This year’s Cappies Award for Female Dancer went to Gabrielle Bullard for “Footloose” at The Madeira School.
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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 Cleaveland, 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 Cross-PAC. He called himself a “radical moderate,” said Chris Brown, a Republican delegate from Herndon. Sometimes things get out of hand,” said the chairman. Gillespie secured the nomination, Democrats issued a poll that had Warner with 46 percent of the vote and issued a poll that had Warner with 46 percent of the vote and

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

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 supporters 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.

“Winning the next campaign will be a test of 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 they emphasized that these creations would need to be looked at 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.

“Empire Strikes Back”

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

By Reena Singh
The Connection

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-cross through the corridor. He said adds 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 Rhodes 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. “Prop-erly done, it can become another magnet for Tysons.”
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 leaders 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 May 15.

Chaired by Kate Hanley, a 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.
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Thank you for supporting the Wild Horse and Burro Program since 1971.
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NEWS

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 Pimmit Hills, Olney Park, the Commons of McLean-Pimmit 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 traffic 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 Sroky, 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.

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Let’s Celebrate Dads & Grads!
Father’s Day June 15th
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 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.”
Clearing the Air on New Carbon Standards

By Congressmen Gerry Connolly (VA-II) and Paul Tonko (NY-20)

Co-chairs, Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition

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 Environmental 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. Should they not 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 with Congress, in a bipartisan fashion, in 1970, every dollar spent on pollution abatement or prevention, whether achieved in public or private sectors, has contributed to a balanced, sustainable economy that has yielded poverty reductions and rapid economic growth.

To have community events listed in “Opinion,” send an email to sales@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, 1246 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Get focused help with reading, writing, speaking and listening.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 18
English Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1246 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Practice your English in a conversational setting. Adults.

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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 Brown, June Strauss and Ed Moss.

— Steve Hibbard

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 Lichtenstein and Sam Miller. (Front row, from left): Emma Paquette and Marielle Burt.

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

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

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

Photos by Steve Hibbard / The Connection

Bollywood Bash!

Langley club brings Northern Virginia schools together.

Bollywood Bash!

Langley club brings Northern Virginia schools together.

By Reena Singh and Rachel Stone

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

CORD, the organization the association is raising money for, aims to help revitalize rural India by promoting literacy and strengthening local government. The club set 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 Rebecca Piel, 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 4 years, and said that he has enjoyed the various festivities the club puts on to promote culture at school. “I know a few people here, and they host the most amazing parties like this one,” he said. “We’re all like a big family here.”

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

“There are six different schools,” he said. “We get into school. This gets everyone together.”

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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 NIRJ – Rock. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

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

THURSDAY/JUNE 19
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.

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. Calvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Calvin 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, stepandswingforalaine@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 Nitehawks Swing Band. 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 $80/session. No previous experience required. Please bring a yoga. To register, email JudoFAR@aol.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 20
Wildfire’s Gluten-free Wine Dinner. 7 p.m. Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Executive Chef Edible Israe 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.

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3 6022 ORRIS ST...................... 6 .. 7 .. 2 ...... MCLEAN .....$2,869,500.... Detached.... 1.06...... 22101.............. RIDGEWOOD............. 04/07/14
4 123 COMMONAGE DR........... 5 .. 5 .. 2 ... GREAT FALLS .. $2,250,000.... Detached.... 6.46...... 22066............. SOUTHDOWN............ 04/30/14
5 8815 GALLANT GREEN DR..... 5 .. 5 .. 2 ...... MCLEAN .....$2,200,000.... Detached.... 0.95 .........22102......... WOODSIDE ESTATES........ 04/01/14
6 721 STRAWFIELD LN............. 6 .. 6 .. 1 ... GREAT FALLS .. $1,935,000.... Detached ... 1.73 ......22066............... RIVERBEND.............. 04/17/14
7 1203 TOWLESTON RD............. 5 .. 4 .. 1 ... GREAT FALLS .. $1,925,000.... Detached ... 5.00 ......22066............. UNKNOWN .............. 04/30/14
8 655 POTOMAC RIVER RD ....... 5 .. 6 .. 1 ...... MCLEAN .....$1,675,000.... Detached ... 1.15 .........22102 ....... POTOMAC OVERLOOK ........ 04/26/14

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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 tiring 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 Duji and Linda Ueda for Perennials.”

The rugs are perfect for alfresco gatherings: “Clients who enjoy entertaining outdoors and love natural sisal rugs are impressed by the way polypropylene rugs offer the same look 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.”
Father’s Day Photo Gallery

Caity Comstock, Roller on her wedding day with her Dad, Chip Comstock, of McLean (May 10, 2014).

“My husband Bill Picard, after he just surprised our daughter Cassie with her first horse, named Celtic Charm. Cassie is an avid equestrian but never had a horse of her own.” — Lisa Picard, Vienna

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., at 8618 Westwood Center Drive, Vienna – in the Tysons West Transit Oriented Development District, approximately 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 Tyson 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.

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.)
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 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.”

McLean Baseball Secures State Berth with Win Over Madison

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

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 head coach John Dowling said it was a great job,” Dowling said. “Especially cause we knew we were the underdog,” Sullivan said. “We never doubted ourselves. It was a fantastic season.”

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] 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.”

By Jon Roetman

McLean Connection Sports Editor Rich Sanders
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 thorax 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 conclusion 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 encouraging developments, and news, as I’m fond of saying, with which I can live. And I 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 terminology 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 continues to be working. He wants me to return for my normal three-month interval, and of that next appointment, we’ll know more to be determined growth for the next two months, I intend to live my life as per usual.

However, my recurring, every-three-week oncology appointments 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 continues to be working. He wants me to return for my normal three-month interval, and of that next appointment, we’ll know more to be determined growth for the next two months, I intend to live my life as per usual.

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Marica 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**

Support 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; they care deeply about the community they live in."

"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 it!"

— Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully)

### Supervisors' Comments on a Meals Tax Referendum

"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 opposing it."

— 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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