

... And the Winners Are

NEWS, PAGE 10

This year's
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Female
Dancer went
to Gabrielle
Bullard for
"Footloose"
at The Ma-
deira School.

Eat. Drink. Pay?

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Father's Day Photo Gallery

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Empire Strikes Back

Establishment
beats Tea Party
at Republican
convention in
Roanoke.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

When conservative preacher E.W. Jackson took the stage at the Roanoke Civic Center to introduce Tea Party favorite Shak Hill at the Republican convention last weekend, thousands of conservatives from across Virginia took to their feet. They waved placards. They applauded. They voiced approval. It was a moment former Alexandria Vice Mayor Bill Cleveland, who served as Jackson's Northern Virginia coordinator, later said was a surprise to him.

"Fantastic," said Cleveland. "I had no idea that was going to happen."

In the end, though, it was not enough for Hill, a former Air Force pilot who is currently an insurance agent in Burke. Even before all of the congressional districts announced their results, it became clear that Gillespie was able to secure a decisive victory. So Hill took the stage to concede the election and ask the convention to nominate Gillespie by acclamation. Gillespie, a former chairman of the Republican National Committee, was a founder of a super PAC known as American Crossroads although he is now trying to distance himself from the organization.

"I was never on the board, never an employee, never a consultant," Gillespie told reporters in a brief press conference after securing the nomination. "My view is I've got to run my campaign, and I've got to raise the resources for me to get the message to the voters of Virginia and get the information to the voters of Virginia on my own."

GILLESPIE ENTERS the race for U.S. Senate at a competitive disadvantage to incumbent U.S. Sen. Mark Warner of Old Town. Back in March, Quinnipiac University issued a poll that had Warner with 46 percent of the vote and Gillespie at 31 percent. The polls had a sample size of 1,300 voters and a margin of error of plus or minus 2.7 percent. Gillespie supporters say he was the only candi-



Former Republican National Committee Chairman Ed Gillespie addresses delegates at the Roanoke Civic Center.

date who could raise the kind of money that would be needed to defeat an incumbent Democrat such as Warner, who accumulated a vast personal fortune as an early investor of a telecommunications company known as Nextel that later merged with Sprint. Gillespie has already raised more than \$3 million, and he had the best fundraising quarter for any non-incumbent Republican Senate candidate.

"He can raise the money," said Alexandria delegate Sharon Anneear, who voted for Gillespie. "That's key in this day and age for any campaign, but particularly when you are running against a millionaire." Democrats are eager to turn Gillespie's background against him, staging an event outside the convention hall to brand him "Pocket Ed," a reference to his background as a Washington consultant with ties to money and power. Moments after Gillespie secured the nomination, Democrats issued a press release laying out the campaign they hope to wage against him. Warner likes to call himself a "radical moderate," a position that his supporters hope to use to position the incumbent Democrat against his Republican challenger.

"Ed Gillespie calls himself a 'partisan warrior,' and has spent his life whipping up gridlock or lobbying for special interests willing to pay the right price," said Democratic party chairman Dwight Jones. "Virginians want a problem solver not a partisan warrior."

THE CONVENTION highlighted a division within the Republican Party that has become more pronounced in recent years, a split between the chamber of commerce wing and the Tea Party set.

That's a division that will be at the center of a struggle for dominance of the party in 2016, when control of the chairmanship and executive committee will be at stake. Potential candidates and their supporter were already working the convention floor in an effort to secure support last weekend, an indication that direction of the party may be at stake as the internal struggle intensifies.

"It's going to be a bloodbath," said convention parliamentarian Chris Marston, chairman of the Alexandria Republican City Committee. The central point of discussion between the factions is expected to be the wisdom of having conventions to select candidates. While Democrats always use primaries, Republicans have used primaries only eight times in the last 100 years to select statewide candidates. Last year's convention in Richmond ended in a surprise victory for Jackson, who secured the nomination to run for lieutenant governor after more than 12 hours of intense politics. Democrats pounced on Jackson's record of comparing Planned Parenthood to the Ku Klux Klan and calling gays "sexually twisted" to brand the party as intolerant, and all three statewide candidates went down to defeat.

"As we saw last year in Richmond, sometimes things get out of hand," said Chris Brown, a Republican delegate from Herndon. "I think the more rank-and-file people would probably prefer a primary. It certainly less commitment on their part, allows them to spend more time with their families and allows them to get more of their neighbors energized and allow them to participate."

SEE GILLESPIE, PAGE 7

Beautifying Metro Stations

How to make
the area around
the Silver Line
metro stations a
little more
dressed up?

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Hands flew over tracing paper, creating colorful geometric lines that turned into streets, structures, landscapes and art. Architects, artists, lighting designers and marketers were invited to a design workshop at the Tysons Sheraton Premiere on June 4 to find a way to make the area around the Metrorail concrete trestles a little more dressed up.

What many of them found was that it would be better to leave the trestles alone and surround the pedestrian areas with green space, elevated walkways and sculptures.

"We want it to be consistent with the vision of Tysons to enhance the guideways along the Silver Line," said county Community Revitalization representative Barbara Byron.

Four groups were in charge of each Metro station, but she emphasized that these creations would need to be looked into further with a budget in mind before a decision was made. "This is day one," she said. "This is the beginning."

The concept of a green, elevated ribbon-like walkway was a common idea in some of the designs.

"It can be a bicycle and pedestrian path that touches down at different points," said SmithGroup JJR urban designer Merrill St. Leger, discussing ideas for the Spring Hill station. "At different points, there could be seating where there's a view or a special moment to celebrate." The Greensboro Station team toyed with the idea of adding a walkway over Route 7, creating a tunnel-like effect for the major roadway.

"What is the big issue in Tysons Corner," asked Davis Carter Scott Principal Douglas Carter. "Traffic! I know someone who was stuck in traffic today."



Artist Jo Fleming and SmithGroup JJR Urban Planner Merrill St. Leger work on a beautification plan for one of the Silver Line Metro stations during a workshop.

He said adding retail around the station would only add more traffic to the area. Rather, he wanted to put in dense foliage in the area and illuminate the station windows with color.

"It would give Route 7 some real drama as you go along," he said. "That's jewelry that can be added to the guideway without damaging what's there."

The Tysons Station group called the station "the pulse" of the urban center.

"We're adding a log more positive energy, I think, from the ground plan," said CGLA Principal Bruno Carvalho.

They wanted to create a vibrating energy through colorful fiber optic elements that criss-crossed through the corridor. He said popup retail space and art studios would create a constantly changing interest point for the station.

The McLean Station group wanted to use some of the natural elements of the stations surroundings to its advantages, but also wanted to add playful elements. "We want a painter to do something to portray that the stream is an important feature," said Rhodeside and Harwell urban planner Meredith Judy.

The group toyed with the idea of solar panels and wind turbines to make the station as self-sufficient as possible. Additionally, nostalgic sculptures made with crushed cars and car parts - like a pyramid of tires - would symbolize the decline of personal vehicles due to the Silver Line.

"It's becoming a community movement to implement beautification at the metro," said Tysons Partnership Executive Director Michael Caplin. "Properly done, it can become another magnet for Tysons."

REENA SINGH / THE CONNECTION

Eat. Drink. Pay?

Fairfax County task force debates voters' appetite for another meals tax referendum.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

It has been 22 years since Fairfax County asked voters to approve a tax on restaurant meals, an issue that ignited protests, caused deep divisions among community leaders and threatened to melt down several political careers.

The reverberations of that epic failure — what many consider the third rail of county politics — continue to echo in the ears of county politicians.

But after another punishing year of budget battles, and continuing shortfalls in revenue resulting from the recession, county lead-

ers are once again eyeing the meals tax as a way to raise revenue for schools and other county services.

On April 22, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) convened a task force to consider the pros and cons of putting another meals tax referendum on the ballot — possibly as early as this November.

Bulova said a four-percent tax on meals and beverages at the county's nearly 3,000 restaurants would generate approximately \$90 million in new revenue for schools, public safety, parks, libraries and human services.

She cited the fact that all of the cities and towns "around and within Fairfax County" have adopted a meals tax, and that 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."

In Northern Virginia, similar meals taxes have been implemented in Alexandria, Arlington

County, the City of Fairfax and other smaller municipalities.

However, Loudoun and Prince William county officials recently rejected the idea of a meals tax after restaurant groups successfully argued the tax would unfairly target an industry that is facing pressure to increase the minimum wage while still struggling to recover from the 2008 recession.

While much has changed in Fairfax County since 1992, the mere mention of a meals tax still stirs up vehement reactions.

"This is a charged issue," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) "The task force was set up deliberately to have a third-party group come to us with recommendations. We will have the benefit of public input from a fairly politically-balanced group. I think it's brilliant that Sharon got both sides that would not necessarily talk to each other together in the same room ... That's the Fairfax County way."

"Keep an open mind. And, listen to each other," Bulova urged the 40 members of the super committee during the first meeting on



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Kate Hanley, former Democratic chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors co-chairs the Meals Tax Referendum Task Force with Tom Davis, a former Republican congressman who also chaired the Fairfax County Board during the 1992 meals tax battle.

May 15.

Chaired by Kate Hanley, a former Democratic chairman of the board and Tom Davis, a former Republican congressman who chaired the Board of Supervisors during the 1992 meals tax battle, the task force was charged with answering three questions before delivering its final recommenda-

tion to the board on June 17:

- ❖ Whether or not to recommend the board put a meals tax referendum on the ballot
- ❖ If recommending going to referendum, when should that referendum take place; and
- ❖ If recommending going to referendum, should any revenues

SEE MEALS TAX, PAGE 5

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NEWS

Meals Tax Debated

FROM PAGE 4

from a meals Meals Tax Debatedax be dedicated to specific issues?

But the first meeting had barely begun before members began taking swipes at each other, arguing over marginal details and data, and delivering doomsday proclamations if their side did not prevail.

The Fairfax County Federation of Teachers launched a series of newspaper ads asking readers to "Save Our Starving Schools," by supporting the meals tax. Steven Greenburg, president of the teachers union and a member of the task force, argued that the county's school system — which recently approved a \$2.5 billion budget for FY 2015 — will be forced to lay off workers if the county does not transfer more money to the schools.

After the second meeting, Jim Corcoran, president of The Fairfax Chamber, issued a statement declaring the chamber's opposition to the tax.

"We have been down this road before in Fairfax, and in almost every case, voters continue to oppose such measures," Corcoran

said. "This is not a time for rehashing failed policies of the past. County leaders, the business community, and citizens all need to work together to grow and diversify the economy in Fairfax County, not tax our way to a solution."

Hanley and Davis moderated the next meeting on May 29 with humor, easing some of the tension in the room.

"Kate and I come at this issue from different angles," Davis joked during the meeting.

"Is that why I voted for it the first time," Hanley said, pausing. "And you did too?"

"Hey, it passed in my precinct," Davis shot back.

Rex Simmons, who represents the Fairfax County Democratic Committee, drew applause when he thanked Hanley and Davis for "doing an excellent job summarizing the views of the task force ..." in the draft report.

But the warm feelings dissipated when a heated discussion began over the image of the restaurant industry, and the perception that restaurants don't support schools because the industry does not sup-

SEE MEALS TAX, PAGE 19

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which changes to Gunston Road/VA-242. In about 2 miles you'll pass the main entrance to the Meadowood Recreation Area on your right. Don't turn here, rather continue on another half of a mile. You'll turn right through a gate onto a dirt drive. If you use Google Maps, Mapquest, or other GPS, you can use these coordinates as your destination and it will take you right to the location: 38.670731, -77.190827



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Traffic Signal Needed Near Westgate Elementary

MCA resolution passes nearly unanimously.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Drivers taking a shortcut on Magarity Road to get to work in the morning may find a traffic light to aid the crosswalk guard in the future.

The McLean Citizens Association voted unanimously - with one abstention - to support adding a traffic signal at the intersection of Magarity and Peabody roads near Westgate Elementary as a safety measure for children at the June 4 meeting.

Board of Directors member Animesh Gupta said he and his child were almost hit by a car last month as they crossed the road to the school.

"My two kids go to that school," he said. "Every morning, when I cross it, there are cars over the crosswalk. It is such a mess. It is not the fault of the driver. It is not the fault of the traffic cop."

According to the resolution, the measure is supported by parents in Pimmet Hills, Olney Park, the Commons of McLean-



The McLean Citizens Association voted to support a new traffic light near Westgate Elementary School during the June 4 meeting.

Pimmet Citizens Association, and the Westgate Parent-Teacher Association.

Parent and Westgate PTA President Kathy Timmons said the volunteer traffic guard has little control over the cars that pass through the area. "Drivers do not obey the speed limit during school hours and drive too fast on the road," she said. "It's hard for the crossing guard to keep control of the traffics because people don't pay attention to her."

Timmons said the traffic is only going to get worse when the Metro stations open this

summer. "Magarity road is becoming more congested due to the construction with the metro and will get worse when the metro opens," she said. "The safety of our children is very important and making sure they get to school safely. The school is currently under renovations therefore the Kiss 'n Ride has been moved to the front of the school on the side parking lot. This causes more congestion, because every student is being dropped off in the front."

Gupta said he approached Virginia Department of Transportation about creating

safety measures so that the children - who are often below the height of the windshield - are not at risk of being hit by a car. Additionally, he said when a car does stop, many other vehicles use the center turn lane to try to pass it without knowing why they are stopped. The resolution states that VDOT did not do a proper study of the pedestrian traffic and vehicle volume in the area and asks for another one to be made.

"The system is broken in that the VDOT engineers are out of touch with reality," he said. "It is instilling fear in the kids. It is instilling fear in the parents."

Representatives from VDOT were not immediately available for comment or to estimate how much a traffic signal would cost to install. Gupta has written a petition at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/walksafely-on-magarity/> that nearly had 150 signatures by Sunday to gain support in the community for added safety measures that include speed bumps and a walk signal. The resolution will be sent to Senator Janet Howell, Drainsville Supervisor John Foust, Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth, Delegate Marcus Simon and county Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, among other officials.

"We want a traffic signal," he said. "We need a traffic signal." The next MCA meeting will be held July 2.

PHOTO BY REENA SINGH / THE CONNECTION



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NEWS

Gillespie to Challenge Warner for Senate

FROM PAGE 3

THE DEBATE about whether to select candidates using a convention rather than a primary may have been the most divisive issue at the convention this year, perhaps even more divisive than the selection of a candidate to run against Warner. Every delegate seemed to have an opinion about the issue, and opinions were all over the map. Some looked at the recent history as an indication that the party needed to change direction. Others said conventions offered a way for candidates to save fundraising dollars for a general election rather than spending the campaign war chest going after other Republicans.

"It's not always Republicans that are voting for a candidate," said James Glenn, a delegate from Mount Vernon. "In addition to independents you could have Democrats crossing over. So you're not truly getting a Republican conservative candidate."

For some, the issue of convention versus primary came down to one simple question: Which strategy would defeat Democrats? "Maybe it will drum up a little support and get people interested in what's happening because we've got too many people who are uninformed and not interested in the political process," said George Graham, a delegate from Arlington. "If we are going to run an American country, we need people who are informed and interested."

REPUBLICANS BELIEVE Warner is a flawed candidate, and they are hoping to seize on his support of the Affordable Care Act during the coming campaign. Over and over, delegates to the convention accused voters of voting for President Barack Obama

"He can raise the money. That's key in this day and age for any campaign, but particularly when you are running against a millionaire."

— Alexandria delegate Sharon Annear

97 percent of the time. That's a record that was not pleasing to Republicans, many of whom purchased toilet paper featuring the image of the Democratic president at a booth off the convention floor. Each roll of toilet paper, made in China, sold for \$7.

"It's funny, and it's a great gag," said businessman Stephen Tyler, who was selling the product. "It's a great way to be able to surprise somebody who might be of the other party who you might want to poke some fun at concerning the mockery that's become this administration." On the convention floor, though, delegates were taking a much more serious approach to the campaign. In the coming months, they hope to portray Warner as a big-spending liberal who supports expanding health insurance for those who live in poverty or are disabled.

"He has voted for big tax increases. He has voted for big spending," said Jay McConville, former chairman of the Fairfax County Republican Committee. "He is an Obamacare supporter, and that is not what the people of Virginia need and that's why we are going to replace him with Ed Gillespie."



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OPINION

Clearing the Air on New Carbon Standards

BY CONGRESSMEN GERRY
CONNOLLY (VA-11) AND
PAUL TONKO (NY-20)

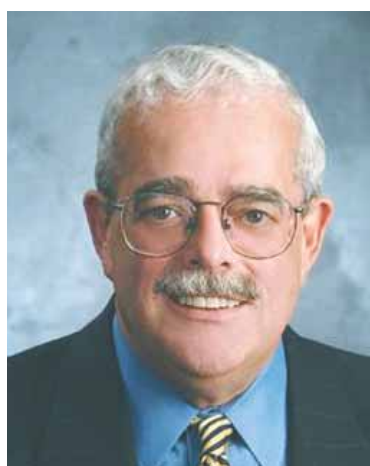
CO-CHAIRS, SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
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The EPA's new proposal to safeguard the air we breathe and contain a primary driver of climate change by reducing carbon emissions from existing power plants is the lynchpin to reducing our carbon footprint. As co-chairs of the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, we welcome action on carbon pollution and look forward to working with all stakeholders in a responsible manner to advance a 21st century energy economy for America.

Power plants are responsible for 40 percent of U.S. carbon pollution. Without addressing this source of pollution our efforts fade in significance. Similar safeguards already exist for other hazardous pollutants such as lead, arsenic, and mercury. And they have worked. Why shouldn't the same apply for carbon? By targeting this source of pollution, we protect public health, the economy, and national security.

Unfortunately, there are those who would have us believe that these and other EPA safeguards threaten our shared national priorities. Just as they did when Congress, in a bipartisan fashion, adopted the Clean Air and Clean Water acts a generation ago, these critics offer the same hackneyed arguments they always make: they contend the public does not want these protections, they will kill jobs, bankrupt the economy, and cause electricity rates to double. This is the same crowd that waged deceitful campaigns warning of death panels, a government-run takeover of healthcare, and socialized medicine in the hopes of distracting us from the urgent need for the Affordable Care Act.

Such false and misleading claims were shameful then, and if



Connolly

repeated, will jeopardize the tremendous strides we've made in protecting public health. Unfortunately, some took to attacking the EPA's latest proposal even before it was released. Last week, Speaker Boehner said the EPA is "hurting our economy" with such proposals, though he did note he was no expert on climate change and had not yet seen the proposed regulation. Let's move beyond such rhetoric and look at the facts.

Take the first claim that carbon pollution restrictions will kill jobs and devastate the economy. Evidence tells us that we can have both a clean environment and a strong economy. In a recent op-ed, Christine Todd Whitman, a Republican, who is the former Governor of New Jersey and was EPA Administrator under President George W. Bush, highlighted that "...between 1970 and 2006, U.S. GDP grew by 195 percent, yet thanks to regulatory changes annual emissions of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead all decreased significantly." In other words, economic growth and regulation can and do intertwine successfully.

Investing in new energy standards actually has helped fuel that economic growth. For example, since the Clean Air Act was passed in 1970, every dollar spent on compliance standards has yielded \$4-\$8 in economic return on that investment.



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The fact is that these standards have been a catalyst for a new generation of clean energy, new investment in plants and equipment, and the creation of thousands of domestic jobs. Employment in the American solar industry, for example, grew ten times faster than the national employment average rate last year.

Another tired but predictable claim opponents will make is that electricity rates will increase. The Washington Post's fact checker, who does not take a position on EPA rules, debunked this allegation noting that "this [claim] does not pass the laugh test." The Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 also were assailed by similar attacks. So what happened to electricity rates? They decreased. Between 1990 and 2006, electricity rates fell by 47 percent in Arkansas, 332 percent in Georgia, 64 percent in Illinois, 28 percent in Indiana, 35 percent in Michigan, 30 percent in North Carolina, 18 percent in Ohio, 36 percent in Pennsylvania, 40 percent in Utah, and 36 percent in Virginia. Even the power companies agree. The CEO of American Electric Power, one of our nation's largest utilities, said that with enough time to prepare, the transition to a cleaner energy future can occur "without a major impact to customers or the economy."

Finally, these perennial alarmists will argue that the American pub-

lic does not want the "boot of government regulation on their neck." To the contrary, when it comes to basic health protections, the American public overwhelmingly has said it doesn't want the threat of pollution on its neck. A 2012 American Lung Association report found that Americans support the Clean Air Act by a 2-to-1 margin. The same report found nearly 3 out of 4 respondents believe we shouldn't have to choose between health and safety standards and promoting the economy. They understand that the opponents are presenting them with a false choice and that we can and must do both. And when it comes to setting limits on carbon pollution from power plants, a February 2014 poll found 7 out of 10 Americans support these safeguards. Seventy percent!

But you won't hear the House majority reminding the public of these inconvenient truths. They prefer reckless rhetorical arguments and irresponsible inaction. Reducing carbon emissions poses a significant challenge, and we look forward to working with industry, the environmental community, and stakeholders at the local, state, and federal levels to address this challenge. But first we must be willing to move beyond these campaigns of fear and deception.

Thankfully, there are indications that industry and the public understand this. For example, use of solar power by American companies increased by 40 percent last year.

Those businesses, and their customers, understand the value of investing in American ingenuity and innovation – a healthier environment, a sustainable source of domestic energy, creating new high-skilled jobs.

The Obama Administration has taken a bold step in proposing a 30 percent reduction from 2005 levels in carbon emissions from power plants. We support that effort and know that America's health and economic wellbeing will benefit immeasurably.

McLean CONNECTION

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Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
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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.

FRIDAY/JUNE 13

McLean Senior Source Training Session. 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. A volunteer-managed organization, seeking to make

McLean a friendly, connected, and supportive community for all, while recognizing the special needs of older adults and adults living with disabilities.

To register, please email
McLeanSeniorSource@gmail.com
with the subject line "MSS Training."

MONDAY/JUNE 16

Spanish Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.

Practice Spanish as a foreign language in this casual conversation group.

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Join us for stories, song and activities. Ages 3-5 with a grown-up.

TUESDAY/JUNE 17

Red Cross Blood Drive. 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. NetApp, 1921 Gallows Road, Vienna.

Improve your English Skills. 11 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean. Get focused help with reading, writing, speaking and listening. Adults.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 18

English Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean. Practice your English in a conversational setting. Adults.

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The award for Critics Team went to the team from McLean High School (back row, from left): Isabel Zapata, Rachel Lawhead, Gillian Wright, Ray Clardy, Jack Posey, Zoe LeMenestrel and Sam Miller. (Front row, from left): Emma Paquette and Marielle Burt.

Cappies Awarded for High School Theater

The 15th Annual Cappies Awards Gala for high school theater was held Sunday, June 8 at The Kennedy Center. Nine Cappies went to West Potomac High School for “Spamalot,” including the coveted Best Musical award. The Best Play award went to Langley High School for “The Children’s Hour.” The Cappies’ show season extended from October 2013 to May 2014, and Cappies shows were attended, on average, by 45 student critics. This year’s event included 58 public and private high schools from Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Montgomery and Prince William counties, the cities of Falls Church, Alexandria and Manassas, and Washington, D.C. The event was hosted by Judy Bowns, Janie Strauss and Ed Monk.

— Steve Hibbard

PHOTOS BY
STEVE HIBBARD/
THE CONNECTION



The award for Best Play went to “The Children’s Hour” at Langley High School. (From left): Hayley Wenk, Madeleine Chalk, Kathleen Welch and Rachel Mayman.



The award for Returning Critic went to Emma Paquette of McLean from McLean High School.



The award for Graduating Critic went to Jamie Joeyen-Waldorf of Great Falls from Langley High School.



The award for Female Dancer went to Gabrielle Bullard for “Footloose” at The Madeira School.



The award for Lead Actor in a Musical went to Alex Stone for “Catch Me If You Can” at McLean High School.



Students dance bhangra, a type of dance that originated in India’s Punjab region, during Bollywood Bash.

Bollywood Bash!

Langley club brings Northern Virginia schools together.

BY REENA SINGH AND
RACHEL STONE
THE CONNECTION



Shivali Marwaha, junior, and Sid Chawla, senior, organizers of Bollywood Bash, strike a traditional pose.

Dozens of students from across Northern Virginia came together Saturday night - to dance bhangra and raise money for rural India. Langley High School’s South Asian Student Association organized an Indian-style prom, Bollywood Bash, with five other area clubs to promote their culture and Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development at McLean Community Center.

“It’s a great way to get the whole Indian community together,” said senior Sid Chawla, LHS SASA club president. “It’s like prom, but with Indian music and no dates.”

CORD, the organization the association is raising money for, is to help redevelop rural India by promoting literacy and strengthening local government. The club met their fundraising goal of \$1,500 that night.

To make the event fun, they hired a DJ to blast Indian music, had a photobooth where the teens can pretend to be Bollywood stars and had a dance-off icebreaker, all in traditional outfits. The rest of the night, students - no matter what culture - threw their hands in the air dancing bhangra, a type of dance that originated in India’s Punjab region. There was also a booth where the teens can get traditional henna tattoos on their hands and arms.

Chawla had three goals for the event: to breach stereotypes of South Asians in the community,

encourage cultural awareness and help the students connect with their identity.

This was the club’s most active year.

“The beauty of it is everything comes from the students,” said Rebeca Prell, Spanish teacher and sponsor of SASA for 10 years.

“It’s great that everyone can come together and raise money,” said Centreville High School Students Helping India vice president Shelly Sharma, 17.

Rushi Challa, 17, has been a part of Langley High School’s SASA for a year, and said he has enjoyed the various festivities the club puts on to promote culture at the school.

“I know a few people here, and they host the most amazing parties like this one,” he said. “We’re all a big family here.”

He points at a group of students dancing on the floor.

“There are six different schools there,” he said. “Not just one school. This gets everyone together.”

PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

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CALENDAR

Send announcements to
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paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

THURSDAY/JUNE 12

Matt Wertz. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave East, Vienna. More than ever, the reflective songwriter has his heart on his sleeve, and *Weights & Wings* is the very incarnation of that lifeline. \$20. 703-255-1566.

Ringo Starr & His All-Starr Band. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Filene Center, 1551 Trap Rd, Vienna. Celebrate an era with a band of rock n' roll virtuosos from the Beatles, Santana, Journey, Toto and more! \$35-\$65. 703-255-1900.

Summer Exhibitions Opening Reception and Gallery Talk. 7-9 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean.

FRIDAY/JUNE 13 - SUNDAY/JUNE 22

"Bat Boy: The Musical." 1st Stage Theatre in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. A musical comedy/horror spoof and satire on American prejudice featuring a half-boy, half-bat creature as the main character. Performances now through June 22. Fridays 8 p.m., Saturdays 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$32, Students & Military: \$15, Senior (age 65): \$27. <http://www.1stStageTysons.org/>. 703-854-1856.

FRIDAY/JUNE 13 - SUNDAY/JUNE 15

Salvador Dali: The Sculpture Collection. Wentworth Gallery, 1807 U. International Drive, McLean. 703-833-0111.

FRIDAY/JUNE 13

II Volo. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Filene Center, 1551 Trap Rd, Vienna. Pop-opera trio of Italian teen heartthrobs combines soaring voices with playful charm in a multilingual "mixture of Andrea Bocelli and the Jonas Brothers." (The NYTimes) \$30-\$65. 703-255-1900.

Annapolis Bluegrass. 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. The Summer on the Green is a free concert series in Vienna. Bring chairs or blankets for seating.

SATURDAY/JUNE 14

Memorial Race and Fun Run. 8:30 a.m. at Franklin Middle School, 3300 Lees Corner Road, Chantilly. First "Born to Run" 5k Memorial Race and Fun Run in honor of the late teacher Jannine Parisi. \$30+ for 5K, \$15+ for 1K goes towards an education fund for Jannine's two daughters. To participate, register at



PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

Farrell Parker and Jimmy Mavrikes in "Bat Boy: The Musical" at 1st Stage through June 22.

www.prraces.com. Volunteers needed, contact Assistant Principal Bryan Holland at bholland@fcps.edu.

Wolf Trap's 25th Annual Louisiana Swamp Romp™. 2 p.m. Wolf Trap Filene Center, 1551 Trap Rd, Vienna. The Big Easy party is back! Dance to Louisiana's hottest bands and jump in the second line parade. \$30. 703-255-1900.

Vienna Saturday Farmers Market. 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. 301 Center Street South, Vienna VA 22180. Also balloon artistry, free blood pressure check, and free entertainment. Email manager@viennafarmersmarket.com.

Maria Spearman (Tai-Chi and Balance). 8-9 a.m. The Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. 703-288-9505.

Scott Ramminger and the Crawstickers (Blues). 5-7 p.m. The Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. 703-288-9505.

Pancake Breakfast. 8 a.m. - noon. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department,

400 Center St. South, Vienna. The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will sponsor the breakfast. All you can eat pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice and coffee. Adults \$8.00, Seniors 65+ \$7.00, Children under 12 \$6.00, Children under 4 free. For more information please contact: auxiliary@vffd.org

SUNDAY/JUNE 15

An Evening with Kawehi. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave East, Vienna. The native Hawaiian multi-instrumentalist, all by her lonesome, covered Nirvana's "Heart-Shaped Box" that went viral online. \$12-\$15. 703-255-1566.

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna's American Legion, 330 Center St N, Vienna. Scrambled eggs, omlets, blueberry pancakes, bacon, etc with benefits to Girls State. \$3-\$8. 703-938-6580.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m.
Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets to come hear NRJ – Rock. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

Great Falls Concerts on the Green. 6 p.m.
Great Falls Centre Green. Multi-talented Daryl Davis performing his signature jazz and blues.

TUESDAY/JUNE 17

Historic Vienna Event. 7:30 p.m. Council Chamber of Vienna's Town Hall, 127 Center Street S., Vienna. Historic Vienna, Inc. will sponsor a lecture by local author, Air Force veteran and diplomat Robert F. Dorr, who will discuss his newest book "Fighting Hitler's Jets," which combines basic historical information with compelling personal stories of how Americans flying propeller-driven planes were able to develop combat tactics to defeat the newly introduced German jets. For more information, call 703-938-5187 or visit www.historicviennainc.org.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 18

John Butler Trio with Special Guest Allen Stone. 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Filene Center, 1551 Trap Rd, Vienna. There's nothing "Better Than" acoustically driven roots-rock and reggae ballads from heartfelt Australian multi-instrumentalists. \$32-\$40. 703-255-1900.

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m.
Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets for a children's show – Rocknockerous, sponsored by Vienna Moms, Inc. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

THURSDAY/JUNE 19

Daryl Hall & John Oates. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Filene Center, 1551 Trap Rd, Vienna. Still making your dreams come true with unforgettable soul and rock anthems, these Rock and Roll Hall of Famers are the most successful pop duo of all time. \$35-\$60. 703-255-1900.

FRIDAY/JUNE 20

Wildfire's Gluten-free Wine Dinner. 7 p.m.
Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Executive Chef Eddie Ishaq will prepare a custom gluten free four-course menu, each paired with a wine to complement the dish. Guest speakers Vanessa Weisbrod, editor of Delight Gluten Free Magazine and her husband, Eric Weisbrod, will be on hand to discuss "Being Gluten Free When Your Other is Not!" \$75 per person. Call 703-442-9110 for reservations.

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m.
Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets to come hear the Nitehawks Swing Band. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

SATURDAY/JUNE 21

Fairfax Saxophone Quartet Performs "Sort of Greek" Concert. 7 p.m. Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. The Fairfax Saxophone Quartet will showcase its crowd-pleasing versatility at a free performance for all.

Dance to Fight Alzheimer's. 10 a.m.-7:45 p.m.
Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Dance workshops and dance practice, various styles. Donations, silent auction, refreshments in support of The Longest Day (Alzheimer's Assoc). Attire is ballroom casual, everyone is welcome. 703-759-2685, stepandswingforelaine@gmail.com or www.colvinrun.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 22

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m.
Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets to come hear the U.S. Navy Sea Chanters. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

MONDAY/JUNE 23 – JULY 9

Teen Yoga. 5 – 6 p.m. Margaret Haddad Studio of Classical Ballet, 9911 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Classes are held Mondays and Wednesdays. The cost is \$60/session. No previous experience required. Please bring a yoga. To register, email JidoFAH@aol.com.

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Remaking a Porch with a View

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When a Great Falls homeowner decided she wanted to breathe new life into her large covered porch after a long, cold winter, she called on Anna Kucera, owner and principal designer of Gracious Living by Design in Alexandria, Va., to give the space a fresh look in time for warm-weather gatherings.

"The client has an expansive porch with incredible views of Great Falls," said Kucera. "She [wanted] to refresh and update the outdoor living space while still allowing the vista to remain the focal point."

Kucera's goal was to create a space that was at once tranquil and invigorating, but also respected the home's architectural features, including stonework and wood siding. Kucera was careful to upholster the casual, but elegant seating with fabrics that were durable, heavily textured and able to withstand the elements.

"Although the porch is covered, we needed to select materials that could withstand moisture and sun exposure," said Kucera. "And considering the large quantity of cushions on the porch, it was prudent to select upholstery fabrics that would not become tiresome after a season or two." The upholstered cushions were crafted from outdoor fabrics made of 100 percent solution-dyed acrylic. The main seating area is accessorized with custom-sized, flat-woven, polypropylene area rugs by Couristan.

"Both solution-dyed acrylic and polypropylene are inherently mildew and fade resistant," said Kucera. "We selected an off-white solid woven from Stroheim to cover the back and arm cushions. For the seats and contrast welt on the back cushions, we chose a neutral tone fabric with a subtle dot pattern designed by Wendy Tsuji and Linda Ueda for Perennials."

The rugs are perfect for alfresco gatherings: "Clients who enjoy entertaining outdoors and love natural sisal rugs are impressed with the way polypropylene rugs offer the same look with the added benefits of easy clean-up ... along with durability," said Nancy Hardy, a design



Alexandria, Va., based designer Anna Kucera created a covered porch space that was tranquil and invigorating, but also respectful of the Great Falls home's architectural features, including stonework and wood siding.

PHOTOS BY VERONICA BRUNO



associate at Gracious Living by Design. Kucera used a neutral and timeless palette as a backdrop for vibrant pops of color in accessories such as toss pillows. "We created emphasis by combining succulent citrus shades of green, orange and yellow," she said. "The mood could easily be changed with pillows by combining soothing tones of sea glass, green and aqua, or by boldly contrasting black and off-white." To complete the space, Kucera picked up a few accent pieces at The Virginia Florist of Alexandria. "I found accessories and finishing touches such as orchids

in cachepots, a sweet bird votive holder and greenery-filled urns."

These carefully chosen details gave the porch a polished aesthetic. "The objects and works of art that we look for and carry are as important as the floral arrangements that we create because we think they should always work together," said Kevin Green, owner of The Virginia Florist. "Our clients are interested not just in flowers, but in decorating their environments, and we share that kind of holistic approach."



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**Route 7 Widening
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Public Information Meeting

Tuesday, June 24, 2014, 6 – 8:30 p.m.
Forestville Elementary School
1085 Utterback Store Road, Great Falls, VA 22066

Find out about plans to widen Leesburg Pike (Route 7) from four to six lanes between Reston Avenue and the west end of the bridge over the Dulles Toll Road (a 6.9 mile segment), to increase capacity, decrease congestion, and improve safety, in conformity with the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan.

The project would also include intersection improvements, as well as a 10-foot shared-use path on both sides of the road to increase mobility for cyclists and pedestrians.

Stop by between 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project. VDOT and Fairfax County staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at www.virginiadot.org, at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-2118, 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by **July 8, 2014** to Bethany Mathis, Program Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meeting_comments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Route 7 Widening – Reston Avenue to Dulles Toll Road" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager at the above phone numbers.

State Project: 0007-029-128,P102,R202,C502,B610 UPC: 52328

Federal Project: DEMO-5A01(439)

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of McLean (May
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WEEK IN MCLEAN

AAUW Announces Used Book Collections

McLean AAUW Annual Used Book Collections – in preparation for its 45th Annual Used Book Sale to be held Sept. 19-21 — will be held 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. June 21, July 19 and, Aug. 9 at the Sun Trust Bank, 515 Maple Avenue East, Vienna.

Highly desirable contributions include musical CDs as well as DVDs of television series and movies; recent editions of histories, including military histories, biographies, political analyses, gardening, health, general literature and business and economics books. We also need travel books published since 2009 and, as always, we need treasured collectibles and special art books, mystery stories, children's and general interest adult books.

Sale proceeds support the professional development and scholarships for women.

Questions: aauwbookfair@gmail.com; Tel: 703-527-4206

University of North America Coming to Tysons

On Tuesday, June 3, the Board of Supervisor approved Special Exception (SE 2013-HM-024), regarding the University of North America, Inc.. The University will be located at 8618 Westwood Center Drive, Vienna – in the Tysons West Transit Oriented Development District within one-half mile of the Spring Hill Metro station.

The facility will include classrooms, offices for staff and faculty, sufficient for an initial enrollment of 215 students. Future expansion of up to 500 students is possible.

The University will complement the mixed-use

and transit oriented development goals for the Tysons Corner Urban Center and take full advantage of their proximity to the Spring Hill Metro station.

Offering graduate degree programs, including Master and Doctoral programs in Business Administration, Science and Information Technology, Science and Computer Science, and Information Technology, the university will provide a variety of graduate level certificate programs, as well. Hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Do More 24 Set for June 19

Through Do More 24 – a region-wide, 24-hour online marathon of giving on Thurs, June 19 – United Way NCA is, on one single day, calling the entire DC metro region together to help keep hundreds of local nonprofits vital throughout the year. So far 400 nonprofits – including many serving Fairfax/Falls Church – are participating.

Last year, \$1.3 million was raised through the first Do More 24 day.

On June 19, there will be live updates at domore.org throughout the day and night.

Local restaurants partnering with neighborhood nonprofits are offering promos and special events on June 19.

United Way is awarding \$72,500 in prizes to nonprofits with the best Do More 24 campaigns.

The DC metro region is home to 3 of the top 4 most generous online cities. According to Blackbaud's 2012 rankings of the most generous online cities (based on per capita online giving and total amount donated), Alexandria ranks #2, Washington, DC is #3 and Arlington is #4. (Seattle is #1, FYI.)

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McLean Baseball Secures State Berth with Win Over Madison

Highlanders lose in region final, will face Western Branch at states.

BY JON ROETMAN

THE CONNECTION
embers of the
McLean baseball
team waited pa-
tiently in the

first-base dugout at Madison High School as a steady rain drenched the field. The Highlanders had put themselves in a position to win. Now, it was a matter of determining whether they would return to action to finish the job, or if Mother Nature would take care of business.

After a half-hour had passed, umpires determined there would be no more baseball played on this Wednesday evening. The McLean dugout erupted. Players leaped over the railing and sprinted into right field for a celebratory dog pile.

McLean defeated Madison 5-1 in a rain-shortened 6A North region semifinal contest on June 4 in Vienna. With the victory, the Highlanders secured what is believed to be the first region-final berth in program history.

The Highlanders led 5-1 after six complete innings. After McLean failed to score in the top of the seventh, Madison came to bat in the bottom half during a steady rainfall. The Warhawks had runners on first and second with one out and Michael Nielsen facing a 1-2 count when umpires stopped the game.

The rain continued to fall during a nearly 30-minute delay. At 9:30 p.m., umpires called the game and the Highlanders were heading to the region final.

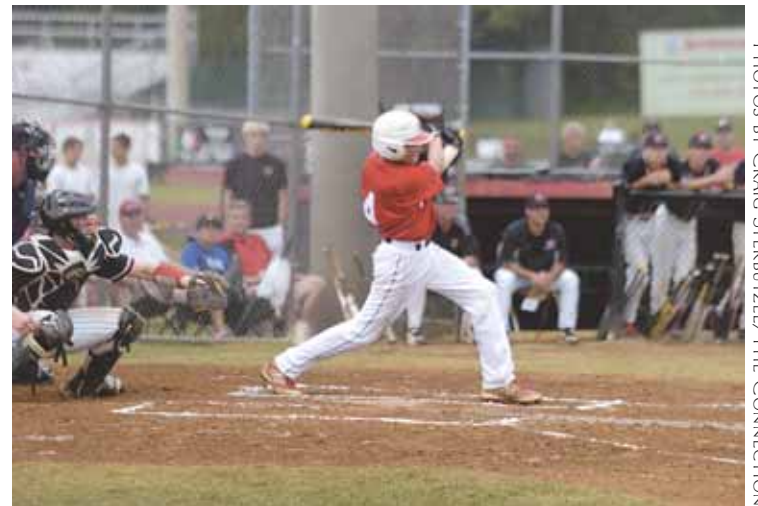
"To be honest, it felt like a million years," McLean sophomore shortstop Conor Grammes said about the half-hour rain delay. "I kept waiting for those umpires to come out and call the game or say we had to go back out there. Even if we did have to go back out there, we all had the mindset. We didn't let each other stop thinking about the game. We kept our heads right. It all played out the right way."

McLean head coach John Dowling said it was "unfortunate" the game ended the way it did, adding the Highlanders were ready to get back on the field.

"It was an odd situation," he said. "Looking at the field, we could sort of anticipate what was happening, but it's a crappy way



Joey Sullivan and the McLean baseball team earned a state tournament berth with a 5-1 victory against Madison in the 6A North region semifinals on June 4.



McLean sophomore shortstop Conor Grammes went 4-for-4 with two doubles against Madison on June 4.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

McLean Falls to Chantilly in Region Final

McLean would lose to Chantilly in the region final, 12-0, on June 6. The Highlanders used quality pitching, sound defense, and timely hitting to advance through the region tournament, but none of those three were present for the Highlanders in the championship game. Chantilly took control early with nine first-inning runs and cruised to victory at Chantilly High School. It was the Chargers' first region title in program history. Neither team used either of its top two pitchers during the contest. While four

McLean hurlers combined to give up 12 runs, Chantilly's Matt Hogle tossed a four-hit shut-out against the Highlanders. McLean also committed three errors in the field.

"I'd like them to take nothing away from tonight — get rid of it," Dowling said. "That's clearly not a reflection of the team we've been the last three weeks."

While McLean fell short of a region title, the Highlanders will have standout pitcher Sullivan and Colin Morse rested and ready for the state tournament. McLean will face 6A

South region champion Western Branch in the semifinals at 3 p.m. on Friday, June 13 at Robinson Secondary School.

"We need to get past this," Dowling said. "We wanted them to remember what this moment feels like because we don't have to feel this moment again this year. Everything is still in front of us. We've had one goal since Day One: to get to states. Now we're there. We kept saying, get us to states and we've got a chance. We have the arms to get it done."

to end a pretty well-played game by both sides."

While the game wasn't finished on the field, McLean put itself in position to win during the first six innings thanks in large part to the performance of pitcher Joey Sullivan. The Virginia Tech signee was roughed up in his previous start at Madison High School on May 9, allowing seven runs — four earned — and five hits in 1 1/3 innings. Wednesday night was a different story, as the senior right-hander tossed a complete game, allowing one earned run and three hits in six innings. He walked one, hit one batter and struck out four.

"I thought about it, but today I was loose," Sullivan said about his previous start at Madison. "We had nothing to lose and I had nothing to lose. ... Tonight was probably the toughest environment I've ever thrown in because it was so humid. Early in the [game], I really couldn't get a grip on the ball, I was so sweaty."

With McLean leading by four runs, Sullivan walked the Madison leadoff batter in the bottom of the sixth inning, but responded by striking out the next three Warhawk hitters.

"Joey did a great job," Dowling said. "It's been the same story all year long — when he commands

his fastball, he's extremely difficult. When he keeps his fastball down, he gets a ton of groundballs and he was able to locate three pitches today, pretty effectively until the storms came. When he does that, he's tough because he's got the velocity. He always throws strikes, but it's those quality strikes that make the difference for him."

The Madison baseball team ended the 2014 season with a 21-3 record.

McLean jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning against Madison starting pitcher John DeFazio. The first five Highlander batters reached base, starting with Sullivan reaching on an error and ending with third baseman Jesse Jones drawing a run-scoring base on balls. Left fielder Grady Paine also got credit for an RBI in the inning, when he was hit by an 0-2 pitch with the bases loaded.

McLean added three runs in the fifth inning. Grammes and catcher Caleb Beatty led off the frame with back-to-back singles, and Jones, first baseman Jonathan Clines, and right fielder Evan Blake each delivered an RBI single.

Grammes, a 5-foot-10, 155-pound sophomore, went 4-for-4 at the plate, including a pair of doubles, and played solid defense at shortstop.

"Conor had a fantastic game and he's been, of late, making some very big adjustments that are now paying dividends now on the diamond," Dowling said. "Again, he kind of gets overlooked because he's not physically imposing. He's not the quickest guy, he's not the biggest guy, but nobody squares the baseball up better than Conor Grammes."

"We said at the start of the season that we felt like we had two of the best shortstops in the conference on our team. When Joey pitches, we don't lose a single bit of defense with Conor out there. He did a terrific job."

Beatty went 2-for-3 at the plate. Blake finished 2-for-2.

DeFazio suffered the loss for Madison. The junior right-hander, who is committed to Virginia Tech, allowed five runs — four earned — and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings. He walked three, hit two batters and struck out five.

Madison's Nielsen led off the bottom of the third with a double, and Trey Ramsey followed with an RBI single for the Warhawks' only run.

The loss dropped Madison's record to 21-3 and ended its season. The Warhawks entered Wednesday's contest having won 21 of their last 22 games. They

won both regular-season meetings with the Highlanders, beating McLean 8-1 on April 8 and 11-3 on May 9.

The Highlanders, however, were much improved Wednesday. McLean, the No. 4 seed from Conference 6, has won six of its last seven games after struggling during the second half of the regular season.

"We started to play loose, because we knew we were the underdog," Sullivan said. "Especially for me. It was my final couple weeks of my senior year and I'm enjoying them in school. We started playing loose, we started playing together. We got hot at the right time. It's been a fantastic ride."

The Highlanders started the season 8-2, but dropped seven of their next eight, evening their record at 9-9.

"For a while now, we've grown into a pretty confident group," Dowling said. "[There was a time] there in the middle [of the season] when we weren't very confident and we didn't have cause to be. The [coaching] staff, we knew the whole time — and it's tough to convince 16-, 18-year-old kids — we knew the whole time we still had the talent, it was just a matter of executing."

Something New – or Old, to Consider

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



And therein lies the anxiety. Although, all things considered – and as you regular readers know, I like, maybe even need, to consider all things – the medical assessment of the most recent CT scan of my upper torso and thorax/lungs showed a new object in my left lung, “approximately the size of a silver dollar,” according to my oncologist. What this object is, exactly, cannot be determined at this juncture; technology prevents such clarity, unfortunately. Nevertheless, its appearance and location are possibly cause for concern, possibly not.

The context for this confusion is that the chemotherapy drug, Alimta, with which I’ve been infused every three weeks since last September, seems to be working. The main tumor we’ve been tracking has shrunk, as has the fluid level (which as you may recall is what landed me in the hospital for a week last August); both of which are positive and exciting developments, and news, as I’m fond of saying, with which I can live. And live I shall, unencumbered emotionally by this as-yet-to-be-determined growth for the next two months until my next CT scan, when the tomography will provide another assessment – and comparison to the scan just completed.

The considerations, according to my oncologist, are as follows: the chemotherapy drug I’m taking is having the desired effect – shrinkage of both tumor and fluid. Moreover, my recurring, every-three-week lab work is good, indicating my body continues to tolerate the drug; ergo, treatment can continue. Secondly, because the largest tumor in my lung is smaller and the fluid build-up has reduced, more of the lung is visible, for lack of a better description. Combined with the not-perfect technology, there may be more to see now than ever before, and/or more to see from a different angle. Sort of like the warning printed on side view mirrors, except in this case, objects are not closer than they appear; rather they’re seen where they were never seen before. And since the object has never been seen before, my oncologist doesn’t know if the growth is new – and possibly malignant, or old, and smaller even than it was because the Alimta is shrinking it, too. In summary, it’s a definite maybe. Cause for concern? Sure. Cause for alarm? Not by me. And since my attitude is “it’s nothing until it’s something,” for the moment, for the next two months, I intend to live my life as per usual.

My oncologist is not ignoring this new finding, nor is he overreacting to it however, and stopping treatment which seems to be working. He wants me to return for a follow-up CT scan one month ahead of my normal three-month interval, and of course, see him the following week to discuss the results. After that next scan, at that next appointment, we’ll know more definitively how best to proceed. At present, I continue to be asymptomatic and relatively pain-free; yet another good sign, and circumstances for which I am extremely grateful. Nothing is forever in the cancer world, though. Things can change, and their significance can change. Still, I don’t want to be naive; cancer is a killer, especially lung cancer. But I’ve survived five-plus years now since my diagnosis, balancing the known with the unknown. I see no reason to stop now.

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

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PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Marcia Twomey, of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce, expresses frustration during the sometimes tense meetings of the meals task referendum task force.

Meals Tax: Pros & Cons

FROM PAGE 5
port a meals tax.

"It's an overall fairness issue," said Jim Wordsworth, owner of one of the county's first steakhouses — JR Stockyards Inn steakhouse in Tysons Corner. He argued that meals tax would drive customers away and could keep large restaurants from relocating to Tysons.

"When you have a meals tax, you know what else happens? New restaurants are less likely to come to Fairfax County," said Mark Tate, public affairs director for Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington.

"I don't want to present the image that only restaurants are opposing this tax. In 1992, there was a lot of animosity among teachers and PTO organizations to restaurants over this issue," Tate continued. "But if you look beyond this framework, local restaurants are incredibly generous to PTO groups and other county non-profits; they sponsor non-profit events and benefits; they care deeply about the community they live and work in."

Davis agreed that the restaurant industry is not the "bad guy" for opposing the

meals tax. "I can't go to a school fair, a 5K race, or any other school event where local restaurants don't contribute in some way"

"Can we say 'restaurants are good corporate citizens?'" Tate asked, requesting a change in the task force document.

Greenburg and others who support the meals tax quickly took issue with Tate's statement.

"I don't feel like restaurants have supported us ...," Greenburg said. "And we're not here to write a polemic for the restaurant industry..."

"How about we try it this way," Hanley said, offering to rewrite a statement in the draft report: "Resistance to a referendum may create a false assumption that food services don't support government services. What do you think?"

After the group signaled approval, Hanley encouraged them to "hang on."

"We're doing well folks, only 3 more pages to go"

For more information on the meals tax referendum task force, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mealstax/>

Supervisors' Comments on a Meals Tax Referendum

"There are many contradictions with the meals tax. We all complain about the county's over reliance on the property tax and talk about the need to diversify revenue sources, but don't do a meals tax! It's also a contradiction for Republicans to adopt party platforms, as we have at all levels, that call for greater use of initiative and referendum and trusting the people and yet we oppose putting the meals tax question before the voters. I have consistently supported putting the issue to the voters, and I will do so this time.

I have not taken any position on the tax itself and don't expect to. People are smart enough to make up their own minds without me sticking my nose in!"

— Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully)

"We have no revenue options other than the property tax and with assessments on homes rising there is no room, in my view, to increase the rate to get more revenue. The meals tax is the only other revenue option we have which is why we are looking at it. But we have not made any decisions."

— Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

"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."

— Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)

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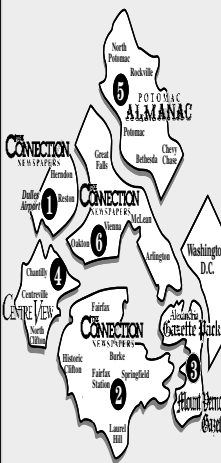
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JBG/Potomac Yards Hotel II, LLC trading as Residence Inn Arlington Capital View Hotel, 2850, S. Potomac Ave. Arlington, VA 22202-3592. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Brian Coulter, Managing Member
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered to www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

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