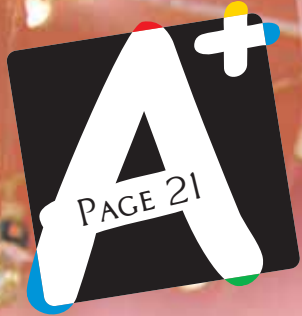


The Artisans co-owner, Shannon Denny Price, hangs up some of the new felt ornaments in the shop.



The Artisans Ready for Holiday Season

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Josh Anderson
Foundation
Raises \$35,000
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Parisot Wins Republican Primary

NEWS, PAGE 3

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Parisot Wins Republican Primary

More than 1,400 area Republicans show up to vote.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

With Barbara Comstock filling in the 10th Congressional district's seat, two candidates are closing in on her current position.

Democrat Kathleen Murphy and Republican Craig Parisot, both now officially endorsed by their parties, are vying for the 34th House of Delegates seat via special election to be held Jan. 6, 2015.

Parisot won the Republican Firehouse Primary on Saturday at Colvin Run Elementary. Voters lined up outside the school between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in their coats to decide on the Republican candidate for office.

"We are very pleased with the enthusiastic response of the republican party voters," said assistant chief election officer George Koklanaris during the first hour of the primary. "We know whichever candidate wins, we're going to have a good representative in the election against the democrats."

At the end of the primary, Parisot won against Al Johnson 821-594.

"Congratulations to the voters for a great turnout Saturday," said Johnson in an email. "We are so thankful for your support and



Al Johnson, who lost the Republican primary on Saturday, talking to voters outside the polls.

to be part of this community. And thank you to those who came out to volunteer on our behalf over the last week at the polls, knock on doors and make phone calls for our campaign. I am incredibly humbled by your outpouring of support."

Parisot did not comment about the election after the results were announced.

"We stand fully behind Craig and his campaign to succeed Barbara Comstock, and we are confident that he will run an aggressive and effective campaign, resulting in

victory on January 6, 2015," said Fairfax County Republican Committee executive director Joshua Baumgartener.

Merridy Menna and her husband Bob were among the hundreds that showed up to vote in the primary.

"I think I'd like someone who is a reliable, long-term resident who believes in what I do - individual liberty," said Merridy, Great Falls. "I've known Johnson for a long time. Johnson's a traditionalist."

David Bryant, Sterling, said the biggest



Craig Parisot, Republican candidate for delegate, talks to voters outside Colvin Run Elementary on Saturday.

issues for him include homeschooling as an option and beating Murphy in the election.

"I always vote," he said. "I'm going with Al Johnson."

Tom Milton, Vienna, said he still was not dead set on a candidate as he waited out in the cold to vote Saturday morning.

"I came to vote, because I always vote," he said. "I never miss an election. I'm pretty surprised with the turnout here."

PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Lauren, Sue, Gillian and Tim Anderson.



Lauren Anderson and guest speaker Rebecca Deeds.

Josh Anderson Foundation Raises \$35,000

At its first fall fundraiser, the Josh Anderson Foundation reached its goal and raised \$35,000. More than 150 supporters gathered on Oct. 23 at the Top of the Town restaurant in Arlington to celebrate the foundation's accomplishments in mental health aware-

ness education. Guest speakers Jack Saunders, a senior at McLean High school, and Rebecca Deeds, daughter of state Sen. Creigh Deeds, shared their personal experiences with mental health issues, both illuminating the need for mental health awareness and mental health care reform. Gillian

Anderson closed the event with a musical tribute dedicated to her brother Josh.

The Josh Anderson Foundation was created in the aftermath of the death of Josh Anderson in 2009 who took his own life. The foundation's focus is to address the need of mental health programs to prevent losing

other teens to suicide. The foundation is currently working with the Fairfax County Public School system and is supporting programs in Loudoun County Public Schools and in the Patch American School in Stuttgart, Germany. For more information on the Josh Anderson Foundation visit www.joshandersonfoundation.org

PEOPLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

In 2001, Anne Lindvay was single and working and living in Northern Virginia.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rob Havlovick was living in Northern Virginia too, sharing a house with friends and throwing parties in hopes of meeting a great girl.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

William was 2 years old and living with his biological family.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

When Anne and Rob met at one of Rob's parties, they had an instant connection and began dating.

How Three Become One

November is National Adoption Month. Here's the story of how adoption created one family in Chantilly. To learn more about adopting through foster care in the D.C. Metro area, email the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments at: picme@mwkog.org.

— JOAN BRADY



PHOTO © PHIL DOMENICI

In 2004, on a hot summer day, they tied the knot.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

William, now 5, was still living with his biological family.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

By the time Anne and Rob were thinking about adoption, William was 13 and had been in foster care for about four years. He had lived in three foster homes. He liked taking pictures, drawing, ultimate frisbee and dogs.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rob was more comfortable with the idea of adopting an older child and they both liked the idea of adopting a local child out of foster care.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Beverly Howard of Fairfax Families4Kids, which does mentoring for foster children, with William, Anne and Rob. Anne says that when they met William, things just clicked. She and Rob both fell in love with William immediately. As for William, he had just one question: Did they have a dog?



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

When William moved in with the Havlovicks in June 2013, there definitely were rules, including things like: brushing teeth, no cell phones in the bedroom and being respectful of others. But more important to them than the rules, Anne and Rob wanted a household filled with unconditional love.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

"Anne was meant to be a mother. Her passion for life and the enthusiasm she brings to everything she does keeps love and laughter to our house every day," said Rob.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Anne says that "while Rob has always been a kind and gentle person, parenting has brought out the best in him."



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

June 2014, William's adoption, attended by family and friends, was finalized.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Surrounded by the love of his two parents, today, William has just two wishes for his future: He would love to downhill ski in Colorado and he still really, really wants a dog.

NEWS

Reducing Waste at Churchill Road

Churchill Road Elementary continues its “green” initiatives by promoting waste reduction. Under the direction of Principal Don Hutzel, Churchill Road compost team members sorted and packaged the foil-lined juice pouches and chip bags upcycled by Churchill Road families. The sixth graders, whose responsibilities normally include manning the compost table in the cafeteria, eagerly took on this additional waste reduction task. The materials, which will be mailed to TerraCycle.net, will be turned into new products, ranging from recycled park benches to upcycled backpacks. This generates income to sustain the school’s waste reduction program.

Preparing items for upcycling is a dirty job. Churchill Road sixth graders Julia Reis, Paige Cowan, Suzanne Leaprot and Heather Hughes happily helped Principal Don Hutzel clean up after packing more than 12 boxes of foil-lined wrappers for upcycling.



Churchill Road compost team members Emilie Stoehr, Kevin Kaldes, Emma Kim and Daniel Cao sort through a pile of trash before packaging it for shipment to TerraCycle.net.

PHOTOS BY KIM MORAN



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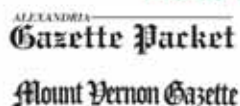


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PHOTOS COURTESY OF TYSONS PARTNERSHIP

Santa points his destination: Tysons Corner Metro Station.

Santa and Silver Season Arrive at Tysons

Santa Claus ditched his sleigh and traveled to Tysons by Silver Line Metro. His Nov. 14, 10 a.m. arrival at Tysons Corner Metro Station signals the start of the first wave of holiday shopping in one of America's premier retail destinations.

"Tis the Season to Ride Silver to Tysons" is a joint campaign by WMATA, Tysons Partnership, and Tysons Corner Center to raise awareness of the new Silver Line Metro rail service to Tysons. All across Tysons, hotels, restaurants, landlords and merchants are rolling out a silver carpet of welcome and offering "Silver Saturday" discounts to customers who present a Metro SmarTrip fare card. "Silver Saturdays" will begin the first Saturday after Thanksgiving and continue through the end of the year. Carolers are singing Silver Season jingles and Santa has set-up shop at the Tysons Corner Mall through Christmas.

Every hotel in Tysons is offering Silver Saturday room rate discounts of 5 percent to customers who show a Metro fare card. Courtyard Marriott, Ritz Carlton, Crowne

Plaza, Hilton, Sheraton, Hilton Garden, Embassy Suites and Westin are all encouraging visitors to shop, eat, drink and spend the night.

"Santa knows if you've been bad or good, so for goodness sake, do like Santa does: ditch your sleigh and ride the Silver rails to our exciting new downtown," said Michael Caplin, president of Tysons Partnership – an association of business and civic leaders working together to double the size of Tysons and create a great new American city.

Tysons Corner Mall will illuminate a 50' holiday tree on Saturday, Nov. 29, and has already opened a skating rink in the new Tysons Plaza – northern Virginia's challenge to Rockefeller Center in NYC. "Holiday travelers can visit the White House holiday tree and ride the Silver Line to the Tyson holiday tree," said Caplin. Tysons Galleria, also located at the Tysons Corner Metro station, has its own glamorous holiday decorations and retail special events.

For more information, contact Tysons Partnership: www.tysonspartnership.org.



Santa riding Silver Line train to Tysons Corner Center.

NEWS

Local Foundation Promotes Campus Safety, Discusses Commemorative Quilt

The VTV Family Outreach Foundation, a Centreville-based national nonprofit campus safety advocacy organization, held their 2014 annual meeting last weekend at the Sheraton Reston Hotel. VTV was formed by the families of victims and survivors of the April 16, 2007 mass shooting tragedy at Virginia Tech.

VTV members, volunteers and staff joined with representatives of other organizations formed after school and campus tragedies, including: Sandy Hook Promise, created after 2012's mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School; the Rebels Project, formed by Columbine High School shooting survivors; and the Michael H. Minger Foundation, which focuses on fire and life safety on campuses. Attendees gathered to discuss the work being done to create safer learning environments nationally.

Attendees at the annual meeting also began work on a commemorative quilt made from remembrances of victims and survivors. When completed, the quilt will include an individual square for each of the 32 victims and survivors and each will be a personalized tribute to that individual. Organized and led by Nancy Preston, owner of the McLean Quilt Shop in McLean, the quilt is intended to be displayed in the Virginia state capitol in Richmond.



Kendall Bielak and Helen Evans, both students at George Mason University, greeted members and guests as they registered for the 2014 VTV Annual Meeting.



Betty Gurskis, Laura Fraser, Kris Young, Nancy Preston (missing-Karla Vernon) discuss a commemorative quilt made from remembrances of victims and survivors.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Alan B. Davis, VTV's executive director; Joe Samaha, VTV's president; Kathleen Bonistall, vice-chair of PEACE OUTside Campus; S. Daniel Carter, director of VTV's 32 National Campus Safety Initiative (32 NCSI); and Mark A. Bonistall, chairman of PEACE OUTside Campus.

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TJ brass players include Nathan Sperry (Falls Church), Ryan Burns (Annandale), June Ge (Fairfax), David Harris (Alexandria) and Marie Anderson (McLean).



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/THE CONNECTION

And the Bands Played On

Two local high schools reach finals.

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW
THE CONNECTION

I was absolutely thrilled with [my students'] efforts" in "very difficult conditions for a marching band," said Band Director Adam Foreman of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria.

"I can't say enough about how proud I am of the students' efforts throughout the day. It was by far the coldest, windiest, and rainiest day they have had to perform in all year," said Brian Bersh, band director of Yorktown High School in Arlington.

USBands is an independent scholastic service organization that manages a competitive circuit for high school bands coast-to-coast. On a given weekend, the firm oversees 125 events in 25 states involving 700 bands with 70,000 student musicians.

On the first of this month, a northeast regional competition was held in the Navy-Marine Stadium at Annapolis. A glance at license plates in the parking area reflected wide-spread interest from CN, DC, MD, NC, NJ, NY, PA, WV and VA.

Standing in the miserable weather and hearing of a "wind warning" on the nearby Bay Bridge, any first-time observer would question whether the competition would go

forward. Justin Heimbecker, USBands director, saw no reason not to proceed. Hours later under the still gray skies during the break before finals began, he opined that "overall the event has been fantastic" and "as for the band members, they are all champions."

Heimbecker explained the popularity of band competitions. "Yes; challenging other bands is exciting. However, the more important element involves each student competing against himself or herself." It is this latter part, he went on, that generates personal satisfaction derived from doing the best you can, striving to do better each time and contributing to the band and your other band members.

Having students from a wide geographic area isn't a particular problem for TJ's 95 band members. "They choose to attend the school. If any problem arises, it is usually solved by the parents who are very supportive of the band," Foreman said. As an example, he said "a big carpool system is in place."

A certain group can be found hovering around each band. They scurry about lifting and pushing whatever needs a lift or a push. Band directors are able to focus on music and marching only because of this cadre called "band moms" and "band dads." Barb Males of McLean, whose daughter attends TJ, said: "Billie is very committed to her music. That is why I am here." While

SEE MUSIC, PAGE 9

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL McMORROW/THE CONNECTION

The TJ band tunes up.

Focus On Music

FROM PAGE 8

speaking, she covered large musical instruments with towels to shelter them from the rain.

Once the event concluded, Bersh of Yorktown ventured a thought with respect to his band members. Memory of the day should be that “they performed their best show of the year despite the weather,” and without any misplaced “regret they didn’t perform well because of the weather.”

And the Winners Are ...

The preliminaries involved 32 bands. Only 16 were invited to the Platinum Regional Finals and both representatives of Northern Virginia were included.

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (“Marching Colonials”), located in Alexandria but drawing many students from nearby districts, wound up in 2nd place and also won the award for music.

Arlington’s Yorktown High School (“Marching Patriots”) finished in 10th place.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL McMORROW/THE CONNECTION

Barb Males helps out as a “band mom.”

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OPINION

Why Shop Small? Shop Large Locally

Small business Saturday isn't enough; don't wait until then, and don't stop after that.

There is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to participating in community traditions and celebrations, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambiance available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that is otherwise unmatched.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon. An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, also called Shop Small. This year that day is Nov. 29.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive, and communities depend on those businesses as well. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to trans-

Celebrate Locally

Reston Holiday Parade. Friday, Nov. 28, 11 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Come for a full day of community, charity and cheer including the Gingerbread Man Mile & Tot Trot, Santa, tree lighting, sing along and horse-drawn carriage rides.

Shop Small, Saturday, Nov. 29, Small Business Saturday

Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights. Now through Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, 5:30 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Garden, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. A winter wonderland, including a flowing stream of softly glowing lights, a two-story animated fountain and a Gingerbread Village. Admission: \$13 adults, \$8 children ages 3-12; children under 3 are free. <http://winterwalkoflights.com/>

32nd Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show. Friday-Sunday/Dec. 5 - 7, Friday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Admission: Adults, \$3; \$1, ages 13 and under. Good all 3 days.

Holiday Sing-A-Long. Saturday, Dec. 6, 4 p.m. Wolf Trap's Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. No tickets are required, but patrons are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy donation for Toys for Tots. For more information, visit wolftrap.org.

Herndon Towne Square Singers. Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30-9 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814

form our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, advocating for improvements, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face tough challenges right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally owned retailers. But local families will literally spend millions of dollars to shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a vari-

Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual holiday concert with cider, cookies and sing-along carols. \$12. 703-435-6800.

2014 Annual Reston Holiday Book Sale. Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30-9 p.m. 10 a.m. - 5p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Center, Reston. Books, gifts, and surprises to delight readers of all ages.

Celebration of Lights, Great Falls Village Centre Hill, Saturday, Dec. 6, 5:30-8 p.m. 5:30 Refreshments available, 6 Santa & Mrs. Claus arrive to light the Christmas Tree, 6:15 Village Green Day School Chorus, the petting zoo and pony rides begin, 7:15 Sing-a-Long, 7:30 Live Nativity Scene.

Reston Jingle on Lake Anne. Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Community organizers and plaza retailers will host a variety of festive activities ranging from a special visit from Santa (arriving on a lake barge), strolling carolers, a petting zoo, music, wine tastings, merchant specials, children's crafts, cookie and ornament decorating, holiday arts and crafts market, holiday entertainment and more.

McLean WinterFest Parade. Sunday, Dec. 7, 3:30 p.m. Old Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Groups interested in participating in the parade should go to www.mcleanwinterfest.org to complete the registration information and submit it to parade officials. Each entrant will receive confirmation of their registration with this year's parade rules.

ety of places.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will do some shopping online. Many will answer the call of the big box. But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores. Spend some time shopping in your own community, and also plan an excursion to a nearby town to check out the local businesses and holiday spirit there.

The Connection is participating in Shop Small 2014, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com to find out more.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

COMMENTARY

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

The Virginia General Assembly adjourned its regular session in early March this year and immediately went into special session that while still continuing has become the longest special session ever. The special session was needed to complete work on the biennial budget and to fill judicial vacancies. While technically in special session, we actually only meet as an assembled body a few days every couple of months. We passed a budget but have had to revise it because of declining state revenue. We considered expansion of Medicaid services in what some termed a "sham" session as the majority party had indicated its no-compromise opposition to closing the coverage gap. We filled a number of judicial positions although the drawn-out political process of selecting

Protracted Legislative Session

judges has made the flaws of the current method painfully apparent. Since the legislature is in session, albeit a special session, the Governor is prevented from making judicial appointments. As at the federal level, there is gridlock as Republicans fight among themselves as to who should be appointed to the bench.

The necessity of revising a budget soon after its passage reflects what a report from *Stateline* terms "volatility" in income tax revenue that is disproportionately affected by economic booms and busts. The problem that Virginia and other states are having is trying to predict revenues with stock market fluctuations and other cyclical events that are having a larger impact on incomes especially for the wealthy causing income taxes and capital gains taxes to vary widely from

year to year. A report from Standard and Poor's Rating Services found that overall revenues in the top most income-tax-dependent states like Virginia have grown only 5.25 percent since 2009 compared to 9.32 percent in 1980-1989 and 5.7 percent in 1990-1999.

Virginia's effort to balance its budget is made more difficult by what the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis terms "willful ignorance" to recognize the positive impact expanding Medicaid would have on the state's budget. At a recent State-wide Policy Summit I attended that the Institute sponsored, a report "RX for an Ailing Virginia: Budget Savings in Expansion States Can Happen in Virginia" was released. The report contends that 27 states and Washington, D.C. have freed up precious resources for critical needs

like education by closing their health coverage gaps and saving money on medical care and that savings in Virginia could amount to \$161 million. While proponents of Medicaid expansion have contended that the program would save states money, the evidence is now available from its first year of implementation—Kentucky has saved \$80 million, Arkansas \$89 million and Michigan \$100 million. Virginia would save money by using federal money to replace state-funded healthcare programs.

Virginia taxpayers are the losers for the state not recognizing and dealing with its systemic budget challenges and for its bull-headedness in not expanding its Medicaid program. Responsible leadership on the part of legislators, not a protracted year-long legislative session, is needed for the Commonwealth.

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The **Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna** has an urgent need for volunteer drivers to take area seniors to medical appointments and other activities. Opportunities to volunteer for other services are also available. No long-term commitment and hours are flexible to fit your schedule. We hope you can help. Visit our website at www.scov.org or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 703-281-5086 or email volunteer@scov.org.

The **Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** in Alexandria needs a Van Driver to take participants on outings and an ESL Teacher. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand

click on Volunteer Solutions.

Meals on Wheels needs drivers in Chantilly, Clifton, McLean and Falls Church on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Substitute drivers needed throughout the county. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale** needs a Chair Exercise Instructor, Spanish-speaking interpreters, an Experienced Canasta Player to teach participants, and certified instructors for classes in Ballroom Dance and Pilates. Volunteer instructor positions could lead to part-time employment. For these and other volunteer opportunities,

call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs; urgent need in Reston area. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Annandale Adult Day Health Care Center** in Annandale needs Spanish-speaking social companions and a licensed hair stylist to wash, cut and style hair for participants. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand

click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria** needs a DJ to provide a wide array of music from ballroom to line dancing, a Ballroom Dance Instructor and a volunteer with basic carpentry skills to build a "Little Free Library," for people to donate and borrow books from. Center will provide plans and materials. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Sully Senior Center in Centreville** needs a certified personal trainer twice a week, preferably with experience working with older adults. For these and other volunteer opportu-

nities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Korean Meals on Wheels needs Korean-speaking volunteers to deliver meals Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Centreville, Reston and Annandale. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Gum Springs Senior Center** in Alexandria needs a Spanish teacher for a beginner's class. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadultsand and click on Volunteer Solutions.



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THE GREENBRIER RESORT, March 23 – 25.....\$799
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SCHOOLS



Churchill Road fifth graders Alex Alvarez, Grace Needles and Maria Grazia Favro bury their cultural artifacts with assistance from fifth grade teacher Alexandra Gabriele and parent Andrea Favro.

Archaeological Dig at Churchill Road

The week of Nov. 10, Churchill Road fifth graders conducted an archaeological dig in social studies class. Students were asked to develop a fictional culture, then create an artifact which represents an aspect of that culture. Artifacts ranged from cooking implements to artwork to scale models of that

culture's housing. Each of the students then buried his or her artifact in the raised beds behind the school. Other students excavated the buried artifacts, and analyzed them to determine what the mystery culture was like. The students enjoyed this hands-on approach to studying other cultures.

PHOTOS BY KIM MORAN



Churchill Road fifth graders receive assistance from fifth grade teacher Jennifer Ezzell and parents Wendy Biliter and Stephen Brockelman to bury their cultural artifacts. Pictured clockwise from back left are: Tarushi Goel, Elaine Li, Ms. Jennifer Ezzell, Veda Kalidindi, Helena Swaak, Samantha Tone, Mrs. Wendy Biliter, Campbell Al-Khafaji, Elliott Lee, Amelia Ruis, Ryan Campbell and Mr. Stephen Brockelman.



As part of their social studies unit, Churchill Road fifth graders Alexander Rubin, Tamara Judzik and Elaine Li excavate their classmates' cultural artifacts from the raised beds behind the school.



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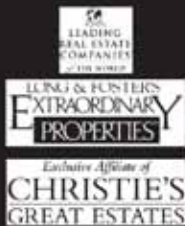
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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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

THROUGH SUNDAY/JAN. 4, 2015

Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights. 5:30 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Garden, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. A winter wonderland, including a flowing stream of softly glowing lights, a two story animated fountain and a Gingerbread Village. Admission: \$13 adults, \$8 children ages 3-12; children under 3 are free.

THURSDAY/NOV. 20

James Cotton. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Widely regarded as one of the best harmonica players of all time, this instrumentalist and blues legend has made his mark on music history. Tickets: \$25. For more information, visit www.wolftrap.org.

GF Rotary Club. 7:30-8:30 a.m. River Bend Country Club, 375 Walker Road Great Falls. Great Falls Rotary Club Weekly Speaker Series. Download a membership form on their website. Open to anyone who has a personal connection to Great Falls and is interested in furthering Rotary's mission of Service Above Self.

Artists Meet for Coffee. 8:30-10 a.m. Katie's Coffeehouse, Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Local artists meet for coffee. All are welcome to drop in.

FRIDAY/NOV. 21

GFL Drop-In Chess. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop in chess at the

Great Falls Library Meeting Room. All ages are welcome.

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East Vienna. Learn and play. Ages 5-18.

FRIDAY/NOV.21 - SATURDAY/NOV.22

Chris Smither & The Motivators. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Tickets: \$30-\$35. For more information, visit www.wolftrap.org.

Semi-annual Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Friends of the Great Falls Library are holding their semi-annual book sale. Browse books from many different genres.

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

Andes Manta in Concert. 8 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Live @ The Alden. \$20/\$15 MCC district residents. www.mcleancenter.org.

Cars & Coffee. 7-9 p.m. 760 Walker Road Great Falls. Gathering of cars at Katie's Coffeehouse. Antique, custom, hotrod, exotic, sports, etc.

CR Dance for Everyone. Colvin Run Community Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. \$12 per person includes lesson dance, soda and snacks. Contact Ed Cottrell at 703-435-5620 or EdCottrell@MACP.org for more information.

Great Falls Farmers Market. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Village Centre, 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Pre-Thanksgiving market.

SUNDAY/NOV. 23

Concerts at The Alden. 3 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community



Don't miss out on the 45th Annual Treasury of Art Juried Show and Sale Nov. 21-23 at the Vienna Community Center. Hundreds of original works in all media by artists from Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C. and beyond will be for sale. This image is "River Rapids," watercolor by Vienna's Artist of the Year Helen Dilley Barsalou.

Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Live @ The Alden. Free. www.mcleancenter.org.

"Autumn Splendor." 3-5 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Sunday Soiree Series Dance. \$15 per couple, \$8 single. www.mcleancenter.org.

MONDAY/NOV. 24

GFL Read to the Dog. 4:30-5:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Beginning readers can practice reading to a furry friend. Call branch at 703-757-8560 to sign up.

Learn to Draw Cartoons. 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown

Pike, Great Falls. Learn to draw cartoons with artist Bud Little. Ages 6 and up. Please register for this program.

Rock-a-bye-Baby. 11:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East Vienna. Join us for an early literacy enhanced storytime, featuring rhymes, stories and songs. Birth-12 months with adult.

TUESDAY/NOV. 25

The 16th Annual Community Thanksgiving Worship Service. 7:30 p.m. Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road SW, Vienna. Clergy and choirs from participating churches will lead the service with prayers for peace and thanksgiving.

Offerings will go to support the local food banks run by Our Daily Bread and Committee for Helping Others (CHO). For additional information or transportation needs, please call the Shepherd's Center at 703-281-0538.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26

GFL Pokemon League. 4:30-6 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Come play Pokemon with your friends. School ages 5 to 15.

Treasured Threes to Fives. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East Vienna. Join us for stories and songs. Ages 3-5 with adult.

Toddler Tales. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Stories and activities for you and your toddler. Age 2-3 with adult.

THURSDAY/NOV. 27

Thanksgiving Day Brunch. Seatings from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean. Enjoy a special Thanksgiving Day brunch, featuring all your favorite brunch items and delicious Thanksgiving fixings. Enjoy live musical entertainment and special activities for our youngest brunch guests. \$125 per adult, \$40 per child, ages 4 to 12, exclusive of tax and gratuity.

FRIDAY/NOV. 28

John Eaton. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Renowned pianist, vocalist, musicologist, and humorist delivers renditions of cherished American songs. Tickets: \$25-\$27. For more information, visit www.wolftrap.org.

GFL Drop-In Chess. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop in chess at the Great Falls Library Meeting Room. All ages are welcome.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17

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Great Falls, VA 22066

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

SATURDAY/NOV. 29

Stephen Kellogg. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. This lively performer and talented everyman combines soulful songwriting and passionate guitar for a classic rock 'n' roll sound. Tickets: \$25. For more information, visit www.wolftrap.org.

Cars & Coffee. 7-9 p.m. 760 Walker Road Great Falls. Gathering of cars at Katie's Coffeehouse. Antique, custom, hotrod, exotic, sports, etc.

MONDAY/DEC. 1

Annual Church Street Holiday Stroll. 6-9 p.m. Church Street will be closed between Lawyers Road and Mill Street, and visitors are invited to stroll amid the sights and sounds of the holiday season and visit merchants along the way.

Historic structures open during the event include the Freeman Store and Museum, the Little Library, the train station, the red caboose, the Knights of Columbus (former First Baptist Church), and the Vienna Presbyterian "old chapel." Santa Claus will arrive at the Freeman Store at 6:15 p.m. and help Mayor Laurie DiRocco light the holiday tree. Afterwards, Santa will visit with children on the front porch of the Freeman Store. The Holiday Stroll will feature entertainment by local musical groups, a petting zoo, free hot chocolate, marshmallows for roasting at supervised "bon fires" and other festivities. Visitors are encouraged to bring canned foods and place them in boxes on the Freeman Store porch.

Model Trains Plus Thomas, Too! 6-9 p.m. Historic Vienna Railroad Station, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. Celebrate the holidays during the Vienna Holiday Stroll seeing and hearing model trolleys and trains including Thomas and some of his friends and the Polar Express on display and in operation. Great family fun and activity for the young and young at heart. Free admission. www.nvmr.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 5

Ugly Sweater Party. 7-10 p.m. Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. For 7th-9th graders. \$10/\$5 OFTC member.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 5 - 7

32nd Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show. Friday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Admission: Adults, \$3; \$1, ages 13 and under. Good all 3 days.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Holiday Sing-A-Long. 4 p.m. Wolf Trap's Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. No tickets are required, but patrons are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy donation for Toys for Tots. For more information, visit wolftrap.org.

Great Falls Celebration of Lights. 5:30 - 8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre. Watch Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in an antique fire truck to light the Great Falls Tree. Afterwards, Santa will be in his house to meet all children who wish to share their holiday wishes. For the children, there will be a petting zoo and pony ride that will begin immediately after the tree lighting ceremony. <http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/Christmas.html>

The Nutcracker Tea. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner,

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Santa and Mrs. Claus lit the holiday Christmas tree at the Great Falls Celebration of Lights, Dec. 7, 2013. This year's Celebration of Lights at Great Falls Village Centre Hill is on Saturday, Dec. 6, 5:30-8 p.m.

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

NOTEWORTHY NOVEMBER EVENTS

Special family-friendly events going on this month that will put you in the holiday spirit.

information contact Jennifer at womenscouncilofsfb@gmail.com.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/NOV 20-22

21st Annual Christmas Craft Show. Thursday and Friday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Rd., Vienna. Come browse around and find unique presents and stocking stuffers; cards and gift bags; seasonal décor; kitchen accessories; baby and children's items; scarves, hats and other attire; jewelry; pillows and linens; ceramics; fresh baked pies and cakes and much more.

FRIDAY/NOV 21 - SUNDAY/NOV 23

Vienna's 45th Annual Treasury of Art Juried Show and Sale. Sales hours are Friday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sunday, noon - 4 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. Vienna's largest art exhibition of the year. Hundreds of original works in all media by artists from Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C. and beyond will be for sale. Meet the artists, enjoy light refreshments and music by the Serenada String Quartet at the Awards Reception, Friday Nov. 21, 7 - 9 p.m. Free and open to the public. www.ViennaArtsSociety.org

FRIDAY/NOV. 21

Quote-Along Film: "A Christmas Story." 7:30 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Yell along to your all-time holiday favorite. Free.

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

35th Annual Christmas Bazaar. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. St. John's Academy gym at 6422 Linway Terrace, McLean. Vendors from across Northern Virginia, entertainment, local art and the chance to purchase jewelry, food and gifts. Free admission. For more

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV 28- NOV 30

Vienna Arts & Crafts Show. Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. Handmade arts and crafts, including decorative painting, fused, etched, painted and stained glass, ceramics and pottery, hand-painted silk, woodworking handweaving, photography, paintings and drawings, clothing and functional textiles, jewelry and much more. All of the artists and artisans will be on hand to answer questions and talk about their work. Admission: \$3.

SUNDAY/NOV. 23

Vienna Turkey Trot: 10K, 5K and Fun Run. 8 a.m. All proceeds benefit the James Madison High School Band and the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. This year's Marching Band has proudly accepted an invitation to perform at the BOA Grand Nationals in Indianapolis. Come out and show your support by participating in one of the largest races in the area. Registration is now open and currently offering sponsorship opportunities. More information including registration fees and schedule can be found at www.viennaturkeytrot.com

FRIDAY/NOV. 28

Annual Gingerbread House. 4 p.m. Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean. Kick-off the holidays with The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, as the life-sized Gingerbread House is unveiled. Located on the 3rd floor, arrival lobby level of the hotel, the culinary work of art is large enough for guests to walk around inside and explore the sugary construction. Opening day festivities will include holiday confections, hot spiced cider and hot cocoa.

WinterFest Parade

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Thanksgiving Day Service Thursday, Nov. 27, 10:30 A.M.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

**6825 Tennyson Drive
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All are warmly welcomed and child care is available

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 17
1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean. Delight in a contemporary twist on the beloved holiday classic while you enjoy afternoon tea, petite sandwiches and pastries. All children will go home with a nutcracker doll and pictures to remember their day. \$79 per person. Event also takes place on Dec. 13 and 20.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 6-7
Gingerbread House Decorating Class. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean. Learn to make your own sugary home at a

Gingerbread House Decorating Class, taught by The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner's Pastry Team. The class includes all the ingredients to construct a beautiful gingerbread house as well as a special souvenir. \$75 per child, ages 3 to 12, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Event also takes place on Dec. 13, 14, 20 and 21.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7
McLean WinterFest Parade. 3:30 p.m. Old Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Groups interested in participating in the parade should go to www.mcleanwinterfest.org to complete the registration information and submit it to parade officials.

Each entrant will receive confirmation of their registration with this year's parade rules. Registrations will be accepted until Nov. 18.
The Princess Tea. 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean. Delight your young princesses with a magical theatrical production, featuring treasured Disney Princesses and complemented by treats. All children will leave with a holiday gift bag and photo with the featured Princesses. \$79 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

Saint Ann Catholic Church

SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:
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Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM
1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy
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VM NEXT EVENT

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18

THURSDAY/DEC. 11

Holiday, Gingerbread House

Workshop. 6:30-8 p.m. \$45 per house/\$35 MCC district residents. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean.

Great Falls Historical Society

Holiday Open House. Old Forestville Schoolhouse, 9812 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The entire community is welcome. Music, refreshments and local history.

SATURDAY/DEC. 13

"Frozen" the Movie. 2 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Come watch this family-friendly movie that all will enjoy. Free.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

New Year's Eve in Entyse Wine Bar & Lounge.

9 p.m. to Midnight. The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean. Celebrate the New Year with live musical entertainment provided by The Christopher Linman Jazz Ensemble and culinary delights. As the clock strikes midnight, welcome 2015 with a complimentary champagne toast. \$100 minimum food & beverage purchase per person.

FAITH NOTES

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

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including a 7:45 a.m. worship service without music; 9 a.m. worship service, children's chapel and children's choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday school and adult forum; and 11 a.m. worship service with adult choir. 703-759-2082.

The Antioch Christian Church offers a time of Prayer and Healing on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for anyone wanting encouragement and healing through prayers. People are available to pray with you or for you. Antioch Christian Church is located at 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna. www.antiochdoc.org

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

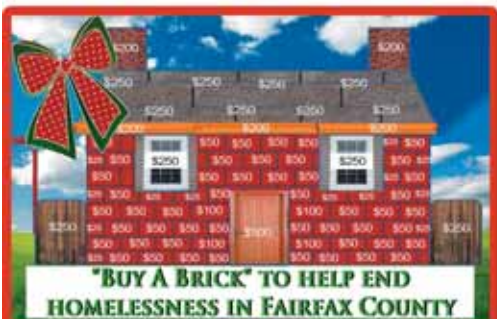
HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean, holds a third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. which allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m.



DO WELL BY DOING GOOD. This year "give" and "give back" at the same time! Donate to your favorite nonprofit in someone's honor from the comfort of your home. Cross a name off your list and take a tax deduction. It's a win-win!!



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SPORTS



McLean's Kathryn Howley finished 29th in the 6A girls' race at the state cross country meet on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

McLean Harriers Howley, Vaccaro Compete at States

McLean harriers Kathryn Howley, a junior, and Michelle Vaccaro, a senior, competed at the VHSL state meet on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow.

Howley finished 29th in the girls' 6A race with a time of 19 minutes, 16 seconds. Vaccaro finished 34th, crossing the finish line in 19:23.

Patriot sophomore Rachel McArthur won the individual championship with a time of 17:43, followed by Lake Braddock sophomore Kate Murphy (17:54) and Oakton senior Allie Klimkiewicz (18:12).

Oakton repeated as state champion, posting a score of 44. Lake Braddock finished runner-up (58), followed by Madison (83) and Patriot (96).

Langley Football Loses to Westfield in Playoffs

The Langley football team closed the regular season with four straight victories and made the playoffs. On Friday, the No. 15 seed Saxons' season concluded with a 47-20 loss at No. 2 Westfield in the opening round of the 6A North region playoffs at Westfield High School.

Langley finished the season with a 6-5

record. Westfield (10-1) will host No. 10 Chantilly in the quarterfinals.

Charity Basketball Tournament Registration Opens

Registration is now open for the McLean Youth Basketball Fifth Annual "Nothing But Nets" 3 on 3 Charity Tournament. The tournament is open to all McLean Youth Basketball "house league," boys and girls, grades 4-8. Teams of up to four players will compete on Sunday, Nov. 30 from noon to 6 p.m. at Longfellow Middle School in McLean. Teams can register via email at MYBnothingbutnets@gmail.com for a registration fee of \$30, which supports the global anti-malaria programs of the United Nations Fund. All games are 15 minutes with simultaneous running clock and trophies will be awarded to each bracket for first and second places. One hundred percent of your donation goes to "Nothing But Nets," where only \$10 delivers a lifesaving insecticide-treated mosquito net to unprotected families in Africa via the UN Foundation.

And even if you don't play basketball, you can still help by making a donation online at <http://www.globalproblems-globalsolutions.org/goto/MYBnothingbutnets>.

Over the past four years, the McLean Youth Basketball Nothing But Nets Tournaments funded the purchase of approximately 3,700 nets by raising more than \$37,000.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Katie Robinson with Langley Women's Head Coach Ashley Leake.

Langley High's Katie Robinson to Row at University of Miami

Langley High School's Katie Robinson '15 signed a National Letter of Intent to row for the University of Miami Crew team next year. As a member of the Langley High School Crew team, Katie has excelled at rowing, including stroking the team's top Women's boat to Virginia state championship wins in 2013 & 2014, and a silver medal at the 2014 SRAA National Championship regatta. Last year, Katie was honored by her team by receiving

the Women's team MVP award, and this year she is a team captain.

In addition to rowing with the Langley Crew team, Katie also rowed with the Resilient Rowing Club during the summer and fall seasons, resulting in several successful races in both local and national regattas.

Katie looks forward to incorporating her passion for Crew into her college life by rowing with the University of Miami team while majoring in business.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Tyler West, seen against McLean on Nov. 7, and the Langley football team lost to Westfield in the opening round of the 6A North region playoffs.



Ellie Frank, left, and Donny Sanders, of McLean, are co-chairs of the "Nothing but Nets" charity basketball tournament.

Tara Nappi and Josh Gwilliam of Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria, share information with parents at The Exceptional Schools Fair.



PHOTOS BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

An Exceptional Education

Exceptional Schools Fair offers parents a chance to learn more about schools for their children with special needs.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION



Muriel Jeddlicka (left), admissions director of Oakwood School in Annandale, was on hand at The Exceptional Schools Fair to share information with parents.

Maureen Kleinman wandered from booth to booth, speaking with representatives from schools that cater to students who have special needs. She asked questions about each school's resources and environment.

"I have been home schooling my daughter for 5 years," said Kleinman, an Arlington mother. Her daughter is 11 years old and her son is 9. "I want to find a school where my daughter's educational needs will be met, but also where her social and emotional needs will be met."

Kleinman was one of hundreds of local parents who attended the eighth annual Exceptional Schools Fair. The event is considered a clearinghouse for the region, a place where parents of children think and learn differently (regardless of their disability) can come and find the schools that are right for their children.

More than 30 schools from the mid-Atlantic region sent representatives to show what their schools have to offer and answer questions from parents. The event was held at American University in D.C., November 16.

The fair was founded by Bekah Atkinson, director of admissions at the Sienna School, to provide a resource for parents whose lives literally changed overnight, or the moment they learned their children have a special need. The fair is a forum for parents to explore educational options for their children. Atkinson is clear, however, that it is not a forum for diagnosis or advice, but simply a helpful resource for parents

"We have families coming from all over. They are looking for a place where their children feel safe."

— Tara Nappi, Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria

who are facing an unknown future for their children, educationally, financially and emotionally.

"We have families coming from all over," said Tara Nappi, director of teacher education and curriculum development at Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria. "They are looking for a place where their children feel safe."

EVENT ORGANIZERS described the fair as an empowering day for parents who may feel isolated by their child's diagnosis.

"The Exceptional Schools Fair is a moment for families to see and learn that they have options; that they are not, in fact, isolated; that there are professional educators who are passionate about what they do in their school," said Atkinson.

"Whether [the need] is academic or social, it's so incredibly important that you work with professionals who understand your child and who are willing to collaborate with other professionals like speech therapists, occupational therapists and psychologists," said Lois McCabe, head of school for the Diener School in Potomac, Md.

For more information on schools that were part of The Exceptional Schools Fair, visit www.exceptionalschoolsfair.com.

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Hanukkah begins December 16.

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- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

And The "Scancer" Is...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Unknown at this date – Saturday, November 15. In fact, it will be six days from now until we'll know the results. As it is always scheduled, a week or so after my quarterly CT Scan, we will have our usual follow-up, face-to-face appointment with my oncologist. At this meeting, I am examined, and of course, the radiologist's report of the most recent scan is discussed, and plans for the future – stay the course and/or adjust or switch altogether – are considered.

However, this week there's been a blip. My chemotherapy infusion was delayed one week at least, maybe longer, because my creatinine levels were too high. Creatinine levels reflect kidney function, and when my level exceeds normal, given the potential for kidney failure – ultimately, and all the associated, interim complications/effects – treatment is stopped until additional lab work is completed. Now, in and of itself, this presents concerns; in conjunction with a potentially disappointing CT Scan, results of which will be learned on the 21st (even though I remain asymptomatic and feel as normal as a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer survivor could possibly feel nearing year six, post-diagnosis), this presents worries exponentially more distressing.

Still, I'm not there yet and won't react as if the diagnosis is confirmed until it is. For the moment, I am simply enduring the typical ups and downs of living with an originally-diagnosed-as-terminal/inoperable form of lung cancer (are there any others?). There are good days and bad days to be sure, and many daze before, during and after. To be alive and facing this as yet unconfirmed complication is par for the course. To expect any different would be unrealistic. Most stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patients don't survive as long as I have. Ergo, I would never complain about a situation that few of my fellow lung cancer patients have lived long enough to even consider. Heck, I'm the lucky one, considering I was originally given a "13-month to two-year" prognosis back in late February, 2009. I'm grateful to be in my shoes (any shoes, actually; sneakers mostly, because the chemotherapy-induced neuropathy in my feet is uncomfortable, a small price to pay relative to my original diagnosis/prognosis).

Initially, when I thought of this title, I was planning on channeling Alex Trebek by incorporating as many Jeopardy (the game show) touches as I could into this column: the questions, the answers, the categories, the "Daily Double," "Double Jeopardy," ("where the scores double and the game can really change"), "Final Jeopardy" (although working in its theme song would have been a challenge) and maybe even Merv Griffin would get a mention, all in an attempt to be funny.

But there's nothing very funny about the situation in which I find myself. I remain positive and upbeat, and after almost six years of experience living this emotional roller coaster, this week of waiting, even with the additional blip, is manageable, believe it or not. It's just not fun, whether you're asking or answering.

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

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THURSDAY/NOV. 20
Evening Book Group. 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for title.
Oakton Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Come and join Oakton's book discussion group. We will discuss The Calligrapher's Daughter by Eugenia Kim. Adults.
Patrick Henry Book Club. 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Noah's Compass by Anne Tyler. Adults.
"Not Just for Teens" Adult Book Club. 7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. November's title is "The Reformed Vampire Support Group" by Catherine Jinks. Adults.

FRIDAY/NOV. 21
McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. - Noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Jamaliah Morais, a teacher and oriental brush painter who is a resident artist at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, will be the featured presenter. Morais is a member of the Sum-e Society of America which supports the ancient Chinese and Japanese technique. She has exhibited at the Audubon Society, the University Club and the Embassy of Malaysia as well as the World Bank.
Friends of the Great Falls Library Book Sale. All day. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Used book sale.
English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East Vienna. Practice your English conversation skills in a group. Adults.

SATURDAY/NOV. 22
McLean Child Safety Inspection. 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Lewinsville Center, 1609 Great Falls Street, McLean. The Mclean District Police Station holds child safety seat inspections once per month.
Be Fit McLean Saturday 55+ Lecture Series. 12 - 2 p.m. Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Transportation Options. \$7/\$5 MCC district residents. www.mcleancenter.org.
Friends of the Great Falls Library Book Sale. All day. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Used book sale.

MONDAY/NOV. 24
Adults Learning English. 11 a.m. Dolly Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Receive focussed help with reading, writing, speaking and listening.
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.
Evening ESL Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Practice speaking English in this informal conversation group.
English Conversation. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for non-native speakers. Adults.
Computer One-on-One. Noon. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Internet basics, email, Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint.

TUESDAY/NOV. 25
Adult English Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Dolly Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Enjoy practicing conversational English in a group setting.
Lego Club. 2 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop in and play with LEGOs! Ages 3 and up.
Computer One-on-One. Noon. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Internet basics, email, Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint.
English Conversation One-on-One. 1:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for a non-native speaker with a library volunteer. Call for appointment. Adults.

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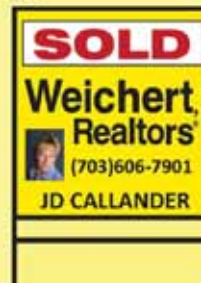
Thursday, December 4th, 2014 7:00-8:30pm at
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