

McLean
CONNECTION



ArtReach School Tours Connect Arts and Science

NEWS, PAGE 3

Langley High Holds Case Day

NEWS, PAGE 3

State Budget On Hold

NEWS, PAGE 6

More than 1700 elementary school students and teachers visited McLean Project for the Arts (MPA's) galleries in January and February for tours of Contraptions: Reflections on the Barely Functional. MPA ArtReach Program Director, Sharon Fishel, demonstrates the connections between arts and science.

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PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

Langley High School had its 22nd annual Case Day April 8.

Langley High Holds Case Day

Students hold mock trial for Riley vs. California.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

A mock debate over cell phone privacy and the law drew hundreds of students, parents and even some very distinguished guests to Langley High School's library last week.

Langley High's 22nd annual Case Day explored Riley vs. California on April 8, a case on the Supreme Court's current docket that allowed students to debate whether a cell phone - which holds a wealth of personal information - can be searched without a warrant.

Seniors Anna Cox and Grace Sununu served as the case petitioners. Seniors Ben Parker and William Miner played the respondents.

"In the same way an empty house has the same amount of protection as a full house, an empty cell phone has the same amount of protection as a full cell phone," Cox explained to a panel of mock justices played by students, local law experts and former U.S. Supreme Court Clerk William K. Suter.

"This event allows the student body to delve into a controversial national issue and tackle analysis and argument on a professional level, and provides the unique opportunity to work alongside and hear from such professionals," according to the event pamphlet.

However, the event affected the students more personally than the statement says. Most students that age have only had cell phones for a few years, if they have one at all.

PETITIONER COX explained that even a diary that was seized from someone arrested could not have as much information as a cell phone, which often serves

as a handheld computer for many people. In addition to the amount of data that can be stored, the phone can also receive real-time texts and emails that could be incriminating to the person who was arrested.

"Justice" Caroline E. Costle, who founded law practice Greensberg Costle, worried the person - who might be a lawyer - might receive a confidential text from a client or information about them having an affair. This information might not be relevant to the arrest, but is an invasion of their privacy, she said.

Miner, representing California, said the process of getting a warrant can be unpredictable and important information could be deleted if not searched right away. In addition, the physical proximity of the phone to the person would be an important factor to whether it would be searched.

During his response to the oral argument, Suter said Case Day is an event that should take place in every high school in the country.

"I think Case Day is the finest educational program of its kind," he said.

He answered questions about his appointment as a Supreme Court Clerk and his service as a general in the Army. Suter also told the students that they should attend law school if they don't know what they want to do as an occupation yet.

"The number of people applying for law school has been decreasing over the last few years," he said. "Saying there are too many lawyers is like saying there are too many smart people."

STUDENTS SAT ATTENTIVELY

through his responses about the case and his work and laughed when he said he went to basic training with Elvis Presley.

"He was very entertaining and had very funny stories about how the Supreme Court works behind the scenes," said senior Rachel Mayman. "He was inspiring to all our the students interested in politics and business, preaching about working hard and seizing opportunities."



Senior Anna Cox defends her case for cell phone privacy.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The look of wonder on this student's face was repeated hundreds of times during this year's MPA ArtReach school tours.

ArtReach School Tours Connect Arts and Science

More than 1700 elementary school students and teachers visited McLean Project for the Arts (MPA's) galleries in January and February for tours of Contraptions: Reflections on the Barely Functional.

Eight of the 12 schools served and 81 percent of the students who attended were from Title I schools, schools with high percentages of English as second language students or students who qualify for free or reduced lunches.

In an email to MPA ArtReach Program Director, Sharon Fishel, here is what one Graham Road Elementary School teacher had to say:

"On Feb. 4, my fifth graders from Graham Road Elementary along with a couple of parent volunteers learned quite a bit during our visit. Your demonstration on angles built background knowledge on the angle

lesson that I taught the week after our visit. Your comparison of the center of the wheel from one of the art pieces to the nucleus of a plant led me to choose a National Geographic article on plants to use during my reading workshop. I could not pass up the opportunity to build on the foundation that you so cleverly introduced for the Plant Unit I plan to teach in March. Thanks for keeping it relevant! "

The tours were conducted by artist/educators and focused on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) concepts.

ArtReach is offered FREE to schools and is funded entirely by contributions and grants. MPA also subsidizes the full cost of school bus transportation for Title I schools that might otherwise not be able to pay for transportation.



The MPA ArtReach tours were conducted by artist/educators and focused on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) concepts. Sharon Fishel discusses what cells and this sculpture have in common.

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SCHOOLS



PHOTOS BY KIM MORAN

Churchill Road SCA representatives and officers presented a check to Janice Reardon, executive director, Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Making a Difference at Churchill Road

The Churchill Road Elementary School Student Council Association (SCA) recently conducted a two-week long campaign to raise funds to send a child to the Muscular Dystrophy Association's (MDA) summer camp in Western Maryland. Thanks to their work and the generosity of the school community, the SCA was able to raise more than \$1,400 by selling \$1, \$3 and \$5 shamrocks in the "Make a Muscle, Make a Difference" campaign – enough to send two children to camp. Donors' names were noted on the shamrocks and displayed in the school's front lobby. SCA sponsor and school counselor Ms. Jamie Meyers said:

"The Student Council officers at Churchill Road felt such a connection with MDA's 'Make a Muscle, Make a Difference' campaign because it helped children go to summer camp, a joy that CRS students usually get to relish every year without a

thought. The kids with Muscular Dystrophy who are fortunate enough to go to camp are able to fit in and experience all that camp has to offer surrounded by peers that are just like them. SCA immediately agreed that they wanted to offer that experience to someone."

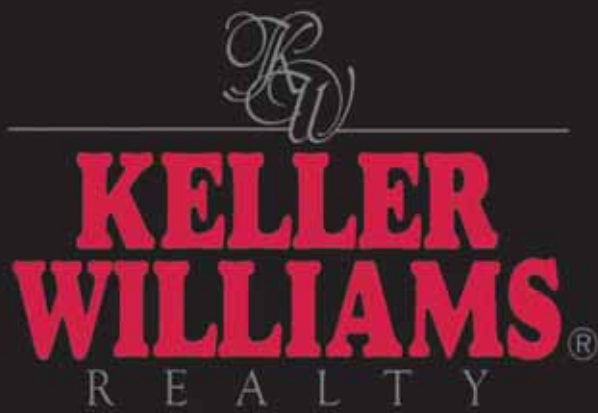
On April 10, the students presented a check for the funds they raised to Janice Reardon, executive director of the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Ms. Reardon told the children that, thanks to their efforts, MDA would be able to send two children, not just one, to summer camp. She went on to say:

"On behalf of the 1,300 families we serve throughout the Greater Washington D.C. Metro area - thank you - we cannot do our work without the work you do... all our best to all of you at Churchill Road Elementary School."

Churchill Road SCA officers Arielle Moore, Matthew Strong, Izzy Schone, Michael Hoeymans, Sean Mullery and Will Wheat stand by the wall of shamrocks representing student and community donations to the MDA's 'Make a Muscle, Make a Difference' campaign to send a child to summer camp.



Selling shamrocks: Churchill Road SCA officers Michael Hoeymans, Will Wheat and Sean Mullery sell shamrocks in the school's front lobby to benefit the MDA's 'Make a Muscle, Make a Difference' campaign.



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State Budget May Not Pass for Several Months

Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce hosts General Assembly update.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

For those waiting for the state budget to pass, don't hold your breath.

According to four elected officials at a Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce General Assembly update April 10, the Medicaid expansion bill will leave Democrats and Republicans quibbling over the budget past the beginning of summer.

"I think it will be past June," said Del. Marcus Simon (D-53) after the breakfast meeting. "I think we may set a new record with this particular budget. There's a rumor that it will be September."

State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) said she feels more optimistic and that the budget may pass months before Simon's prediction.

"I think we'll see it done by July 1," she said. "We can't hold the whole state hostage because some people are wrapped around their



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

From left — Del. Marcus Simon (D-53), state Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), Del. Bob Brink (D-48) and Del. Mark Keam (D-35) were invited to speak at the Chamber's breakfast event.

ideologies. We'll get there."

During his short speech, Del. Bob Brink (D-48) noted that the proposed Medicaid expansion is highly political.

"What do you see as the end game for the Medicaid expansion," PRS President Wendy Gradison

asked. "How is this going to turn out?"

Brink said both parties will have to find a "sweet spot" where they can agree on the bill so the budget can get passed.

"This is 90 percent politics and ideology," he said. "The Tea Party

is absolutely, vehemently opposed to the Affordable Care Act and the President that supported it."

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY didn't come to an agreement after they met again in March. Brink said after all the years he has been a delegate, he is not surprised. The latest he has seen a budget passed was June 26.

"It's not extraordinary for us to go into extra innings," he said,

However, school districts and local governments look forward to the state budget every year so they have an idea of how to draw up an accurate budget for themselves. With no state budget as of yet, local officials can either hold their budget out or draw up a conservative one.

Del. Mark Keam (D-35) said politics and policy are especially entwined on race years. He was surprised that some of the bills he thought were more controversial - on storm water management and Standard of Learning testing reforms - were not controversial at all when it came time to vote on them.

"All those issues we thought

would be the most controversial, we passed almost unanimously," he said.

Approximately 23 SOL exams were consolidated to 17 exams, he said. Sen. Favola noted that she cosponsored the mental health bill promising a psychiatric bed and longer evaluation process to those who need it.

THE BILL, which followed just months after state Sen. Craig Deeds' son stabbed his father then shot himself, was signed into law on April 8.

Additionally, she said she pushed to have more money sent to Northern Virginia community colleges to expand their dual degree program.

Simon had two bills under his name for his first term in the House of Delegates, which he said was more than he hoped for. One of such bills outlaws revenge pornography.

"My family is not excited that you can Google 'Marcus Simon, porn,' and a whole list of links pop up," he said jokingly.

That bill was passed into law in late February.

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 17

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter Meeting. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Edward D. Connor, WW II Army Air Corps veteran, will discuss the Battle of the Bismarck Sea of March 2-4, 1943. Admission is free. For information, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit www.vva227.org.

Great Falls Writer's Group Meeting. 12-1:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Alice Nodine, editor-in-chief of Elan Magazine, the premiere arts magazine serving Northern Virginia, will discuss strategies on how to get published and the changing nature of the publishing industry. Light lunch served. All are welcome; no registration necessary.

New Business Open House. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Church Street Antiques, located at 131 Church Street NW, Suite 2, Vienna. Church Street Antiques offers vintage items repurposed into unique artwork. You might find old door knobs turned into hooks, lamps made out of tea cups or a necklace made out of antique keys.

SUNDAY/APRIL 20

United Christian Parish Easter. Youth-led Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. and a family Worship Service at 10 a.m. 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. The United Christian Parish

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 17



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OPINION

Celebrate Earth Day

Get outside with your family, participate in group activities, or just walk in your favorite park.

Earth Day is April 22, observed April 19-27 and beyond. Fairfax County offers many useful and educational ways to enjoy the day. Don't miss the chance to get outside, observe the developing spring weather, flora and fauna. Here are some of the opportunities:

Environmental Film Festival, Sunday, April 20 through Thursday, April 24, Cinema Arts Theatres: 9650-14 Main Street, Fairfax. Each day, networking will begin at 3:30 p.m. and films begin at 4 p.m. The public is welcome to join in discussion on film topics and how they relate to Fairfax County. Students throughout the County have been encouraged to submit 2-5 minute films which will be shown throughout the Festival in between feature films and will be rebroadcast on Cox Communications local Channel 74 following the Festival. Environmental nonprofit organizations like the Audubon Society, Lands and Waters, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District will be at Cinema Arts for the daily networking sessions at 3.30 p.m.

http://www.fcrpp3.org/wp-content/uploads/green_inspirations.pdf

Cub Run RECenter for Earth Day, Saturday, April 19, 9 a.m.-noon, 4630 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly: "Nike Reuse-a-Shoe Program," bring old, worn-out athletic shoes to Earth Day. Nike Reuse-a-Shoe will grind them down to create a new material called Nike Grind which is used to make sports courts, turf fields, tracks and more. Activities include: planting, weeding, mulching, watershed clean-up, crafts for kids and bring questions for Master Gardeners. What to bring: water bottle, sunscreen, hat, garden gloves and bug repellent. Age: 5 - adult (ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult).

Springfest, April 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton: pony rides, plant sales, climbing wall, bounce house, petting zoo, face painting, two shows by Billy B, Reptiles Alive!, Under The Sea. 9-11 a.m. Stream Cleanup and Tree Planting with Occoquan Regional Park. Donate toothpaste, toothbrushes, cereal and rice to Lorton Community Action.

Invasive Management Area Volunteer Program is a community-based project designed to reduce invasive plants on our parklands. This volunteer-led program gives residents an opportunity to protect plants and wildlife of Fairfax County's forests while spending time outdoors, meeting new people and restoring natural habitats. Key components of this program are habitat restoration and a long-term commitment to the park. Many workdays planned during Earth Week, April 19-26, including in Vienna, McLean, Springfield and Burke. Virginia's Annual Invasive Plant Removal Day is May 3. To sign up, contact IMA Coordinator Erin Stocksclaeder at 703-324-8681

Fairfax County Biological Stream Monitoring: Aquatic forms of insects (called "benthic macroinvertebrates") live on the bottom of rocks and debris lying in the streambed. These small organisms play a big role in helping Fairfax County staff monitor the health of a stream. Data collected by volunteers is incorporated into a number of different water quality reports, including the Stream Protection Strategy Baseline Study. Join the hundreds of existing volunteers in collecting this important information and make a difference in the health of Fairfax County's streams! If you are interested in becoming a monitor, email the coordinator or call 703-324-1422, TTY 711.

Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 11, 2014, and every year at this time, we call for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery. Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your full address or contact information.) You can upload photos and information directly to our website at www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Household Hazardous Waste Collection, April 26, Reston South Park & Ride Lot, 2531 Reston Parkway, Reston. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/disphw.htm>

Electric Sunday, April 27 and May 18, I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax 22030: Fairfax County residents can recycle televisions, computers and peripheral devices — including keyboards, speakers, printers, external drives and other such materials — and unbroken fluorescent light bulbs and tubes on Electric Sundays. There is no charge for Fairfax County residents to participate in Electric Sunday; however, you may be required to show proof of residency.

Help Create A Bee-Friendly Landscape, seedling sale: The trees and shrubs in this year's seedling sale will help provide habitat for bees and add beauty to your landscape. The 2014 Shrub and Small Tree Package includes 10 seedlings for \$16.95. The Tree Package includes six seedlings sold for \$11.95. A full, nonrefundable payment must accompany your order by Monday, April 28. Orders may be picked up on Friday, May 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., or Saturday, May 3, 9 a.m.-noon. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm>

High-quality Preschool Helps Children Succeed

Fairfax County must expand access to Virginia Preschool Initiative.

As a retired general and the husband of an educator, I would like to highlight the importance of quality preschool as the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors makes final decisions about the county budget.

I am alarmed that 75 percent of all young Americans ages 17-24 are not able to serve in the military, primarily because they are too poorly educated, too overweight or have a criminal record.

In Virginia, 18 percent of young people do not graduate from high school on time. In addition, one in four of Virginia's high school

graduates who try to join the military cannot serve because of low scores on the military's exam for math, literacy and problem-solving.

This poses challenges for a 21st century military and a 21st century workforce alike. We have the most technologically advanced military in the world, but we need educated men and women to operate it. And the military isn't alone: businesses in the private sector are seeking many of the same skill sets and running into the same challenging deficits.

Fortunately, we know what

works when it comes to helping more children do well in school and in life. High-quality preschool can help children succeed in school and avoid criminal involvement, opening the doors to college, careers and military service, if they choose to serve.

Early education also provides a safe, nurturing, educational environment for children while their parents work. 66 percent of Virginia children under the age of 6 have all available parents in the workforce, according to KIDS COUNT data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The average working parent in America misses five to nine days of work per year because of childcare problems. Research confirms that if parents have quality early care and edu-

cation available in their communities, not only will absenteeism and turnover go down, but productivity will also go up.

Long-term studies following the graduates of preschool programs up to age 40 have shown that early education can produce very strong and lasting results.

Here in Virginia, the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) was established in 1995 to serve at-risk 4-year-olds who do not participate in Head Start. This program is important because it is the only option for a lot of children, and because we know it delivers solid benefits.

VPI graduates are less likely to repeat kindergarten and more

SEE PRESCHOOL, PAGE 9

McLean
CONNECTION

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SCHOOLS



Potomac School robotics team at the U.S. Open Robotics Championship. Sidney Levingston is in the front row, third from left; Tammy Vo is in the middle row, fifth from the left.

McLean Seniors Have Strong Showing At Nationals

McLean residents Sidney Levingston and Tammy Vo were part of a Potomac School team that placed 24th in U.S. Open Robotics Championship in Omaha, Neb., a strong showing in a field of 80 teams nationwide. Levingston and Vo, along with fellow seniors Sarah Chiang and Amy Zhang, made up one of four teams that qualified for the championship from Potomac. They will go on to compete in the World Championship

at the end of April in Anaheim, Calif., along with another team of eighth graders that won the Virginia VEX IQ state championship in February.

Currently in its fifth season, Potomac's robotics program has fielded teams that have won three national VEX championships. Last year, each of Potomac's seven teams finished among the world's top 100 teams.

Preschool

FROM PAGE 8

likely to meet or exceed minimum levels of competency in literacy.

VPI's return on investment shows that this is important not only for the children but for taxpayers as well. An analysis by the Economic Policy Institute and The Commonwealth Institute determined that quality early education in Virginia saved taxpayers over \$2 billion dollars over 17 years in special education savings, child welfare savings, decreased grade retention, reductions in juvenile and adult crime, increased earnings by parents, and increased tax contributions.

Unfortunately, quality early education is not equally available to all children who need it in the metropolitan Washington area.

A new report from the nonprofit Mission: Readiness, of which I am a member, shows that Fairfax County lags far behind other

local jurisdictions and the District of Columbia in access to preschool.

Nearly half of the children from low-income families in Fairfax County who are eligible for the Virginia Preschool Initiative are not enrolled and hundreds are on a waiting list while the county sends funding back to Richmond rather than match state dollars.

County leaders in Fairfax must find a way to close this gap and offer high-quality early childhood education to all children who need it.

High-quality early education builds a solid foundation and helps more young people develop in mind, body, and character so they can succeed at whatever career path they choose, including military service.

Michael E. Ennis
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps
(Retired)
Oakton

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
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Challenging A Child’s Mind Through Reading

Experts say reading is critical to cognitive and emotional development.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Arlington mother Holly Karapetkova reserves time for reading in the schedules of her two young children. It has become such an important part of their daily routine that it is a treasured family activity. It is also vital to her children’s development says Karapetkova.

“Reading is an extremely complex mental activity that engages a child’s — or adult’s — brain much more intensively than television or video games,” said Karapetkova, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Literature at Marymount University in Arlington. “When you read, you employ higher-order cognitive skills. You learn to imagine things that you have not yourself experienced.”

CHILD DEVELOPMENT and literature experts say that reading helps children develop imagination skills and an ability to learn and think in new ways. It also boosts emotional development.

“You learn to empathize with others, and so you are able to grow emotionally as well,” said Karapetkova. “Critical thinking, imagination, and empathy are all qualities that are essential to our nature as human beings, and essential to our success in the world.”

Fred Bemak, Ed.D., Professor and Academic Program Coordinator, College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University, says that even a few minutes each day can have a significant influence. “Reading to a child 20 minutes a day will increase their ability to read and think above grade level,” he said. “That is just a matter of sitting with a child and reading with them, but it has a such profound influence.”

A lack of reading time also makes an impact on children. “When a child doesn’t have access to books or when a parent doesn’t have knowledge about reading to a child, that is where we see an achievement gap,” said Bemak.

Mary Catherine Coleman, Lower School Librarian and JK-12 Library Department Chair at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, said reading offers children a broad view of the world. “I think, and research shows, reading helps to develop children’s thinking because it helps to develop a background knowledge about the world,” she said. “Reading also helps children to see the world from a different per-



PHOTO BY KATIE PEEBLES

Marymount University professor Holly Karapetkova reads with her 4-year-old daughter. Experts say that reading is a complex mental activity that engages a child’s brain more intensively than watching television or playing video games.

“Reading to a child 20 minutes a day will increase their ability to read and think above grade level. That is just a matter of sitting with a child and reading with them, but it has a such profound influence.”

— Fred Bemak, Ed.D., George Mason University

spective, helping children develop an understanding, empathy and compassion for others and the world. It challenges children to look at events, people and things in a different way.”

“When it comes to imagination, books challenge children to create a movie in their minds,” said Coleman. “They need to imagine a world, characters and experiences that they are not familiar with.”

“Reading challenges children to move beyond what

Book Suggestions

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE:

“Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library” by Chris Grabenstein
“Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy” by Karen Foxlee
“Capture the Flag” by Kate Messner

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE:

“Doll Bones” by Holly Black
“Under the Egg” by Laura Marx Fitzgerald
“Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin” by Liesl Shurtliff

they see in front of them,” said Coleman. “It also teaches children how to be storytellers, how to share experiences and fosters creativity.”

Karapetkova said that reading is more open-ended than other media and challenges a child’s cognitive abilities. “When you read, even when they are pictures, your brain has to do a great deal of work to process information and piece the story together,” she says. “In a movie or video game, everything is predetermined and spelled out for you, and there’s a lot less room left to the imagination to make leaps and discover things on its own.”

Karapetkova has experienced this in her own life. “I have found with my older child that one book often leads to another,” she said. “We might read something that piques his interest and sends him back to the library for more information, and the information he can find in the library is seemingly endless.”

The same is not true with television or video games. “When he watches a film or plays a video game, he never says to me, ‘I want to find out more about organisms deep under the sea because that’s where Spongebob lives,’” said Karapetkova. “But when he reads a book, he asks questions and his curiosity and imagination open up.”

Michael Moynihan, Upper School Head, The Heights School in Potomac, Md., believes in eschewing some electronic media and promoting “a renewed culture of reading...[and] conversation”.

SO WHICH BOOKS do experts recommend? “Really, anything you and your children enjoy reading together will do the trick,” said Karapetkova. “My children are several years apart. My daughter is 4 and my son is 9, and I have been amazed by how much each enjoys the books I pick out together for the other. I’ll sit down with my daughter to read ‘Brown Bear, Brown Bear’ or another picture book and my son will stop whatever he is doing to join us.”

“And my daughter also enjoys listening to what my son and I are reading aloud together,” said Karapetkova. “We’ve been reading a variety of books this year, including things like Harry Potter and C.S. Lewis, and she listens and grasps part of what is happening. So their interest in each other’s books reminds me that children can be drawn to and learn from a great range of books.”

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SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com by Friday.

Five Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students have received national awards for their writing from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Three of the students received Gold Medals, the highest form of recognition.

Aline Dolinh of Oakton High School received the American Voices Medal, the equivalent of the best of show award, for her poetry, “Accent Marks, Exorcism, Model Minority, Second-generation.” National winners include:

* Melissa Halbrook of Woodson High School, Gold Medal for humor, “Kim Jung-Un’s New Clothes.”

* Emma Hastings of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST), Gold Medal for short story, “Sight Without Vision, Vision Without Sight;” and Gold Medal for writing portfolio, “I Sing Of.”

* Jean Jeon of Herndon High School, Silver Medal for novel writing, “Strain.”

* Sara Warrington of TJHSST, Silver Medal for Journalism, “Overcoming Intolerance.”

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, a 91-year old program of the Alliance for

Young Artists and Writers, will honor the winners at a special ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Friday, June 6.

Longfellow Middle School students **Aaditya Singh, Franklyn Wang, and William Sun** have qualified to the United States of America Junior Mathematical Olympiad (USAJMO) 2014. The USAJMO is an invitation only competition where the MAA invites the top scoring 230 students (10th graders and below across the US) based on a combination of their performance in the AMC-10 and AIME competitions. See more at: <http://www.maa.org/node/79/#USAMO>

Courtney Cross, of Great Falls, graduated from Bishop O’Connell high school. She is a sophomore at Villanova University and was named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester of 2013.

Matthew Kent, of Vienna, was named to the Dean’s List at Carnegie Mellon University for the fall semester of 2013.

Lindsay Weber, a 2010 graduate of James Madison High School, has been named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester of 2013 at Radford University.

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NEWS



McLean Galaxy Wins Premier Tournament

McLean Galaxy Green U11 Boys Soccer Team were champions of the McLean Premier Soccer Tournament U11 National Division, defeating two local Division 1 teams, including Herndon and Chantilly. All four of the games in McLean were played in a wintry mix of freezing precipitation in the last weekend of March, with a mix of hail and snow falling during the finals. It was so cold and slippery that the game was called at the half with McLean ahead 2-1 over Chantilly, and trophies and a team photo were delayed to one week later. McLean Galaxy Green players reside in McLean, Vienna and Great Falls. The team is coached by Yuri Bogdanov.

Saint Ann Catholic Church

SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:

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FAITH NOTES

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

Easter week events at the Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna include:

❖ Thursday, April 17 - 6:30 p.m. is the 20th consecutive Seder Meal. It is a full meal which involves a retelling of the story of the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Families and individuals tell stories of faith, drink and eat symbols of the liberation from slavery. It is a fun evening for the entire family.

❖ Friday, April 18 - 7 p.m. - Good Friday worship in the sanctuary. Good Friday is a Christian holiday commemorating the death of Jesus Christ on the Friday before Easter.

❖ Sunday April 20 - 7 a.m. Sunrise service outdoors in the Groves (bring lawnchairs) Casual dress.

8 a.m. Easter Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Easter Starting Point Contemporary Worship
10:30 a.m. - Easter Egg hunt for all ages

11 a.m. - Traditional Easter Worship

There is no charge for any of the events and they are open to the public. Child Care is provided on Sundays. To register for the Seder meal email Pastor Randy Beeman at pastor@antiochdoc.org For more information on all events go to www.antiochdoc.org



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instrumental accompaniment.

All are welcome. No tickets are required.

April 19 - Easter Vigil

8:00 pm - The First Eucharist of Easter

April 20 - Easter Day

7:30, 9:00, 11:15 am - Holy Eucharist
Music with brass and timpani accompaniment

5:30 pm - Holy Eucharist

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From left — Julie the chambermaid (Rebecca Fischler) gives her opinion of the goings on to the members of the wedding party (Carole Steele, Jessica Inzeo, Will MacLeod, and Caity Brown).



PHOTOS BY TRACI J. BROOKS STUDIOS/COURTESY OF McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

A 'Perfect Wedding' at Alden

McLean Community Players present the area premiere of Robin Hawdon's farce.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

The well-appointed romantic honeymoon suite in a country estate outside of London is not what it seems. Panic is beginning; it is a wedding day and the bride-to-be is expected to arrive very soon. So, who is the young woman there now? And how did she get there? Is there to be a wedding at all?

Such is the appetizing premise behind the area premiere of Robin Hawdon's farce of "mistaken identities, deceptions, misunderstandings and true love," said Cathy Farnsworth, McLean Community Players (MCP) producer of "Perfect Wedding."

The MCP is always on the "search for shows that have wide audience appeal and challenges for our actors and directors," said Farnsworth. "Perfect Wedding" will do just that with "its fabulously funny plot and dialogue." Hawdon's comedy moves at lightning speed. It has been produced in about 20 countries around the world.

"Perfect Wedding" has an abundance of "slamming doors, concocted stories, mistaken identities and incredible timing as characters run from room to room, being locked in and out of rooms with the skimpiest of explanations and, sometimes, costuming," said veteran director and vocal coach Carol Strachan.

Jessica Inzeo is the bride-to-be. "My character, Rachel, is the 'straight man' of the play. Definitely an A-type personality." Though not one of the comical characters, "in a way, Rachel generates the play—the central conflict being 'Don't let Rachel find out!'"

Carole Steele is Daphne, the mother-of-the-bride. She "yearns for a perfect wedding and gets very emotional when things don't go as planned, which is all the time....Daphne also sings like Edith Bunker with an English accent. Mercifully for the audience, it's just a few lines."

"My character is a chambermaid who has come in to clean up for the wedding party, and winds up cleaning up after them in far more ways than she planned," said Rebecca Fischler. "Although she has no patience with the idiotic situations they've gotten themselves into, she can't resist some nice juicy intrigue, and this lot have enough ridiculous drama for a tabloid."



Bill, the bridegroom (Will MacLeod) and Rachel, the bride (Jessica Inzeo) talk with each other from adjoining rooms.

Where and When

McLean Community Players present "Perfect Wedding" at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Performances: April 25- May 10. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$14-\$16. Call 703-790-9223 or visit www.McLeanPlayers.org. Note: Suitable for ages 14 and older. Through a cooperative agreement with The Metropolitan Washington Ear, along with the support of the Alden Theatre, audio description services for individuals with vision challenges will be offered at the May 10 performance.

Cast members Will MacLeod, the bridegroom, and Caity Brown who plays a key good friend, agreed that audiences will find that "Perfect Wedding" never has a dull moment. It is a fast-paced comedy with clever dialogue, colorful characters, ridiculous situations, raucousness and great fun.

"Perfect Wedding" is "at once a completely absurd and entirely plausible comedy," added Inzeo. Sounds like real life at times.

CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/ APRIL 16

125th Birthday Celebration for Charlie Chaplin. 7:30 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Celebrate Charlie Chaplin's 125th birthday with an evening of silent films with live musical accompaniment. www.aldentheatre.org 703-790-0123.

FRIDAY/APRIL 18-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. Excitement 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. General admission: \$27. Seniors \$22. Students and Military \$15. Purchase online at www.1ststageinTysons.org or 703-854-1856.

FRIDAY/APRIL 18-MONDAY/MAY 5

Six Artists Return. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. An exhibition and sale of paintings, drawings, sculpture and jewelry by local artists. www.theframefactory1.com

FRIDAY/APRIL 18-SUNDAY/MAY 4

"Willy Wonka, The Musical." 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. Vienna Theatre Company, Vienna Community Center 120 Cherry St., SE Vienna. This family friendly musical is Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir. Admission \$14. To reserve tickets, email vtcshows@yahoo.com. For more information, call 703-255-6360 or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 19

Wildfire Breakfast Buffet & Easter Egg Hunt. 9-10:30 a.m. Wildfire, 3rd floor, Tysons Corner. The buffet will include Cinnamon French Toast, Applewood Smoked Bacon, cornbread, Banana Bread Muffins, and a selection of juices, milk and coffee. \$20/per person plus tax (gratuity not included). For more information or to make a reservation, call 703-442-9110.

Easter Egg Hunt at Nottoway Park. 10:30 a.m. (1-2 yrs.); 11 a.m. (3-4 yrs.); 11:30 a.m. (5-6 yrs.); 12 p.m. (7-9 yrs.) Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Visit with the Easter bunny and hunt for candy, toys and eggs filled with treats. Bring your own basket. Egg hunt start times: Walk-in registration starts 9:30 a.m. (\$8 per child—cash only). Call 703-324-8566 for information.

Salting Fish. 1-4 p.m. The Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Visit the farm family as they clean and salt down their yearly catch of herring. They invite you to help scale, clean and pack the fish into



PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

Josh Adams and Megan Graves in "The Cripple of Inishmaan" at 1st Stage, running April 18-20.

jars. Learn about the important contributions the Potomac River makes in their lives. \$3 adults; \$2 children and senior citizens. Complimentary admission with Claude Moore Colonial Farm membership. Free parking. Weather permitting. www.1771.org

MELODIME. 10 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. On tour to support their latest album, Where the Sinners & the Saints Collide, produced by Rick Beato (Shinedown, Parmalee, Needtobreathe). The band will be conducting an instrument drive at this show - fans get in free if they bring an instrument to donate.

Brunch at Great Falls Nails & Spa. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 731 H1 Walker Road, Great Falls.

SUNDAY/APRIL 20

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Vienna American Legion, 330 Center St, N, Vienna. Adults \$8, children \$3: omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, etc. Call 703-938-1379 for info. The Easter Bunny will be there, so bring your camera!

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 23

All Star Beer Dinner. 6:30 p.m. Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, McLean. A four-course menu of baseball-inspired food and beer pairings. Each "inning" will feature a craft brew from a different baseball-loving city. Nick Hardt, On Tap On Line "bierdo," will be the guest speaker for the evening. \$50 per person. To make a reservation, call 703-442-9110.

THURSDAY/APRIL 24

Annual Arbor Day Celebration. 4 p.m. The tree planting ceremony will be held next to the Parks and Recreation Department's community learning garden, located behind Vienna Elementary School, 128 Center Street S.

6th Annual Green Expo. 6:30 – 9 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE, Vienna. Presentations and discussions for children and adults will include information on energy efficiency, purchasing local organic products, creating green gardens, recycling options and more practical ideas to save money and help the environment. www.viennava.gov.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

THURSDAY/APRIL 24-SATURDAY/APRIL 26

"Catch Me if You Can." 7 p.m.

McLean High School Burks Theater, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. A musical that tells the story of Frank Abagnale, Jr., a teenager who runs away from home in search of the glamorous life. Tickets are available at www.mcleandrama.com. Adults \$15; Students/Seniors \$10.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25-SATURDAY/MAY 10

"Perfect Wedding." Friday-Saturday at 8 p.m. Sundays at 2 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean.

An awkward morning-of-the-wedding situation and then spins out of control in the McLean Community Players production of this farce/romantic comedy. 703-790-9223. www.McLeanPlayers.org. \$16-\$14.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26-SUNDAY/APRIL 27

"Catch Me if You Can." 2 p.m.

McLean High School Burks Theater, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. A musical that tells the story of a teenager who runs away from home. Tickets are available at www.mcleandrama.com. Adults \$15; Students/Seniors \$10.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

"The Lion's Whiskers" Puppet Show. 2 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. A musical adaptation of a traditional Ethiopian folktale, "The Lion's Whiskers" features a charming cast of human characters as well as African animals. www.aldentheatre.org

SUNDAY/APRIL 27

Flower Show. 2-5 p.m. 307 Windover Avenue, NW, during the annual Walk on the Hill through Vienna's historic Windover Heights District. The show will feature floral designs as well as members' cuttings of local horticulture to be evaluated by National Garden Club Judges. There will also be educational exhibits.

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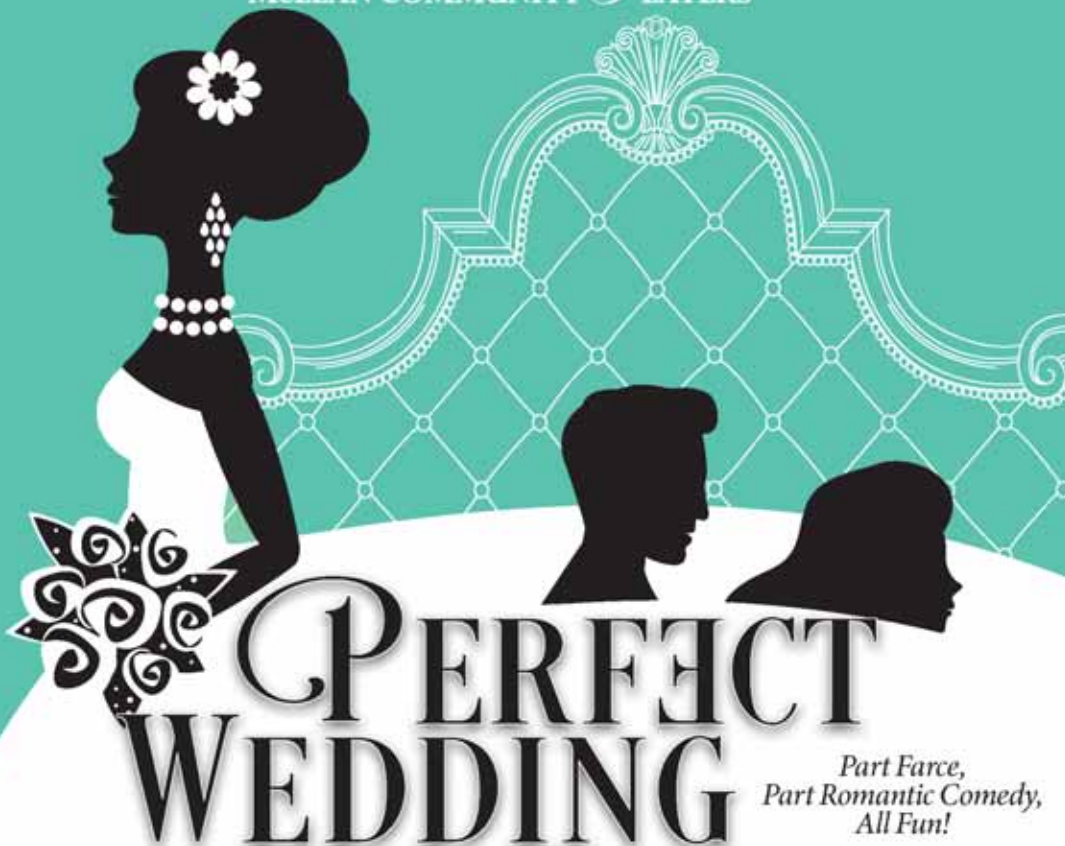
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When:
Thursday, April 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: (New location)
Old Firehouse Teen Center
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.,
McLean, VA 22101

Who:
Five adult candidates, six teens from the McLean High School boundary area, and one teen from the Langley High School boundary area.

Format:
Informal Reception

Five adults are vying for adult votes to fill three seats on the Governing Board. Five teens from the McLean High School boundary area and one teen from the Langley High School boundary area are vying for teen votes to fill one board seat from each high school boundary area.

Refreshments will be served. For planning purposes, please let us know if you will attend by emailing elections@mcleancenter.org.

SEE YOU THERE!



The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org



SPORTS



Madison senior Katie Kerrigan (7) totaled four goals and four assists during a 19-8 victory against Langley on April 10.



Madison's Alex Condon, right, defends against Langley's Marina Smith during the teams' April 10 matchup at Madison High School.



Langley senior Lauren Clubb (14) scored a goal against Madison on April 10.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Madison Girls' Lax Continues Dominance of Langley

Warhawks beat Saxons for fifth time in two seasons.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Last season, the Langley girls' lacrosse team faced Madison four times, including the state championship game. Each time, the Saxons came up short.

On April 10, the conference foes faced off once again. Unfortunately for Langley, a new season and a new head coach did not generate a new result.

The defending state champion Warhawks remained undefeated in 2014, defeating Langley 19-8 at Madison High School. Langley kept it close for a half and trailed 8-4 at the break, but senior attacker/midfielder Katie Kerrigan and junior midfielder Kierra Sweeney helped Madison pull away and improve to 4-0. Each of the Warhawks' victories this season came by more than 10 goals.

"When we play together as a team," Kerrigan said, "no one can stop us."

Madison has won 24 of its last 25 games dating back to last season, including five victories against Langley. The Warhawks beat the Saxons during the 2013 regular season, the Liberty District championship game, the Northern Region final and the

state final. On Thursday, led by first-year head coach Rebecca Watkins, Langley trailed 7-4 late in the first half before Madison's Alex Condon scored on an assist from Kerrigan with 19 seconds remaining, giving the Warhawks a four-goal halftime advantage.

"We definitely know that Langley has a bunch of talented players and we knew that, coming into this game, that it was going to be a lot more competitive than our past games," Kerrigan said. "We knew that we had to step it up and play together as a team and just take it to them."

The Warhawks took it to the Saxons in the second half, starting with a Kerrigan goal. The Ohio State signee finished with four goals and four assists. Sweeney led the team with six goals.

"[Kerrigan and Sweeney] kill themselves day in and day out to be able to sort of raise the bar for the girls around them," Madison head coach Amanda Counts said. "They blow us away every time we watch them play. That's on them. They get all the credit. They show up with that."

Condon, a senior midfielder, also had a big night for Madison, scoring five goals. Sophomore midfielder Shannon Condon

scored two goals for the Warhawks, and senior midfielder Ellie Bentley and junior midfielder Katie Sciandra each had one.

"They're extremely driven," Counts said about the Warhawks. "They really enjoy competition. Langley provides us that competition, so it's a fun game whenever we come across it."

How do the Warhawks stay focused after winning a state title and blowing out opponents early in 2014?

"Last couple of games against Westfield and against Oakton, it was more of an individual effort versus a team effort, so those losses were really hard. Tonight, yes the scoreboard said we lost, but, honestly, I felt like we won. We played as a team, we played intensely, we played with heart, and that's something I just needed to see from them."

— Langley girls' lacrosse coach Rebecca Watkins

"I think my motivation, especially since so many of my good friends are going to go off to college next year, is [to realize] I have such limited games with them," said Sweeney, who is committed to Dartmouth. "If we just play each game to the best of our ability, it's going to make my little time I have left with them so much more enjoyable."

The loss dropped Langley's record to 4-3. While the Saxons have lost three of four, including a 14-5 defeat against Oakton on April 2 and a 19-5 loss to Westfield on April 8, Watkins said she was pleased with her team's performance against Madison.

"Last couple of games against Westfield and against Oakton, it was more of an individual effort versus a team effort, so those losses were really hard," she said. "Tonight, yes the scoreboard said we lost, but, honestly, I felt like we won. We played as a team, we played intensely, we played with heart, and that's something I just needed to see from them."

Sophomore midfielder Halle Duenkel led Langley with five goals. Junior midfielders Nicole Lee and Aubrey Zarella, and senior midfielder Lauren Clubb each scored one.

Watkins said the Saxons' tough early-season schedule should pay off for the team down the stretch.

"All I ask them to do," she said, "is play their hearts out every single game."

Langley will travel to face Stone Bridge at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 25.

Madison will compete in the Centreville Invitational on Wednesday, April 16.

Langley Softball Hands Madison First Loss of Season

The Madison softball team suffered its first loss of the season, losing to the Langley Saxons 5-1 on April 11.

Sophomore pitcher Katie Vannicola took the loss for Madison. The Warhawks fell to 7-1.

Defensively, Madison played an error-free game and Vannicola fanned 11 batters, walked none and allowed eight hits. At the plate, the Warhawks

tallied a season-low one run.

The first three innings were evenly matched as both teams recorded 1-2-3 innings. Vannicola struck out six Langley batters in a row then threw out the next three batters trying to bunt to get on base, making nine consecutive outs herself.

The fourth inning proved to be the difference maker for the Saxons. Langley managed to score three runs on two outs and four

hits to put the Saxons on the board, 3-0.

It took the Warhawks until the sixth inning to get on the board against the Saxons. With two outs, sophomore left fielder Jordyn Pistilli reached on error and managed to get to third base. Sophomore center fielder Blake Brackett (1-3, RBI) had an infield hit that scored Pistilli. Madison threatened again in the bottom of the seventh inning. Sophomore Ally Fogel (1-

3) drove a two-out base hit through the right side. Senior first baseman Elizabeth Fallas (1-3) followed with another single. Vannicola hit a ball to the Langley shortstop, who tried to get Fogel at third but Fogel beat the throw. However, senior pitcher Emily Templin was able to pitch her way out of the inning ending the threat and capturing the win for the Saxons.

Senior shortstop Kat Olson (1-3) had the Warhawks' other hit in

the game.

The Warhawks head to Myrtle Beach, S.C., to participate in the Grand Strands Spring Break Tournament and will play five games over five days. Upon their return, the Warhawks will take on Hayfield at Madison High School on Tuesday, April 22.

Langley, which improved to 5-1 with the win, will travel to face McLean at 6:30 p.m. on April 22.

Tax Burden Targets Low-Income in Northern Virginia

Average tax burden for low-income workers is highest in Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax.

By MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Families that are struggling to make ends meet in Northern Virginia are the target of local governments in Northern Virginia, which has the highest tax burden in the region for low-income workers. Wealthy people face the highest tax burden in Prince George’s County and Montgomery County. But here in Virginia, poor people face the biggest tax burden in Arlington, according to a new study by the Office of Revenue Analysis in the District of Columbia. Alexandria ranked second, and Fairfax County ranked third.

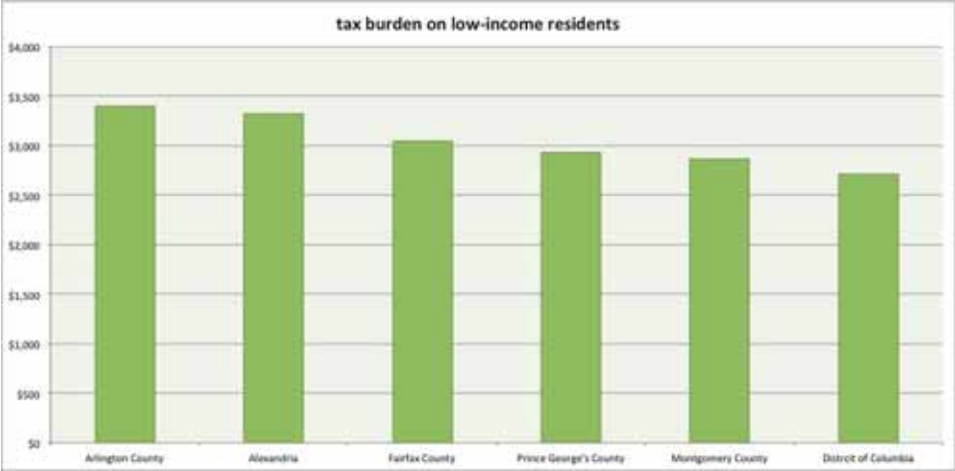
“People of color and low-income people are being pushed farther and farther out,” said Jon Liss, founder of Tenants and Workers United. “The whole anti-immigrant backlash from 2006 to the present in Prince William was against the influx of people of color, particularly immigrants, being priced out and taxed out of this area and moving down there.”

The study included the average tax burdens for five different income levels, starting at a family that earns \$25,000 a year and ending with a family that earns \$150,000 a year. The families at each income level are assumed to own a single family home, although those in the \$25,000 are assumed to live in rental housing and own a vehicle. The combination of income tax, sales tax and automobile tax hit people at the bottom end of the scale hardest

“There is no deliberate policy to impose a disproportionate tax burden on the lowest income residents,” said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center of State and Local Leadership at George Mason University. “Rather, it’s a lack of state-delegated authority to use other kinds of taxes, which would provide greater options to create a more

MAJOR STATE AND LOCAL TAX BURDENS FOR A FAMILY OF THREE RESIDING IN SELECTED WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA JURISDICTIONS CALENDAR YEAR 2012						
TAX	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY	ALEXANDRIA	ARLINGTON COUNTY	FAIRFAX COUNTY
\$25,000 INCOME LEVEL						
Income	(319) 1/	(172) 1/	(172) 1/	144	144	144
Real Estate	2,095	2095	2095	2095	2095	2095
Sales and Use	721	554	558	661	657	592
Automobile	213	394	456	428	503	212
TOTAL	2,710	2,871	2,937	3,328	3,399	3,043
RANK	6	5	4	2	1	3
\$50,000 INCOME LEVEL						
Income	1,179	1,349	1,301	1,123	1,130	1,103
Real Estate	1,197	1,739	2,229	2,079	1,969	2,239
Sales and Use	945	731	743	801	797	710
Automobile	257	502	584	554	697	264
TOTAL	3,579	4,321	4,857	4,557	4,593	4,316
RANK	6	4	1	3	2	5
\$75,000 INCOME LEVEL						
Income	2,410	2,540	2,807	2,200	2,210	2,181
Real Estate	2,082	2,609	3,343	3,118	2,953	3,359
Sales and Use	1,434	1,138	1,159	1,244	1,236	1,095
Automobile	458	931	1,096	1,035	1,320	810
TOTAL	6,384	7,219	8,406	7,597	7,719	7,445
RANK	6	5	1	3	2	4
\$100,000 INCOME LEVEL						
Income	4,157	4,518	4,426	3,393	3,389	3,352
Real Estate	2,968	3,479	4,458	4,158	3,937	4,479
Sales and Use	1,589	1,255	1,277	1,351	1,343	1,184
Automobile	551	1,012	1,178	1,087	1,377	825
TOTAL	9,265	10,263	11,339	9,989	10,046	9,840
RANK	6	2	1	4	3	5
\$150,000 INCOME LEVEL						
Income	7,534	8,027	7,888	5,624	5,595	5,553
Real Estate	4,738	5,218	6,687	6,237	5,906	6,718
Sales and Use	2,340	1,889	1,925	1,968	1,949	1,719
Automobile	543	1,405	1,702	1,692	2,517	1,433
TOTAL	15,155	16,539	18,201	15,521	15,967	15,423
RANK	6	2	1	4	3	5

Note: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.
1/ Negative numbers result from a refundable Earned Income Tax Credit.



responsive tax policy in each of these two booming jurisdictions.”

ARLINGTON RANKS the highest for families that earn \$25,000 — a very low income for families who live inside the Beltway. The median household income in Arlington is about \$103,000, which means the study was looking at families who are struggling to make ends meet in a county where most families pull down salaries that are about four times larger. County officials say the

tax burden tells only part of the story. Arlington leaders say the county offers a number of significant services to low-income residents, including public education and housing support.

“I believe we are the only Northern Virginia locality still providing housing grants to lower income families and seniors,” said Jay Fisette, chairman of the Arlington County Board. “We provide four to five times the level of support to help make housing affordable as do our closest North-

ern Virginia neighbors.”

As people earn more money, the tax burden decreased on Arlington residents. The same is true of people who live in Alexandria, which ranks second overall for people who are at the bottom end of the earnings scale. Alexandria also has the third highest tax burden among families with a \$50,000 and \$75,000 income level, and the fourth highest tax burden among families with a \$100,000 or \$150,000 income level. Residents in the District of Columbia have the lowest tax burden in all five of the income brackets.

“Talk to people in D.C., and they wish they had better services — EMS service, for instance, better police response times, more recreation centers,” said Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille. “So it’s what you invest in and reinvest in in terms of providing outreach and services to your taxpayers.”

VIRGINIA HAS A reputation as a low-tax state, so the relatively high tax burden on low-income people is counter-intuitive. For example, the Washington-based Tax Foundation ranks Virginia as the 25th lowest among states levying an individual income tax. When the organization looked at state and local income tax collections, though, it ranked Virginia as the 11th highest nationally.

“We reside in a low-tax state,” said Shafroth. “So there is both a greater burden on local governments to raise taxes than in Maryland, but limited state authority on what kinds of taxes may be levied.”

Among the Northern Virginia jurisdictions that were part of the D.C. government study on tax burdens, Fairfax County had the lowest tax burden in all income brackets. That means that Arlington and Alexandria impose a greater tax burden on their residents than in Fairfax County. But as families earn more money, the tax burden decreases in Fairfax County.

“Saying that Fairfax has a lower tax burden than Arlington is like saying that Mount McKinley is not as high as Mount Everest,” said Arthur Purves, president of the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance. “Fairfax County’s tax burden and spending is still way too high.”

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter. For more information, call the church office at 703-620-3065 or visit www.unitedchristianparish.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 22

Friends of Langley Event. 12-1 p.m. The Langley School, 1411 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Tour the campus, eat lunch and learn about The Langley School.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 23

Out of the Darkness, Into the Light: Surviving the Holocaust, 7:30 p.m. Holocaust survivor Henry Greenbaum will talk about his dramatic experience as a Polish Jew

who was liberated from Auschwitz concentration camp and eventually made his way to the United States. He now serves as a volunteer at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Seating is limited. Please register for this event at <http://bit.ly/1pIEtWL> or phone the Library at 703-757-8560, Great Falls Library 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25

Summer and Fall Registration Open House. 9:30-11:30 a.m. McLean Children’s Academy, 6900 Elem Street, McLean. Registration information is also available on www.childrensacademy.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Bike Collection. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation

of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Bikes for the World makes quality used bikes available to lower incoming people and select institutions in developing countries. All bikes are welcome, except trikes. A \$10 tax deductible donation is requested with each bike (but not required) to help with shipping, preconditioning and distribution costs. Please contact alex.jacquay@gmail.com for more information. www.bikesfortheworld.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 27

10th Annual Vienna Elementary School PTA 5K Race And 1 Mile “Run for Fun,” 8 a.m. The run funds many activities and improvements for the school. Last year over 700 people participated. Event Fee:

- ❖ Adults - \$25 (\$30 after 4/20 and on race day)
- ❖ Children 14 and under - \$15 per child for first 1 or 2 in family (\$5 per child after 2nd child is registered)

Register online via www.vienna5krun.org
Online registration ends Tuesday, April 20, at midnight. T-Shirts are only guaranteed to those who pre-register.

MONDAY/APRIL 28

McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia will meet Monday, April 28, at 5:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The group will be discussing plans for their Aug. 24, 2014 event commemorating the bicentennial of the burning of the nation’s Capitol during the War of 1812. If interested in taking part in the organization and its upcoming

event please contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223.

ONGOING

Vienna Toastmasters. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center on the 2nd floor room opposite the elevator, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. A friendly place to get comfortable with public speaking and impromptu speaking for new and experienced speakers. Open to the public.

Run With the Doctor. Every other Saturday at 7 a.m. 8230 Boone Blvd, Tysons Corner. The Center for Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine offers its services in a convenient format to runners at this running event. Free. facebook.com/runwiththedoctor.

Dying of Curiosity

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



As I was completing last week's column ("I Thought I Was a Goner") and thanking my oncology nurse, Ron, in the process, for the excellent care he has provided me for nearly five years now; a week after I wrote a column thanking my Certified Holistic Health Coach, Rebecca Nenner, for the health and fitness-type knowledge she has given me over those same five years; it dawned on me that perhaps my subconscious mind knew something that my conscious mind didn't: that I should move closer to the undertaker like Radar's Uncle Ernest did two days before he died, in the M*A*S*H episode titled "Novacaine Mutiny" from season four.

I don't want to think that, and I certainly don't want to believe it; nevertheless, I thought it an interesting point to address: as a terminal cancer patient, as much as I fight against it mentally and physically, the presumptive death sentence that a "13-month to two-year prognosis" portends is the kind of news that's difficult – make that impossible – to ignore. And as much as I try to defend myself, as you know, with humor, a positive attitude and a variety of self-preservation, defense-type mechanisms – still, at the end of the day (heck, at the beginning and middle, too), I may talk and write a good game, but one's mind often interferes. The trick is knowing whether that interference (subconscious) is real or imagined. I struggle with that assessment every day, as I presume most characterized-as-terminal patients do as well.

As my struggle enters its sixth year, let me assure you, its familiarity has not bred content (nor contempt, either). Though I certainly know the warning signs, the dos and don'ts, and my responsibility in all of it, that doesn't mask – to me, anyway, the underlying reality: lung cancer kills. The survival rates, especially five years post-diagnosis, are in the low single digits. Fairly grim, I admit. Yet I am extremely happy and fortunate to say that I am one of those low-single-digits (and yes, I have been called worse; not much better though, considering my diagnosis). However, I am not in remission and I'm still receiving chemotherapy. In truth, I am an anomaly, an aberration; and expecting that my life continues without any further cancer-related ado seems naive and from most of what I read, fairly unrealistic. Now as much as I try to compartmentalize all these cancer facts and feelings – successfully for the most part, I'd like to add – the reality of my situation does manifest itself from time to time. This column has attempted to identify a recent example, my last two columns, where these facts and feelings may have collided.

Though nothing in my current health – or recent awareness of it (scans, lab work, physical exam, old symptoms, new symptoms persisting/getting worse, etc.) would indicate a change (a fatal flaw, if you will), there are always things with which I am totally unaware that may have changed and perhaps the way I learn about these changes is through my subconscious. I certainly don't know how or when I'll know when I'm at death's door. Perhaps there will be a knock, perhaps not. Still, I can't help wondering – and wanting to know – sort of.

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

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The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition.
-William Van Horne

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
William Licamele MD will be retiring and closing his practice of Child Adolescent and Adult Psychiatry on June 26th, 2014. Until that date he can be reached at his office at 6760 Old McLean Village Drive, McLean Va. 22101--- phone 703-734-6927 for any questions, referrals, or follow-up. After June 26th, he can be reached at PO Box 338, McLean, Va. 22101 for any requests for information, records, referrals. Etc.

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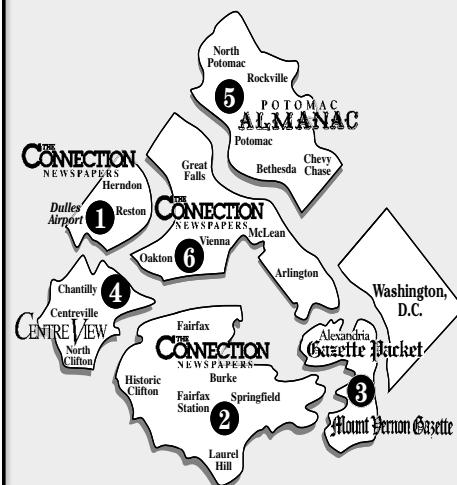
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News

Seventeen FCPS Students Named National Achievement Scholarship Winners

Seventeen Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students are among more than 800 students nationwide who have won Achievement Scholarships from the 2014 National Achievement® Scholarship program (NASP). The Achievement Scholarships are awarded to Black American high school seniors to be used for undergraduate study at any regionally accredited United States college or university.

The FCPS students named National Achievement® Scholars, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

- ❖ Christine Tamir of Annandale High School (undecided).
- ❖ Marvel Elisabeth Onga Nana of Centreville High School (biomedical engineering).
- ❖ Heather Lawrence of Edison High School (political science).
- ❖ Bezawit Yohannes of Hayfield Secondary School (law).
- ❖ Ade Samuel of Herndon High School (chemical engineering).
- ❖ Sarah Gutema of McLean High School (neuroscience).
- ❖ Lani Allen of Marshall High School (writing).
- ❖ Suha Suliman of Robinson Secondary School (pediatrics).
- ❖ Gelila Yitsege of South County High School (neuroscience).
- ❖ Derek Phillips of South Lakes High School (aerospace engineering).
- ❖ Anthony Carrington of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) (medicine).
- ❖ Cheyanne Rivera of TJHSST (psychiatry).
- ❖ Comfort Sampong of TJHSST (development economics).
- ❖ Shalisa James of Westfield High School (English literature).
- ❖ John O'Connell of Westfield High School (computer science).
- ❖ Tolunimi Oyeleye of Westfield High School (chemical engineering).
- ❖ Tianay Ziegler of Woodson High School (biological engineering).

Each of the students received \$2,500 National Achievement Scholarships supported by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the NASP, with the exception of Allen, whose scholarship is underwritten by the Xerox Foundation.

The National Achievement Scholarship program is a privately financed competition founded in 1964 specifically to honor scholastically talented Black American young people and to increase their opportunities for higher education. The program is conducted by NMSC, a not-for-profit organization.

These awards, totaling over \$2 million, are financed by grants from 31 corporate organizations and professional associations, and by National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

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