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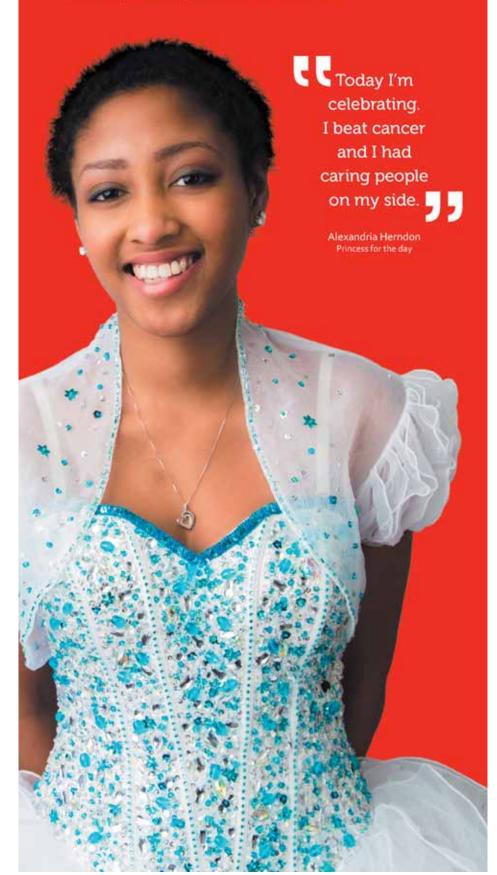
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Alex celebrated her 16th wearing her gown, not ours.

Alexandria was diagnosed with bone cancer her first year of high school. Instead of going to an adult hospital, her family got help from a cancer treatment team focused completely on pediatric medicine. Watch how specialized care created a special day at JustRightForChildren.com/Alex.





State delegates Mark Keam (D-35), Patrick Hope (D-47) and David Bulova (D-37) during the March 22 social progress presentation in Vienna hosted by SALT.



State Senator Barbara Favola (D-31) listens to her colleagues as each had a turn

In Search of 'Game Changing' Ideas

Del. Ken Plum (D-36)

back in 1982.

remarked he had intro-

duced a redistricting bill

Local legislators reflect on social issues addressed by Virginia General Assembly in 2014.

t a presentation hosted by SALT [Social Action Linking Together) on March 22, more than 50 community activists gathered to hear local legislators offer brief comments on social progress in the Commonwealth of Virginia's 2014 General Assembly session. The presentation was hosted at American Legion 180.

State senators Janet Howell (D-32), Barbara Favola (D-31) and Dick Saslaw (D-35), and state delegates Mark Keam (D-35), Ken Plum (D-36), David Bulova (D-37), Alfonzo Lopez D-49), Marcus Simon (D-53), and Patrick Hope sat on the panel.

LEGISLATORS ON THE **PANEL**, all Democrats, were invited to speak for five minutes

each on bills and issues confronting the General Assembly and the Commonwealth. Few had time to get past introductory remarks and few details on the General Assembly emerged.

Keam, however, addressed a problem confronted by military personnel not deployed overseas when submitting absentee ballots. Keam's House Bill 838 would address an inconsistency in the policies followed by the Virginia State Board of Elections. Because of differences in various federal and state election laws, absentee ballots mailed in from overseas by U.S. military men and women are accepted by election officials even if the inside envelope that contains the ballot is not fully sealed.

"On the other hand, an absentee ballot mailed from within Virginia with the same imperfection on the inside envelope is rejected by election officials," Keam

said. "My bill would make the process consistent for all absentee ballots, regardless of from where they were mailed. "My bill passed both the House and

Senate with little opposition, which is pleasantly surprising since this is one of

the very few bills introduced by a Democrat to allow more votes to be counted, that has passed the conservative Republican House of Delegates."

Http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/ legp604.exe?141+sum+HB838 includes the language which, essentially, states that an absentee ballot will not be voided solely because the inner envelope containing the voted ballot is imperfectly sealed so long as the outside envelope containing the ballot envelope is sealed, Keam said.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER Richard E. Rubenstein, professor of conflict resolution and public affairs at George Mason University, spoke on the need for "game-changing" ideas to resolve income inequality in Virginia, suggesting that university researchers come to-

gether statewide to brainstorm ideas that address the issue. He recommended, also, a state commission addressing the causes of poverty.

'This legislative session created a new opportunity for people to take a fresh look at issues that have been pending for a long time, such as income inequality and what the state is doing on behalf of vulnerable citizens," Keam said in a subsequent phone conversation. "However, these issues ended up with the same resutl this year because of the same partisan agenda that stalled things in years past.

The morning presentation was co-sponsored by SALT, Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty [VADP], Citizens United for Rehabilitation for Errants –VA [CURE], and Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations [VACOLAO].

—Donna Manz



(From left) are Bill Noland and Irene Haske, Fairfax County; Edythe Kelleher and Howard Springsteen, Vienna Town Council; Cathy Salgado, Vienna Parks and Recreation; Rebecca Greenberg, Vienna Public Works; Sharon Bulova, chairman, Fairfax County **Board of Supervisors; Justin Pistore, Fairfax County;** and John Muse, president, Community Appearance Alliance of Northern Virginia.

Creek Restoration Project Honored

Alliance of Northern Virginia (CAA) last week honored the Wolftrap Creek restoration project. Town of Vienna and Fairfax County representatives accepted an award recognizing the two entities' partnership that transformed a section of Wolftrap Creek in Vienna's Wildwood Park.

Because of it, the creek was changed from a deeply incised channel with eroding banks to an environmental benefit for people and animals. The work restored more than 2,500 feet of the Creek by reshaping the stream banks to a gentle slope and planting vegetation.

This vegetation not only provides a habitat for animals, but also helps stabilize the stream banks and filter pollutants from

The Community Appearance the stormwater runoff. After the work was completed, Wildwood Park re-opened in October 2013. The project was a joint effort between the Town of Vienna Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments and the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.

The goals were to improve water quality and restore the ecology of the stream and riparian habitat. This project also enhanced recreational and educational opportunities for stream and park visitors. It was honored last Friday, March 14, during an awards program hosted by the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors in Fairfax.

Bonnie Hobbs

WEEK IN VIENNA

Vienna Town Council Candidate Forums in April

On Tuesday, May 6, Town of Vienna residents will elect Mayor and three Town Council members who will begin two-year terms on July 1. The candidate for Mayor is Laurie A. DiRocco and the candidates for the three council seats are Mike L. Cheselka, Linda Jane Colbert, Edythe Frankel Kelleher, Pasha M. Majdi, Dennis E. Rice and Tara L. Voigt.

Election Day is Tuesday, May 6. The Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE, is the sole polling place for Town elections. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7

There will be two candidate forums held during the month of

April at the Vienna Community Center. The Vienna-Oakton National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) will host a candidate forum on Tuesday, April 8, at 1:30 p.m. The forum will be part of NARFE's regularly scheduled meeting. The Northeast Vienna Citizens Association (NEVCA) will host a forum on Tuesday, April 22, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Both forums are free and open to the public.

Voter-Registration Deadline

Monday, April 14, is the last day to register to vote in the May 6 Town of Vienna election. Those eligible to register must be Vienna residents, at least 18 years old by

SEE WEEK, PAGE 5

News

Twelve firstresponders at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department put themselves up for bids to raise funds for the fire department.



Photos by Donna Manz/The Connection

Fire Ball **Auction Hottest** Ticket in Town

First-responders volunteered to raise funds for Vienna Volunteer Fire Department.

ore than 100 friends and citizens came out on March 21 to support the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department's fundraiser, the 2nd Annual Fire Ball Auction. Community businesses donated prizes for the silent auction and the raffle, and dedicated firefighters and EMTs donated themselves in a live auction. Bidding for an organized group dinner-date with a first-responder started at \$40 and guests sent the bidding in the hundreds of dollars. Twelve firefighters and EMTs volunteered as auction prizes.

The event was held in the fire station's "Flame Room," and complimentary hot and cold appetizers were served to guests. Beer and wine were available

The fundraiser raised \$8000, and expenses are anticipated to be approximately \$1500-\$2000, fundraiser coordinator Judi Medwedeff said. The money "goes to a good cause," most of the volunteer people-prizes said.

Donated non-human prizes included restaurant gift cards, services, epicurean baskets and cooking classes, health and fitness resources, and jewelry pieces valued at over \$500 each.

Lauren Kovacic, Mike Spatter, Kasey Jamison, Nick Stern, Emily Patrick, James Estep, Jeff Snow, Hanna Mitchell, Stephen Baldassari, Adam Searle, Lauren Colon, and Sean Europe volunteered to be auctionedoff. Winning bidders and their "prizes" received a VIP tour of the Vienna fire station on Saturday, March 22, followed by a group dinner at Westwood Country Club.

— Donna Manz



First auction volunteer, Lauren Kovacic, "went" for \$80.



Firefighters and EMTs await their turn on the auction block. Sean Europe, left, topped bids.

Dentist Dr. **Robert Morabito** and Bryan Allison performing a dental procedure on a school aged student from an orphanage.



Giving Haitians **New Smiles**

t has been nearly four years since an earthquake killed hundreds of thousands in Haiti. Much aid has been given to Haiti, yet the country still struggles with security and health care issues. Pastor Randy Beeman recently led a group of 16 people from the Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna on the latest mission trip to Delmas, Haiti, the largest suburb of Port-au-Prince. Robert Morabito, a dentist in Falls Church, his staff, and family, took more than \$10,000 worth of supplies and toothbrushes. Their information can found www.morabitodds.com.

Pastor Beeman says the primary goal of the trip was to witness, provide good works, as well as spread the good news about how much God loves the children and families of the poorest nation in the western hemisphere by providing much needed medical screenings, dental care, and eyeglasses. The team supports and hires local Haitian dentists and doctors in an effort to provide stable and sustainable care into the future. Upon their return they will spread the news of the needs of Haitians in an effort to arouse more support, more prayers, and more funding for this na-

The group first worked at the Delmas Christian Church in Delmas with Pastor Eddy Bazin, a native Haitian educated in the the team of dentists, doctors, members of Antioch, they were

able to provide medical screenings, eyeglasses, oral hygiene instructions, cleanings, fillings and extractions, and much needed medications and antibiotics. A fourth day of care took place at the Mission Eglise Assemblee Chretienne Unie d'Haiti in Delmas. This church ministers to people close to one of the largest remaining tent cities. The group gave care to 80 children in an orphanage and in a school.

Challenges such as no electricity, no running water and children who had never seen dentists before made the clinics challenging yet rewarding for the team. The team took many supplies for each child from toothpaste, floss and a toothbrush. Each child and adult had a cleaning and necessary dental care such as fillings or extractions.

One of the most difficult things to see were the children whose teeth were decaying and causing infection in the gums which could potentially lead to death. The care provided will help relieve much pain and suffering but more importantly will help preserve the health and gums. Additionally, the team members were able honor their mission motto - "Your Smile is our Goal."

The church hopes to go annually on a dental missions trip and take other dentists, nurses, hygienists and doctors and volunteers who desire to help United States. For three days those in need around the world. This is the third trip the church hygienists and volunteers from has taken to Delmas in the last the Antioch church cared for three years. For more informa-383 patients at the church in tion on how to support or at-Delmas. With funding from the tend a future trip, go to www.antiochdoc.org.

Week in Vienna

From Page 3

election day and a U.S. citizen. Register in person in the Fairfax County General Registrar's Office at the county Government Center or by mail. Application forms are available in the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall, all public libraries and at www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

People already registered to vote should check their voter-registration cards to be sure their current name and address are correct. For more information, call the Fairfax County Office of Elections at 703-222-0776.

FY 2014-2015 Proposed Budget Available

Copies of the proposed Town of Vienna budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 are available for public review online at www.viennava.gov, in the Finance Department at Town Hall, 127 Center Street S, and at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue E.

Town Council will discuss the proposed budget during two work sessions on Saturday, March 22, at 9 a.m. and Monday, March 24, at 8 p.m. in Town Hall Council Chambers. The public is invited to attend; however, public comment is not permitted during work sessions.

In addition, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget on Monday April 7, at 8 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Town Hall. At the hearing, citizens will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed budget and ask questions about the appropriation of Town funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

If Council considers it necessary, a final budget work session to discuss comments made at the public hearing will be held at 8 p.m. on Monday, April 21. A public hearing on the proposed real estate tax rate and water and sewer rates will be held at the April 28 Council meeting, and adoption of the budget is scheduled for the May 12 meeting.

For more information, contact the Finance Department at (703) 255-6824.

Potomac River Watershed Cleanup Day

Area residents and organizations are invited to join in the 26th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup on Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The cleanup takes place at sites in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and West Virginia – all part of the lands, or watershed, that drain into the Potomac.

This year local efforts will focus on Piney Branch Creek at Northside Park and Wolftrap Creek at Wildwood Park. Volunteers for the Piney Branch Creek site should enter the trail near the Town of Vienna's Northside Property Yard and meet at the metal bridge located along the path leading to the creek at 9 a.m.

The Wolftrap Creek site is sponsored by the George Mason District Boy Scouts and will meet at 9 a.m. on Follin Lane at the entrance to Wildwood Park. If you are interested in volunteering at either the Wolftrap Creek or Piney Branch Creek site, contact Rick Ayers at rayers@esri.com or 70-989-3221.

For more information on the Ferguson Foundation and the Trash

Free Potomac Watershed initiative, visit www.fergusonfoundation.org/trash-free-potomac-watershed-initiative/potomac-river-watershed-cleanup.

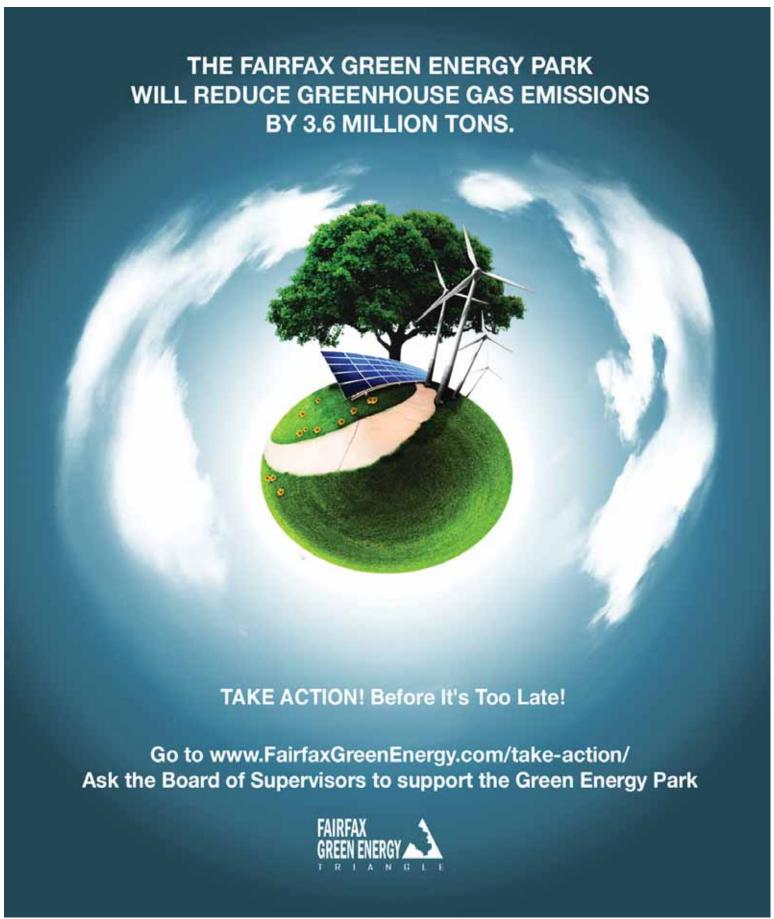
Old-fashioned Egg Roll at Freeman House

An old-fashioned Easter egg roll for children ages 12 and under and

their parents will be held on the lawn of Vienna's historic Freeman House, 131 Church Street NE, on Saturday, April 12, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Participants are welcome to visit with the Easter Bunny, decorate eggs and enjoy a real egg roll. This activity is free of charge and no registration is required; bring your own basket.

For more information, call Historic Vienna, Inc. at 703-938-5187 or visit www.historicviennainc.org.



OPINION

Challenging Budgets

Local Government should be able to access income taxes to give relief on real estate taxes.

orthern Virginia governments are facing shortfalls in the classic budget sense: projected revenues are less than last year's expenditures plus increases in costs.

Alexandria City Manager Rashad Young Young: "This is the seventh straight year of budgetary challenges, where the cost of current services and previous commitments exceeds our revenue growth." His proposed budget includes \$190.6 million for Alexandria City Public Schools, a 2.62 percent increase over FY2014 but \$2.5 million less than requested by the Alexandria School Board.

Fairfax County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova: "This will be a very challenging budget." Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza proposed an increase of 5.7 percent, \$98 million more than the schools requested last year, but supervisors have said to expect an increase of 2

Fairfax County, along with Arlington and Alexandria, is wrestling with how to fund increasing financial requests from schools, increasing needs for human services and providing a safety net, and many other areas of local

In Virginia, localities are allowed few areas of revenue, and local budgets are funded primarily through real estate property taxes. Prop-

EDITORIAL

erty values have increased this year, and local governments are also considering increases in the property tax rate, meaning homeowners will pay more in taxes.

Fairfax County Real Estate Assessments increased 5.8 percent for single family homes, 8.4 percent for townhouses and 10.5 percent for condos. In Arlington, property values grew about 5.8 percent this year. That includes single-family houses and townhouses, which went up 6.2 percent, as well as condominiums, which went up 5.9 percent. In Alexandria, residential assessments increased 4.8 percent.

But just because a home is worth more this year than last year doesn't actually put any more money in anyone's pocket. The increases are mostly modest and necessary in an area that prides itself on providing an exceptional quality of life and thriving business environ-

Employment and jobs are also strong in Northern Virginia, with unemployment at 3.7 percent in Fairfax, 4.1 percent in Alexandria and 3.2 percent in Arlington. Northern Virginia is the economic engine of Virginia. The overall unemployment rate in Virginia is 5 percent, with these statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These rates are far below the national rate.

But state income tax, paid disproportionately by workers in Northern Virginia, are collected by the state for the state budget. The exact percentage of money that returns to Northern Virginia is debated, but it is definitely small. Localities should have the ability to add a piggyback tax to the state income tax in order to provide needed and expected services while giving relief to homeowners.

Anyone familiar with the political process in Virginia knows that this is a pipe dream with essentially zero chance. It would have to pass the Virginia General Assembly. Nevertheless, it makes no sense for Northern Virginia to pay income taxes to the state without being able

Meanwhile, Arlington FY 2015 tax rate public hearing is March 27 at 7 p.m. More on budget: Arlington's http:// countyboard.arlingtonva.us/budget/

Fairfax County's public hearings, all in the board auditorium at the government center: Effective Tax Rate Hearing 3 p.m., April 8, 2014; Budget Public Hearing 6 p.m., April 8; 3 p.m., April 9; 3 p.m., April 10. More on Fairfax County Budget, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/

For more on Alexandria's budget https:// www.alexandriava.gov/budget/info/ default.aspx?id=75641.

A favorite guideline on testimony at budget hearings comes in Arlington: "Repetitious testimony is discouraged." Good luck with that.

- Mary Kimm

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Small Farmers Need Clean Water

BY MARIETTE HIU NEWCOMB AND KIMBERLY WILLIAMS

orthern Virginia's small farmers know the importance of keeping the water that we all depend on clean. They worry that polluted water could contaminate their crops the fruits and vegetables that are supposed to keep people nourished and healthy. Local farmers are doing their part to reduce runoff pollution into the streams that feed into the Potomac River.

But the Potomac River and other waterways across Virginia remain

The Clean Water Act has been helping protect waterways across the country from pollution for the past 40 years. Through its protections, we've made huge progress in cleaning up Virginia's waterways, giving even more Virginians the opportunity to fish and swim in rivers like the Potomac. But if polluters like Big Ag and Big Oil have their way, that progress will stop here.

Polluter-led lawsuits have opened up

huge loopholes in the Clean Water Act. of an impaired water source. And

These loopholes leave 57 percent of Virginia's streams and many of its wetlands at risk of unchecked pollution. To make matters worse, these are the same waterways that feed and filter waterways like the Potomac River and, on their own, provide the drinking water for 2 million Virginians.

The effects of these loopholes on Virginia could be huge. The health of our families, our local economy and the ecosystem depend on our waterways being clean and safe. And our farms need clean water to grow healthy food for our communities. No one should be allowed to dump waste into the waterways that provide our communities with drinking water and a place to visit and enjoy. We all have a stake in clean water, and we know from the days before the Clean Water Act that when polluters dump into our streams and pave over our wetlands, we all suffer.

Virginia's small farmers have a particularly large stake in clean water and would feel the impacts because of that, many small farmers in Virginia take great care to be stewards of their land and our waterways. But without adequate protections to all our waterways, we can't ensure that our water will remain clean enough for drinking, swimming, or watering our crops.

Fortunately, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has the power to close these loopholes and help ensure that all Virginia's waterways are safe for future generations to enjoy just like we do today.

For over a decade, the nation's biggest polluters have been fighting tooth and nail to keep the EPA from fixing these loopholes and letting the cops on the environmental beat protect waterways like the Potomac River. But this fall, the EPA took the first big step toward protecting all of Virginia's waterways when it initiated the process to finally close these loopholes. This is great news for people across Virginia, especially small farmers. If the EPA continues to move forward and fixes the Clean Water Act, our waterways could soon again have the protections they deserve.

Whether we're fishing, swimming, watering crops, or just turning on the tap, the health of our waterways is critical to our way of life. All our waterways should be clean enough that we can swim in them without risking getting sick and fish from them without fearing the catch is too contaminated to eat. And the water that farmers give to their livestock should come from protected sources. Whether we're farmers, entrepreneurs, local officials, or ordinary families, we all need the EPA to move forward and fix the Clean Water Act now to ensure that places like the Potomac River are protected now and for future generations.

Mariette Hiu Newcomb is the owner of Potomac Vegetable Farms, a local farm in Northern Virginia that synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. Their vegetables, herbs, and cut flowers are available at farmers markets, our two on-farm roadside stands, and through their 550-member CSA.

Kimberly Williams is the Clean Water Associate with Environment Virginia, a citizen based advocacy organization.

Vienna & Oakton

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News



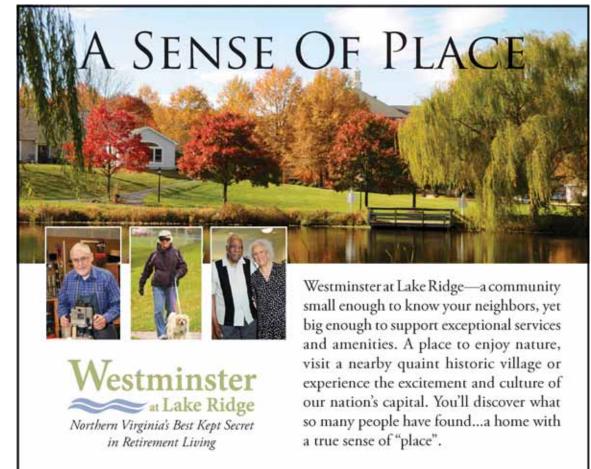
Photo contributed

Ric Edelman with Michelle Scott, Director of SCOV

Ric Edelman Speaks at Shepherd's Center

Upwards of 150 local seniors The luncheon was served by the Lutheran Church in Vienna on Monday, March 10, to hear financial expert Ric Edelman address their questions about both the current and future economy. The event was sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, the first 100 registered guests enjoyed a lunch, prepared by the Culinary Arts students at George Marshall High School.

gathered at the Emmanuel Tzu Chi' ladies, a group of Buddhist women that volunteer at these quarterly Lunch n' Life events. Edelman assured the crowd that the financial crisis of 2008 would not happen again and that it is best to have a balanced portfolio. Julius Hankin and his wife Mary Ann attended the luncheon and summarized the event, saying: "Mr. Edelman really delivered!"



There are just a few places left. Availability is extremely limited. Call today to reserve your place at Northern Virginia's best kept secret in retirement living— Westminster at Lake Ridge.



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Spring Fun 2014

Vienna Theatre Co. Presents 'Willy Wonka, the Musical'

Performances for the Vienna Theatre Company's spring production of "Willy Wonka, The Musical" opens at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE, on Friday, April 18, and will run Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. through May 3, with Sunday matinee performances at 2 p.m. on April 27, and May 4.

This multi-generational, family friendly musical is Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir in this stage adaptation of Dahl's book, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, which features the songs from the classic family film Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.

Tickets are now on sale, and are \$14 general admission. Tickets are available for purchase in advance at the Vienna Community Center or at the door. To reserve tickets, e-mail vtcshows@yahoo.com. For more information, call 703-255-6360 or visit www .viennatheatrecompany.org.



rehearsal for Vienna Theatre Company's upcoming production of "Willy Wonka, The Musical." From left, back row: Faith Skeen, Melissa Handel, Kyla Poe; front row: Kathryn Skeen, Mia Parnaby, Hannah Hess

The New York **Neo-Futurists** in 'Too Much **Light Makes the** Baby Go Blind.'



Neo-Futurists' Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind' at The Alden

The Alden in McLean welcomes The New York Neo- is that they are performed from a perspective of abso-Futurists in "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go lute honesty. With a continually updated menu of vi-Blind," a fast-paced show that drops the traditional gnettes ranging from zany to risqué to profound, it's a "fourth wall" to allow cast members to interact with perfect interactive evening. Each act is performed in a the audience. The single performance will be at 8 p.m. random order guided in part by the loudly shouting on Friday, April 11. Tickets are \$20/\$15 for MCC disaudience members. Rather than upholding contempotrict residents. The theatre is located at 1234 Ingleside rary theatrical conventions of character, setting, plot Avenue, inside the McLean Community Center. Free and the separation of audience and performer, the Neoparking is available.

less minutes. The single unifying element of these plays or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

Futurists aim to present actual life on stage by creating

In this show, an underground New York City favor- a world in the theater that has no pretense or illusion. ite, the eccentric New York Neo-Futurists race against Tickets are on sale now. For more information or to the clock to perform 30 miniature plays in 60 breath-purchase tickets online, visit: www.aldentheatre.org

CALENDAR

TUESDAY/MARCH 25-SATURDAY/MARCH 29 Great Escapes. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tues.-Sat. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Dozens of original artworks by artists throughout the region inspired by travel at home and abroad. Free. 703-319-3971. www.ViennaArtsSociety.org

FRIDAY/MARCH 28-SUNDAY/APRIL 20

The Cripple of Inishmaan" Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Exciteme ripples through the sleepy Irish community of Inishmaan abuzz with the news that a Hollywood filmmaker plans to shoot a movie on a neighboring island. When young Cripple Billy lands a screen test, the oddball citizens of Inishmaan mount a heartbreakingly hilarious campaign bursting with dark humor and touching devotion. General admission: \$27. Seniors \$22. Studen and Military \$15. Purchase online at www.1ststagetysons.org or 703-854-

SATURDAY/MARCH 29

Great Falls the World Hub of Innovation & Invention. 1-3 p.m Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Students, hobbyists and academics from around the world are competing and collaborating in development small robotic aircraft to help protect endangered species including rhinos, elephants, and snow leopards. Using computer aided design, 3D printing and simple arduino-based robotics kits, the teams are able to create unmanned aerial vehicles that are optimized for the mission, exceeding the performance of aircraft that cost thousands of

SUNDAY/MARCH 30

"Capitol Steps" at James Madison **High School.** 4 p.m., James on High School, 2500 James Madison Dr, Vienna. Capitol Steps, the quick witted multi-faceted congressional staffers, will be performing their popular fast-paced musical political satire live. \$30. jmhscapsteps@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 2

Vienna Photographic Society **Meeting.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Oakton Elementary School, 3000 Chain Bridge Rd., Oakton. Will erhorn will discuss photography in the context of the Special Olympics. Special Olympics is a worldwide organization of more than 4.2 million people with tellectual disabilities who use the ower of sports to reveal the

champions within. From a photographer's perspective, the key is finding the right photos to express the essence of Special Olympics.

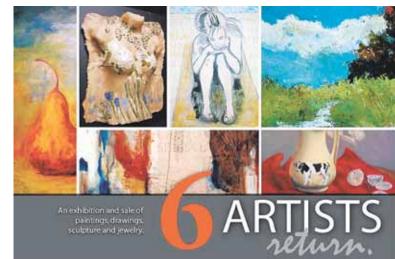
FRIDAY/APRIL 4-MONDAY/MAY 5

Six Artists Return. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Ionday through Saturday. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. An exhibition and sale of ntings, drawings, sculpture and welry by local artists Jackie Elwell, Elaine Florimonte, Debbie Glakas, Lisa Neher, Sarah Swart and Barbara Wagner. www.theframefactory1.com

SATURDAY/APRIL 5

Six Artists Return Opening Reception. 2-8 p.m. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. An exhibition and sale of paintings, drawings, sculpture and jewelry by local artists Jackie Elwell, aine Florimonte, Debbie Glakas,

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



An exhibition and sale of paintings, drawings, sculpture and jewelry by local artists Jackie Elwell, Elaine Florimonte, Debbie Glakas, Lisa Neher, Sarah Swart and Barbara Wagner, from Friday April 4 through May 5 at the Frame Factory in Vienna.

Lisa Neher, Sarah Swart and Barbara Wagner. www.theframefactory1.com **Book Sale.** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church.

SUNDAY/APRIL 6

The History of the Country Store.4-6 p.m. Freeman Store, 131 Church Street, NE, Vienna. The exhibit utilizes artifacts, period apparel, tools, posters and other materials to tell the story of local general stores which often served as grocery, post office, voting precinct, pharmacy, feed and grain supplier, hardware store, as well as filling a role as community centers. The exhibit is free and open to the public and will be in place through 2014. For more information www.historicviennainc.org.

Book Sale Clearance. 1 – 4 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 9

Wildfire Toasts the Silver Line. 6:30 p.m. Wildfire, 3rd floor, Tysons Corner, McLean. Toast the coming of the Silver Line and the great future for Tysons at Wildfire with a four course custom menu designed by Executive Chef Eddie Ishaq, each course paired with a sparkling wine from around the world. Michael Caplin, executive director of the Tysons Partnership, will be the guest speaker. The Tysons Partnership is a dynamic association of citizens and area businesses working with local government to transform Tysons into the next great American city. Michael Caplin will talk about plans for Tysons and answer questions. \$80/ per person. RSVP Amanda or Erika at

FRIDAY/APRIL 11

"Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind." 8 p.m. The Alden, 1234 ngleside Avenue, McLean. In this show, an underground New York City favorite, the eccentric New York Neo Futurists race against the clock to erform 30 miniature plays in 60 eathless minutes. Tickets are \$20/ \$15 for MCC district residents. www.aldentheatre.org

Train Club's 65th Anniversary Model Railroad Open House. 1-5 p.m. 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna Celebrate the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders' 65th Anniversary See and hear model trollevs and steam and diesel trains plus Thomas and some of his friends in the Historic

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Vienna Train Station along the W&OD trail just past the Caboose. The impressive layout reflects the mountainous terrain and towns of Western North Carolina with award winning structures. Free admission (donations accepted). For more information visit www.nvmr.org.

Flea Market. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Vienna's American Legion 330 Center St, N, Vienna. Space \$20; tables-\$5. Contact Debbie at 703-938-9535 for more info Paws for Art Fundraiser. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. This April, your artwork can help us save more ves, and help us raise awareness of LDCRF. Donations of artwork in any media are still being accepted for the LDCRF Paws for Art Show and Sale.

SATURDAY/ APRIL 12-SUNDAY/APRIL 13 **Spring Table Tennis Tournament**

10 a.m.- 4 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday. Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chair Bridge Road, McLean. The fee to participate is \$5 per person, per even or The Northern Virginia Table Tennis Club members and \$10 per person, per event for all others. All events are round-robin, followed by a single elimination. Prizes will be awarded to the champion and runne up in each of three divisions beginner, intermediate and advanced Semifinals and finals are best three out of five. All other matches are best two out of three. The tournamen director reserves the right to modify or cancel events based on the number of entries. To register for the urnament, or for more information, visit www.nvtcc.org

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Here's What's Happening at MCC

An Alden Theatre Production "Miss Nelson is Missing"

Sat. & Sun, March 29-30 and April 5-6, 3 p.m. \$10/\$8 MCC district residents

Studio Rep "Code 20: Proceed to Improv" Thursday, April 10, 7-9 p.m.

Old Firehouse Teen Center Free admission



New York Neo-Futurist "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind"

Friday, April 11, 8 p.m. \$20/\$15 MCC district residents



Bear Hunt Productions "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" Saturday, April 12, 2 p.m. \$15/\$10 MCC district residents

McLean Spring Community Garage Sale & Recycling Event Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

> 1420 Beverly Road Free admission

Spring Break Trips Mon-Fri, April 14-18, 8 a.m-6 p.m.

Destinations/Activities vary

The McLean Community Center www.mcleancenter.org Home of the Alden Theatre

www.aldentheatre.org

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Vienna/Oakton Connection March 26 - April 1, 2014 9

News

The World through a Lens

ith help from the Vienna Photo graphic Society, the Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation Dept.'s annual, amateur photography contest and exhibition was held March 15-16 at the Community Center.

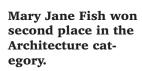


Photos By Bonnie Hobbs/The Connection

Jon Carr won honorable mention in Pictorial for this staircase.



Julie Cochran with her dragonfly photo.







Madison High junior Miranda Bricker placed second in Digital for these Washington, D.C. columns.



Photo By Bonnie Hobbs/The Connection

Vienna's Kathrin Swoboda won Best in Show for her hummingbird photo.

Katherin Swoboda Wins Best in Show

ienna's Katherin Swoboda won Best in Show for her photo of a hummingbird in the The Vienna Parks and Recreation Department's 2014 amateur photography contest. Oakton's Michael Cassidy received the People's Choice award for his photo of the Vietnam Memorial at sunrise.

Some 64 photographers entered 230 pictures in the March 15-16 competition. Judges were Wayne Wolfersberger of the Northern Virginia Photographic Society and Joshua Taylor Jr. of Archiphoto Workshops. Helping with the show was the Vienna Photographic Society.

Winners in the eight categories are:

ANIMALS

1st – Katherine Swoboda; 2nd – Dennis Govoni; 3rd – Kathrine Swoboda; Honorable Mention – Barbara Saffir; Dennis Govoni; Caroline Stevens Student Winners: 1st and 2nd –

Joshua Lynum, Wolftrap Elementary

ARCHITECTURE

1st – Talib A. Aleem; 2nd – Mary Jane Fish; 3rd – Cathy Dutchak; Honorable Mention – Talib A. Aleem; Michael Cassidy; Joan Axilbund

Student Winners: 1st – Jessica Miller, Centreville High School; 2nd – Isabel Roscoe, Thomas Jefferson High School

DIGITAL

1st – Paige Counts; 2nd – Colin GrandPre; 3rd – Jean Klaus; Honorable Mention – Mark Roth Student Winners: 1st – Nicholas Needham, South County High School; 2nd – Miranda Bricker, James Madison High School; 3rd -Nicholas Needham, South County High School; Honorable Mention – Miranda Bricker, James Madison High School; Kate Callahan, McLean High School

NATURE

1st – Katherine Swoboda; 2nd – Dennis Govoni; 3rd – Margaret Raymond; Honorable Mention – Dennis Tarnay; Erica Everhart

Katherin **STUDENT WINNERS**

1st – Jessica Miller, Centreville High School

PHOTOJOURNALISM

1st – Aaron Holland; 2nd – Chuck Campbell; 3rd – Ryan Dunn; Honorable Mention – John Sichenze; You-Yen Yang; Leah Bussert

Student Winners: 1st – Isabel Roscoe, Thomas Jefferson High School; 2nd – Madeline Roodberg, Flint Hill School; 3rd – Miranda Bricker, James Madison High School; Honorable Mention -Madeline Roodberg, Flint Hill School

PICTORIAL

1st – Tom Simpson; 2nd – Andy Wohl; 3rd – Ryan Dunn; Honorable Mention – Karen Lykke; Chuck Campbell; Jon Carr Student Winners: 1st and 2nd: Isabel Roscoe, Thomas Jefferson High School

PORTRAITURE

1st – Brian Willeli; 2nd – Lee Falcon; 3rd – Brian Willeli; Honorable Mention – Karen Lykke; Paige Counts; Michael Faber

Student Winners: 1st – Kate
Callahan, McLean High School;
2nd - Madeline Roodberg, Flint
Hill School; 3rd – Nicholas
Needham, South County High
School; Honorable Mention –
Eden Green, Fairfax High School;
Madeline Roodberg, Flint Hill
School; Rachel Albrecht, Falls
Church High School

SCENIC

1st – Mark Roth; 2nd – Dennis Govoni; 3rd – Dennis Tarnay; Honorable Mention – Jean Klaus; Dennis Tarnay

Student Winners: 1st and 2nd –
Jessica Miller, Centreville High
School; 3rd – Rachel Albrecht,
Falls Church High School;
Honorable Mention – Rachel
Albrecht, Falls Church High
School; Nicholas Needham, South
County High School

Vienna Parks and Recreation thanks photo show judges Wayne Wolfersberger of the Northern Virginia Photographic Society and Joshua Taylor, Jr. with Archiphoto Workshops, and also the Vienna Photographic Society for assisting with the show.

Spring Fun 2014

'Carmen' Comes to Area

Virginia Opera brings "Carmen" to Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

irginia Opera, the Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth of Virginia, will present Georges Bizet's sultry tragedy about opera's most famous femme fatale, "Carmen." The opera has enthralled audiences for more than a century and is one of the most popular. "Carmen" follows Don José and his ill-fated obsession with the alluring Carmen who tosses him aside for another man leading to jealous

"At the Center for the Arts, we strive to offer programming that appeals to our patrons' diverse artistic tastes. Bizet's 'Carmen' is beloved by opera enthusiasts, and even those who are new to the genre are familiar with the music," said Jill Laiacona, George Mason University,

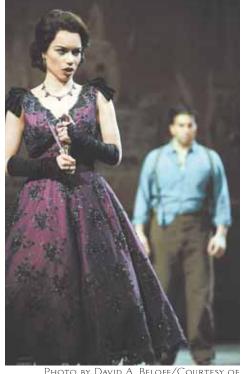


Photo by David A. Beloff/Courtesy of Virginia Opera

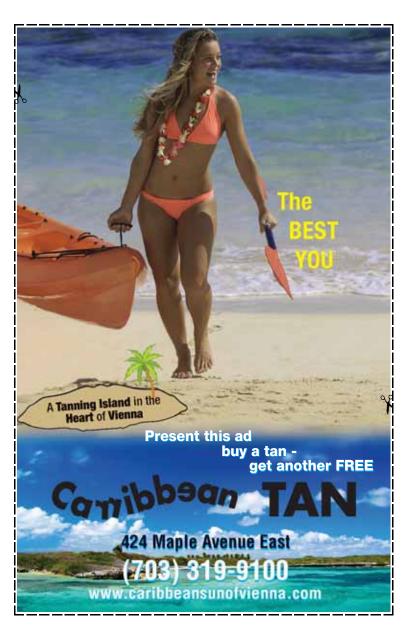
Ginger Costa-Jackson as Carmen in Virginia Opera's production of "Carmen."

WHERE AND WHEN

Virginia Opera's "Carmen" at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances are Friday, April 11 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets are Friday: \$44-\$86; Sunday: \$48-\$98. Youth Discount: tickets are half price for youth through grade 12. Call 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu

Public and Media Relations Coordinator. "One of its most famous arias, 'Habanera,' has been parodied countless times, including by The Muppets and The Marx Brothers. We're thrilled that Virginia Opera chose this work as the finale for its 39th season."

"The team that Virginia Opera brings to lead 'Carmen' has produced incredible opera both on our stage and in opera houses across the world," said Russell P. Allen, president and CEO of Virginia Opera. "Audiences can expect a production of 'Carmen' that will not disappoint."



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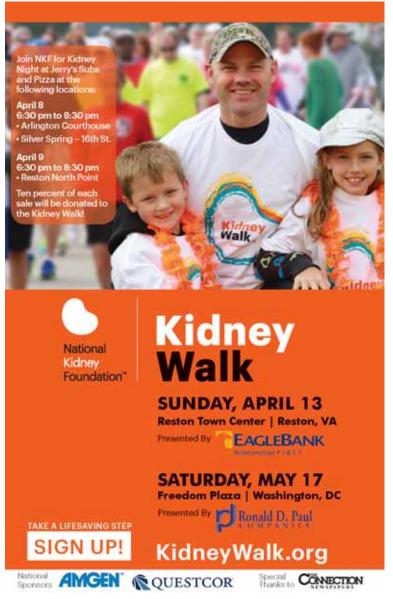
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Sports

East All-Stars Beat West in Suburban Classic

McLean's Prock named East MVP; South Lakes' Jensen scores 22.

> By Jon Roetman The Connection

cLean senior guard Cami Prock "took a couple emotional days off" following the Highlanders' seasonending loss to T.C. Williams in the opening round of the 6A North regional tournament on Feb. 24.

Following her decompression session, Prock returned to the gym to work on her game. While her time with the McLean girls' basketball team was over, Prock's hard work paid off a month down the road with a strong performance in Sunday's 10th Suburban Classic all-star game at Oakton High School

As a member of the East all-stars, Prock scored a team-high 12 points and earned team MVP honors as the East defeated the West 78-64 on March 23.

THE SUBURBAN CLASSIC featured some of the top seniors from the 6A North and 5A North regions. The Northern Virginia Women's Basketball Coaches Association sponsored the event and helped raise scholarship money for athletes.

The East all-stars, coached by Edison's Dianne Lewis, led the West squad, coached by Madison's Kirsten Stone, 34-30 late in the second quarter. Prock helped the East pull away, though, scoring six points in the final 90 seconds of the first half as the team built a 41-30 halftime advantage.

Prock agreed that the environment was a combination of competitiveness and enjoyment.

"It was definitely a great mixture of both," she said. "I know when I'm competing and having fun at the same time, it's a great feeling."



McLean senior and East all-star Cami Prock, left, defends Centreville senior and West all-star Jenna Green during the 10th Suburban Classic on March 23 at Oakton High School. Each player earned MVP honors for her respective team.

Prock will attend the College of William & Mary next year and is debating whether to attempt to join the university's basketball team as a walk on.

South Lakes guard Caitlin Jensen, a member of the West all-stars, was another athlete who didn't take long to return to the gym after her high school season had ended. Jensen said she went back to work the following day after the Seahawks lost to Centreville in the regional quarterfinals on Feb. 25.

On Sunday, Jensen led all scorers with 22 points, including four 3-pointers.

"I've been working really hard since the season ended," Jensen said. "It's a great feeling."

Jensen will continue her basketball career next season at the University of Mary Washington. On this afternoon, she got to play once again with South Lakes teammate Abby Rendle, and with girls she had competed against during her high school career.

"It was a good experience," Jensen said.
"It was nice because I've played against these people forever and now playing on

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Madison senior and West all-star Katie Kerrigan goes up for a shot during the 10th Suburban Classic on March 23 at Oakton High School.

the same team with [Centreville point guard] Jenna [Green] and all them, it's a new feel, but I liked it."

Madison senior Katie Kerrigan has also been working hard, but in a different sport. After the Madison girls' basketball team lost to Stonewall Jackson in the region semifinals on Feb. 27, Kerrigan transitioned to her primary sport of lacrosse, which she will play at Ohio State University. On Sunday, she was back on the hardwood as a member of the West all-stars.

"It was definitely a lot of fun playing with the best players in the region," Kerrigan said. "It's definitely a little hard because I haven't touched a basketball in three weeks. It was fun. It was a great experience. I got to play with a lot of my close friends. It was a great way to end my high school career."

Kerrigan scored six points, played aggressive defense and got to play for Coach Stone one more time.

"It was fun," Stone said of coaching Kerrigan in the all-star game. "She's just a workhorse. You don't really see many of those. ... I turned to the girls on the bench

and I'm like, 'I would hate for her to have to guard me.' And they were like, 'it's awful."

THE EAST ALL-STARS led by as many as 22 points, when West Springfield's Amy Berglund scored to give the team a 76-54 advantage in the fourth quarter. Berglund finished with 10 points. She was one of four East players to reach double figures, and one of seven to score at least eight points.

Samantha Porter (Mount Vernon/Christopher Newport) and Amber Bryson (Lee) each scored 10 points for the East all-stars. Tykera Carter (T.C. Williams) finished with nine points, while Michelle Noel (Wakefield) and Tatianna Torres (Edison) each had eight. Caitlyn Mandela (Lake Braddock) and De'Ja Jeanpierre (Mount Vernon/Barton College) each had four points for the East, and Angie Schedler (T.C. Williams) had three.

For the West all-stars, Centreville's Green finished with 13 points and earned team MVP honors. Arnelle Collins (Freedom) scored 12 points and Alexia Johnson (Broad Run) had nine. Kayla Hix (Stonewall Jackson) and Bailey Dufrene (Osbourn) each had one point. Freedom's Nicole Lubovich also competed for the West team. Centreville's Katie Blumer was a member of the West all-stars but sat out due to injury.

Lewis, who coached Edison to its second consecutive region championship this season, said allowing players to have fun was a priority, but she takes pride in winning.

"Absolutely," she said. "I hate to lose."

There was a 3-point shootout prior to the main event, which Berglund won with nine points in the final round. Dufrene produced a final-round score of eight, while Prock and Green each had a score of seven.

Berglund put up 19 points in the first round.

"My heart was racing, I don't know why," Berglund said. "I was pretty nervous. It was fun. I felt like I was in the NBA all-star [shootout]. My legs got tired in the second round, that's why my score dropped so much, but it was fun."

Langley Girl's Lacrosse Opens Season With a Strong Win Against McLean

The Langley girls' lacrosse team started its 2014 season under a new coach, Rebecca Watkins, with a win over cross town rival McLean, 19-8 on March 20.

Nine different players scored goals, led by senior co-captain Lauren Clubb (3 goals and 1 assist), junior Julia Byrne (3 goals and 1 assist), freshman Becca Bair (3 goals), sophomore Halle Duenkel (2 goals and 3 assists), senior Katherine Gallo (2 goals and 1 assist), sophomore Morgan Kuligowski (2 goals and 1 assist), junior Nicole Lee (2 goals), junior co-captain Aubrey Zarella (1 goal and 2 assists) and freshman Anna Hofgard (1 goal and 2 assists). Freshman goalie Megan O'Hara had a strong game with 11 saves.

Langley reached the state finals each of the last two seasons, but enters the 2014 season with many new starters. The Saxons are captained this year by se-

niors Clubb and Jordan Simonides, and junior Zarella. Coach Watkins, a former Westfield High School

lacrosse star, recently took over the coaching reigns from longtime coach Richard DeSomma after a two-year stint as an assistant coach at Shenandoah University.

"I see a deep and talented team, and am excited to be able to work with these girls to achieve their true potential," Watkins said. "The McLean game demonstrated that we have a balanced attack, and I look forward to more successful games as the girls come together as a team."

Langley improved to 2-0 with a 10-9 victory against Centreville on March 24.

Next week will be a real test for Langley with games against Loudoun Valley, Fairfax and Oakton.



Photo by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

Langley junior Bethany Bacso fires a shot during a March 20 game against McLean.

SPORTS

'We Felt Like We Deserved It'

Vienna teen competed in synchronized ice skating Nationals.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

ince age 5, ice skating has been a huge part of Brynn Thomas's life – and the Madison High freshman wouldn't have it any other way.

She does synchronized skating and, she said, "The thought of going on slippery ice on tiny, thin blades is thrilling to me."

In synchronized skating, team members skate to music in unison while demonstrating their teamwork, speed and ability to perform intricate formations and challenging step sequences. And Thomas and her teammates on the Arlington-based Capitol Steps competed recently in the Synchronized Skating National Competition in Colorado Springs.

"Figure skating is fun, but synchronized is a really beautiful sport," she said. "And in synchro, you have a family and friendships. You're also friends outside the rink. You form strong bonds with people you have something in common with."

Thomas has been with Capitol Steps since she was 6, so she and her teammates have grown up together. They skate at the Junior Level, the second-highest competitive level, for ages 12-18.

THE TEAM practices weekends at the Kettler Capitals Iceplex in Arlington, from 5-10:30 a.m. Thomas also takes private lessons, three times a week, after school, at the Fairfax Ice Arena.

She skated at Nationals, Feb. 28-29, for her fourth time, having competed once before at Junior Level and twice in a younger category. "The first three times, we got into the top 10," she said. "This time, we finished in the top 20."

But considering the season they had, said Thomas, she and her teammates were just happy to be there. "We had a pretty rough season, with a ton of injuries, including to myself," she explained. "I fell while jumping during a private lesson, torqued my back and cracked my spine. So doing certain moves after that, I was in pain. I did that in November, and I'm almost finally recovered now."

They found out they made Nationals after a competition in Hershey, Pa. "We were really happy," said Thomas. "We felt like we deserved it and that it was



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Brynn Thomas has been skating since age 5.

our time. We'd overcome so many hurdles and injuries that we were just relieved."

Being there, she said, was stressful, but exciting, "knowing it was our last skate of the season and we had to give it our all. But it was very fun. Being up so high in the mountains made it a little difficult to breathe, but we trained hard to get our endurance up and make sure we were prepared for the [elevation] change."

The Capitol Steps performed a short program of 2 minutes, 30 seconds to a medley of songs from Cirque du Soleil shows. The team also skated a long program of 4 minutes, 20 seconds to jazzy, almost 1920s-style music.

"We were exhausted from all the practice, so we were all just happy that we stuck it out and did our best," said Thomas. "We felt proud of ourselves."

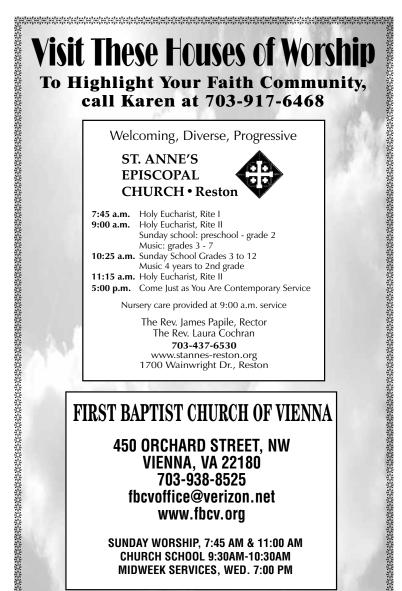
THE HARDEST PART of synchronized skating, she said, is "knowing you're surrounded by 14-16 other girls and you have to be spot-on and move as one person." But she loves it because it's "so unique. You can't make a circle or a wheel with just one or two people, and the patterns look just beautiful."

Now, even though the competitions are over for awhile, Thomas will continue skating. In July, she'll go to a week-long Synchro Camp in Ohio. She currently spends one hour a week at Kettler teaching young children who are just learning how to skate and jump. During the summer, she'll teach them all week long.

"I love it and I really want to keep doing it through high school," said Thomas. "It's so much fun working with the kids; I think I'll always skate or teach others."

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Another **Milestone**

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

March 30, 2014. My age 59 and a half (9/30/54 is my date of birth). The age at which money deposited into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) can be withdrawn without incurring a 10 percent earlywithdrawal penalty from the Internal Revenue Service (ÍRS). Not that I'm retiring. I am remembering though when this cancer-centric life of mine began.

I was diagnosed – in person – on February 27, 2009. Coincidentally around the time of the year when I contribute to my/our previous calendar year's IRA. On that fateful February day, I was age 54 and nearly one half, approximately five years away from having penalty-free access to my own "qualified" money. Having just received a "13 months to two years" prognosis by my oncologist, decision-making on subjects A-Z and/or everything in between from the sublime to the ridiculous – was challenging at best, and practically impossible at worst. Throw in a time consideration such as the future – to factor into your planning, and topsy-turvy becomes turvy-

Now complicate the process further by introducing financial issues – past, present and future – along with the incredible uncertainty of a totally unexpected terminal diagnosis (stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, NSCLC) and you have inaction, inattentiveness and insecurity overwhelming you at every step - and at every stagger, too; physically and emotionally.

As awkward and unfamiliar as this experience was at the time, I recall pondering the merit of investing money then that I would have limited access to until later, five years later in fact (without penalty that is). I mean, who knew/knows what expenses I might incur during my treatment? Fortunately I had health insurance, but considering co-pays, deductibles, "reasonable and customary"-type reimbursements leaving a balance to be borne by yours truly, alternative medicines/treatment options available (likely a total out-of-pocket cost), home health care, caregivers, loss of employment/income and miscellaneous expenses I was too clueless and uneducated to even contemplate and prepare for, and once again, you have potential trouble at every turn. Thinking positively and maintaining a good sense of humor can only keep so many wolves at bay. At some point - or certainly you think so, you are going to have to pay the piper, figuratively and most definitely, literally.

Still, I remember thinking even then, in the haze of this terrible diagnosis/set of unbelievable circumstances, that if I didn't act/live as if I had a future, I likely wouldn't have one. But five years seemed like an eternity, and given my prognosis, didn't seem like time I should necessarily plan for. After all, my doctor had suggested that perhaps I "take that vacation I had always dreamed of.

Well, here I am, five years later, having invested every year in my/our IRA, still alive and extraordinarily lucky to be so. In truth, given the facts and feelings I was presented with in late February, 2009, I didn't think I'd live to see this day. But I have. And even though I'm not retiring and not needing to withdraw any funds - prematurely or otherwise – from my IRA, March 30, 2014 is a date, to me, worth acknowledging. Having lived this long, I suppose it's time to pick another date - in the future. If I don't plan for it, I likely won't get there.

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

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FCPS Students Win Awards at **History Day Competition**

Schools

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) won nine first place awards at the regional competition for National History Day, held recently at Mount Vernon High School. The two best entries in each category and in each age division have qualified to compete in the Virginia History Day contest on Saturday, April 26, in Williamsburg.

First place winners included:

Ian Suzuki and Justin Shaw of Langley High School in Senior Group Documentary for "The Rights of the Quebecois.

A Basra Bashir of Mount Vernon High School in Individual Website for "Children Without Childhood.

❖ Jonathan Montgomery of West Springfield High School in Senior Historical Paper for "Geneva Convention: Responsibilities of the State Protecting the Rights of Prisoners of War.'

Abdullah Choudhury of West Springfield High School in Senior Individual Exhibit for "The Role of Japanese-Americans in World War II."

Glynnis Farleigh and Alexandra Kraus of West Springfield High School in Senior Group Website for "Rights and Responsibilities of German Citizens During World War II."

❖ Zainab Calcuttawala and Swetha Kota of Westfield High School in Senior Group Exhibit for "Miep Gies Fights for Rights."

❖ Maisha Hoque and Raisa Hoque of Westfield High School in Senior Group Performance for "Akbar the Great: How a Mughal Used His Rights to Fulfill His Responsibilities.

Hayley Seal of Westfield High School in Senior Individual Performance for "The Louisiana Purchase Song.

* David Sohn and Andrew Yoon of Lorton Station Elementary School in Junior Group Exhibit for "George Washington's Proclamation of Neutrality in 1793: Rights and Responsibilities of the Newly Independent U.S. Foreign Policy."

Sohn and Yoon also won the George Washington Leadership Prize, sponsored by Mount Vernon, and the first place Citizenship History Award, sponsored by the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Caleb Danen and Chloe Rutley of Lorton Station Elementary School won the second place Citizen History Award, sponsored by the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Westfield High School student Monica Rudolph won the Newseum First Amendment Freedoms Award, sponsored by the Newseum, for her Senior Individual Exhibit, "Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, Leading the Way for Women's Voting Rights." Whitman Middle School student Anna Jackson won the Newseum First Amendment Freedoms Award in the Junior Division for her Junior Individual Performance, "Ooh, What Should

Second place winners included Emily Vang of Langley High School for Senior Individual Exhibit; Brooke Scutt, Ashley Sowell, and Ivania Canizalez of Mount Vernon High School for Senior Group Documentary; Alison Gray and Eva Du of West Springfield High School for Senior Group Exhibit; Christina Starling, Jonathan Hayes, Gari Jimenez-Lugo, and Stephen Scott of West Springfield High School for Senior Group Performance; Catherine Elwell of West Springfield High School for Senior Historical Paper; Celina Paudel of Westfield High School for Senior Individual Performance; and Ranai Kazi of Whitman Middle School for Junior Individual Exhibit.

Third place winners were Flannery Jamison of Madison High School, Senior Individual Documentary; Molly McClelland of Mount Vernon High School, Senior Individual Performance; Robert Marchibroda and Nicholas Phan of Robinson Secondary School, Senior Group Exhibit; Aya Khalafalla of West Springfield High School, Senior Individual Web Site; Brittany Branch of West Springfield High School, Senior Individual Exhibit; Jisun Lee, Sarah Lim, and Asmita Shah of Westfield High School, Senior Group Documentary; Sara Sturm, Kellie Cleveland, and Skye Koutstaal of Westfield High School, Senior Group Website: Shaleen Haque of West Springfield High School, Senior Historical Paper; and Caleb Danen and Chloe Rutley of Lorton Station Elementary School, Junior Group Exhibit.



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