OCT. 17

Vietnam Vets of America Chapter Meeting. 7:30 p.m., at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. All veterans, friends and the general public are invited to hear Jack Connolly, Army veteran and career State Department Foreign Service officer, who will share his personal experiences of the battle of Vientiane, Laos in 1961, Saigon intrigue in 1968, and the assassination of an American ambassador to Lebanon in 1976. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 24

Homelessness Fundraiser. 6:39-9:30 p.m., at The McLean Project for the Arts Emerson Gallery, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A gourmet reception, silent auction and networking opportunities to benefit Housing and Community Services of Northern Virginia as they assist at-risk homeowners in stabilizing their housing situations. Register. www.hcnsv.ticketsocket.com or <http://hcnsv.org>.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

event, which it was obligated to do. GFCA quickly explored the feasibility of getting support from the police to handle the anticipated crowd and traffic—our concerns being safety as well as order and civility.”

Neither the original explanation nor the expanded explanation square with the facts. CCAGV was issued a single permit by the Park Authority. The permit was issued for 15 people, and the accompanying email stated that staff would be “on site for the event, and they are aware of your group and permit.” That is about the number that showed up. There was no overcrowding, no traffic circus, and no lack of civility on the part of anyone who showed up to ask the candidates about their position on preventing gun violence. It is hard to understand how an anticipated 15 people could raise the specter of “outside disruption” and “crowding.”

I live in McLean. In fact, I live in the same neighborhood as Barbara Comstock. I work with a small but dedicated group of people who also live in this area and who care enough about our community to volunteer their time to work against gun violence. We are not “outsiders,” and no one was or planned to be “disruptive” at the event on Tuesday.

One person, who is close to Del. Comstock, posted online that Mayor Bloomberg was there. Another said that we made robocalls to encourage attendance. Both are among charges launched at us that are pure fiction. It is true that Colin Goddard, one of the victims of the shooting at Virginia Tech, now works for the Mayors Against Gun Violence organization. However, he came to the scheduled debate in Great Falls after his work hours and in his capacity as a Virginian who was shot at Virginia Tech. When I asked him to help us raise awareness, he specifically told me that he was happy to do that, but in his personal capacity only. It is a sad day when anyone suggests that Colin Goddard is not welcome at a community event.

We have been unfairly raked over the coals. The facts simply do not support the attacks. Therefore, it raises the question of why this happened. Since our only goal was to get answers from Del. Comstock about her voting record on gun laws, and we did not hide that, one reasonable conclusion is that someone did not want us to ask the questions.

Amee Burgoyne
McLean

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In And Of Itself



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Even though I've been riding this non-small cell lung cancer roller coaster going on 56 months now, post-diagnosis; I still can't separate cancer effects (physically, mentally, psychologically, spiritually, etc.) from normal age-related effects, and by normal I mean reasonably expected at this middle age: gray hair as an example. Certainly I don't want the effects (symptoms if you must) to indicate cancer on the move and/or the stage IV tumors in my lungs doing something to complicate an already precarious set of terminal circumstances. However, as life goes on, I'm likely to experience this sort of fact (cancer) from some kind of fiction (not cancer). No one ever said living with cancer would be easy, quite the opposite in fact. Nevertheless, living is preferred, so complications be damned.

Still, it's the complications, that if ignored or misunderstood or wishfully-thought-of as insignificant – in the scheme of the cancer world in which I reside 24/7, might actually be my undoing. As an example: the shortness of breath I experienced in late July which led to my week-long hospital admission during the first week in August. I had just begun a new round (six-time) of chemotherapy ("new" meaning an I.V. drug with which I had never been infused) and even after just a few infusions, I was already having difficulty breathing/catching my breath; completing a sentence was difficult. This was a side effect with which I was familiar, having previously been infused many times, as you regular readers know, so to my way of assessing, it was just another day at the office, so to speak, (the cancer office, that is). And not ever wanting to make a mountain out of a molehill (or is that a tumor out of a mole?), I toughed it out, thinking it was par for this particular course of treatment. It turned out I was wrong – almost dead wrong.

As my breathing became more labored and my inability to speak/breathe a complete sentence more obvious, I had to admit – even in my generally delusional this-can't-be-cancer orientation, that something was amiss and maybe it was the cancer asserting itself. When I next saw my oncology nurse for my scheduled infusion, it was quite apparent to him that my condition was more than a side effect, it was a straight-on effect. And after he hooked me up to an oxygen sensor and walked me around the unit and saw how low my oxygen levels were, well, it wasn't too much longer before arrangements were being made and I was "ambulance" to Holy Cross Hospital. Two days later I was operated on by a thoracic surgeon who removed 4.5 liters of fluid from my lung. I don't know if I was drowning, exactly, but neither was I treading water.

But I had read the boiler-plate handouts from my oncologist and thought I knew what to expect – and shortness of breath was what I was expecting, and quite frankly, a side effect I had experienced before. However, when the symptoms went from the sublime (expected) to the ridiculous (beyond expectations and requiring immediate medical attention), I began to realize I likely wasn't in Kansas anymore. I was going to be in a hospital in Silver Spring, Maryland. That's when it became serious.

And though I pulled through with flying colors and a re-inflated lung – with an above-average prognosis from my thoracic surgeon, I've learned my lesson: next time, I'm calling the doctor. Whether any symptoms I'm having are cancer-related or not, I certainly don't know, and as much as I don't want them to be, it would seem awfully foolish and naive of me to think it's not and neglect to inform my oncologist. Everything might not be related, it might just be middle age. The fact that I never know is the scary part.

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

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OBITUARY

Barbara Ellen Narins of Great Falls Dies

Barbara Ellen Narins, a Great Falls resident of 13 years and a nurse, lecturer, and wife and mother died Wednesday, Sept. 25.

Born in Forest Hills, N.Y. to Anastasia and Robert Heidt on Dec. 24, 1939 she earned her degree as a registered nurse from Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital in 1960 and one year later married Dr. Robert Narins, then a medical student. Over their next 51 years together Barbara raised their two boys, Brigham and David and supported Robert's career in academic medicine, which carried them to Boston, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Detroit and finally to Great Falls.

Despite these household demands Barbara found time to become certified as a nurse practitioner (1983), a diabetes nurse educator (1986) and a clinical transplant coordinator (1988, specializing in heart transplantation). She published 20 papers in nationally prominent journals, was a frequent lecturer, and wrote opinion columns for various nursing journals.

Barbara was also on the nursing faculty at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia and Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.



Barbara Ellen Narins as a young mother with her husband Robert and sons Brigham and David.

Over the years she continued to receive letters from many of the patients she cared for during her four decades of clinical practice.

A loving mother, she was devoted to her boys, their soccer, baseball and football games and took great pride in their successes. As her friends and family knew, Barbara made certain that every-

one was up-to-date on her four beloved grandchildren, Haley, Will, Graham and Sophie, and her adored daughters-in law Melissa and Judy.

Barbara loved to cook, acting as master chef in the Narins Great Falls household, and was an avid reader and gardener; she practiced these loves alongside the commu-



Barbara Ellen Narins

nity as a member of the Great Falls Women's Book Club and the Great Falls Garden Club. In both venues she could always be relied upon to make trenchant comments and observations and was an admired friend.

Wrote her husband Robert in an email to the Connection Wednesday, Oct. 9, recalling the words of Ann Richards, the late governor of

Texas, "Ginger Rogers did everything that Fred Astaire did but did it backwards and in high heels." [My wife] wore more sensible shoes but was comparably talented and as graceful in all her accomplishments as the great dancer. She was deeply loved and respected, and, paraphrasing Cicero, her life was well spent and will not be forgotten."

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Pat Hazell and dart

Childhood Happiness Remembered

Pat Hazell in "The Wonder Bread Years" at the Alden.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Finding your childhood sense of wonder again is what the "The Wonder Bread Years" is all about. It is a one-man performance combining stand-up comedy and theater. It was written by and stars one of the original writers of the "Seinfeld" show, Pat Hazell.

A "lovely salute to childhood that will have the audience laughing and laughing ... it's hilarious" is how Sarah Schallern, director for performing arts, McLean's Alden Theatre, described the show. "It's not just for Baby Boomers but everyone," said Schallern, a self-described Gen Xer.

Hazell began in stand-up comedy soon opening for Rodney Dangerfield and then Jerry Seinfeld. That led to a writing gig with the Seinfeld show and warming up the audience before a Seinfeld show taping.

In an interview, Hazell described "The Wonder Bread Years" as "a sweet nostalgia, with gentle jokes about reflecting back to childhood." He is an observer and commenter on "what it was like to be a kid, like a form of comfort food in a time when we can feel bombarded by bad news. So many have a hunger for escape into the more positive and hopeful."

Audiences can expect to be

Where and When

"The Wonder Bread Years" at the Alden Theater, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Performance: Saturday, Oct. 26, 8 p.m. Tickets: \$15-\$30. Call 703-790-9223 or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

cheerfully reminded of generational influences giving them an "opportunity to laugh as a group as they recall the simple pleasures of growing up."

"The Wonder Bread Years" even employs toys on stage as well as projections of visual images to awaken memories. Hazell uses evocative images of actual real life events as memory inducing touchstones. Stories can run the gamut from Halloween trick or treating to Thanksgiving dinner at the "kids" table, or even how a child dealt with going to the dentist or with carrying around milk-money back in the day. And plenty of family stories, of course.

While the show is scripted, Hazell "listens to the audience as they react, in an open door approach." He enjoys what "sparks the audience as he has a chat with them at the performance." Hazell is always listening to "continually keep the show fresh" as he tours around the country.

The show will be "positive and forward thinking" in its 90 minute, one intermission performance. Hazell "wants the audience to just feel good; like they are at a hangout party with their best friends, remembering when." And then asking themselves, "did I really do that too?"

A good time for good memories. Pass it on.

PHOTO BY ANDY SNOW/COURTESY OF PAT HAZELL. SMALLWOOD PRODUCTIONS

ENTERTAINMENT

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

SATURDAY/OCT. 19-26

Ayr Hill Garden Club Bulb Sale. 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays only, at the Vienna Farmers Market, 301 Center St., Vienna. Browse 28 varieties of bulbs for fall and spring planting in addition to hypertufas and tussy mussies for sale; proceeds go to support the public gardens planted and maintained by AHGC in Vienna.

SATURDAY/OCT. 19

Oktoberfest Ballroom Dance. 8-9 p.m. foxtrot lesson, 9-11:30pm dance at Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Waltz, rumba, tango, swing, cha-cha, samba and extra foxtrot to DJ music by Craig Bukowski playing tunes from the 1930s on; dance includes sodas and light fare, attire is ballroom casual. \$15 for dance; \$5 for lesson. 703-759-2685 or www.colvinrun.org.

Family Art Workshop. 10-11:30 a.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Families are invited to learn about art during a day filled with a large variety of activities. \$10 per family. Register at www.mcleancenter.org. 703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

Vale Neighborhood Fall Fair. Noon-4 p.m., 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. Games, food and music. A petting orchestra, an inflatable Planetarium from the Udvar Hazy Center and children's Lego activities from First Robotics. Boy Scouts are back with their Haunted Forest and Girl Scouts will be running games and activities. Also: costume parades, talent show, exhibitors, artisans, used book sale, balloons, door prizes and raffles. Benefits the 1884 Vale Schoolhouse, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Wild West Dance Fest. 7-11 p.m., at the VFW, 1051 Springhill Road, McLean. Famous Dave's barbeque, soft drinks and dancing to the sounds of the band, Benny Potter & Western Electric, with help from instructors Mal and Linda Zerden; beer/wine cash bar available. Proceeds benefit the Optimist Youth Fund and scholarships. \$60. 703-759-2959 or Linda.thompson@longandfoster.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 19-20

Great Falls 10th Annual Studio Tour. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The artists of Great Falls Studios open their studios to the public to demonstrate their techniques and exhibit their latest work.

Claude Moore Colonial Farm 1771 Market Fair. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Living History Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The thrice-a-year colonial fair's fall incarnation features fires, local apples, savory meat pies, hearty breads, tradesmen and a large representation of the militia. \$6, adults; \$3, children ages 3-12 and seniors; children under three are free. http://1771.org/?page_id=940.

SUNDAY/OCT. 20

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m. to noon, Vienna's American Legion, 330 Center St., N., Vienna. Omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, etc. Adults, \$8, children, \$3. 703-938-1379.

Theatre IV's Musical "Johnny Appleseed." 2 p.m., at the Alden, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Part of the McLean Kids Performance Series, focused on Johnny Appleseed, born in Massachusetts, less than nine



PHOTO BY DEAN SOULELES

Great Falls Art Studio Tour This Weekend

Great Falls artist Ronni Jolles works in her studio, designing a piece in her signature style of layered paper collage. Jolles is one of over 40 artists who will take part this year in the annual Great Falls Art Studio Tour Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 19-20, sponsored by Great Falls Studios, now in its 10th year.



The Great Falls Writer's Group meets at the Great Falls Library on Thursday, Oct. 24.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ

Costumed children dance in the street during the Vienna Halloween Parade, coming Oct. 24. The event is a quintessential Vienna experience.

months before and only 42 miles away from the Battle of Bunker Hill. The apple orchards he planted throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois played a major role in the settlement of the nation in a humorous musical for children ages 5 and older.

Tickets are \$15, \$10 for McLean tax district residents. 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or www.aldentheatre.org.

Organ Dedication Recital. 4 p.m., at Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, Vienna. Scott Dettra, former organist of Washington National Cathedral, plays music by Bach, Handel, Durufle, and others to honor Holocaust Survivor and former associate concertmaster of Philadelphia Orchestra, David Arben.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 23

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 22

Freewill offering; reception following concert. 703-938-6521 or www.holycomforter.com.

Fall Concert. 7 p.m., at The Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. The Vienna Community Band is a band of local residents who provide music for all ages and tastes. Get in the fall spirit with lively, seasonally themed music. 703-255-6360 or www.viennacommunityband.org/.

THURSDAY/OCT. 24

Vienna Halloween Parade along Church Street in Historic Vienna. The annual Vienna Halloween Parade draws thousands of families. Many parents remember watching the parade as children themselves. Viewers frequently mark their curbside spots early in the day by leaving personal items there.

Great Falls Writer's Group. 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m., at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Washington Post columnist John Kelly speaks on his column and the challenges of writing.

FRIDAY/OCT. 25

Chica Brunsfold. 10 a.m.-noon, at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The signature member of both the National and American Watercolor Societies will be the featured speaker at the McLean Art Society meeting, where Brunsfold will do a watercolor demonstration on Yupo paper.

SATURDAY/OCT. 26

The Vienna Saturday Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-noon, at 301 Center South, Vienna. Features TJ Michaels, a balloon artist and bulb planting sponsored by the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna.

Vienna Choral Society Coffeehouse Concert. Time to be determined at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 8601 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. The chorus shares their rich melodies and intricate harmonies with the community; stay tuned online for the program. www.viennachoralsociety.org.

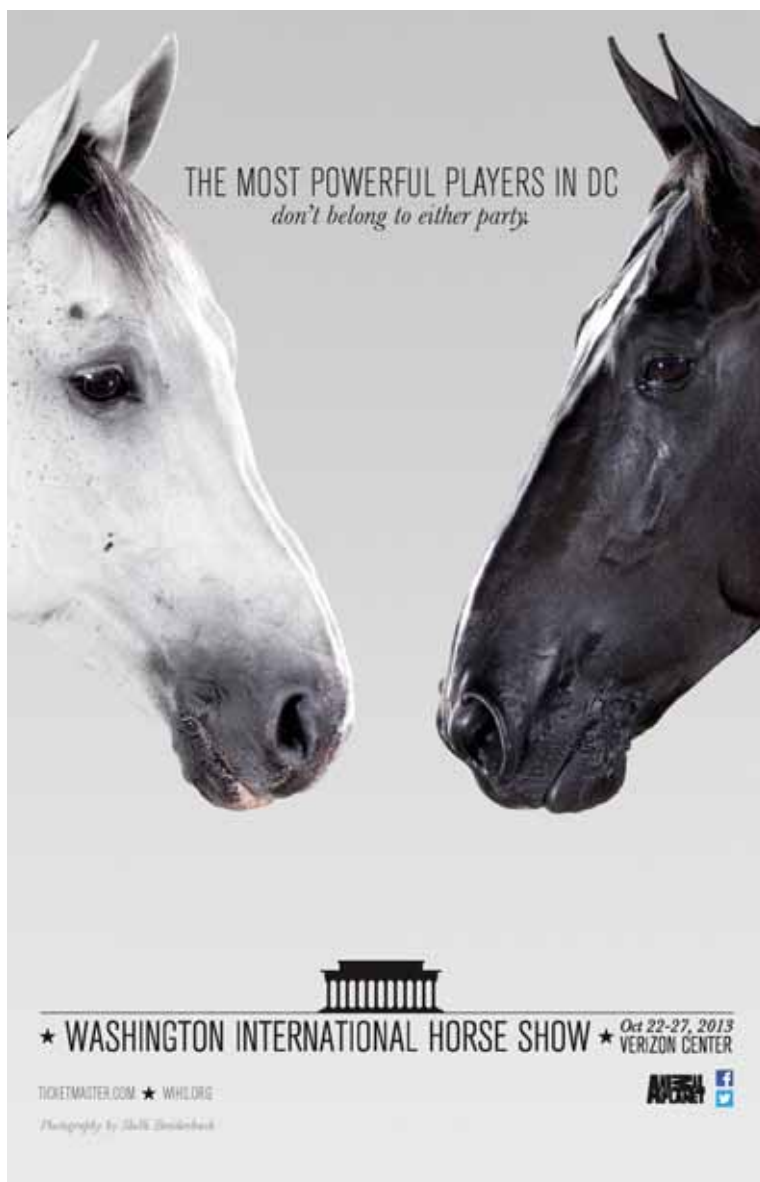
Fall Bazaar. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at The Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Pulled pork dinner with two sides, dessert and beverage for \$10. Baked items, handmade arts and crafts, jewelry and scarves, used books and toys and previously owned hand tools/ hardware for sale. Natural pine Christmas wreaths are available to order. 703-759-3705.

Spooktacular Pumpkin Carving Class. 3-4 p.m., at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, third floor, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Carve the spookiest pumpkins ever with help from WUSA9 reporter Jessica Doyle and Wildfire executive chef Eddie Ishaq. \$15/child. 703-442-9110 or wildfirerestaurant.com.

Vintage Hollywood Benefit Gala. 6-midnight, at Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. The 17th annual gala benefits the Arlington Free Clinic, and features a cocktail reception, silent auction, dinner and dancing. \$300. www.gala.arlingtonfreeclinic.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 27

Sunday Soiree Series Dances. 3-5 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Come hear the Ghosts and Ghouls-themed music of The Wayne Tympanick Trio as you try out your favorite dance moves. \$5. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/> or 703-790-0123.

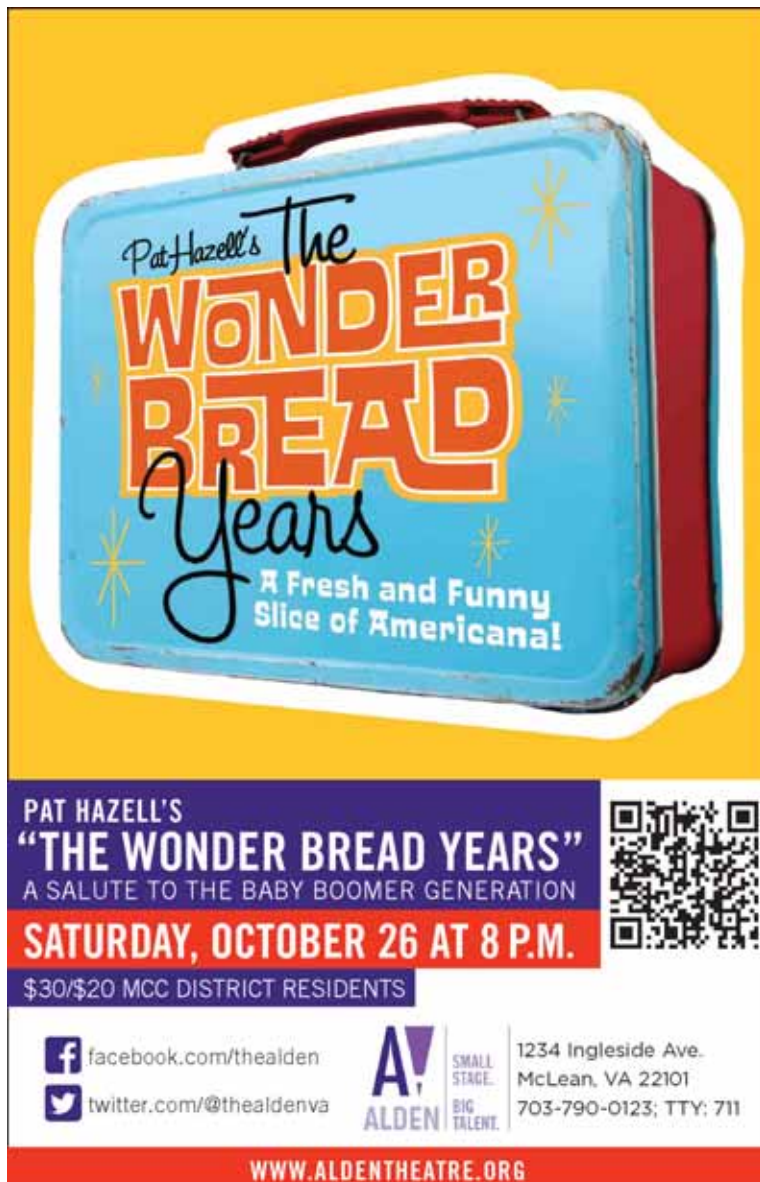


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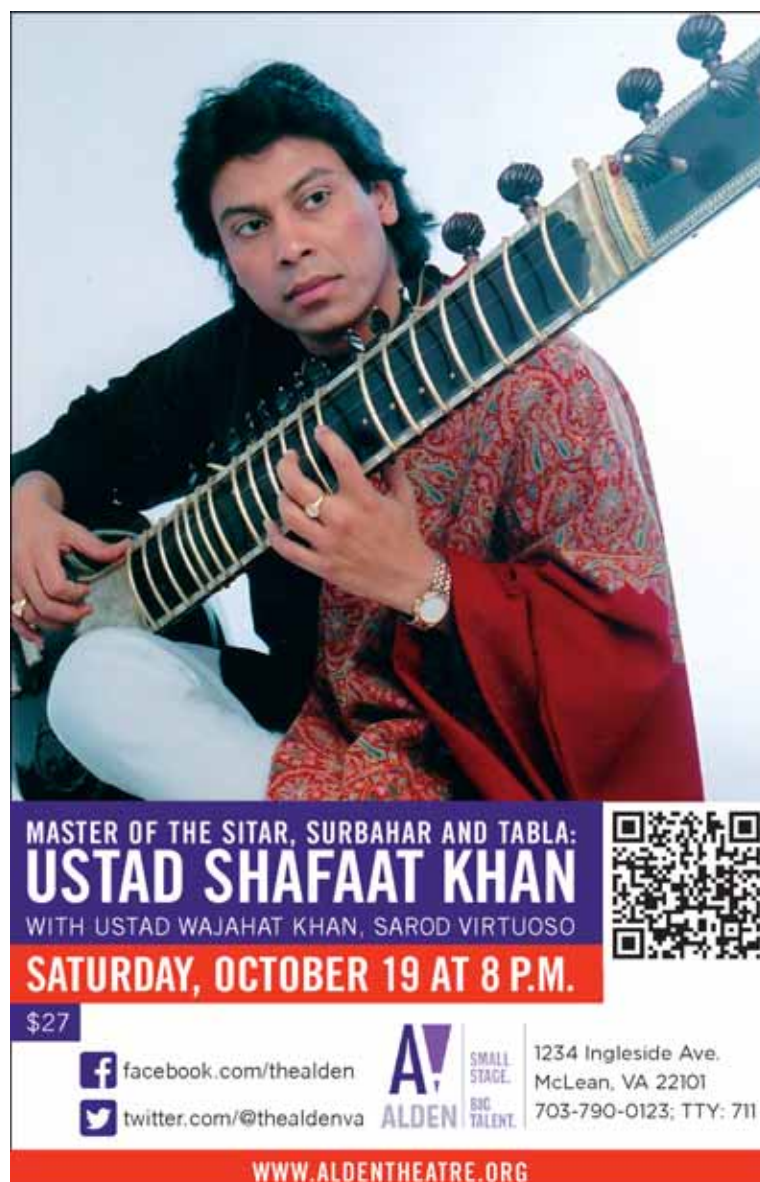
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- ★ Needle in a Haystack Game
- ★ Petting Zoo
- ★ Performance by *The Amazing Leroy*
- ★ Crepe Love Food Truck
- ★ Music by *DJ LA Express*

For contest rules and more information, visit our website.

The McLean Community Center
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www.mcleancenter.org

SPORTS

Langley Football Runs Over Fairfax

A soaked Langley homecoming crowd was treated to a 28-7 win over conference rival Fairfax on Oct. 11.

The heavy rains pretty much forced both teams to slug it out on the ground as they battled each other as well as the elements. The Saxons overwhelmed Fairfax with 15 first downs while rushing for 290 yards compared to 173 for Fairfax. Langley's offensive was able to handle the ball more securely than the Rebels en route to the win, which pushed the Saxons' record to 4-2 overall and 2-1 in Conference 6.

At the outset, Langley took control of the line of scrimmage behind its huge offensive line, anchored by senior guards Brooks Norris and Bennett Molster, and center Alex Kolencik, enabling senior quarterback Nick Casso to run for 100 yards and two touchdowns, while fellow backfield mate, junior running back Tyler West, went for 190 yards on 29 carries and two touchdowns for the game.

By the end of the first quarter, the Saxons had built a 14-0 lead. Langley's first touchdown came on an 11-play, 79-yard opening drive; and the second on a three-play, 18-yard scoring march set up by linebacker Cooper Besougloff's interception. Fairfax was able to cut the lead in half early in the second quarter when running back Nick Scott ran it in from 6 yards out to make the score 14-7. For the game, Scott had 135 yards and one touchdown.

That would be as close as it would get, as Langley capitalized on a Fairfax failed fake punt that turned the ball over on the Rebel 39-yard line. When Langley scored with only 1:48 left before halftime to make it 21-7, the gamble had effectively put the game out of reach for Fairfax.

Langley controlled the second half, scoring the only points late in the third quarter after a time consuming eight-play, 70-yard drive was capped off on a 2-yard plunge by West for the touchdown, with only 1:22 left to make it 28-7.

Fairfax struggled all game, putting the ball on the ground numerous times before they were able to mount a threat in the fourth quarter, which was turned back by a determined Langley defense on a fourth-and-goal stop by linebacker Austin Denham and safety Garrett Collier.

The Saxons will go on the road to face South Lakes on Friday, Oct. 18.

Langley Volleyball Bounces Back

After suffering its second loss of the season, the Langley volleyball team responded with a 3-0 win against Centreville on Oct. 10. The victory came three days after the Saxons lost to fellow power Stone Bridge, 3-1.

The victory against Centreville improved Langley's record to 15-2. The Saxons will host undefeated Madison at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16.



The Langley defense, seen against Chantilly on Sept. 27, held Fairfax to a single touchdown on Oct. 11. The Saxons won 28-7 and improved to 4-2.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Christin Geisler, pictured against Madison on Sept. 20, and the McLean field hockey team enter their regular-season finale with a 10-3 record.

McLean Football Falls to 3-3

After back-to-back victories against South Lakes and Herndon gave the McLean football team a winning record, the Highlanders went back down to .500 with a 35-7 loss to Stone Bridge on Oct. 11.

McLean's Christopher Merrill carried 11 times for 46 yards and a touchdown, according to stats from the Washington Post's allmetsports.com.

McLean (3-3) will travel to face Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18.

McLean Field Hockey Gets Win No. 10

The McLean field hockey team improved to 10-3 with a 3-2 victory against Langley on Oct. 8 at Langley High School. It was the Highlanders' third consecutive victory and sixth win in their last seven games.

McLean will close the regular season with a game at Herndon at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

day, Oct. 16.

Madison Volleyball Improves to 21-0

The Madison volleyball team remained undefeated with a 3-1 victory against Westfield on Oct. 10.

Two days earlier, the Warhawks defeated Yorktown 3-2. The Patriots became the first team to win two sets against Madison this season.

The Warhawks (21-0) will travel to face Langley at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

Madison Football Searching for First Win

The Madison football team dropped to 0-6 with a 39-0 loss to Robinson on Oct. 11.

The Warhawks will travel to face Thomas Jefferson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18.

Oakton Football Drops Conference Opener

The Oakton football team lost its Conference 5 opener to Chantilly 21-7 on Oct. 11.

The defeat snapped a four-game winning streak for the Cougars. Alek Schultz carried nine times for 41 yards for Oakton and quarterback Michael Ficarra threw a 31-yard touchdown pass to David Allely, according to stats from the Washington Post's allmetsports.com.

Oakton (4-2) will host Centreville at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18.

Herndon Football Gets First Win

The Herndon football team won its first game of the season, beating Edison 47-19 on Oct. 12, according to the Washington Post's allmetsports.com.

Herndon's Lamik Bumbrey carried 34 times for 268 yards and two touchdowns. Jack Booma caught four passes for 70 yards and a score. Ryan McLaughlin completed seven of 10 passes for 95 yards and a touchdown. He also ran for a score.

Herndon (1-5) will host Chantilly at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 25.

South Lakes Football Improves to 4-2

The South Lakes football team beat Thomas Jefferson 23-15 on Oct. 11, improving the Seahawks' record to 4-2. South Lakes has won two straight and four of its last five.

The Seahawks will host Langley at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18.

South Lakes Volleyball Wins Third Straight

The South Lakes volleyball team defeated Oakton 3-1 (17-25, 25-21, 25-22, 25-21) on Oct. 10, giving the Seahawks three straight wins while improving their record to 11-9.

South Lakes faced McLean on Tuesday, after the Connection's deadline. The Seahawks will travel to take on Fairfax at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 22.

Yorktown Football Improves to 5-1

The Yorktown football team defeated Hayfield 19-14 on Oct. 11, improving the Patriots' record to 5-1.

Yorktown running back MJ Stewart carried 26 times for 198 yards and three touchdowns, according to stats from the Washington Post's allmetsports.com.

Yorktown will host Wakefield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18.

Choosing a Private School

Local educators offer advice on selecting the right independent school for your child.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Marta Soltes was sitting in an Arlington, Va., coffee shop recently pouring through catalogs and application packets from some of the area's most elite independent schools. Her stack of brochures was almost as high as her extra-large latte.

"There are so many options," said Soltes, who is a mother of twins. "And the application fees are outrageously expensive. I can't apply to all of them."

As the independent school application process gets underway, many parents are struggling to find the best fit for their child. Author and education consultant Ann Dolin, president of Educational Connections Inc., in Fairfax, and Bethesda, Md., says when choosing a school, key factors to consider include the school's location, single-sex versus co-ed, the level of academic rigor, methods of instruction, athletics and a child's chance of acceptance. Dolin recommends school visits, tours and open houses as a way to start narrowing down your choices.

"You'll want to consider certain factors," said Dolin. "Is the school close by or logistically feasible? Are you looking for all-out rigor and accelerated academics or would your child benefit more from a balanced, less intensive approach? Are sports important to your child? If so, this factor may make a school more or less attractive. Is the school known to be highly competitive, meaning that only a small percentage of students gain acceptance each year? Is the school looking for very high test scores and top grades? These are the schools that might be hard to get into. Be sure your list contains some of these 'reach' schools, but also others that may provide a better chance of acceptance."

LOCAL ADMISSIONS DIRECTORS agree that attending open houses and scheduling school visits are effective ways to start the application process. "An admission open house is a great venue to get an overview of a school's environment, sense of community, and the approach to teaching and learning," said Julie Jameson, director of admission at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md. "Opportunities to get to know the school are offered through tours, speaking with current students and parents, meeting faculty and administrators, and learning more about curriculum, activities and student life."

Charlotte Nelsen, director of admission and financial aid for The Potomac School in McLean, suggests visiting a school during the day when classes are in

SEE EDUCATORS, PAGE 26



COURTESY OF THE POTOMAC SCHOOL

Teacher Wassila Taylor reads with lower school students at The Potomac School in McLean. School visits give families a chance to see classes in action and observe the level of student engagement.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MADEIRA SCHOOL

These students at The Madeira School in McLean enjoy each other's company on campus. School visits offer prospective families an opportunity to learn about student life.

Exceptional Schools for Exceptional Students School Fair

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS



Educators Offer Advice on Selecting Independent School

FROM PAGE 25

session. "Visiting campus gives families a chance to see classes in action, sense the level of student engagement and picture their child at the school," she said.

"Observing classes and teacher-student interactions will give families a feel for the culture of the school," said Mimi Mulligan, assistant head and director of admission and enrollment at Norwood School in Bethesda. "How is the learning environment set up? How do teacher and students interact? Are students working independently or collaboratively? Are they happy and engaged? Do the walls and the sounds in the hallway sing to you?"

Julie Lewis, director of admissions and financial aid at Alexandria Country Day School in Alexandria, said, "Being in the hallways and seeing how students and teachers interact with one another gives a prospective family a feel for the school and its culture that cannot be found on a website."

Richard S. Moss, director of admissions at The Height School in Potomac, Md., says that an open house offers families an opportunity to look into the "heart and soul of a school" and to get a sense of a school's true environment. "On a superficial level, a good school ought to present an organized

and welcoming open house, but a discerning parent and student will look beyond the external trappings to discern what values and principles an institution holds dear and how it implements those principles," said Moss. "If the principles line up with those of family, and the school does a good job of implementing them, it could be a good fit."

"Observing classes and teacher-student interactions will give families a feel for the culture of the school."

— Mimi Mulligan,
assistant head and director of admission
and enrollment, Norwood School

Open houses, said Mulligan, offer a different experience than a school tour. "[They] are wonderful opportunities to really delve into curricular discussions with faculty," she said. "Because open houses typically happen during non-school hours, teachers and administrators are available for conversation. Current students and parents are also usually in attendance, so if hearing about the school experience from that perspective is important to you, then an open house would be a worthwhile activity."

Mulligan said she believes it's important to experience a school in more than one setting. It "allows for a deeper understanding of how a school's mission comes alive."

Ann Richardson Miller, director of admission and financial aid for The Madeira School, in McLean, also suggests that prospective families visit frequently and spend time on campus outside of scheduled tours and open houses. "Come often," she said. "We all have sporting events, announced on our website. You should stop by a game sometime. School plays and concerts are my favorite way to learn about a school. These events often have large numbers of parents and students from the school, and it is a wonderful way to see the culture of the school in one place."

DURING THE VISIT or open house, parents and prospective students should consider the school's environment and ask themselves several questions, said Katherine Carbo, director of Lower School admission at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria: "How comfortable do I feel in this environment? Do the faculty appear passionate and enthusiastic about teaching? Are the students focused and engaged? What is the overall philosophy of the school? Is the approach traditional or progressive?"

Classroom size and structure are other factors to note. "Keep your eyes peeled for the number of children in the classroom, and try to get a feel for their daily schedule," she said. "Could you imagine your child working and playing with the students and teachers you see? Visiting a school provides parents with one snapshot of the community. Learning more about that community takes time."

Carbo also suggests visiting several schools. "Most of the information you collect through reading and conversations will be reliable," she said. "But the right match for your child may be vastly different than your neighbor's child or coworker's child. This is why touring different schools is important."

Start now by calling or emailing a school's admission office to request a tour, said Carbo. "When should you get started?" she asks. "That really depends on what program you are seeking out. Most admission seasons begin in October, and parents will tour in the fall or winter, a year before they hope their child will start school."

The most important guide, say experts, are a parent's instincts. "Each school has its own distinct feel," Carbo said. "It is up to you to visit and see what seems to be a good fit for your family."

Dolin said, "Parents' intuition is a good guide, but you have to balance it with the needs of your child."



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