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News

Meals Tax Possible for Fairfax County

Tax could generate \$88 million in revenue.

By Janelle Germanos The Connection

t a public hearing on the 2015 budget, Fairfax County resident Kimberly Adams joined numerous other individuals who urged the Board of Supervisors to consider a meals tax.

"To have the quality of life that we've come to depend on in Fairfax County, we must move the needle closer to the regional average when it comes to taxes. We must not be afraid to look for new streams of revenue, such as a

meals tax for instance," Adams told the Board of Supervisors at the budget hearings. "Never have I actually thought, well, there's a meals tax in Alexandria, so I'll drive 10 more minutes into Fairfax and order my pizza. I go to the place that's convenient and where I want to eat."

Echoing the concerns of citizens like Adams, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova announced the establishment of the meals tax referendum task force on April 22, which will study this possible source of revenue and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors by June

"Throughout the past months as this board and the community have deliberated on the advertised fiscal year 2015 budget, a number of individuals and organizations have urged us to put the question of a meals tax to the voters," Bulova said at the meet-

Kate Hanley and Tom Davis, former chairmen of the Board of Supervisors, will lead the task force in deciding whether a referendum for a meals tax should occur, and when this referendum would appear on the ballot.

IN VIRGINIA, counties are only able to establish a meals tax with a voter referendum.

At a rate of 4 percent, a meals tax could generate at least \$88 million. Many cities within and around Fairfax County have a meals tax.

"Several of our surrounding jurisdictions have a meals tax, but the Town of Clifton, Prince William and Loudoun counties do not. I have and will continue to be adamantly opposed to a meals tax and any referendum on this issue as it is directed at a single industry. I believe this is the wrong time to add another tax on our county residents and while some of it will be paid by visitors the bulk will be paid by our county residents," Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity wrote in an email on April

In April 1992, voters struck down a meals tax proposal that appeared on the ballot in Fairfax County.

There has been a growing sentiment during recent years for our board to once again allow the voters to decide whether or not they wish to avail themselves of this additional source of revenue. Reasons for urging this include the desire to diversify the revenues we have available to fund schools, public safety, parks, libraries and human services," Bulova said.



Kimberly Adams spoke in favor of a meals tax at the public hearings on the **Fairfax County budget in** early April.



Fairfax County Board of **Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova announced** on April 22 the creation of a meals tax referendum task force.



PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

At the public hearings on the Fairfax County budget, several citizens urged the Board of Supervisors to consider a meals tax in order to continue to "Invest in Fairfax."

> Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland, who has proposed a meal tax several times in the past, said that voters need to be better informed this time as to why they should vote for the tax.

> "To be quite frank, the last time we put it to referendum, there was almost silence on the side of why we were asking people to do it. Most important, the questions should be what are we going to do with the money if it passes and we have a meals tax," Hyland said.

> Adams, who is president of the Fairfax Education Association and part of the new "Invest in Fairfax" coalition, said at the budget hearings that the extra revenue is needed for Fairfax County services that citizens depend on.

> "If you can afford to eat out in a nice restaurant, you can afford to pay the four percent tax," she said.

> AT A RECENT Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce event, Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay told members that Fairfax County needs to diversify its revenue and that there was pressure from school advocates to consider a meals tax.

> "Will it pass if it's put on the ballot? I don't know. I think it's unlikely, to tell you the truth," McKay said at the event.

> The meals tax referendum task force includes a coalition of organizations within the county, including the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, the Fairfax Education Association, the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance, and the Federation of Citizens Associations.



Photo by Reena Singh/ The Connection

Sarah Kirk and Joey Love are organizing a Mother's Day event for a cause.

Mother's Day Event for a Cause

Turner Farm event raising money for suicide awareness.

By Reena Singh THE CONNECTION

mother's love never ends. Sarah Kirk is planning a celebration of life in memory of her daughter, Becky Love, to raise awareness about suicide and funds for Comfort

Zone Camp. Becky was a charismatic and spiritual person and a mother herself, according to Kirk. She was found dead on a shooting range in August at 32 years old.

"I wish I knew more about what my daughter was going through," said Kirk. "We wanted to celebrate Becky being a mother and all mothers who want the best for their kids."

The Mothers for Mental Health event on Turner Farm starts at 8 a.m. Sunday, May 11, with a 5K walk or run and a 1K "fun run." Prizes will be given to the fastest man and woman as well as the top runners in each age category at noon.

Moon bounces, pony rides and face painting will take place from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A silent auction and a 5K horseback ride around Turner farm will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Turner Farm is located at 925 Spring Veil Road in Great Falls. Kirk hopes to raise \$50,000 for bereavement camps - the ber. They want parents and same camps that helped her their children to have fun for

family cope with the loss of her the cause. daughter. About a month after her daughter's death, Kirk and her

family put her energy into the

Becky Love Foundation to raise awareness about suicide and dealing with sudden loss.

Becky's brother, Joey Love, remembers the emotions he went through when he found out what happened with his sister. He knew she had been dealing with depression for a while.

"At first, I was in disbelief," he said, his eyes welling with tears. "There was a lot of sadness and praying - asking for help. Within the first week, I felt kind of at peace knowing that she no longer felt any pain or suffering. It obviously takes time. It's not something I really enjoy talking about."

The creation of the foundation gave him a release for his emotions.

"We are trying to help other people because we couldn't help her," he said.

Becky's youngest brother, 13year-old Nicky Zoski is also helping to put the Mother's Day event together. When Becky's birthday came up five months after her death, he created shirts for family and friends across the country to celebrate her life. He remembered how smart she was and has memories of her babysitting him.

"It's hard to actually think she's gone," he said.

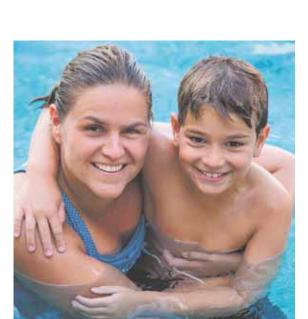
Kirk and Joey said they want the event to be joyous, not som-

"Joy is contagious," said Joey. For more information about foundation, www.beckylovefoundation.org.

Mother's Day Photo Gallery



Dianne Van Volkenburg of Great Falls with her four children last fall.



Joey Gatt (9) of Great Falls and his mom, Krista Gatt, enjoy a cool and relaxing day at the pool in Antigua during Spring Break in March 2014.



Kristin Clark Taylor, of Great Falls, enjoys the cherry blossoms with her daughter, 24, Mary Elizabeth Taylor.



Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova: "Just minutes after giving birth to my daughter Karin in 1971. I was 24 and we are in Fairfax Hospital."



Sharon Bulova's daughter Karin with her first child, Finnian ("Finn") in Seattle on June 23, 2011.



Caroline and Josh McQuaig with their mother, Heather, of Great Falls, on vacation in Kiawah Island, S.C.



From left: Gloria Boos, mom Melodee Boos, and Rose Boos, of Great Falls, standing in front of a longhouse with animal skins draped in the background at the Riverbend Bluebell Festival.



News

Great Falls Day Celebrated

Visitors learn history of Great Falls community.

By Ryan Dunn The Connection

n Sunday, May 4, residents of Great Falls and visitors had the opportunity to celebrate Great Falls Day at the Great Falls Grange on Georgetown Pike and learn more about the history of the community. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the public assembly hall was built in 1929, a product of the Grange Movement which swept America after the Civil War. The Grange was a symbol of commitment to community involvement and progress, and has been a meeting and special event site throughout its history.

"It is great that people can take the opportunity to go out and meet their neighbors at event like this," said Dranesville District Supervisor John W. Foust who attended

See Grange, Page 9



Terry Bender brought his organ to play at Great Falls Day at the historic Great Falls Grange on Georgetown Pike. Other attractions included visiting animals from Herndon Frying Pan Farm Park.

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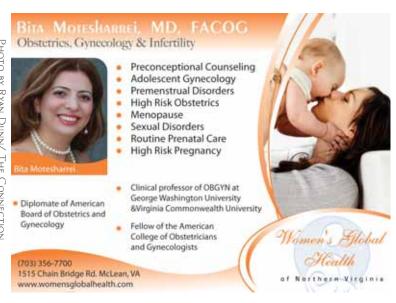
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Starshine Theatre To Present 'The Odyssey'

Starshine Theatre of Great Falls presents its 21st Annual Spring Production, "The Odyssey," based on the ancient Greek epic by Homer. A Cast of talented local students, ages elementary through high school, will portray the colorful characters the great Odysseus met on his 20year journey home after winning the Trojan War. This original musical drama includes songs and dance/action choreography to complement the epic scholars have called "The best story in 3,000 years." Performance at The Grange Theater, Great Falls, on Saturday, May 10, at 7 p.m. Seats must be reserved in advance by contacting Pat Green Budwig, M.A., Play Director, at 703-790-9050 or StarshineTheater@aol.com.

Connection Blood Drive at Loebig Chiropractic & Rehab a Success

Loebig Chiropractic & Rehab and The American Red Cross hosted a community blood drive in Great Falls at the office of Dr. Glenn Loebig, on Tuesday, April 15 where enough blood was donated to help save the lives of up to 57 hospital patients.

"In our continued efforts to support the community that we call home, we believe that an event such as a blood drive is a great way to pull neighbors together for a common cause. I would like to personally thank everyone who came out to support our efforts," Dr. Glenn Loebig said.

Loebig Chiropractic & Rehab regularly holds community events such as this most recent blood drive.

Those interested in participating in the future can view upcoming events at www.LoebigChiropractic.com.

Serving the Great Falls area for over 17 years, Dr. Loebig and his staff specialize in difficult and challenging cases of spinal disc injury and trauma, whiplash, scoliosis, and degenerative diseases-and also focuses on treating complex sports and extremity injuries.



The Long Wait is Over!

We Are Excited to Offer A Limited Number of Memberships for This Year or Get on the Fast Track for 2015

Great Falls Swim and Tennis offers its members and their families a casual environment for the enjoyment of swimming, tennis and social programs.

Our facilities include a large, heated pool with two diving boards, a wading pool, changing rooms, a covered pavilion, six lighted tennis courts (4 clay, 2 hard), a heated bubble for indoor tennis from October through April, a lighted platform handball/basketball court, a picnic and grill area, snack bar and large grass area for volleyball, tetherball, lacrosse, soccer and numerous other outdoor games.

Club activities include: adult and junior tennis year-round private and group lessons, camps and tournaments with two of Northern Virginia's top tennis professionals, adult and junior NVTL tennis teams, junior NVSL swim and dive teams, tennis, swim & dive group and/or private lessons and lots of fun, family social activities.

> 0 FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT SHERI AT slandf@aol.com | www.gfsandt.com





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OPINION

Yes to the Meals Tax Referendum

Voters could decide on the tax in November.

conomic diversification is worthy goal. All of your eggs shouldn't be in one basket. All of your revenue shouldn't come from one source. In Fairfax County, adding a meals tax

at the same level as Arlington, Alexan-EDITORIAL dria, Falls Church and the City of Fairfax, 4 percent, could generate \$88 million a year. The county estimates that 25-30 percent of the meals taxes collected would be paid by non-county residents.

The inability to implement alternative revenue sources will mean continued dependence on one basket. The combined increase in the real estate property tax rate and home values means that most homeowners will be paying hundreds of dollars more in property taxes regardless of their ability to pay.

In Virginia, localities have only the powers explicitly granted to them by the General Assembly. In Northern Virginia, the economic engine of the state, this has translated into heavy dependence on the real estate property tax to fund everything, because localities are

allowed few revenue options.

Fairfax County has a task force studying the possibility of holding a required referendum to let voters decide on add-

ing a meals tax. It would applied to "ready-toeat foods and beverages wherever they are sold," but not vending machines.

Former Board Chairman Kate Hanley and former Board Chairman and U.S. Rep. Tom Davis will chair the task force and report back to the Board of Supervisors in mid June. If supervisors approved the referendum, it could appear on the November ballot.

It's interesting that historically, Fairfax County voters overwhelmingly give the thumbs up to authorizing capital improvements to schools, parks and roads via bond sales, but in 1992, voters said no to the meals tax. It will be up to elected officials and advocates for schools, parks, libraries, public safety and human services to help make the case for the in-

(Taxing income is a power the Commonwealth of Virginia retains for itself, and it is a mechanism that sends money from Northern Virginia to other parts of the state while forcing Northern Virginia localities to depend on property taxes.)

MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BOS Budget Falls Short for FCPS

By Ilryong Moon Fairfax County School Board Chairman

he Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) continues to state that education is its top priority but its actions clearly do not match its words not when county spending next year will increase by 3.6 percent while Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) budget is projected to increase by just 1.6 percent over last year's adopted budget. Overall, FCPS will receive 52.4 percent of the county's budget, down from 52.7 percent this year. While this percentage change seems small, that equates to more than \$12 million that FCPS would have received.

In his April 22 newsletter to residents, Supervisor Pat Herrity makes several misleading assertions about the FCPS budget. He suggests that the School Board already has available funding to meet the school system's needs, beyond the amount that will be transferred from the county and state. We would like to correct these misperceptions.

Supervisor Herrity suggests increasing the salary "lapse rate" (a salary lapse occurs during a job vacancy). FCPS' budgeted lapse savings are based on historical trends. FCPS has taken several steps to adjust compensation accounts in the FY 2015 budget including using lower salaries to budget for vacant positions and for new positions due to enrollment growth. Whatever is remaining in the compensation accounts, combined with other savings generated throughout the year, go into the ending balance which we use to fund the following year's budget.

Supervisor Herrity suggests eliminating pay raises for administrators to save \$13 million. The cost of providing a step increase for all employees is \$41 million. Of that amount, the cost for the administrative positions in schools is \$1.7 million and central administrators account for \$300,000. To achieve his goal of \$13 million in savings, pay raises would need to be denied to employees who directly serve students including advanced academic resource teachers, work experience teachers, instructional support teachers, school counselors, librarians, audiologists, physical and occupational therapists, English for speakers of languages teachers, professional technical project teachers, public health attendants, public health training assistants, school-based technologists, psychologists, social workers, school clerical, school custodial, and school administration.

Supervisor Herrity also claims that many of our teachers are doing administration instead of teaching. He states that if we "take the total number of students in the school system and divide it by the number of full time equivalent teachers (emphasis added), we should get a class size of 12." As our class size is not as such, he alleges that our teachers must be doing administration. This canard has been raised before by Supervisor Herrity and it is irresponsible for him to continue to deliberately mislead the public by using deceitful teacher-student ratios in his comments. This doesn't result in purposeful conversation, but rather distracts the community

from the real issue of fully funding schools. To clarify once again, "full time equivalent teachers" are much more than classroom teachers. They also include special education teachers, English for Speakers of Other Languages teachers, instructional coaches, speech therapists, guidance counselors, librarians, music, physical education teachers, and more. Although these professionals do not have assigned classrooms, they are all teaching and working directly with students. It takes more than a single classroom teacher to provide a well-rounded and full education for FCPS students.

Moving forward, it's critical in budget discussions that disingenuous arguments are not used to refute or support one's position. This should not be seen as a School Board versus Board of Supervisors debate. We are partners. The School Board will continue to work closely with the Supervisors in an effort to develop long-term sustainable funding for FCPS and to meet the expectations of the community to maintain our worldclass school system.

LETTERS

Timely Discussion On Drug Abuse

Through columns on your newsmy attention has been drawn to your spotlight on forums focused on drug prevention in high schools. With the increase in use of drugs for recreational use among youths, this is a timely and

The drug prevention forum covpaper website like "Avoidance Bet- ered by your paper called "Protectter Than Arrests, Prison, Death" ing Against the Realities of Substance Abuse," put on by Parents Reaching Out To Educate Communities Together (PROTECT), provides a new approach to talking about drug awareness and prevention that could help parents betwell-covered issue in your news- ter understand and approach the

rise in drug culture in youths. By bringing in police officers, former drug users and dealers, and families affected by drugs, parents were able to hear their stories and is an issue in children today that learn ideas like how to recognize signs earlier that may indicate drug use in their children.

As a former student at the [Madison] high school where the forum was held and as an adult now who has had friends struggle

with drug addictions, I find it extremely important and well received that this topic is being highlighted in your publication. This needs to be addressed because prevention of drug use is always

better than detection of drug use for all parties involved.

> Rebecca Rosen Vienna

Great Falls

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Pat Brodowski, Chief Gardener of Monticello (center) spoke about gardening and heirloom seeds at the May 4 Great Falls Day event which was hosted by the Great Falls Historical Society.



National Grange Communications Director Amanda L. Brozana with Kathleen Murphy, Harry Massey, Ernestine Keiser, and President of Virginia State Grange James Taylor at the Great Falls Grange.

Grange Revisited

From Page 5

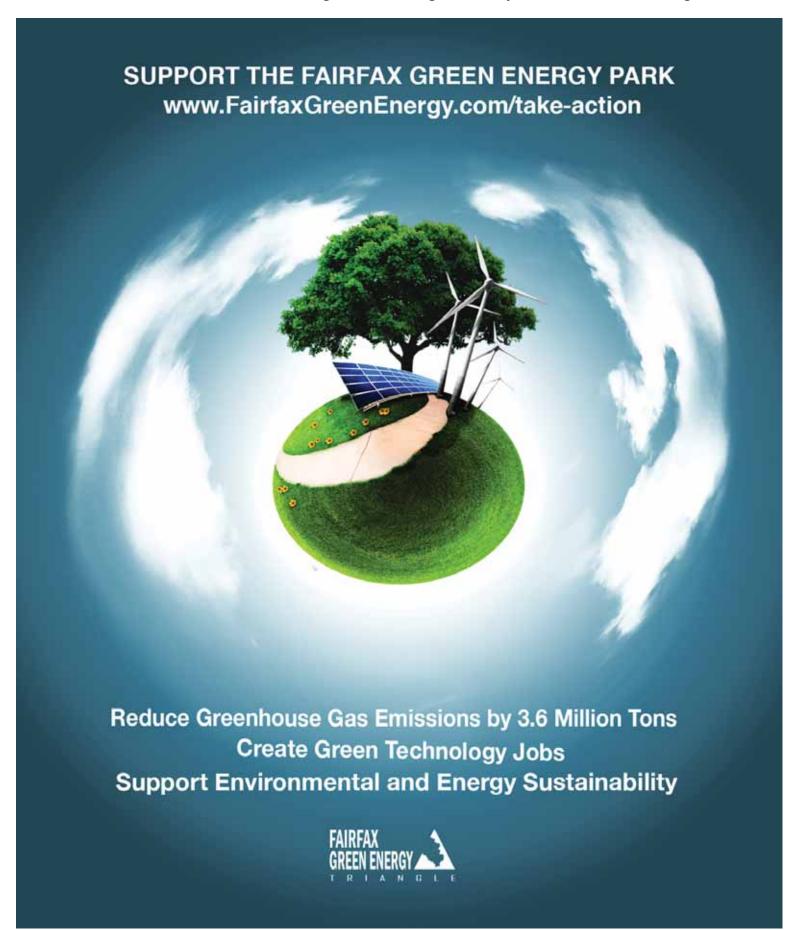
the event. Great Falls Historical Society sponsored the event, which celebrated the 85th anniversary of the dedication and opening of the Great Falls Grange Number 738. Fairfax County Park Authority took responsibility for several displays and contributed historic archives from the Great Falls Grange, and Fairfax County agricultural history. Cate Henderson, a liaison with the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park helped bring some animals from the farm park to the Great Falls Grange. "We are here to represent a local farm that would have benefited from the Grange," said Henderson.

In 1929, the Grange was built for \$12,500 and featured the latest in kitchen and heating equipment. It was one of five grange halls that served the dairy farming community. Dairy farming was the predominant form of agriculture in the county, and Fairfax County was the leading Virginia producer until 1933. The Grange opened doors on May 4, 1929 and served as the center of community life for 52 years.

With declining membership and the dairy farms giving way to suburban development, the Grange and its grounds were sold to the Fairfax Park Authority in 1981. The Great Falls Grange is the last standing unaltered grange hall in Virginia and is listed on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites, with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Marjorie Lundegard, a resident of Great Falls since 1988 was assisting with a display of old time children's toys at the old schoolhouse. "The community put a lot of energy into this event," said Lundegard. "We just wish more local residents would attend this event."

To learn more about Great Falls Historical Society, visit www.gfhsws.org.



CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY/MAY 9- 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/MAY 10

Ayr Hill Garden Club Plant Sale. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 131 Church Street, NW, Vienna. The annual Ayr Hill Garden Club plant sale returns. These are plants that have grown well in Vienna supplied from the gardens of AHGC members. Selections for sun and/or shade, deep resistant plants, and drought tolerant plants will be offered.

Recycle Your Bike. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Potomac School, 1301 Potomac Road McLean, Each year since 2005 the Potomac School has held a used bike collection to benefit Bikes For The World, a locally-run 501(c)(3) charity that collects unused bicycles from the United States and sends them to its partners overseas, where the bikes become much-needed transportation for people who otherwise would have none.

Taste of Asia 2014. 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Everest College, 8620 Westwood Center Drive, Vienna. Sample food, learn about Asian countries, try on clothes, get your name written in



Doreen Montis, Bubble Vision, on exhibit at the Great Falls Library, April-June.

different languages and more. Fourth Silent Auction Benefit. 1-4 p.m. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) is hosting its Silent Auction Art Benefit at the Frame Factory.

Enjoy light refreshments while chatting with local artists and viewing their donated art work. Free and open to the public

Tai-Chi & Stretch. 8-9 a.m. The Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Free. 703The Folsom Prisoners. 5-7 p.m. The Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Free. 703-

Fourth Silent Auction Art Benefit Reception. 1-4 p.m. The Frame

Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE. Vienna. The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) is hosting its Silent Auction Art Benefit. Enjoy light refreshments while chatting with local artists and viewing their donated artwork. Free and open to the public.

SUNDAY/MAY 11

Mothers for Mental Health. 8 a.m. -12 p.m. Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. A positive day raising money for suicide prevention bereavement camps for kids, and to bring light onto the epidemic of young people taking their lives in our nunity. Activities include family fun rides and activities, including moon bounces, climbing wall, pony rides, games and face painting, silent auction, 5K run/walk, 5K ride in Turner Farmer Park, and more. www.beckvlovefoundation.org

ongwriter Natalie York in special Reservation., VA. Lunch immediately

Mother's Day Brunch Celebration. 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sheraton Premiere at Tysons Corner, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Tysons Corner. The Brunch is \$45 per person for adults and just \$15 for children ages 4-11. Children under the age of four are free. For reservations: 703-448-1234

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The Brunch will include pastries. seasonal fruits, and a delicious seafood display, as well as expansive vaffle, omelet and carving stations. In addition, the Chef has added a few surprises like grilled flank steak. fettuccine nests with roasted chicken and chipotle pork barbeque ribs with

Mother's Day at Wildfire. 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Wildfire, Tysons Galleria. 3rd floor, McLean. Spit Roasted Leg of Lamb with garlic, spinach and au gratin potatoes. Or, choose to celebrate with Wildfire's signature Roasted Prime Rib of Beef or Oven Roasted Lump Crab Cakes. For reservations, call 703-442-9110.

SATURDAY/MAY 17

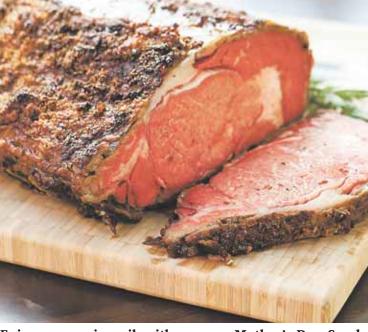
Tai-Chi & Stretch. 8-9 a.m. The Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Free. 703-288-9505

Emy Tseng. 5-7 p.m. The Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.

McLean Day 2014: Celebrating our

Hometown. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. A spring carnival for family and friends to enjoy. www.mcleancenter.org/special

Kilmer Center Run, Walk & Roll 7:30 a.m. Kilmer Center, 8102 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. For children and young adults with significant intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities. Activities nclude a 5K Run, 1 mile Walk and Roll (multi-terrain wheelchair accessible race course), and Wellness Expo/Community Resource Fair. Entry fee of \$20 per participant includes a t-shirt. To register, visit www.fcps.edu/kilmercenter/. To



Enjoy some prime rib with mom on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11 at Wildfire Restaurant in Tysons Corner.

volunteer, contact Sarah DiGioia at sedigioia@fcps.edu.

SUNDAY/MAY 18

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Vienna's American Legion Post 180 330 Center Street, N, Vienna. Adults \$8, children \$3: omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, etc. Open to the public, proceeds benefit

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ONGOING

Straight Ahead Jazz. 8 p.m., at the Maplewood Grill, 132 Branch Road, Vienna.

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Old Firehouse Teen Center **Open House for Rising 7th Graders** Thursday, May 8, 6-7:30 p.m.

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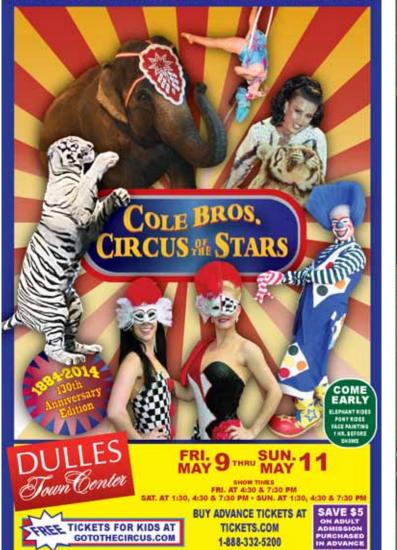
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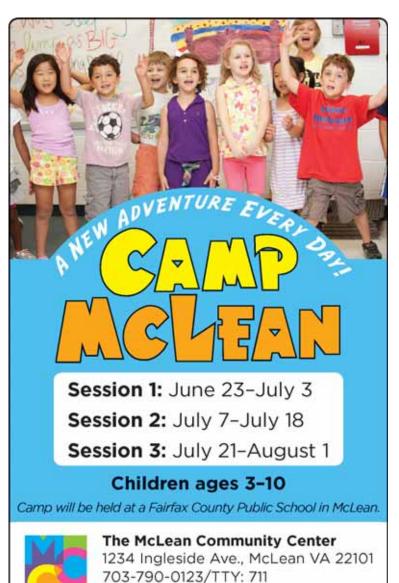


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10 Great Falls Connection May 7-13, 2014

Mother's Day Lakota Mission **Benefit Lunch and Music**. 11:30 a.m. The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Rd., Vienna. Feast on a variety of buffalo-based plates (alternatives available) and hear music by Brooklyn, NY-based singerundraiser for 21st Lakota summer mission trip to the Pine Ridge follows church's 10:15 a.m. worship service. Advance reservations requested at www.GoodShepherdVA.com

Girls State. For more info, call 703 McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS FINAL WEEKEND!



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News

Three Great Falls Scouts Promoted to Eagles

roop 55 in Great Falls recently announced the advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout of four young men: Patrick Ryan, Conrad Dear, Bennett Molster, and Ryan Withers. These scouts have earned at least 21 merit badges, and have demonstrated scout spirit by living the scout oath and law through years of service and leadership. They have each also planned, organized, led and managed extensive service projects. Patrick Ryan, a sophomore at Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology, joined the troop in 2009. Patrick spearheaded his Eagle project in August 2013. It entailed the building of a fenced 20' x 40' garden at Camp Fraser in Great Falls. The garden is used by Living Classrooms, Washington D.C., to teach sustainability and to provide underserved city youth population with hands-on outdoor education. Patrick hopes to pursue a career in engineering once he finishes high school.

Conrad Dear, a junior at Langley



From left: Conrad Dear, Patrick Ryan and Ryan Withers.

High School, joined Troop 55 in 2008 when he crossed over from Cub Scout Pack 673. He has enjoyed scouts from the early days as a cub scout to the present day as an Eagle Scout. Conrad lead his Eagle project in Sept 2013. It entailed the building of three portable fly rod racks to support Project Healing Waters, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping wounded veterans through fly fishing. Conrad hopes to pursue a career in the math and science fields.

Bennett Molster, a senior at Langley High School, joined the troop in 2006 and has enjoyed the outdoor trips and being with his friends during the outings. For his Eagle Project, Bennett coordinated the collection of new and gently used DVD's and shipped them to

military personnel stationed overseas and on ships. He has not yet decided which college he will attend but hopes to study Business.

Ryan Withers, a senior at Herndon High, has been with Troop 55 since 2006. He has stayed with scouts because the program teaches excellent life skills and principles. For his Eagle project, Ryan led a team of scouts in building wooden games to be used by St Francis Episcopal Church during their annual Country Fair. The young men also painted several of the existing games that showed signs of aging. Ryan will be studying engineering at Virginia Tech next year and hopes to work on the development of a manufacturing system for automobiles that reduces cost, resources and time.



Be a part of our Wellbeing pages the first week of every month. Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-thetop remodeling projects, get prac tical suggestions for your home. Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun pages, the third week of every month. Questions? E-mail sales@connection newspapers.com or call 703-778-9431 CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

WELLBEING

Hearing Loss Doesn't Have to be Life-changing

"What?" May is Better Hearing and Speech Month.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

n any given workday, you might find Arlington resident Erin Weiner sitting in a family-friendly restaurant causally coloring or playing games with a young child. At first glance, she might be mistaken for any young mother entertaining her offspring while they wait for a meal. In actuality, Weiner, who is a speech-language pathologist, is employing what she describes as an innovative approach to therapy that involves working with a child in his or her natural environment.

"Real-time therapeutic sessions help children develop skills that they can effectively apply to dayto-day life," said Weiner, of Erin's Place for Therapy in North Potomac, Md.

Hearing loss affects more than 36 million Americans. During the month of May, Better Hearing & Speech Month, Weiner and other speech and hearing professionals



Photo courtesy of Erin Weiner

are working to raise awareness about communication disorders and the treatments that are available.

"Most people don't realize how the loss of hearing is interfering with their lives," said Michael V. Massa, AuD., of Massa and Associates, Doctors of Audiology with two offices in Alexandria. "Hearing loss is usually gradual and a spouse or family member will notice it first."

Massa says that while hearing loss is most common in people aged 50 and older, it can affect patients from newborns to the elderly. Recognizing the warning signs and finding the proper treat-

ment can be life-altering. "People come back and say if I had known how much this would have helped, I would have come to see you much earlier," said Massa.

Speech-lan-

gist Erin

guage patholo-

Weiner holds a

young patient

therapy ses-

sion with a

in a natural

environment.

EARLY DETECTION IS CRITI-

CAL. "Hearing loss can affect one's ability to communicate with and engage others in the community," said Jeffrey Edge, rehabilitation services manager for the Fairfax County Health Department. "The earlier you detect a hearing loss, the sooner you can take steps to hopefully decrease the impact of the loss on communication. Early detection of hearing loss is most

important with infants and children as hearing is critical to developing speech and language skills and learning."

Edge points to research from the National Institute of Health, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, which shows that speech and language development begins in the first six months of life and children who get treatment early develop better language skills than those who don't.

There are certain signs that tell parents their children might be experiencing hearing loss. "Is the child responding to their name when the child isn't looking at you?" asks Weiner. "Are they speaking as much as their peers? Are they saying 'What?' a lot? Do they seem to be reading your lips? If a fire truck with its sirens on goes by does the child look up? Are they having problems speaking at the right volume?"

Weiner, who provides oral, motor articulation, language therapy and auditory processing treatments, said problems with audio processing can often be difficult to diagnose. "You have to determine

if the issue is auditory processing or hearing loss. This can be difficult to distinguish. With auditory processing, someone might keep saying 'What?' and they probably heard you, but the message is not getting to their brain."

Hearing loss in newborns can be hereditary or congenital, said Massa, but it is often caught early because of state laws that require newborn hearing screenings. "At birth we can tell if a child's hearing is normal or not and this is critical because they have to develop speech," said Massa.

MASSA SAID THAT the number of Americans with hearing loss has doubled within the past 30 years. "Some of that is due to the fact that we have so many baby boomers," he said. "Inner ear hearing loss is the most common type of loss."

Sudden hearing loss is another common hearing disorder that usually occurs in one ear. "With sudden hearing loss, time is of the essence," said Massa. "The person needs to be seen right away. Studies show that they have a better chance of recovering if treatment begins right away."





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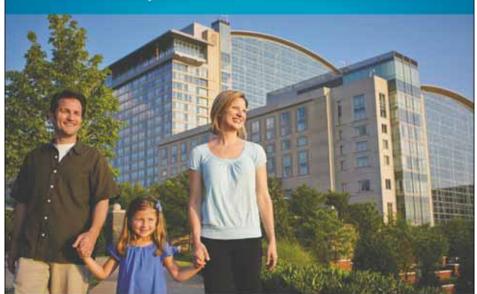
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SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com by Fridav.

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 gradu-

ate of James Madison High School, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of 2013 at Radford University.

Julian Kell, of Vienna, was named to the Dean's List at University of New England for the fall semester of 2013.

Aline Dolinh, 15, is a sophomore at Oakton High School in Vienna and has been appointed as the National Student Poet by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. Dolinh will participate in readings and workshops at libraries, museums and schools in Virginia as well as create community service projects to expand their reach while increasing engagement in the literary arts.

Kate E. DeWeese, daughter of Randi and Steve DeWeese of Vienna, graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, and first-year student in the Bachelor of Arts Program, has been inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta honor society at Bucknell University.

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SPORTS



Madison's Rachel Brennan, left, scored a goal against the Saints on



Senior midfielder Alex Condon scored a goal for Madison during the Warhawks' May 5 contest against St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.



Senior Katie Kerrigan scored three goals against St. Stephen's & St. Agnes on May 5.

Beats Marshall

Madison Girls' Lax Learns From Season's Toughest Challenge

Warhawks fall to national power St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.

By Jon Roetman The Connection

or the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes girls' lacrosse team, it was a chance to learn from a recent mistake. For the Madison Warhawks, it was a chance to learn from an elite form of competition.

Each team benefited from Monday's private/public matchup of defending state champions. The Saints, however, did so while pulling out a victory.

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, a private school powerhouse in Alexandria, improved to 23-1 with a 13-8 victory on its home field. Madison, a public school program in Vienna, trailed by two after Kierra Sweeney's goal with 14:42 remaining in the second half cut the SSSA lead to 8-6, but the Saints responded with five consecutive goals and handed the Warhawks (10-1) their first loss of the season.SSSA scored six of the game's first seven goals, but Madison closed the first half with a 3-0 run, cutting the Saints' lead to 6-4 at halftime. During the break, the Saints made it clear they wanted to avoid a letdown similar to what they experienced against Roland Park Country School (Baltimore) on April 26, when they suffered their lone defeat of the season. 12-11.

"A few weeks ago, we played at Rowland Park and it was kind of the same situation," Saints junior Ellie Majure said. "We walked into halftime kind of with our faces drawn and we were kind of like, 'We're up by a few goals,' and it did not end well for us. [Today], we went into halftime, we were like, 'This cannot happen again, you need to get pumped up,' and everybody got their adrenaline going and got real excited."

St. Stephen's, the defending VISAA state champion, responded, scoring the first two goals of the second half before pulling away late. Majure led the way with four goals and added an assist. Olivia Mikkelsen, Darby Philbrick and Ellie Carson each scored two goals for the Saints, and Avery Donahoe, Abby Bailey and Sophie Davidson each had one. Donahoe and Philbrick each had two

SSSA head coach Kathy Jenkins, who has amassed more than 600 victories in 39 years with the program, praised the Warhawks, who have won two of the last three VHSL state championships.

"I went to the state finals to watch last year and I was really impressed with their stick skills and how fast they move the ball," Jenkins said. "They're not [a] typical public school [program, where] one girl tries to run it. They move the ball down the field. As you could see, all those passes, kids were breaking. ... I think it's exciting to see the public schools are getting closer to the private. It was a great game. It's too bad more people didn't have an opportunity to see it."

Madison entered Monday's contest with a 10-0 record, with nine wins coming by at least eight goals. The Warhawks' only test came on April 16, when Madison edged Westfield 16-15.

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, ranked No. 2 in the nation by laxpower.com, provided Madison with its toughest test to date. The Warhawks stayed close early in the second half, but eventually fell short against their only private-school opponent of the season.

"I am very proud of my team," Madison head coach Amanda Counts said. "It was a good, hard-fought game. We appreciate the competition. It was fun."

Counts expressed her competitive nature,

"I hate to lose," she said. "I would have really liked to have been the team to beat the Saints. Hopefully there will be other opportunities in the future."

Madison junior Kierra Sweeney finished with three goals and three assists. Sweeney is committed to Dartmouth, where she would play with Davidson and Carson of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.

"I think we were really excited to play because they are an extremely, extremely good team," Sweeney said. "I think we played really well and I think it was definitely a learning experience because they are such an elite team, where we can really learn from their motions and their stick skills and the way they play. I'm really proud of the way my team played. I thought we really rose to the challenge and did our

Katie Kerrigan, who will play for Ohio State next season, finished with three goals and an assist. Alex Condon and Rachel Brennan each had one goal for the Warhawks.

The Saints will host Holy Child at 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7. Madison will travel to face Thomas Jefferson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 9.



Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

Langley sophomore Taylor Hosley, left, and Marshall junior Alexander Stockero battle for the ball during Langley's 3-1 victory on May 1.

Langley Boys' Soccer

The Langley boys' soccer team defeated Marshall 3-1 on May 1, improving its record to 7-1-2. The Saxons have not lost since dropping their opener against Yorktown on March 19.

Langley will play at Chantilly at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7. Marshall will travel to face McLean at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 8.

Langley Tennis Beats Madison

The Langley boys' tennis team defeated Madison 8-1 on May 2.

With its win, Langley finished its season undefeated and first in Conference 6. With its 5-2 record in Conference 6, McLean finished in second place in the conference. Madison, South Lakes, and Yorktown all finished with 4-3 conference records and thus will engage in a three-way playoff this coming week.

In singles action, Langley's Kevin Shen (10-0), James Schenck (10-0), Chase Lewis (10-4), Hammy Abuhamda (10-3) and Nick Smoyer (10-4) each won their respective matches.

The Langley doubles teams of Shen/ Abuhamda, Schenck/Lewis and Smoyer/Stavros Kontzias also won.



Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

Senior midfielder Sepehr Harandi and the Langley boys' soccer team beat Marshall 3-1 on May 1.



Rita Parks and Justine Verheul pose for a photo at the Haddad ballet studio in Great Falls. Both will be in the May production of 'Alice In Wonderland.'



Students at the Haddad studio, including Serena Karam, will be in a ballet production of 'Alice In Wonderland' on May 11 at

the Madeira School.

'Alice' Comes to Madeira

Haddad Studio of Classical Ballet presents 'Alice In Wonderland' on May 11.

> By Ryan Dunn The Connection

he girls gain an opportunity to enjoy performing and dance before an audience of people," said Margaret Haddad. "This time the show is 'Alice In Wonderland'." Since 1962 Margaret A. Haddad has taught the Nicholai Legat method of Russian Classical Ballet across the globe in locations including England, Lebanon, Kenya. In 1987, Haddad opened her studio in Great Falls. There, talented young people learn the Legat Syllabus, emphasizing grace, unison and discipline.

Haddad was one of the first English students accepted to the Legat School of Russian Ballet which was developed by Nadine Nicolaeva and Nicolai Legat. Located in Scotland, the Russian Ballet Society is committed to preserving and maintaining the Classical Russian Ballet style and the Legat System via teaching and examination qualification exams.

As an adult, Haddad moved frequently and was grateful her ballet education at the Legat School enabled her to have a career as a ballet instructor. "When I left Nairobi, I had 500 students," said Haddad. "I carry on doing what I was taught to do... the girls have to have a love of ballet in order to participate." Haddad runs a school that emphasizes good character traits, as well as ballet skills.

In addition to studio practice, the Haddad studio has two big shows, a winter performance of "The Nutcracker," and a spring show. Previous spring shows covered the Snow Queen, Bambi, and Sleeping Beauty. "We follow the story completely," said Haddad. The ballet begins with Alice played by Claire



Rita Parks, Margaret Haddad and Justine Verheul at the Haddad ballet studio in Great Falls. Both Parks and Verheul have been taking the teacher training program at the Haddad studio.

Banducci falling through the rabbit hole. In the second act, Alice goes to the tea party and meets the Queen of Hearts (Justine Verheul) and the Duchess (Sarah Parks).

The spring ballet show is set for Saturday, May 11 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and will be held at the Madeira School at 8328 Georgetown Pike McLean. The shows have a cast of 65 persons, with some students having up to three or four characters. "I am just excited to be on stage again," said Justine Verheul, who has been taking the teacher training program at the stu-

Rita Parks, a resident of McLean organized and prepared the costumes for this show. "My daughter has been dancing since she was four and I have been helping with costumes for nine years," said Parks. This is the second time my daughter has preformed in 'Alice', so it is exciting to see her in a bigger role." This will also be her daughter's final performance with the studio. "We want to have the same impact on others as Mrs. Haddad," said Sarah Parks.

For more information about Haddad studio, visit www.haddadballet.com or call 703-759-3366.



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A Tale of Two Seasons

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It is not the best of times, nor is it the worst of times; it is, simply put: the time between the end of winter and the beginning of summer. It is the season known as spring, but more to the point of this column, it is the time when, if the weather cooperates/accommodates, I won't need to turn the heat or the air conditioning on in my house. I will instead be able to ride the wave, so to speak, and not incur any post-winter/pre-summer utility bills. Possibly, I might even be able to pay off my oilheating budget bill balance for the 2013/2014 season - before the 2014/ 2015 budget cycle begins, and hopefully not have to cool down the house at the same time – due to an early summer so that on the day my oil-heating bill is due, it won't be competing for cash with my upstart electric/air conditioning bill for money not well spent and for money hardly in abundance.

As difficult and challenging as our most recent winter has been, and as hot and humid as our summers typically are, I (like many others I'm sure), would certainly appreciate a break/brake in my cash flowing out and instead enjoy its staying power – in my bank. Not that it earns any interest idling as it does there; nevertheless, its presence in my checking account without immediately being in demand would create a sense of solvency, false though it may be (and a temporary sensation at that), and likely make a positive contribution to my seasonal situation. I don't mind being thrown a bone once in a while. Moreover, given the circumstances and reality of living in the never-havingenough-resources world, any discount, reduction or delay, real or imagined, in the ongoing and recurring utility bills, would be a most welcome improvement. If the heat and air conditioning indeed stayed off, and I didn't need to be warm any more than I needed to be cool, I'm sure I could make the adjustment. Paying less probably wouldn't be a hardship. I'm not too proud to admit it, though I'm not begging.

I'm not asking for a multi-month sojourn from my utility bill reality. I'm just asking for a month. One month where I could stop the bleeding and possibly pay forward to get ahead rather than pay backward to not be in arrears. I don't believe I'm asking for a lot. And neither do I think I'm being greedy. However, I agree it may be wishful thinking. Nevertheless, it's a request worth making. And as unpredictable respectfully speaking, not criticizing – as the weather can be, a little help would go a long way; in dollars and in sense. Otherwise, I might have a dickens of a time paying for heat AND air conditioning in the same month. Then it would be the worst of times.

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



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