

Koshuta Scores 39 in Semifinals Loss

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Madison junior Kelly Koshuta scored a career-high 39 points and grabbed 19 rebounds during a loss to Stonewall Jackson in the 6A North region semifinals on Feb. 27 at Robinson Secondary School.

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Vienna Honors 'Mayor Jane'

Hundreds bid farewell to Vienna Mayor M. Jane Seeman.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

A life defined by faith, family and friends," was how Senior Pastor the Rev. Dr. Peter James of the Vienna Presbyterian Church (VPC) described long-time Vienna Mayor M. Jane Seeman at the services to honor her life and memorialize her passing. With an esti-

estimated 600 in attendance, by thirty minutes prior to the start of the 2 p.m. service on Friday afternoon, Feb. 28, the lower level of the VPC Chapel at 124 Park St. NE in Vienna was already full and those still arriving began filling in the upper galleries. The state flag was ordered at half-mast in the state capital on Friday, as well as at public buildings in Vienna, Fairfax City and around the county. Vienna Town offices closed at 1 p.m. to allow staff to attend and offer their personal farewells to the much-loved mayor.

Seeman, who succumbed to lung cancer on Feb. 23 at the age of 76, was a resident of Vienna since 1968. Her political career began with her appointment to the Vienna Town Council in late 1996, to fill the seat left vacant by the death of her husband, Rodger. After winning two full terms to the Council, Seeman was elected Mayor in 2000, and was still fulfilling her duties just days before her passing.

A "LIFE CELEBRATION" for "Mayor Jane" (as she was known to so many) was held at Money and King Funeral Home in Vienna on Thursday. The online condolence book on the Money and King website is filled with the tributes, remembrances and condolences of friends and colleagues from Vienna and around the country, recalling Seeman's devotion as a friend and to the town. The writings posted there and on other media sites demonstrate Seeman's interest and willingness to participate in dozens of community organizations and events and charitable activities. The Town of Vienna Public Information Office posted Vice Mayor Carey Sienicki's tribute with the announcement of the Seeman's death. "Mayor Seeman has left us all with the legacy of how to be a model citizen through her leadership, education and service to the community with a caring compassion to others...Jane has left this world a better place and we are privileged to have known such a wonderful person..."

While there were certainly a large number of colleagues and political figures at the Church service, including rows of Council members and staff, representatives from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Departments, Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-11), and Fairfax County Board Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) among them, the emphasis of the memorial was on Seeman as mother, grandmother, and friend. "This is not a political funeral," declared Pastor James. "This is a celebration of an amazing life."

James offered a brief biography, speaking of Seeman's roots in Kansas, where "she was a rabid Kansas University Jayhawks fan – and, I'm sure still



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

The Honor Guard – motorcycle police officers clear the way as they escort the hearse carrying Vienna Mayor Jane Seeman from Vienna Presbyterian Church in Vienna to Oakton for burial at Flint Hill Cemetery.

is!" Seeman met her future husband Rodger while both were studying Business and Economics at Fort Hays State College. "Actually, I should say where Jane was tutoring Rodger in Economics," the Pastor said laughingly. When the family arrived in Vienna, Seeman immediately dove into the community as a preschool teacher, a volunteer at the Patrick Henry Library, and a Neighborhood Watch member, to name just a few of the activities and events in which she participated or helmed. "And she served tirelessly here at Vienna Presbyterian Church," added James. "The Seemans joined VPC in October of 1968. Jane was an usher, a coffee server; she delivered meals on wheels and so much more. I told you, hers was a life of faith, family and friends." And it was her family who then paid tribute through song, prayer and personal remembrances.

GRANDDAUGHTER HANNAH COLBERT performed "Amazing Grace" accompanied by her father Mike Colbert on acoustic guitar. Granddaughters Jaclyn Seeman and Heather Colbert both delivered New Testament readings. Heather also initiated the family remembrances, and was then followed by her mother, Seeman's daughter Linda Colbert.

"My mother was, and still is my best friend," said Linda Colbert. "And I learned that I always had to share her with everyone. She was everyone's friend – including all of my friends when I was growing up. She was just genuinely interested in people." Colbert spoke of her mother's love for the library and her work as a volunteer there. "She put in some 3000 hours there," she said. "So many people had no idea that it was the mayor reading to their kids or helping them find something. She had no need to be recognized, just to help." Son Bill Seeman continued painting a picture of a mother supportive of her children at all times - "Even when I brought home 'pets' that I found out really creeped her out!" – and of a grandmother who created memorable adventures for each of her grandchildren. "The trips we went on and the ones she arranged and took us on were incredible, but the best part was always being together as a family and the way she made each of us feel."

"She's gone too soon. She had so much more to do," said Bill Seeman, "but, I guess when I think about it, she lived ten normal people's lives in her one life. Following the service, a motorcycle cavalcade escorted "Mayor Jane" to Flint Hill Cemetery in Oakton. The family then returned to Vienna Presbyterian Church for a reception and to continue sharing their stories and celebrating the life of Mayor Jane Seeman.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Louise Archer Elementary in Vienna is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

Time to Celebrate 75 Years Louise Archer Elementary invites community to open house.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Louise Archer Elementary and Principal Michelle Makrigiorgos are celebrating the school's 75th anniversary and the community is invited. An open house is slated for Friday, March 7, from 6-8 p.m., at the school, 324 Nutley Street, N.W., in Vienna.

Community members, local businesses, former and current staff, students and families are welcome to join in the festivities. In honor of the occasion, Archer will be transformed into a historical museum featuring founding artifacts, as well as new displays made by current students. Besides the library "museum," activities will include student-led tours plus light refreshments.

"We are very excited to be hosting a 75th anniversary celebration because we have a rich history and long-standing traditions that make our public school a wonderful and unique place to learn," said Makrigiorgos. "We want to share this celebration with everyone in our community who has so generously supported our school for more than three quarters of a century."

But there are still more things the school would like to do for its students, so the Louise Archer PTA is also accepting "\$75 for 75" birthday donations. Tax-deductible contributions may be made in the names of current or former students, relatives, friends or community members. All donations will be acknowledged on a paper

present surrounding a giant birthday cake in the school's front hallway.

The goal is to raise \$28,000 by March 7. The funds will go toward purchasing two, technology-based, 75th-birthday gifts to the school: 32 laptops for a student mobile lab for use in the 3-6 classrooms and eight SmartBoard projector mounts for the K-3 classrooms. For more details, go to <http://www.louisearcherpta.org>.

Besides the evening event, the school will hold an assembly that afternoon for the students and invited guests only. Madison High Principal Mark Merrell will be the guest speaker, and former students will also be in attendance. In addition, the current students will perform tributes to the school's namesake, Louise Reeves Archer.

Archer's goal in life was to make sure African-American children in Vienna received an education. For 26 years – from September 1922 to March 1948 – she was the principal of what was then called the Vienna Colored School. She also taught grades five through seven at the same time.

Highly respected in her profession, Archer imbued her students with valuable life skills, as well as academics. She died in April 1948 and, afterward, the community wanted to honor her memory in a significant way.

So parents petitioned the School Board and, in 1950, the school's name was officially changed to Louise Archer Elementary.

Supervisors Clear the Way for Oakcrest School Relocation

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approves a special exception amendment Feb. 25.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD
THE CONNECTION



A rendering of the front of Oakcrest School's new campus on Hunter Mill Road, which officials hope will open in Fall of 2015.



COURTESY OF OAKCREST SCHOOL

PHOTO BY ETHAN MCLEOD/THE CONNECTION

The Board vote provided for a stoplight to replace the three-way stop sign at the intersection of Hunter Mill Road and Crowell Road.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a special exception amendment from the Oakcrest School on Tuesday, Feb. 25, providing for a traffic light at the intersection of Hunter Mill Road and Crowell. The decision ended a four-year back-and-forth between the McLean-based Oakcrest School, landowners near the intersection of Hunter Mill and Crowell roads, and the board of supervisors.

With the approval of its special exception amendment, Oakcrest School can now begin building its new facility, which will include a heavily disputed driveway entrance on Crowell Road.

"We've been on hold and in limbo for four years, which has put an incredible strain on our tiny little school," said Miriam Buono, chair of the new-campus committee for Oakcrest's board of directors. "We have been completely tied up in knots up until this vote. It allows us to finally build a campus that fulfills the mission of the school."

THE OAKCREST SCHOOL, an

all-female Catholic preparatory school with an enrollment of about 200 students, has been attempting to move from its current location on Balls Hill Road in McLean since first purchasing the property off of Hunter Mill Road in 2010.

According to Buono, Oakcrest's currently facility, vacated by McLean Bible Church in 2007, lacks a gymnasium, athletic fields, and even windows in some rooms. Under the special exception amendment passed Feb. 25, Oakcrest will be able to build their school with a setback front yard, soccer fields and a softball field as long as they provide adequate foliage and rocks for screening.

Oakcrest was originally granted a special exception from the Board of Supervisors in 2010 providing for a roundabout at the intersection of Hunter Mill Road and Crowell Road. The proposed exception also included an extended driveway to the new school on Hunter Mill Road through the Golf Park owned by John Thoburn. Thoburn notably sold the property

to Oakcrest School and agreed to the special exception's conditions.

Six weeks after its passage, however, Hunter Mill East, LLC, representing Thoburn and two other property owners, sued the Board of Supervisors to prevent the implementation of the driveway and the accompanying roundabout, according to a lawsuit filed with the Circuit Court of Fairfax County.

Oakcrest, unable to build their new facility, attempted to work with county staff and Hunter Mill residents for the next three years to gain their approval for an alternate access road on Crowell Road. On Feb. 21, Oakcrest filed a special exception amendment requesting to change from a roundabout at the intersection to a traffic signal, which the board approved in an 8-2 vote four days later.

Though Oakcrest officials are happy with the decision, some residents who live near the intersection, currently a three-way stop sign, feel cheated.

"This was an eleventh hour attempt to involve the community, and the perception is that the decision was already preordained," said Laddie Suk, who served on Supervisor Hudgins' (D-Hunter Mill) outreach committee for this issue. Suk lives about one mile from the often-congested intersection and said that the stoplight will likely make traffic worse on Hunter Mill Road.

"The school has hired traffic engineers, and county staff have done what they believe is an assessment, but anyone with common sense who travels this road every day understands that a stoplight is going to be a failure."

Hunter Mill District residents also feel that this is a case of double jeopardy in which the county voted against the measure at one point and flip-flopped several years later, according to Steve Hull, an executive board member for the Hunter Mill Defense League.

In 2010, the board rejected a proposal for a Crowell Road en-

trance when the property was still in the Dranesville District. In 2011, its redistricting brought the land into Hunter Mill District.

"Our opinion is that they've done this community a great disservice. The Board of Supervisors just voted themselves out of a lawsuit," said Hull.

MANY ARE CONCERNED that the passage of Oakcrest's special exception amendment will open the doorway for other future development, a notion that Buono denied was linked to Oakcrest's expansion at their new planned facility.

According to Hull, however, regardless of their intentions, Oakcrest "became a party" to nearby landowners plans for future development. Hull expects Crowell Road residents may pursue litigation as an avenue to fight future development.

Oakcrest School, meanwhile, will aim to open its doors on Hunter Mill Road in Fall 2015, according to Buono.

WEEK IN VIENNA

Community Service Award Nominat

The Vienna Town/Business Liaison Committee invites nominations, by March 7, of businesses and business owners for the 2014 Carole Wolfand Community Service Award. It's given each year to a Town business entity or owner in recognition of outstanding contributions to the community life and spirit of Vienna.

To nominate a business or owner, submit the business name, address and phone number of nominee, a description of the contribution/action to be considered and why (200 words or less), plus the name, address and phone number of the nominator.

Submit entries by March 7 to: Town/Business Liaison Committee, c/o Joseph Pudlick, Vienna Town Hall, 127 Center St. South, Vienna, VA 22180, by fax to (703) 255-5729 or email to tblc@viennava.gov (put TBLC

Award in subject line).

Echols St. Contract Awarded

The Vienna Town Council last Monday night, Feb. 24, awarded the Echols St. S.E. reconstruction contract to Sagres Construction Corp. It was the lowest bidder out of seven firms bidding for the contract. The work will consist of rebuilding the curb, gutter and sidewalk.

Family Skate Nights

Family Skate Nights are held on Friday nights, 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the gym of the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE. The cost is \$1 per person and is appropriate for the whole family! Participants need to bring their own skates and safety equipment; no scooters; roller skates and in-line skates only. Parents are required to stay and are invited to participate!

Want to Join Vienna Police?

The Town of Vienna Police Department is looking for people interested in becoming police officers here. The salary and benefits are competitive with other areas. For application information, call 703-255-6350 or visit: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/vienna/default.cfm>.

Report Any Suspicious Activity

Vienna residents are reminded by Town of Vienna police to call and report any suspicious activity. Even if callers choose not to provide their names or other personal information, the police still need their help as extra eyes and ears in the community. Call 911 or contact MPO Gary Lose at glose@viennava.gov or 703-255-6396.

NEWS

Oakton Fire Causes \$20,000 Damage

Fire officials say improperly discarded smoking materials caused an accidental fire in an Oakton home. Damage was estimated at \$20,000. The incident occurred Monday, Feb. 10, at 2615 Hunter Mill Road.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to the single-family home around 10:25 p.m.

Upon arrival, firefighters encountered heavy smoke coming from the front of the two-story house.

They conducted an aggressive attack and quickly brought the flames in an upstairs bedroom under control. Fire damage was contained to that bedroom.

The home had no working smoking alarms, but the occupants were able to escape from the house before the firefighters arrived. Four adults and one child were displaced; no one was injured. In light of this incident, fire officials offer the following tips about smoking materials and safety:

❖ Completely douse cigarette butts and ashes with water before throwing them away, as they can smolder and cause a fire.

Never smoke in bed. Provide large, deep ashtrays with a center support for smokers. Before going to bed, check furniture for any dropped ashes.

Empty ashes into a fireproof container filled with water and sand.

❖ Keep smoking materials away from anything that can burn (for example, mattresses, bedding, upholstered furniture, draperies, etc.).

Never smoke in a home where oxygen is being used. Smokers should choose fire-safe cigarettes because they're less likely to cause fires.

❖ To prevent a deadly cigarette fire, people must be alert. But fire officials say it's not possible if people are sleepy, have been drinking or have taken medicine or other drugs. Adults are also warned to keep matches and lighters up high, out of children's sight and reach.

— BONNIE HOBBS

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Sat., March 8th — 10am-2pm

Where: 5795B Burke Centre Pkwy.,
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Take the Money

No downside to gaining health care for 200,000 or more; 30,000 jobs and millions of dollars for hospitals from expansion of Medicaid.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe is right to make expansion of health coverage part of the budget process. Any measure that would create 30,000 jobs, that could save \$1 billion in the state budget over 12 years, that could provide health insurance for 35,000 people who don't have it in Fairfax County alone, that is supported overwhelmingly by the business community and hospitals, actually deserves to be a part of the budget. As many as 400,000 people in Virginia currently without health insurance could be covered.

Under the Affordable Care Act, if states opt in to the expansion of Medicaid, Federal dollars would pay the costs for five years to cover people with incomes up to 138 percent of pov-

erty, \$15,856 for an individual or \$26,951 for a family of three in 2013. After five years, federal dollars would still cover 90 percent.

Under the Affordable Care Act, people with incomes 100 - 400 percent of poverty qualify for subsidies on their health insurance premiums when they purchase coverage through a Marketplace. The amount of the subsidy, provided via tax credit, is based on income and the cost of insurance, and are only available to people who are not eligible for other coverage, such as Medicaid/CHIP, Medicare, or employer coverage, and who are citizens or lawfully-present immigrants. Because the Affordable Care Act envisioned low-income people receiving coverage through Medicaid, people below poverty are

not eligible for Marketplace subsidies. At least 190,000, and as many as 400,000 adults in Virginia fall into the coverage gap because they don't qualify for Medicaid under Virginia's rules, among the most stringent in the nation, but earn less than the poverty rate, so not enough to qualify for subsidies. [Source: Kaiser Family Foundation]

Elections have consequences. McAuliffe made expansion of Medicaid a key element of his campaign, and Virginia voters chose McAuliffe. The Virginia Senate approved a plan to expand health coverage using Medicaid dollars to purchase private health insurance.

There must be a way forward that doesn't involve stifling economic growth and the health of poor Virginians.

EDITORIAL

Assembly Passes 'Bailey's Law'

BY STATE SEN. CHAP PETERSEN (D-34)

A woman walked into a pet shop in Fairfax City. She went there often, sometimes just to pet the animals. But that day she finally saw the puppy she wanted. It was one of the smallest dogs, white with brown spots. She took it home and named it Bailey.

But soon, Bailey started coughing and sneezing. She wouldn't drink water, wouldn't eat. Days after the purchase, Bailey's owner took her to the vet clinic, which informed her that Bailey had pneumonia, parvovirus, and a congenital heart defect. None of this had been disclosed prior to sale.

"Bailey might not make it," they said, "do you want us to try to save her life?"

Today Bailey has fully recovered. She came down to Richmond and sat quietly in her owner's lap in a Senate Committee meeting. Thanks to a loving owner, she survived. And now she is the face of successful legislation I sponsored (SB 228), which will greatly strengthen regulations of pet stores in Virginia:

"Bailey's law" has two parts: one is a disclosure, the other is a guaranty.

In regard to disclosure, pet shops starting on July 1, 2014 will be required to disclose the origin of any companion animal, the USDA breeder's license number, and the name of the breeder. This

allows the consumer to know that the dog or cat comes from a registered, licensed breeder, and not from a puppy mill.

The guaranty works like this: if the newly purchased pet becomes sick or diseased within a two week period, the owner has a right to collect a refund.

The owner will provide proof of veterinary costs, and the pet shop will give money back up to the cost of the animal.

Currently pet buyers have a right to return the animal for a full refund, but once people have bonded with an animal, they want to nurse it back to health. This is especially true since "give backs" to the pet store will typically result in the returned pet being euthanized. And that's not what we want.

Like most legislation, "Bailey's Law" is a compromise between all of the parties involved. We worked with the Humane Society, the Virginia Veterinary Association, pet owners, and small business owners to craft a bill that satisfied the concerns of all parties. The bill passed unanimously out of the Senate and by a large margin in the House.

"Bailey's Law" is an example of a bill that occurs in response to a constituent concern. I'm actually not a pet owner.

But I appreciate citizens who do the right thing and seek to protect all creatures, great or small. For that reason, I was happy to sponsor SB 228.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Race to Watch

To the Editor:

Thanks for the well-documented article on the political trends in Virginia's 10th Congressional District ("How Red is the 10th District?" February 19-25, 2014). The conventional wisdom among political prognosticators is that the District leans Republican. However, recent voting patterns suggest that a strong Democratic candidate could be well within striking

distance for a win. Consider the following: first, in the past two gubernatorial elections, the Republican nominee won the 10th District by only 1 percent. Second, the seat is now open, and retiring Congressman Frank Wolf's name recognition and constituent service record are not in play.

The front running Republican nominee, Barbara Comstock, spent \$1.4 to defend her seat in the Virginia House of Delegates last year, winning with less than 52 percent of the vote. Another candidate for the Republican nomination, longtime Delegate Bob Marshall of Loudoun County, won

re-election by about 400 votes. On the other hand, Fairfax Supervisor John Foust, the likely Democratic nominee for the 10th District Congressional seat, carried every precinct in his contested campaign for re-election in 2011, winning more than 60 percent of the vote.

Democrats are gaining ground in northern Virginia because the issues are working in their favor. Polls show strong support for investing in transportation and education as well as for protecting and expanding access to health care for women and low income workers. The eventual Republican candidate may have a hard time moving away from the Tea Party positions necessary to win the Republican nomination. Extreme positions

on economic and social issues will not play well in the suburban areas of Fairfax and Loudoun counties where 70 percent of 10th District voters reside.

In the end, we may find the 10th District to be a toss-up, despite conventional wisdom.

Sue Rosenberg
Vienna

Common Sense Law Obstructed

To the Editor:

Keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people is just common sense – but sadly, in Virginia, our system is backwards and works to protect criminal access to guns.

Recently, some of our lawmakers tried to fix this conundrum with the Women and Family Protection bill, SB510. This bill would

have prohibited individuals convicted of violent misdemeanors including stalking, sexual battery, or assault and battery of a family member, from possessing a firearm for a period of five years following their conviction. It passed out of the Senate with strong bipartisan support – but was killed in the House by a handful of Committee

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COMMUNITY



PHOTOS BY MARK BURCESS

Scout Sunday at The Church of the Good Shepherd

Boy Scouts from Troop 13 celebrated Scout Sunday at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist) in Vienna and also were among those who took in the opening of the "New Era" art exhibit by South Korean artist Lyn J. Kang. The art exhibit runs through March 9 at the new gallery at the church, located at 2351 Hunter Mill Road. Visit www.GoodShepherdVA.com for hours.



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PHOTOS BY JAMIE WINDON

Audrey Rinehart, 17, receiving feedback from celebrity judging panel which included Tony winner and current star of “Pippin” on Broadway Patina Miller and three-time Grammy winner and bassist/composer/vocalist Esperanza Spalding.

Vienna Student Joins DC-CAPital Stars

The 6th annual DC-CAPital Stars took place on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in the Eisenhower Theater followed by a gala reception in the Nations Gallery. This year's theme: A Tribute to Broadway.

The event is DC College Access Program's (DC-CAP) major annual fundraiser. His Excellency Yousef Al Otaiba, United Arab Emirates Ambassador to the United States, was the pre-

senting sponsor of the event. Many local corporations also sponsored the event.

Each year the event raises hundreds of thousands of dollars – this year more than \$700,000 – to support the organization in helping every DC public and public charter school student have a chance to go to and graduate from college.

Celebrity Judges Headline Idol-Style Competition: Audience members voted using handheld devices and the celebrity judges – including Tony-winning star of “Pippin” Patina Miller and Grammy-winning



Vienna resident Audrey Rinehart, 17, performing “Don’t Rain on My Parade.” She was a runner-up and received a \$2,000 scholarship in the 6th annual DC-CAPital Stars at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

bassist/vocalist/composer Esperanza Spalding – commented on each performance. Winners were determined 50 percent by judges input and 50 percent based on audience vote.

❖1st prize winner drummer Kweku Sumbry, 16, junior at Duke Ellington, won the \$10,000 scholarship grand prize.

❖2nd prize winner singer Nikita Crowell, 17, senior at Duke Ellington, won a \$6,000 scholarship.

❖3rd prize went to dancer Brandon Taylor Gray, 17, senior at Duke Ellington, with a \$4,000 scholarship. The remaining runners-up each received \$2,000 scholarships.

Solving the VEXing Challenge Of STEM

After months of practice and winning the local competition, the Bailey's Computer Clubhouse team was elated to learn it qualified to enter the State VEX Robotics tournament in Doswell, Va. in February. That enthusiasm, however, was quickly tempered as the team sponsors realized, although the kids were ready, willing and able to go, they simply didn't have the entry fee or money for transportation to make it happen.

The good news is that, led by Fairfax County Office of Partnerships (OP3), the community stepped in to make their dream a reality. OP3 facilitated a coalition of interested businesses, nonprofits and Fairfax County agencies, resulting in buses contributed by the Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services; a donation of \$1500 to cover registration fees, meals and logistics courtesy of GAP Solutions, Inc.; and shirts gen-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The ‘Pearls Team’ from Cornerstones Clubhouse competing at the Regional ‘Toss Up State Qualifier.’

erously printed courtesy of Reston Shirt and Graphics.

With all of this support the teams embarked for the state competition along with their coaches, Northern Virginia Community College Students.

The teams are part of the Northern Virginia Community College's (NVCC) SySTEMic Solutions initia-

tive. Created in response to the region's critical shortage of scientists, engineers and technicians, the program's ultimate goal is to meet the demand for a trained workforce in advanced technologies. Students in SySTEMic Solutions are likely to be the first in their family who have considered college, and come from a moder-

ate or lower income family. With multi-institutional collaboration at the secondary and post-secondary level coupled with collaboration among K-12 school divisions and industry, this key best practice is set to increase college success and completion rates amongst at-risk student populations.

Through SySTEMic Solutions, NVCC has created a collaborative arrangement among K-12 school divisions, higher education institutions, local government and employers to create a sustainable workforce pipeline that by the year 2015 will have more than 3,000 students preparing for STEM careers.

Now that's a winning solution to a VEXing problem.

NOTE: Coaches and mentors are always needed and welcome. For more information contact: Wendy Lemieux, Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships, 703-424-1805, wendy.lemieux@fairfaxcounty.gov

CALENDAR

Send announcements to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

FRIDAY/MARCH 7

Seed Bead Workshop. 7-8 p.m., Vienna Community Center (VCC), 120 Cherry St SE, Vienna. Melissa Grakowsky-Shippe presents her wonderful seed bead designs. www.nvbs.org

SATURDAY/MARCH 8

Mardi Gras Party. 8 p.m., American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St. N., Vienna. A veteran's fundraiser and A Tribute to Fats Domino and music by New Orleans' own, Terry Lee Ryan. \$35. www.Legion180.net.

SUNDAY/MARCH 9

The Stern/Andrist Duo Concert. 3 p.m. Alden Theatre of McLean, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. This free concert will feature violinist James Stern of the University of Maryland and multi-talented pianist Audrey Andrist in a program that includes a sonata by Janacek, Four Pieces by Suk, Theme and Variations by Messiaen, and the Sonata in C minor by Beethoven.

MONDAY/MARCH 10

Lunch 'N Life. 12 p.m. Emmannual Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Join the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) for their first in 2014 schedule of Lunch n' Life events. It includes lunch and dessert followed by Ric Edelman, who appears on stage frequently, talking

FRIDAY/MARCH 7

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington's (BGCGW) Fairfax County Region Inaugural Casino Night Fundraiser. 6:30-11:30 p.m. The Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd, McLean.

The Fairfax Regional Board will bring a bit of friendly Vegas-like fun to support the programming for the region's two Clubs. Unlike the money and chips found in real casinos, Casino Night guests will receive funny money and a bidder number. They will use their winnings from casino-favorites such as Black Jack, Texas Hold 'Em, and Craps to bid on fabulous raffle prizes. The more chips players accumulate at the gaming tables the better their chances to win great raffle prizes at end of evening

The Fairfax Region of BGCGW provides a safe haven for more than 580 young people between

to thousands of people every year, and is widely acknowledged as an entertaining and informative speaker. Visit <http://scov.org/calendar.htm> or call the office at 703-281-0538. \$10 per person. Reservation and prepayment required by Wednesday, March 5.

FRIDAY/ MARCH 14

Casino Night & Silent Auction. 7 p.m., The Grand Atrium, 2236 Gallows Road, Vienna. James Madison HS (JMHS) Athletic Booster Club hosts its 8th Annual Casino Night

and the ages of 5 and 18 years old at two sites: Culmore Character Club and Murrygate Village Club. The clubs serve poor children, providing support for homework and academic success, life skills training, character building and fun. Ninety-Two percent of the Clubs' members qualify for free lunch.

Casino Night will not only be a night of fun and excitement, it will be a thrilling opportunity to support youth in the Fairfax community who need us most. The evening includes Ritz-Carlton dinner buffet, open bar, casino games, raffle, dancing, DJ and more, for \$95 a person or \$175 per couple. Special overnight room rate of \$119 available.

Register now. To purchase tickets for Casio Night & and more information about Fairfax Region of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington visit: www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/casino-night/

& Silent Auction. Advance: \$55, At the door: \$65.

www.warhawksports.org or jmhsathleticbooster@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 15

Ballroom Dance. 8-11:30 p.m., Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. DJ music from Craig Bukowski playing favorite dance tunes from the 1930s to today. \$15. 703-759-2685 or www.colvinrun.org.

Model Trains. 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. 1-5 p.m. See and hear model trolleys and steam and diesel trains plus Thomas and some of his friends



Check out some model trains and Thomas and his friends at the historic Vienna train station on Saturday, March 15 at 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna.

in the Historic Vienna Train Station along the W&OD trail just past the Caboose. The layout reflects the mountainous terrain and towns of Western North Carolina with award winning structures. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders. www.nvmr.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 30

Capitol Steps. 4 p.m. James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. The quick witted multifaceted congressional staffers, will be performing their popular fast-paced musical political satire. Proceeds to

benefit the Class of 2014 All-Night (Drug Free, Alcohol Free) Grad Party. To pre-order ticket(s), include your name, telephone, address & e-mail and mail your \$25 (per ticket) check payable to: JMHS All-Night Grad 2500 James Madison Drive Vienna, VA, 22181 or purchase now online <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/569720> or (if available) on the night of the performance will be \$30. Contact us for additional info here: jmhscapsteps@gmail.com. Special: due to popular demand, there is a Senior Discount that we are offering to those who are 65 and over, only

\$23.

ONGOING

Straight Ahead Jazz. 8 p.m., at the Maplewood Grill, 132 Branch Road, Vienna. Every Monday drummer Karl Anthony hosts a night of straight ahead jazz featuring guest musicians and open to sit-in musicians. www.maplewoodgrill.com.

Personalized ebook/e-Reader Instruction. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Learn about your e-reader and downloading eBooks; event continues through March 31.



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Creating a Harmonious Family Life

Local experts offer tips for keeping your family happy.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

As Elizabeth Rees drove her daughter and two of her daughter's friends to a library reading group recently, the Alexandria mother of three admits that she felt like a chauffeur at first. But she had a change of heart after hearing sounds of laughter.

"They were giggling and so sweet in the back," said Rees, the associate rector at Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria. "Suddenly that moment of grace turned it all around and I felt privileged to be there. I think that sort of thing happens all the time if only we are paying attention."

What are the keys to paying attention and creating a happier family life? Experts say it's important to stop trying to do everything 100 percent and make other things a priority. They offer their top tips for creating balance.

"With three young kids, a two-career marriage and way too many activities, I find this balance as hard as everyone else and am absolutely preaching to myself," said Rees.

EXPERTS SAY living in a competitive area like the Washington, D.C., region can make creating balance even more challenging. "I see children who are stressed to always be the best," said Dr. Bruce Pfeffer, a Potomac, Md.-based child psychiatrist.

Parents play a critical role in helping children create a healthy balance of work and play, he added, explaining that "parents must serve as rudders to guide their children [toward the] peace of mind that comes with a supportive home environment, emphasis on gaining joy in life, along with appropriate goals and achieving."

Michael Moynihan, head of the Upper School at The Heights School in Potomac, Md., agrees. "The most significant obstacles to harmonious family life today are over scheduling and over connectedness ... resulting in families that are pulled in many different directions for activities, and when they have those brief moments together, are often plugged into various electronic devices," he said.

Make finding uninterrupted family time a priority. "The solution is to schedule family time such as meals together — without electronic devices — and to protect this time from other activities," said Moynihan.

Rees suggests being present and engaged. "So much of life is spent in work and preparation and accomplishments that it's hard sometimes to live in the moment," she said. "Maybe some days the only time you have together is in the car. ... Try to remember to make the most of even those moments."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIZABETH REES

Elizabeth Rees, the associate rector at Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria, says laughter, forgiveness and gratitude are among the factors that create a harmonious family life. Here she is pictured on a family vacation with her daughter Maya, 3; her husband Holden Hoofnagle; her son Dylan, 7; and daughter Sophia, 10.

Colleen Vesely, Ph.D., an assistant professor of early childhood education and human development and family science at George Mason University, said "It's also important to find joy in the mundane and to give one's self and others a break ... to be patient, empathic and compassionate with yourself and with your coparent. ... But that doesn't mean not holding everyone accountable to the family system, which is also critical."

Rees encourages stressed parents to give themselves time alone as well. "I am part of a prayer and listening group on Tuesday nights. We come together and have a time of silence and share where we are in our lives. For me, that's my chance for renewal, refreshment, and it makes me return home with a completely different attitude. ... For others, it might be a walk in the woods or coffee with a good friend, or an hour at the gym. It's hard to make space for yourself, but it can make a big difference in how you treat the people around you."

When it comes to building a harmonious family life, which elements matter most? "Love, obviously, is essential," said Rees. "But that's a big and amorphous word and really has to be much more about how we live than what we feel when it comes to daily relationships. When we are stressed

or worried or tired, our closest relationships are the ones that take the biggest hit. It is in those all-too-frequent moments that we have to work the hardest at things like kindness, respect, thinking of how the other person feels."

The willingness to forgive oneself and one's family members is also vital to family harmony. "We all do and say things without thinking

all the time with our families," said Rees. "They bear the brunt of all the weight we carry. Try to remember that in the heat of the moment and put aside petty grudges."

Sometimes, says Rees, it's

small, often overlooked actions that can have a major impact. "Little things matter so much in family life," she said. "Replacing the soap in the soap dish, or asking someone about their day and really caring about the answer, or giving a hand when you see someone struggling. When my husband hears my car in the driveway when I return from the grocery store and comes out to help carry the bags ... I notice and I feel cared for."

Bethany Letiecq, Ph.D., an associate professor of human development and family science at George Mason University adds, "With myriad external stressors and pressures on family systems, it is really impor-

tant that families ... work together to model positive coping strategies and moderate conflict and anxiety levels. Parents can model healthy conflict resolution practices and support their children's positive coping and adaptation. This often takes a lot of work, learning skills that we may not have picked up from our own family systems [such as] practice, cooperation and patience."

"Learn and implement effective communication skills," said Rees. "Share what you are feeling with those all-important 'I statements' that we know about but find so hard to use in the heat of the moment. Stop what we are doing when there is something we really need to listen to, and then really listen with empathy and love. ... Not just thinking it, but saying 'I love you,' 'I'm sorry,' 'I forgive you,' 'thank you.'"

Manage expectations. "Reasonable expectations seem like a big piece of this, for ourselves, for our kids, for our partners," said Rees. "Remember to step back and think about what really matters and try to place less importance on the rest."

Parents are a child's best role models for dealing with setbacks. "Parents must help their children be resilient when goals are not met," said Pfeffer. "Sometimes the best growth can be gained by resilience after a disappointment."

LAUGHTER HELPS A LOT, too. "Try not to take things so seriously and to see the humor even in the mistakes and the impossible moments," said Rees.

Practice gratitude. "Lately, I keep reading about the link between practicing gratitude and feeling happiness. I find it true in my own life," said Rees. "When I consciously look for things to be grateful for, I am much more aware of the moments of love and beauty in my life. So practice gratitude for each member of our families, for the good that we see in them, for the moments that we have with them. When, after a long day, I get to sit down and read a book with my arms around my kids, I try to remember to thank God for that moment."

"There really is not one 'right' way to parent a child or engage in family life," said Letiecq. "Every parent-child relationship, every family system is unique in terms of what each person brings to the relationship: temperaments, interests, skill-sets, personality traits, personal histories, past familial experience, health issues, etc. ... There is a range of parenting styles, but what seems most important is to do what works best with your child's temperament and what is going to be most supportive and least stressful for the entire family."

"The solution is to schedule family time such as meals together — without electronic devices to interrupt being present to each other — and to protect this time from other activities."

— Michael Moynihan,
head of Upper School, The Heights School

Volunteers Needed to Help Older Adults

Meals on Wheels needs drivers in Fairfax. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities.

Training is provided in March. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Little River Glen Senior Center in Fairfax needs help with special events and an arts and crafts instructor. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

Members who sit on the Courts of Justice.

The fact that some of our elected delegates obstructed passage of common sense gun laws is terrifying. It is easy to ignore issues that do not affect us personally and gun violence always seems to affect others – but this is an issue that all Virginians should care about.

I used to be oblivious to gun violence. My eyes – like so many others – were opened to gun violence through the unspeakable tragedy of the Sandy Hook shooting. As a parent of elementary school-aged children, I was finally paying attention. My daughter's school held a meeting to reassure parents that they were taking every precaution to keep our children safe – and at this meeting the principal explained that children at my daughter's school are at greater risk of domestic violence than a mass shooting.

What should have brought parents comfort is actually quite alarming. Domestic violence and guns are a lethal combination. Most victims of intimate partner homicide

are killed with a gun, and the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely that the woman will be killed. A bill like SB510 would have helped keep guns away from abusers and save lives in Virginia.

That's why it is so disappointing that some of our delegates chose to preserve the gun rights of criminals over the safety of Virginia's women, children and families.

In the wake of Sandy Hook, Virginia mothers are paying attention to the epidemic of gun violence in our country – we know its not just mass shootings but every day gun violence that harms our communities. And when it comes our turn to vote, we will remember who voted on the side of public safety and who did not – we will hold our political leaders accountable.

Ruth Hoffman
McLean

Ruth Hoffman, is the membership lead for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

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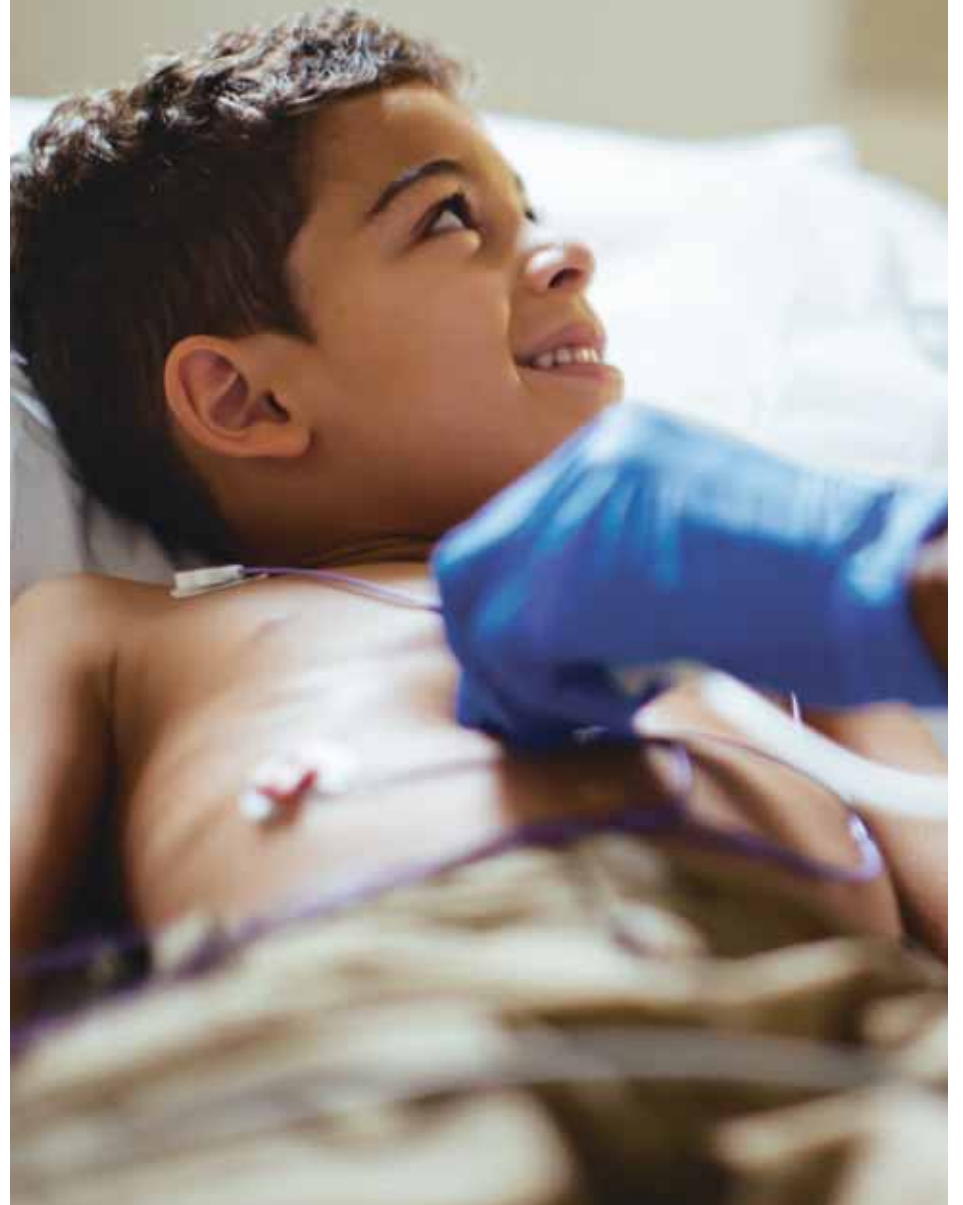
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Madison's Koshuta Scores 39 Against 'Idol' Floyd

Warhawks lose to Stonewall Jackson in region semifinals.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Madison girls' basketball team's season had ended and Kelly Koshuta stood teary-eyed inside Robinson Secondary School, saddened that she had played with her senior teammates for the final time.

Koshuta, a 6-foot-2 junior, did all she could to extend the Warhawks' season, but a career-high 39 points and 19 rebounds weren't enough to beat Stonewall Jackson, which defeated Madison 78-72 during the 6A North region semifinals on Feb. 27. The Warhawks finished one win shy of reaching the region championship game and securing a state playoff berth.

While Koshuta fought back tears during a postgame interview, she was more than happy to talk about the talented athlete she battled during Thursday's contest. Stonewall Jackson senior Nicole Floyd, a 6-foot-2 post who signed with Wake Forest, scored 32 points against Madison. Floyd's versatile skillset — her ability to drive to the basket, produce in the paint and knock down 3-pointers — helped her score 18 points in the

first quarter and 10 in the fourth, when the Raiders were holding off a late Warhawks rally.

"She's a great person to play against," Koshuta said, "and she did amazing today."

But Floyd was more than just a quality opponent and an on-court challenge for the Madison standout. Koshuta admires Floyd as a talented athlete who battled the same kind of adversity she faced.

IN THE SUMMER OF 2010, prior to her freshman year, Floyd tore the ACL in her right knee. She returned near the end of the season, helping Stonewall defeat West Springfield in the state semifinals before the Raiders lost to Princess Anne in the championship game.

Two years after Floyd suffered a torn ACL, Koshuta tore the ACL in her left knee during an AAU game prior to her sophomore season. Koshuta sat out the entire 2012-13 campaign and the Warhawks were eliminated in the region quarterfinals.

As Koshuta worked her way back onto the court, she spoke with Floyd, who she knew through AAU ball, about returning from an ACL injury. Floyd explained the need for hard work and remaining mentally strong.

"[Koshuta] came up to me [and] she asked how long it took for me to get back and I told her it took me a full eight, eight-and-a-half months," Floyd said. "She said she was just getting back and I told her



Madison junior Kelly Koshuta goes up against Stonewall Jackson senior Nicole Floyd during the 6A North region semifinals on Feb. 27 at Robinson Secondary School.

just take it slow. It's a tough, terrible injury to have. It's a terrible process, just keep rehabbing."

Koshuta spoke highly of Floyd. "She's amazing. She's my idol," Koshuta said. "She tore her ACL, too. She recovered from it. I watched her recover and I love that. When I [injured] mine I actually talked to her about it and it was great. Seeing her recover is amazing. She's going to Wake Forest and that's a great accomplishment."

Floyd appeared flattered when informed Koshuta referred to the Stonewall star as her "idol."

"That's really good to hear," Floyd said. "I always want to set a positive example for somebody else looking up to me; what they can do as a player, and not just as

a player, [but] as a person off the court, also. That's a great thing to hear from an opponent, especially after a big game like this."

Floyd and Koshuta both performed well during Thursday's "big game," and Floyd did so while battling the flu. Floyd's 18 first-quarter points, including a pair of 3-pointers, helped Stonewall build a 25-17 lead by the end of the period.

"Kelly did the best she could on defense," Madison senior guard Katie Kerrigan said. "Nicole, give a lot of credit to her, she has the flu, but she was still knocking down those shots. She would not miss. Kelly did a good job. She did all she could do."

"I think that they played really tough," Madison head coach

Kirsten Stone said. "I was proud that they came back from the [18-point deficit]. I think that takes a lot of gumption, a lot of strength. I'm really proud of them."

While Madison cut Stonewall's lead to two twice during the final minute, the Warhawks would get no closer as the Raiders scored seven of the game's final 10 points.

Sophomore guard Aidan McWeeney scored 13 points for Madison, including a trio of 3-pointers. Kerrigan finished with 12 points and sophomore Alexis Hermes added six.

DESPITE LOSING its first four games of the season, Madison ended the year with a 19-9 record and finished runner-up in Conference 6. After a loss to South Lakes on Jan. 10, Madison responded by winning its next 12 games and 14 of its final 16.

Stone, the region Coach of the Year, figures to have a strong team next season. Kerrigan was Madison's only senior starter Thursday night, and Koshuta, a first-team all-region selection, figures to be even better.

Plus, Floyd will have graduated, improving the chances of Koshuta crying tears of joy at regionals in 2015.

"We're going to come back stronger," Koshuta said. "That's my second time losing in the [semifinals] and next year I'm not ending my last high school game in the [semifinals]. We're going to go all the way — that's the plan."

Saxon Ice Hockey Season Ends with Semi-Final Loss

The Langley hockey team played four games in their final week of the season and came one goal away from upsetting Stone Bridge a second time deep in the playoffs.

The playoffs opened with a lackluster start against Osbourn Park. Osbourn struck first with a power play goal and went into cruise mode until senior Jeremy Kim scored the equalizer midway through the second. Both teams traded scoring chances until Osbourn scored the go-ahead with six minutes left in the game. The stunned Saxons continued battling and with just two-and-a-half minutes left in the game, assistant captain Will Clemson teed up a slap shot from the



The Langley hockey team celebrates after scoring against Stone Bridge.

point that was tipped in by captain Drew Schneider to tie the game at 2. Barely a minute later, freshman Sam Shapiro fired a lobbing clear that landed on streaking winger Lizzy Weingast's stick

at the top of the circle in Osbourn's zone. Weingast buried the puck 5-hole and Langley went ahead for good. The game ended 4-2 after an empty-netter by Jason Guidi.

With the opening round behind

them, the Saxons faced Oakton for a rematch in the quarterfinals. The previous matchup led to a disappointing 12-7 loss as the game was scheduled while all three of Langley's netminders were on holiday break.

This game, Oakton would not be so lucky as senior Ryan Framinan was between the pipes. The Saxon icers came out strong in the first with two goals from Guidi and one from Alsaif to end the period 3-0. They never looked back and closed out the tilt 4-0. With the win on Langley's home rink, they were slated for a rematch against Stone Bridge on their home ice in Ashburn.

Langley knew that Stone Bridge was going to come at them fast after their previous matchup wherein Langley handed Stone

Bridge their first regular-season loss in more than two years. Stone Bridge drew first blood with a goal at the 4:33 mark of the first period and never trailed. The third period started with Langley down 4-1 before Guidi scored at the 13-minute mark followed by Shapiro's strike with the 2:24 left in the game. Down by a single goal, the Saxons pulled their netminder for the extra skater but were unable to capitalize and lost 4-3. Stone Bridge went on to lose in the finals to Briar Woods.

Seniors Schneider, assistant captain Jeremy Kim, Michael Cox, Weingast, and goalies Ryan Framinan and Ryan Guidi contributed to another successful season for Langley Hockey.

Vienna Writer Wins 'A Gift'

By DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Chris Stezin (Vienna) is, hands down, one of First Draft's biggest crowd pleasers," said Leslie Kobylinski (McLean), First Draft artistic director. "He's a prodigious writer who continues to be inventive and original. Just when you think you know his writing style, he'll surprise you."

First Draft is a professional non-profit theater company dedicated to developing new plays and enlivening audiences with free play readings in Arlington and D.C. The free readings provide immediate audience feedback to playwrights to enhance their fresh, new works.

In announcing Stezin's appointment as writer-in-residence Kobylinski noted that "our audiences love what he has to say...I get the most enthusiast emails after a Chris Stezin play."

Stezin called his new position "a gift." It will enable him to present his works in-progress and then "get feedback from an interested audience." It will help to enhance his plays at an early stage.

"The Amateur - A Screenplay for the Stage" is one of Stezin's new plays. On a recent evening at Theater on the Run in Arlington, seven professional actors read the script before an audience who provided their personal reactions to Stezin and the actors.



Chris Stezin

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

"The Amateur" had its beginnings with a song, "So Alive" by Ryan Adams with lyrics, "I am on your side, And so alive. So alive it isn't real."

"I had that on in my car, really loud, and it's this kind of 80s throwback song, and I started thinking about a chase scene set to that song as a soundtrack," said Stezin. "A guy gets picked up by some gangsters in a black car, gets away, gets chased through traffic, and on and on."

Twice Stezin has been nominated for outstanding new play for Helen Hayes Awards. He also acts,

most recently in the "The Laramie Project" at Ford's Theater. Stezin is head of the writing department with WILL Interactive, Potomac, Md. "WILL Interactive makes what can most easily be described as 'choose your own adventure' movies as learning tools for Federal agencies and other organizations. Learners make interactive decisions with immediate consequences. rather than just watch. "You see where that takes you...These are mostly deployed for leadership skills, suicide prevention and intervention, off-the-field conduct for professional athletes, like that," Stezin noted.

At a First Draft reading, "I get insights from incredibly astute theater-goers," said Stezin. "I thank everyone for that." Additional information on First Draft is at: <http://www.firstdraft.org/>

Federal Convictions for Vienna Man, Parents

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Many families enjoy doing things together. However, the Yeh family of Vienna chose to do something illegal – defraud the federal government.

Last Wednesday, Feb. 26, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Henry Washington Yeh, 32, pleaded guilty to filing false and fraudulent tax returns. His father, Jimmy An-Twig Yeh, 57, and his mother, Zhi Hua Wang Yeh, 60, both pleaded guilty to aiding the filing of false tax returns.

All three of them were indicted by a federal grand jury, Sept. 24, 2013, on money-laundering and tax charges. Each one could now receive as much as three years behind bars when they return to court May 9 for sentencing.

In a statement of facts filed with the plea agreement, Henry Yeh, a convicted drug dealer, admitted that, from 2004 through 2009, he made nearly \$1 million in cash from the distribution of more than 100 kilograms of marijuana. But he deliberately concealed this illicit income from the authorities

and the IRS, and he also solicited others to help him conceal these proceeds.

In 2009, 2010 and 2012, Yeh filed false and fraudulent federal income tax returns with the IRS for taxable years 2005, 2006 and 2007. He did so by misrepresenting both the actual source of his gross income – marijuana sales – and the true amount he earned from that activity. According to the document, his parents, who were aware that their son garnered a substantial income from illegal dealings, aided him in filing a false tax return for 2007.

Authorities say Yeh used his drug proceeds to buy many things, either in his own name or jointly with others. But now they will lose them. As part of their pleas, Yeh and his parents have agreed to turn over approximately \$2.1 million worth of assets, including real estate in Ashburn and Washington, D.C. They must also forfeit to the federal government an SUV, \$918,166.73 from an investment brokerage account and \$100,000 in cash. U.S. District Court Judge Gerald Bruce Lee accepted the Vienna trio's pleas and will be the one sentencing them in May.

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Not Yet, Really

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



While we're exchanging pleasantries here, in semi real time – although this column will not be most read until March 6th (I need to submit it on Monday, March 3rd as we go to press on Tuesday, March 5th), I feel the obligation, given how last week's column ended, to update you on the results from my February 26th CT Scan. Presumably, by the title you all have determined that as of this writing, Saturday, March 1st, I have not heard back from my oncologist. Typically, I would have already heard from him, electronically. But so far, not a peep, electronic or otherwise and believe me, I've been checking, as you might imagine.

This non-communication has happened twice before that I can remember. The first time, my oncologist did not e-mail results to me because he said, as a presumptive courtesy, he doesn't like to share bad news in an e-mail. The second time he neglected to send a post-CT Scan e-mail, the news was good and sort of not worth mentioning, he said, because the news wasn't bad; if that makes any sense at all. Either way, the silence is hardly golden. And the longer I live, the less patience I have for such irregularities.

And what complicates my interpretation of this most recent electronic silence is that I have previously made it clear to my oncologist that my not receiving these post-CT Scan results, however good, bad or indifferent they may be, is far more difficult for Team Lourie than actually receiving them. So now, after we've established these communication guidelines (expectations, requirements even) it is a bit perplexing as to why we've not heard anything. But is it cause for concern? I'll tell you what it's cause for: unnecessary and barely controllable anxiety and stress concerning the interpretation of what any of it definitively means.

Maybe it means nothing because there was an internal computer problem that "sent" e-mails into cyberspace, rather than their intended recipients? Perhaps the staff Radiologist called in sick that day or had to leave town unexpectedly and no replacement could be found – in a timely manner, to read all the X-Rays, CT Scans, MRIs, etc. that day and as a result, results and communication of said results have been delayed? Maybe my oncologist is on vacation or out sick himself or had to leave town unexpectedly and my scan results/his assessment/summary of them are sitting in his in box and were not sent because, as I would understand, he prefers to send out his own e-mails? Heck, there might even be protocol/privacy issues that prevent such communications from being forwarded unless all parties agree in advance. In fact, never before have I received e-mails from any other oncologist. It's always been Dr. "H." Or maybe, the results are so bad that, despite our previous conversations on the subject, my oncologist is ignoring my preference in order to tell me in person, since he will be seeing me on Friday, March 7th for our regularly scheduled post-CT appointment? Or maybe the results are so good, he wants to tell me in person and see for himself the joy and relief his care has brought to a patient of his whom he originally characterized as terminal and gave a "13-month to two-year" prognosis? Or, as Paul Harvey never said: you don't know the rest of the story.

Consequently, what one experiences, as maybe you can tell from the previous paragraph, is a non-stop rearranging and reinterpreting of one's medical circumstances, potential medical circumstances, real and/or imagined medical circumstances, and anxiety over any and all of them.

Still, I've been through this kind of waiting before for medical results. It's not easy, but I can handle it. Nevertheless, it sort of seems like a waste of my ability to handle such things, given the seriousness of what I may yet have to handle.

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

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NEWS

Petersen Report: Senate Addresses Health Care

Last Thursday, Feb. 20, we rolled out “Marketplace Virginia,” an idea conceived by Sen. John Watkins (R-Powhatan).

“Marketplace” takes the \$2 billion in taxes paid by Virginians under the Affordable Care Act and keeps it in Virginia, where it can provide insurance for the 400,000 Virginians not currently covered.

These new policy holders, most of whom are currently uninsured, will be able to use their new “Marketplace Virginia” cards to receive medical care that otherwise would have been paid for by hospitals, doctors, and everyday insurance policy holders.

By a 23-17 vote, the Senate incorporated

“Marketplace” into its budget, which means that the Commonwealth will be able to save approximately \$1 billion between now and 2022, receive \$2 billion in revenue from the Feds to cover the 400,000 uninsured Virginians, and create 30,000 new jobs in the health care industry.

“Marketplace Virginia” will only remain in effect as long as the premiums are paid. If the Feds ever cut their commitment in the future, the policies in the program would be canceled. “Marketplace” is a no-brainer. We should not let Virginia tax dollars pay for other states’ health care.

— SEN. CHAP PETERSEN (D-34)

Former Vienna Resident Receives French Legion of Honor Award

The father of a Vienna woman was one of six World War II veterans of the D-Day invasion who were awarded the French Legion of Honor award for their service to France at a ceremony Tuesday, Feb. 18, held at Fort Myer.

John C. Sheban, 91, was a staff sergeant and waist gunner on a B-24 liberator bomber and participated in three bombing missions under heavy fire over Normandy, France and inland German positions during the June 1944 D-Day invasion. Sheban previously received a number of medals from the Army for his actions during the invasion that turned the tide of World War II in Europe.

Sheban is the father of Lorraine Sinclair of Vienna and he lived in Vienna for several years before returning to Delaware.

“It is important that we recognize these members of the ‘Greatest Generation’ for their selfless service and valor to our nation and the world,” U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) said. “I congratulate Mr. Sheban and all of these World War II heroes who are being honored by France for their valor and their hallowed place in history.”

The Legion of Honor award was established by Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of France, in the early 1800s.

Five other veterans of World War II also received the Legion of Honor for their valor on D-Day: Arthur W. Ordel of Keswick, Va.; Robert L. Sales of Madison Heights, Va.; Henry E. Ponton Jr. of Frederick, Md.; Charles S. Toms Jr. of Frederick, Md.; and George A. Shenkle of Lansdale, Pa.

Vienna’s Church of the Good Shepherd Celebrates Publishing its 15th Annual Lenten Devotional

The Church of the Good Shepherd, a United Methodist church in Vienna, celebrates the publishing of its 15th annual Devotions for Lent booklet. The booklet of daily devotionals written by members and friends of the congregation will be available at the March 5 Ash Wednesday 7:30 p.m. service at the church, located at 2351 Hunter Mill Road.

More than 19,000 of the booklets will be mailed to church neighbors, and the booklet also will be available on the church’s website at www.GoodShepherdVA.com. The church will distribute the daily devotionals by e-mail, and the community is invited to sign up via the church’s website to receive the devotionals electronically.

The Rev. Mark Burgess, pastor at Good Shepherd, said he continues to be amazed at the reach of the devotional booklet, which also includes drawings by children

of the church. This year a church in Atlanta requested copies, he said. He invites readers to use the booklet to spend some time alone with God.

“Lent is a time of year to step back from our busy lives so that we may more thoughtfully focus on what God has done for us,” the Rev. Burgess said.

“We do so in imitation of Jesus, who also, from time to time, withdrew to quiet places where he could be alone with God. We pray that you may find a place like this for yourselves and that these devotionals may assist you as you likewise seek God’s presence.”

Each Sunday The Church of the Good Shepherd has 8:30 a.m. morning prayer, followed by Sunday school at 9 a.m. and its worship service at 10:15 a.m.

For more information, call the church office at 703-281-3987 or visit the church website at www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

Motion, Distance, Flame Retardants and More

Students participate in Madison High's science fair.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Madison High's Feb. 5 science fair brought out the curiosity and creativity in the students participating in it. Below, some of them explain their projects:

James Stephens

A junior, James Stephens investigated projectile motion in real life. He said that, given an upward force, a volleyball won't just go straight up, but will curve outward and then upward.

"I wanted to prove projectile motion works," he said. "So I took measured values from my experiment and compared them to theoretical values – without any spin that would affect the curve. And I proved that projectile motion does happen in real life."

Stephens used a volleyball, plus tennis and lacrosse balls, and took a video of himself tossing each one. Then he analyzed their heights and distances. "The lacrosse ball was much closer to the actual idea of projectile motion because it was smaller and, therefore, had less air resistance."

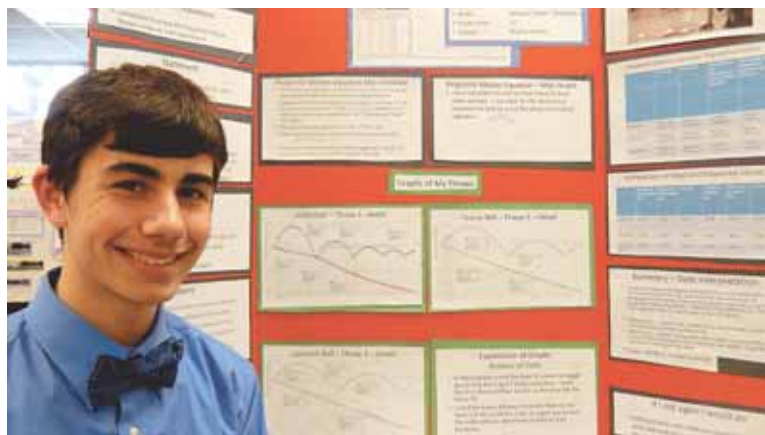
Christina Tran, Quynh Nguyen

Juniors Christina Tran and Quynh Nguyen teamed up to consider the role distance plays on falling dominoes. They decided to prove scientist Robert Banks's universal theory about falling objects.

"We wanted to see, if we changed the distance between dominoes, would we be able to prove a theory for falling dominoes?" said Tran.

"We thought that the farther apart the dominoes were from each other, the longer it would take them to fall down," said Nguyen. "But the opposite was true. We made a pendulum of waxed floss and a marble on a Lego structure for a constant force on the first domino in a line, and all the dominoes fell down."

But, added Tran, "Our experiment was inconclusive because our velocities didn't match the



James Stephens investigated projectile motion in real life.



(From left) are Christina Tran and Quynh Nguyen with their project.



Kyle Karp, Grace Rogers researched electrolyte levels in beverages.

scientist's velocities."

Sydney Goddard

Senior Sydney Goddard investigated what composts the fastest. "My neighbors have compost in their backyard and I wondered how well it worked," she said. "So I made my own compost and tested paper bowls, plus plant-based cups and forks. My hypothesis was that the paper-based bowls would compost fastest because paper breaks down pretty quickly." Goddard put the bowls in a bin filled with a compost mixture of food and leaves and placed the bin in a closet. For six weeks, she measured the bowls' mass weekly. "The bowls broke down

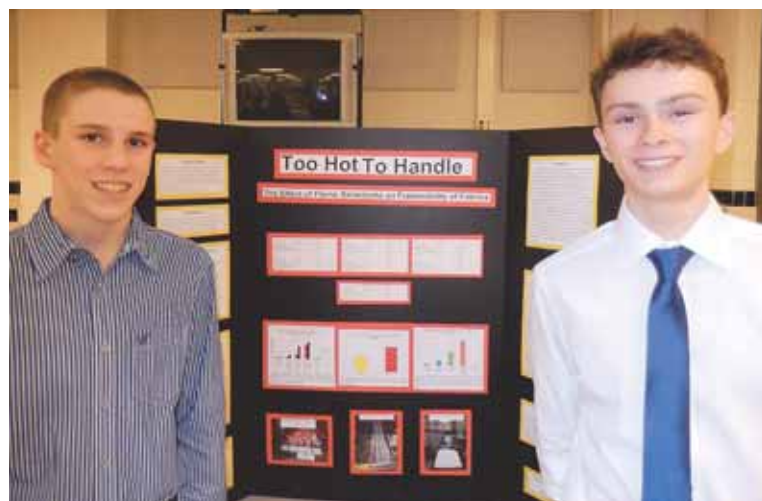
first, halfway through the experiment," she said. "The cups and forks didn't break down, at all. So people probably shouldn't put them out to compost, at least in the short term."

Kyle Karp, Grace Rogers

Juniors Grace Rogers and Kyle Karp tested the electrolyte levels in common beverages to see how efficient they were in replenishing electrolytes in people. They tested orange, apple and lime juices, Gatorade and Powerade. They made an electrode and created a circuit to test the electric conductivity in each beverage.



Senior Sydney Goddard illustrates her science project.



(From left) Phillip Sullivan and Liam Murphy researched flame retardants.

"Our electrode was a straw held by two wires attached to a battery and a multimeter," said Karp.

"We dipped the straw in each beverage in a cup and took readings after one minute," added Rogers. "We concluded that the juices, as we'd hypothesized, contained the most electrolytes, compared to Gatorade and Powerade," said Karp. "Lime juice had the most because we used 100-percent lime juice, but the other juices had sugar and water added."

Phillip Sullivan, Liam Murphy

Sophomores Phillip Sullivan and Liam Murphy considered the effect

of flame retardants on a fabric's flammability. "We wanted to find safe alternatives to commercial flame retardants because the ones currently used on children's clothing are carcinogenic," explained Murphy. "We cut squares of cotton and polyester and treated each with household chemicals," said Sullivan. "Then we burned them to see which burned quickly. We tested potassium alum, sodium chloride and sodium bicarbonate against a commercial flame retardant and non-treated fabrics." They discovered, said Murphy, that "potassium alum – a food preservative you can buy in bulk in supermarkets – was almost as effective as a commercial fire retardant and could be used as a safe alternative."