

Teresa Castracane and Luis Alberto Gonzalez in "Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train" at 1st Stage. The show runs through Oct. 8, 2017 in Tysons Corner.

A Look Into the World of the Incarcerated

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McLean Citizens Debate American Legion Bridge Congestion

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Challenging the Troublemaker

Leader of Democratic resistance in Richmond challenged by independent who vows to be less antagonistic.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

No member of the Democratic minority is as politically combative as Del. Marcus Simon (D-53). During the last General Assembly session, for example, Simon made a parliamentary inquiry about whether a Republican member who was facing domestic violence charges should be voting on changes to the code outlining assault and battery. Republicans were furious, and the speaker quickly dispatched his inquiry then systematically delayed every Democratic bill on the docket for the rest of the day. Simon's contentious parliamentary inquiry was controversial in his own caucus, and some Democrats were privately grouching about a delegate they jokingly called "chairman of the troublemaker caucus." Simon does not back down from the characterization.

"What I'm hearing from most of the things I go to is that we need to be pushing back harder, and we need to be more aggressive as Democrats and progressives in pushing our agenda," said Simon. "They want a strong progressive voice in Richmond, somebody who's going to push back against what the Republican-held legislature is trying to do, and I think that I'm in a good position to do that and be that person for them."

But how aggressive is too aggressive? And does all that resistance yield anything for constituents? Simon's independent challenger says he shares most of the same policy positions and ideology as his opponent. But, if elected, he says he would take a less confrontational tone.

"The way he carries himself down in Richmond is pretty antagonistic," said Casey. "He's running on a platform of these guys are screwing us, and the only way we are going to get good things to happen is voting Democrats in. And I think that is very negative for politics in general, and I don't think it's particularly surprising at all that Republicans aren't willing to work with him."

THE 53RD DISTRICT stretches from Merrifield in the west to Falls Church in the east and from Pimmit Hills to the north and Strathmeade Springs to the south. Before Simon was first elected in 2013, the district was represented by Del. Jim Scott (D-53) for 11 terms. The Center for Politics at the University of Virginia ranks the 53rd House District the 18th most Democratic in the commonwealth. Democrats always win the district, usually with more 60 percent of the vote. The idea that an independent



Marcus Simon



Mike Casey

might win here seems a stretch to many people who watch Virginia politics closely.

"Independents very rarely win in Virginia," said Geoff Skelley at the Center for Politics. "Only three independents have won a Virginia House of Delegates race in recent times."

Two of those were long-serving conservative Democrats who became independents, Watkins Abbitt in the 59th District and Lacey Putney in the 19th District. The third was Katherine Waddell, who defeated conservative Republican Brad Marrs and served one term before losing to Republican Manoli Loupassi. Some independent candidates try to challenge Democrats from the left, like Gail Parker — known as "Gail for Rail" because of her support for transportation issues. She's run three House of Delegates races, three U.S. House races, two U.S. Senate races and three campaigns for the Fairfax County School Board. All were unsuccessful, although she did score 25 percent of the vote in a one-on-one matchup with Del. Mark Sickles (D-43).

"So there's little precedent for independent success in recent times," said Skelley. "Waddell is really it because the other two independents were longtime incumbents who had previously identified with a major party."

CASEY, 28, is a native of Fairfax County. He was raised in Centreville, and he's lived in Merrifield for three years. He has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering specializing in satellite communications from Virginia Tech, and he's currently a software engineer for a Washington-based education nonprofit known as CHAP, which stands for Community Health Accreditation Partner. He says he was prompted to run in part by the 2016 election. But he says he is also motivated by the lack of competition in the 53rd District, where the Democrat usually has no opposition in the general election.

"I feel like politics has been sliding in a downward direction for just about my entire life," said Casey. "I've been seeing the rhetoric shift more and more toward demonizing the opposition, toward everything being a crisis, and I just don't think that's



The 53rd House District stretches from Merrifield in the west to Falls Church in the east and from Pimmit Hills to the north and Strathmeade Springs to the south.

good for democracy."

If elected, he says his top priority would be election reform. He wants to see an independent redistricting commission, an idea Democrats rejected when they were in control and is now resisted by the Republican majority. As a delegate, he says he would also support ranked-choice voting, an electoral reform that would allow voters to signify their first and second choice for elections. Casey says he would also like to see transportation money go toward transit rather than widening roads, adding VRE lines to the western part of Northern Virginia as well as expanding bus service and Metro. He says he would vote in favor of expanding Medicaid, and he supports a public health care system run by the government. When asked about funding mental health assessments for inmates at jails, Casey says he would like to raise taxes to make that happen.

"We need to add higher income tax brackets," said Casey, who says he would support 6.5 percent rate for people who make \$80,000 and up bracket; 7 percent for \$400,000 and up. "I believe in progressive taxation."

SIMON, 47, is a native of Austin, Texas, although he was raised in McLean. He studied Near Eastern Studies and journalism at New York University before getting a law degree from American University Washington College of Law. He served as a captain and prosecutor in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the United States Army before founding Ekko Title and an affiliated law firm in 2008. He says he's happy to have an opponent in the general election.

"I'm all for giving people choices, and I'd like to win an election and not just get the

seat by default," said Simon. "So I'm all for people participating. I'm not at all unhappy or frustrated or angry about him being in the race. I think it's a good thing for the community."

When asked to talk about his accomplishments during his time as a legislator, Simon points to efforts to increase the minimum wage and crack down on revenge porn as well as his work expanding mental health services in the Fairfax County criminal justice system. On the minimum wage, Simon acknowledges that he hasn't been successful in implementing a \$15 an hour minimum wage, but he says his efforts have "moved the needle." And as a member of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, where he helped implement a program called Diversion First that evaluates people who may be suffering from mental health problems before they get involved with the criminal justice system. He points to the revenge porn bill as an early success.

"One of the first things I introduced when I got down to Richmond was a bill that made it a crime to share sexually explicit images of another without their permission," said Simon. "Being able to go down there my first year and take an issue that was sort of a cutting-edge issue and a newly emerging problem and see that pass my very first year, that was pretty exciting."

If he's reelected, Simon says he wants to create new state regulations for student loan servicing companies. Currently the State Corporation Commission does not oversee the industry, which Simon says is a problem he heard about from constituents all the time. He says he would also like to work against any efforts to roll back existing gun-control measures in Virginia, which are frequently the target of gun advocates.



Last year's event raised \$106,000.

Gala to Fight Cancer

With September being Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Amelia Mazloom and Parker Gioia, seniors at the Potomac School in McLean, are doing their part to help raise awareness and funds for teens battling cancer.

Treatments invented at St Jude Children's Research Hospital have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to more than 80 percent since it opened more than 50 years ago. One-third of patients at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital are teenagers, ages 15-19. St. Jude is working to drive the overall survival rate for childhood cancer to 90 percent, and they won't stop until no child dies from cancer.

Mazloom, 17-year-old chair and founder, says this year's committee has doubled to 43 teens and has tripled to 19 participating schools spanning McLean, Great Falls, Arlington, Alexandria, D.C., Chevy Chase,

Details

What: Parent/Teen Golden Gala to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

When: Sept. 16, 2017; 6-10 p.m.

Where: The French Embassy, 4101 Reservoir Road, NW, D.C.

Potomac and Beltsville, Maryland. Under Mazloom's leadership, the teen committee members put the entire event together with guidance from their parents.

The event, featuring WMZQ DJ, Aly Jacobs, as emcee, will include a host of local teen performers as well as desserts from D.C.-area restaurants and bakeries. There will also be both a live and silent auction.

Last year's event raised \$106,000 and this year, the local teens are working to hit a target of \$150,000. Tickets can be purchased online until Sept. 15 at www.stjude.org/goldengala.



This year's committee has doubled to 43 teens and has tripled to 19 participating schools.

PHOTOS BY TRAVIS WOLFE



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NEWS

Debating Bridge Congestion

Community meeting set for Monday, Sept. 18, at Cooper Middle School at 7 p.m.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

The McLean Citizens Association is lobbying to relieve congestion at the American Legion Bridge, which carries the Capital Beltway, or Interstate 495, over the Potomac River to connect Fairfax County in Virginia and Montgomery County in Maryland.

In a July 19 letter addressed to Northern Virginia Transportation Authority Chairman Martin Nohe, MCA President Dale Stein wrote about the association's concern that the NVTAs Transportation Action Plan for Northern Virginia (TransAction) did not address the "most serious traffic problem in Northern Virginia: the American Legion Bridge."

"The underlying premise to their letter is flawed," Nohe said. "They're suggesting that replacement of the American Legion Bridge is not included in the TransAction plan that NVTAs uses. That's not correct though; it is in the plan."

Nohe, who personally supports the replacement of the bridge, says the TransAction plan does not establish prioritization of the projects it identifies and that no one is requesting funding from his organization for a project to replace the bridge.

The NVTAs receives most feedback about the region's metrorail system, which, like the bridge, requires multijurisdictional cooperation, according to Nohe.

"It's unlikely that the NVTAs could singlehandedly fund a replacement of the American Legion Bridge; that's a multimillion dollar project," he said. "If the commonwealth of Virginia and the state of Maryland and all of the other involved organization decide it's a top priority, and come to an agreement on how to go about replacing that bridge, the NVTAs is a possible funding source for a portion of the cost of that replacement."

But it doesn't look like that is happening anytime soon.

THE BRIDGE is located entirely in Maryland. Though the Virginia Department of Transportation has discussed extending the I-495 Express Lanes over the bridge, widening the bridge or adding an entirely new crossing to the west, Maryland officials have said they would not build another crossing into the rural areas in the northwestern area of Montgomery County.

Maryland opponents say building another bridge could damage the county's Agricultural Reserve, which is zoned to protect farmland and agriculture and encompasses 93,000 acres along the county's northern, western and eastern borders, according to the Montgomery County Planning Department.

Still, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board plans to study the feasibility of a bridge that would connect Virginia Route 28 to Maryland Route 200, which has met opposition even before the process has begun.

On July 18, the County Council for Montgomery County adopted a resolution opposing a new crossing over the Potomac River and urged the TPB to



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

McLean Citizens Association Transportation Committee Chair David Wuehrmann updates the board about the American Legion Bridge during its meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at the McLean Governmental Center.

oppose any further study of such a project.

"Montgomery County and the State of Maryland have consistently and repeatedly opposed construction of a 'second crossing' of the Potomac River into Montgomery County," the resolution said. "The route for such a crossing was removed from the master plan of highways and from the state's highway program in 1974. There is no feasible route for such a roadway in Montgomery County, given the establishment of the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve in 1980 and the amount of land now held in easements in perpetuity primarily for agricultural and limited residential uses."

The MCA, which has been advocating for improvements to the bridge since it passed a resolution in 2015, is finally getting responses from officials in Virginia. However, they are passing the buck to Maryland.

"We got a reply from Aubrey Layne, the Secretary of Transportation on Aug. 29, basically acknowledging that this is a problem, but Maryland owns the bridge and VDOT is working with Supervisor [John] Foust to set up a meeting," David Wuehrmann, MCA's Transportation Committee Chair, said during the association's board meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at the McLean Governmental Center.

"The majority of the American Legion Bridge is owned by the State of Maryland, who has begun their own preliminary studies of the Beltway corridor and the existing bridge and traffic demands," the letter said. "Any new Potomac River crossing would be almost entirely within Maryland's jurisdiction. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has partnered with regional partners to review concept of an additional crossing. Maryland's participation and concurrence is compulsory before any next steps can be taken."

The MCA has local officials on board to discuss the bridge now.

Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor, is hosting a community meeting in partnership with the MCA

SEE PARTNERSHIP, PAGE 11

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Fill the Boot 2017: One For The Record Books

BY JOEL KOBERSTEEN
FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND
RESCUE DEPARTMENT

After the first day of collection, it was apparent that this would be no ordinary campaign. The \$173,686.56 collected by B-Shift was the second highest one day total in Fairfax County Fill the Boot history (by only \$2,000!). Needless to say, the \$50,000 to disaster relief goal was quickly accomplished and we began work on the \$500,000 goal for Greater Washington MDA.

The second day brought rain and chill. C-Shift put personal comfort aside and made a point to stay out as much as safely possible. Fire Station 5, Franconia, personnel came in with \$28,251 collected. That is the highest amount collected in one day by one shift in Fairfax County Fill the Boot history. A tip of the fire helmet to C-Shift personnel who did not let the weather conditions get in the way of collecting \$155,629.66.

Due to the work schedule, personnel from A-Shift had only one day of collection and made the most of it. A-Shift collected a total of \$140,193.28 on what was a beautiful Sunday.

Coming into the last day of the campaign, C-Shift knew they only needed roughly \$76,000 to accomplish the \$500,000 collected goal for the Greater Washington MDA. Personnel collected \$152,059 for the last day of the campaign which meant another \$71,954.06 was added to the disaster relief fund for a total of \$131,278.65. Part of that total was \$4,476.36 from the 142nd Recruit School, \$220 from the Logistics Distribution Center, \$4,291 from the 9-1-1 Center, \$252 from the Fire Prevention Office and \$60 from the local office.

When all was said and done, we collected



PHOTO BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Master Technician Johnathan Macquilliam and Capt. Matthew C. Burns hold their boots high as they work a Labor Day crowd of generous motorists at a Fairfax traffic signal on Waples Mill Road and U.S. Route 50.

\$631,278.65 total for Fill the Boot 2017. Never has any municipality collected that much money ... ever.

Thanks to the following for their support:

- ❖ Chairman Sharon Bulova and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors,
- ❖ Fire Chief Richard Bowers and the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department,
- ❖ President John Niemiec and Local 2068,
- ❖ Chief John Morrison, Vienna Volunteer FD, and all volunteer canteen units,
- ❖ Director Bill Kang and all the members of the Department of Public Safety Communications,
- ❖ Colonel Ed Roessler, Sergeant Tom Bailey, PFC Jared Warner and the Fairfax County Po-

lice Department,

- ❖ President John Harris and the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Retirement Association,
- ❖ All career and volunteer Fire and Rescue members and their families who helped out during the campaign.

Last, I would like to thank the residents and guests of Fairfax County who, by opening their car window and generously donating, made this year's Fill the Boot a tremendous success. We could not do this without you.

The author is a master technician at Fire Station 40, Fairfax Center, B-Shift, and coordinator for the Fairfax County Fill the Boot Campaign.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Putting United Back in 'United' States

To the Editor:

Re: Mr. Crawford's response ("Fomenting Disunity and Hate" Sept. 6-12) to the letter by a group of Democrat politicians ("American Values" Aug. 30.)

You reference "Mr. Trump's initial response" to the tragic events at Charlottesville. You are correct in defending this well-scripted statement of the President, delivered on Aug. 14. In fact, most "fair-minded persons," as you say, wish he had left it at that.

Instead, the "American Values" letter refers to the President's follow-up comments to the press the following day (Aug. 15), in which he talked about "the very fine people" in the group of protesters. While the fine print of the law may not agree, there is no denying that anyone marching alongside people brandishing torches and waving Nazi swastika flags, shouting "Jews will not replace us" and "Blood

and Soil," is implicitly supporting the very neo-Nazis and white supremacists the President initially condemned. They are guilty by association.

Hence, it is legitimate for the Jewish members of the Virginia General Assembly to question the Republican gubernatorial candidate for not openly denouncing the very symbols of genocide that so many brave Americans went overseas to Europe to stamp out during World War II. How did this sea of swastikas and Nazi flags ever wash up on our shining shores? Who are these people who loudly and proudly resurrect Nazi slogans?

We can parse words and choose to only see/hear what we want to see/hear, but there is no denying our great country is deeply divided. And a house divided never stands. As the mother of a child who was the target of racism on

the school bus, I take solace in the fact that the boys worked out their differences and, now, years later, the instigator is one of my son's closest friends!

Maybe we should take a page out of our kids' playbook and see beyond our skin-deep differences. Perhaps, far be it from us adults being an example to our children,

it behooves us to acknowledge, in the words of one of the world's greatest wordsmiths, William Wordsworth: The child is the father of the man. Let's put our house in order and put the united back in the "United" States.

Shaila Muralidhar
Great Falls

Write

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

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Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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PEOPLE

Young equestrian, Jenna Zimmerman, of Great Falls — a rising senior at Langley High School — takes up the reins as Youth Ambassador of the 2017 Washington International Horse Show.



PHOTO COURTESY ©WIHS

Youth Ambassador Named

The Washington International Horse Show named Jenna Zimmerman, 16, of Great Falls, a rising senior at Langley High School, as the 2017 Youth Ambassador, and to welcome 26 local teens attending schools in Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. to serve on the 2017 WIHS Junior Committee presented by Signature Academics.

At Langley, Zimmerman is involved in extracurricular activities including National Honors Society, Spanish Honors Society and

Best Buddies. She has been a member of the Junior Committee for three years and qualified to show at the Washington International Horse Show for the past four years competing in the Children's and Junior Hunters with her horses Valente and Buttoned Up. The 59th Annual Washington International Horse Show will be held Oct. 24-29, 2017, at Verizon Center in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit wihs.org.



PHOTO BY KIM MORAN

Churchill Road second graders Fernando Elg-Gutierrez, Will Krokowski, Steven Brannon, Alyson Lee, Alex Clarke, and their teacher Sarah Finger, observe a monarch caterpillar in the school's milkweed garden.

Studying Monarch Butterflies

Churchill Road second graders are beginning their study of monarch butterflies. Students in Sarah Finger's second grade class were excited to find a monarch caterpillar in the school's milkweed

garden.

The students will create a classroom habitat for the caterpillar and study its transformation into a butterfly, then release it for its migration to Mexico.

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July, 2017 Top Sales

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE CONNECTION

IN JULY 2017, 135 HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$12,500,000-\$177,500 IN THE MCLEAN AND FALLS CHURCH AREA.



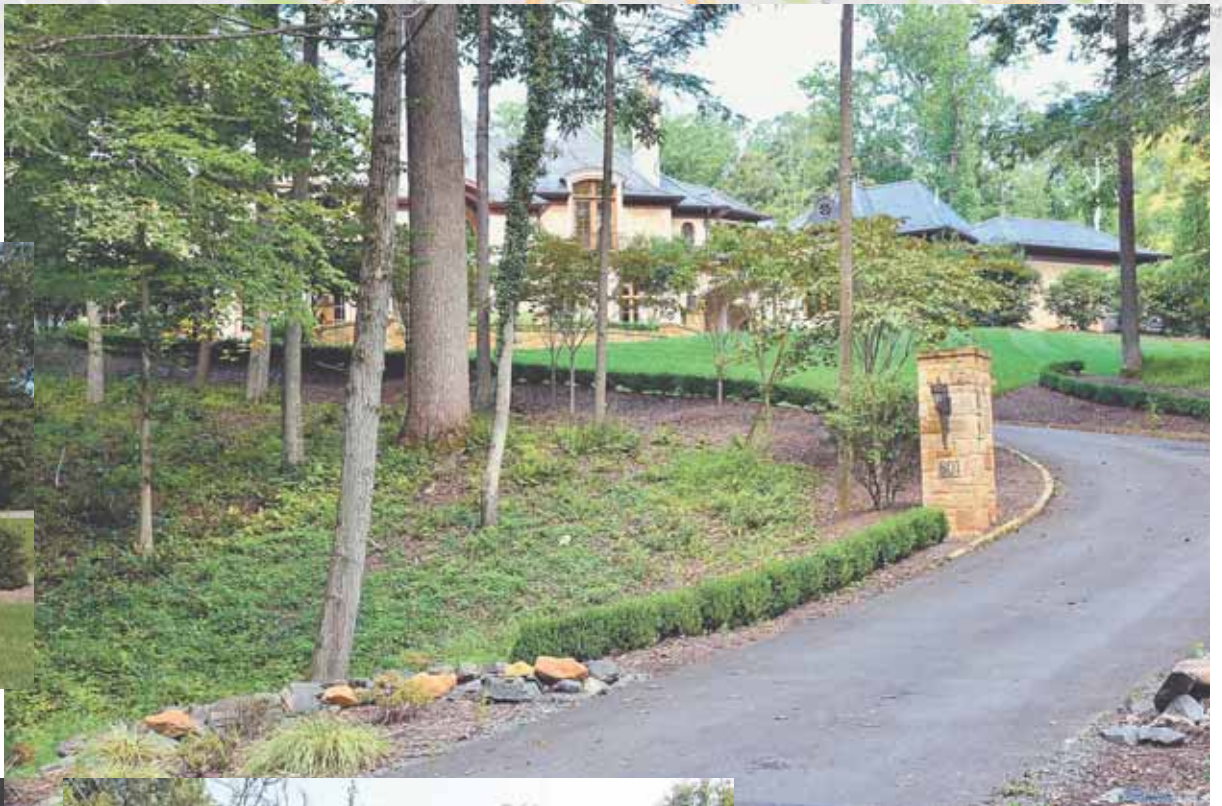
8 6637 Holland Street — \$2,350,000



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9 1114 Raymond Avenue — \$2,350,000



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7 1131 BUCHANAN ST	6	..	6	..	3	MCLEAN	\$2,525,000	Detached	... 0.34	22101	WALTER HEIGHTS 07/12/17
8 6637 HOLLAND ST	5	..	5	..	2	MCLEAN	\$2,350,000	Detached	... 1.00	22101	LANGLEY FOREST 07/17/17
9 1114 RAYMOND AVE	6	..	6	..	2	MCLEAN	\$2,350,000	Detached	... 0.35	22101	OLD DOMINION GARDENS 07/07/17
10 8452 HOLLY LEAF DR	6	..	4	..	1	MCLEAN	\$2,350,000	Detached	... 1.32	22102	MCLEAN ESTATES 07/31/17

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Home LifeStyle



This Fairfax kitchen was enlarged to create a space for entertaining for a family of five.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS AND BATHS

1970s Fairfax Kitchen Gets Makeover

When a Fairfax family of five decided that their 1970s-era kitchen needed to be brought into the 21st century they enlisted the help of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths. The homeowners also wanted more space for entertaining and to accommodate their large family.

"This was a particularly interesting project," said designer Cathy Goss of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths. "It involved incorporating four different functions into one uniquely-sized space."

Two adjacent rooms were combined to allow space for an island, pantry, command center and a station for cooking and the sub-

sequent clean-up. The design team removed a wall between the kitchen and dining room to create a larger kitchen area. They also incorporated two different backsplashes into the design: a marble subway tile with a marble accent under the range hood and a cut stone surface at the glass cabinets. LED under-cabinet lighting accents the quartz countertops.

"The cabinetry is a beautiful example of reverse raised panel paired with eclipse glass doors," said Goss. "The project resulted in a beautiful and ultra-functional centerpiece to this Fairfax family's home."

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

Design House Designers Revealed

The designers who will transform the 10th Annual DC Design House were announced recently.

Among the 23 men and women who will give the Potomac, Md. home a makeover are Alexandria-based designers Susan Nelson and Todd Martz; Lisa Tureson of Herndon; Margery Wedderburn of Great Falls; Mary Amons of McLean; Josh Hildreth of Reston; Keira St. Claire-Bowery of Cabin John, Md.; and Bethesda, Md.-based designers Kelley Proxmire, Lorna Gross, Marika Meyer, Erica Burns, Karen Snyder and Camille Saum.

The selection process is competitive and being chosen to design one of the home's

rooms is considered one of the most prestigious honors in the industry.

The Washington, DC Design House, a nonprofit entity, began in 2008 as a design show house event for the Washington, D.C. area. Each year, local designers donate their time and talent to makeover a grand home that opens to the public for tours. Proceeds raised from tour ticket sales benefit Children's National Health System.

This year, the home is located at 9004 Congressional Court in Potomac, Md., and will be open from Sept. 30 through Oct. 29. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.dcdesignhouse.com.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

We didn't inherit the earth from our parents. We're borrowing it from our children.

—Chief Seattle (1788-1866)
Suquamish/Duwamish chief

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for a listing of all our upcoming trips and socials.

Harvest Happenings Festival Coming to St. Luke's

McLean Community Center's Harvest Happenings fall festival will be held at St. Luke's School this year, due to the ongoing renovation of the Center's Ingleside Avenue facility. The event will be held 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Saturday, Sept. 30. Admission is free. St. Luke's School is located at 7005 Georgetown Pike.

Harvest Happenings helps children, ages 3-8, discover and experience the joys of the changing season. Activities include stage entertainment by performers, The Amazing Kevin and Kidsinger Jim. Children

also can enjoy a hands-on educational experience with farm animals at the Squeals on Wheels Traveling Petting Zoo area, as well as play several, age-appropriate field games.

Indoor activities include making a variety of fall-themed arts and crafts projects, including decorating small pumpkins, which must be purchased. Food service will be provided by Gourmet Delight food truck.

For more information, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit the website, ow.ly/V1Jt30eOlwq.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MCC

Harvest Happenings helps children, ages 3-8, discover and experience the joys of the changing season.

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**Walk to End Alzheimer's
in Northern Virginia
Reston Town Center
September 24 | 2:00 pm**



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE MCKINNON

Matt Haimovitz will perform in McLean on Oct. 15-15.

The Alden in McLean Presents Cellist Matt Haimovitz

The Alden in McLean presents internationally renowned cellist Matt Haimovitz in a multi-part performance of "A Moveable Feast" on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 14 and 15, at various locations around McLean.

On Saturday, Oct. 14, McLean residents should be on the lookout for Haimovitz as he will be offering small tastes of the "Feast" at various locations around town, such as the McLean Project for the Arts' MPA@ChainBridge Gallery (1446 Chain Bridge Road), Dolley Madison Library (1244 Oak Ridge Ave.) and even Spring Hill RECenter (1239 Spring Hill Road).

The full concert, on Sunday, Oct. 15, will take place at The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road. Tickets are \$20, \$14 for Dranesville tax district residents. The Israeli-born soloist will perform Bach's moving and spiritual "Suites for Unaccompanied Cello" in a program offering a brilliant musical variation on the concept of "A Moveable Feast." He pairs each of Bach's beloved works with newly commissioned suites by Philip Glass, Du Yun, Vijay Iyer and others. This concert will feature six suites and their accompanying partner works.

Renowned as a musical pio-

neer, cellist Matt Haimovitz has inspired classical music lovers and countless new listeners by bringing his artistry to concert halls and clubs, outdoor festivals and intimate coffee houses — any place where passionate music can be heard. He brings a fresh ear to familiar repertoire, champions new music and initiates groundbreaking collaborations. Through his visionary approach, Haimovitz is re-defining what it means to be an artist for the 21st century. Besides his relentless touring schedule, he mentors an award-winning studio of young cellists at McGill University's Schulich School of Music in Montreal.

Haimovitz studied at the Collegiate School in New York and at the Juilliard School, in the final class of Leonard Rose, after which he continued his cello studies with Ronald Leonard and Yo-Yo Ma. In 1996, he received a B.A., magna cum laude with highest honors, from Harvard University. Haimovitz plays a Venetian cello, made in 1710 by Matteo Goffriller. For more information on Haimovitz, go to www.matthaimovitz.com.

Tickets are on sale now. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit ow.ly/mBi530eEcH2 or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

Partnership Needed to Fix American Legion Bridge Congestion

FROM PAGE 5

next Monday, Sept. 18, at the Cooper Middle School on Balls Hill Road in McLean at 7 p.m.

"In response to the concerns of residents throughout the McLean area, I have been working with Delegate Kathleen Murphy and Senator Barbara Favola, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT), and Fairfax County Police

Department (FCPD) on options for addressing the backups and cut-through traffic caused by the lack of sufficient capacity on the American Legion Bridge," Foust wrote in a Sept. 6 email to constituents.

Staff members from the Virginia and Fairfax County departments of transportation will discuss suggestions for improving traffic problems in the McLean area. Residents can share their concerns and provide comments on the proposals.

OPENED IN 1962 as the six-lane Cabin John Bridge, the American Legion Bridge was renamed in 1969 and widened to eight through lanes and two merge or exit lanes in 1992, according to the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance.

In 1965, the bridge carried 48,000 vehicles daily and has now grown to more than 235,000 vehicles, according to the NVTIA. By 2040, it is projected to increase to 280,000 daily vehicles.

Now 55 years old, the MCA is determined

to make the bridge a priority and has contacted the office of U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) to help pull a plan together between the two states.

"We all knew from the beginning that the bridge is really substantially owned by Maryland," Stein said during the MCA's Sept. 6 board meeting. "The bridge is state and national level and we need in that case to attempt to get ... national involvement, national recognition if we can, as well as state involvement," he added.

WEEK IN MCLEAN

Information Sessions on Developmental Disabilities

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board's Support Coordination staff will hold information sessions that will help prepare individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to transition out of Fairfax County Public Schools.

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 7, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax.

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at South County Center, Room 221B, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

Topics to be discussed include:

- ❖ Eligibility process for CSB developmental disabilities services
- ❖ Transition services overview for 2018
- ❖ Overview of CSB services

There will be an opportunity to ask questions and meet with CSB Developmental Disabilities staff. No registration required. Contact Shelia Peters-Lee at 703-324-4635 with questions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/events/transition-information-sessions.htm.

Colonial Farm to Host Oktoberfest

The Claude Moore Colonial Farm will host a 2017 Oktoberfest Saturday, Oct. 7, 6-9 p.m. at The Pavilions of Turkey Run, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean to help support the programs and services of this privately operated local National Park and living history working farm. Catered Bavarian menu will include Bratwurst, Knockwurst, marinated grilled chicken, German potato salad, sauerkraut, vegetable sauté, Caesar salad, ice cream sundaes, warm peach cobbler, cash bar and soft drinks. Live music to feature polkas and other called dances. Silent auction showcases gift baskets, admissions to local museums and restaurants as well as other donated goods and services.

Tickets: \$35 adults; \$25 volunteers; \$12 children 6-12; children under 6 free admission. Advance purchase only. Contact J-D Engle at jengle@1771.org or purchase online at 2017.1771.org/events-item/oktoberfest/.

Avian (\$250), Porcine (\$500) and Bovine (\$1,000) sponsorship packages available.

BASIS Independent McLean Welcomes New School Administrators

BASIS Independent McLean (BIM) started its second year with a new administrative team, including BIM's Associate Head of School, Ron Kim, formerly of Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire and Director of Student Affairs for Upper School, and Tiffany Conroy, coming from St. Anne's School in Annapolis, Md. The private school has more than doubled its enrollment since its



Conroy

Kim

inaugural year in 2016. Go to mclean.basisindependent.com or call 703-854-1253.

Public Meetings

Fall Transportation Meeting

You are invited to participate in public meetings held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The meetings will begin with an open house followed by a town hall style meeting. The open house will provide information on various transportation initiatives including proposed changes to Virginia's project prioritization process (SMART SCALE), recently funded projects in the Six-Year Improvement Program, Virginia's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, VTrans Multimodal Transportation Plan, and Scenario Planning and Freight plans. Representatives from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, Departments of Transportation and Rail and Public Transportation, along with Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Planning District Commissions, and Transit organizations will be in attendance to highlight their transportation programs and to discuss your ideas and concerns on Virginia's transportation network. The open house will be followed by a town hall session, where you can engage in discussion and ask questions about the various initiatives. Comments will be accepted informally at the meeting and may also be submitted via email, or online.

Meeting Dates and Locations

Open House begins at 4:00 pm in each of the locations:

Tuesday August 29, 2017 Germanna Community College Center for Workforce & Community Education 10000 Germanna Point Drive Fredericksburg, VA 22408	Thursday, August 31, 2017 The Prior Center at UVA-Wise 437 Stadium Drive Wise, VA 24293	Monday, September 11, 2017 Culpeper District Office Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701
Thursday, September 14, 2017 Chesapeake Conference Center 700 Conference Center Drive Chesapeake, VA 23320	Monday, September 18, 2017 NOVA District Office The Potomac Room 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030	Monday, October 2, 2017 Hilton Garden Inn Richmond South/Southpark 800 Southpark Boulevard Colonial Heights, VA 23834
Wednesday, October 4, 2017 Holiday Inn Lynchburg 601 Main Street Lynchburg, VA 24504	Tuesday, October 10, 2017 Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education One College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486	Thursday, October 12, 2017 Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive Roanoke, VA 24017

Meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/> beginning August 29, 2017.

If you cannot attend a meeting, you may also send your comments on highway projects to Infrastructure Investment Director, VDOT, 1401 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23219, or SixYearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov and on rail, public transportation and transportation demand management to Public Information Officer, DRPT, 600 E. Main St., Suite 2102, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or DRPTPR@drpt.Virginia.gov. Comments will be accepted until October 20, 2017.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Great Falls Farmers Market.

Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org.

McLean Farmers Market.

Fridays, through Nov. 17, 2017; 8 a.m. to noon, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Master Gardener Plant Clinic on site to answer questions about plants in your landscape

Free Tai Chi.

Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org for more.

Weekly Storytime.

Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and titles vary. Free.

Fishing Rod Rentals

8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2 hour max). Valid driver's license required. Rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/

Colvin Run Mill

open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

Fundamentals of Watercolors.

Mondays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Artist Lorrie Herman will help students get comfortable working with watercolors and understanding this medium. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

Evening Painting.

Tuesdays 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Jill Banks focuses on oil painting fundamentals with two sessions each of still life, landscapes, and portrait/clothed figure from a live model. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 13

Great Falls History. 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Historical Society features Pat Wirth speaking about "The Best Kept Secret in American History, the Story of the Women's Suffragist Movement." Call 703-827-0269.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 14

Remembering Jerry Halpin. 7:30-9 a.m. at J. Gilbert's Wood-fired Steaks & Seafood, 6930 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Chaired by John Ulfelder, former West*Group SVP and Partner, currently Dranesville Planning Commissioner. \$20, future members \$30. Visit jgilberts.com or call 703-893-1034 for more.

A Glimpse Into the World of Prison

1st Stage in Tysons presents "Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train."

By DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

With pounding performances from fiercely committed actors, audiences at 1st Stage witness the nightmare world of the incarcerated. It is a transfixing and unapologetic tale. The searing production is "Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train" by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis.

As co-directed by Alex Levy and Juan Francisco Villa, "Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train" does not allow the audience to look away. Levy and Villa aim to have audiences surrender into the unease that playwright Guirgis created; and they witness.

The play follows parallel lives of two prisoners, a guard and a public defender. It focuses on a young man, Angel Cruz, incarcerated in New York City's Rikers Island for shooting a man he thinks was a charlatan who brainwashed his best friend into entering a religious cult. Cruz faces murder charges. Cruz's stay at Rikers is traumatic; he becomes a target for others. He is placed in protective solitary confinement with only one hour outside his solitary cell. It is outside where he meets a mesmerizing, con-man, a serial killer named Lucius. Lucius is known as the "Black Plague." Lucius has also "found" God who becomes his protective factor from all humiliations.

Prisoner Cruz is played by Luis Albert Gonzalez. He gives his character a numbed, terrified appearance of someone shell-shocked, intimidated and in disbelief. Over time, his confidence comes to the fore. He finds his voice, and speaks out it like a Biblical Job arguing to make his case to God or whom-ever will listen to him. Frank Britton's Lucius is a live wire; an inspired effortless piercing presence. There is also a grace in his movements and verbal skills as he stalks the small spaces that are his on stage. Britton is never restrained; always with a mystical allure.

While characters Angel and Lucius are firmly



PHOTO BY TERESA WOOD/COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

From left: Jose Guzman and Luis Alberto Gonzalez in "Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train" at 1st Stage. The show runs through Oct. 8, 2017 in Tysons Corner.

the main focus, there are several others who have their turns at the spotlight. There is a disillusioned public defender (played with aplomb, heart and moxie by Teresa Castracane). There is also a tough-talking, verbally vindictive correction officer (an intimidating Jose Guzman whose voice and tones could cut metal).

The stark, unrelenting, in-the-round-set by Jesscia Cancino and harsh, hellish lighting by Brittany Shemuga are powerful additions to the joyless world the production captures. No privacy. Tight quarters. Little comfort.

"Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train" is probing and visceral. It is most remarkable for its high-caliber acting talent. The production is spell-binding.

Where & When

1st Stage presents "Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train" at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Performances through Oct. 8, 2017. Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. \$33 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$15 for students and military. Call 703-854-1856 or visit www.1ststage.org.

Note: Adult language. Captioned performances: Sept. 15 at 8 p.m., Sept. 16 at 8 p.m., Sept. 21 at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 24 at 2 p.m., Oct. 7 at 8 p.m. The captioning system uses individual devices with stands. Pick up equipment at the box office when checking-in. Venue is wheelchair accessible.

Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the parking lot, 1420 Beverly Road, McLean. This year's sale features a Kids' Corner area where children will sell their toys, clothes, games and other items. The deadline to register is Wednesday, Sept. 13. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.

John Eaton in Concert. 2 p.m. at Vinson Hall Auditorium, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Jazz pianist, brilliant historian and local legend John Eaton will perform a concert of Great American Songbook tunes. \$20/\$14 MCC district residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.

SEPT. 16-17

Bonsai Show and Auction. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society and the Potomac Bonsai Association. Visit www.potomacbonsai.com for more.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 19

Antiques Road Show. 10 a.m.-noon at Colvin Run Historic Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. To have an item evaluated, attendees must provide a picture and description of the provenance (how long it has been in the family, what is already known about it) by Aug. 31.

Pictures and details should be sent to Yasha Arant at yasha_arant@yahoo.com or Yasha Arant, 104 Sue Ann Ct, Sterling, VA 20164. Visit greatfallsseniorecentergfs.wildapricot.org.
Colonial Tobacco Harvest. 1-4 p.m. at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Help the farm family harvest their tobacco crop. Gather the cut plants and hang on sticks to cure in the Tobacco Barn. Visit www.1771.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 20

McLean Newcomers and Neighbors Monthly Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. at Maggiano's Little Italy, Tysons Galleria, 2001 International Drive, McLean. The program is a slideshow of the past year's club events. \$33 per person. Visit www.McLeanNewcomers.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 22

Kings Dominion Trip. 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Kings Dominion has roller coasters to musical dance shows and carnival games. Admission to the theme park is included in the fee. \$80/\$70 MCC district residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.
Wildfire Scotch Dinner. 6:30-9 p.m. at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 3rd floor, McLean. Executive Chefs Moreno Espinoza and Edwin Amaya prepare a custom four-course menu each paired with a handcrafted single malt scotch from Dalmore, located in the heart of the Scottish Highlands. \$125. Call 703-442-9110 for more.
"The Princess Bride" Movie. 7 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Admission and popcorn are free. Prop bags are \$5 each. Visit www.aldentheatre.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 23

Fun Fall Bazaar and Market. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Great Falls UMC Annual sale Shops, bake sale, books, silent auction, children's activities, Appraisal Roadshow, and BBQ dinner. Call Lois 703-759-2843.

SEPT. 23-24

Sailing Lessons. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Belle Haven Marina, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Alexandria. Two days of lessons, \$350. Visit www.mcleanrhclub.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 24

Teddy Bear 5K and 1K. 2-6 p.m. at Pimmit Hills Park, 7230 Idylwood Road. All proceeds from this event go to Falls Church-McLean Children's Center. Visit potomac.enmotive.com/events for more.
Amadeus Orchestra. 4 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Soloist Emil Chudnovsky makes his Amadeus debut in Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto. Visit www.amadeusconcerts.com.

MONDAY/SEPT. 25

Charity Golf Tournament. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Westfield's Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. Annual Family PASS golf to benefit the working homeless Families of Fairfax County. Visit www.familypassfairfax.org for more.

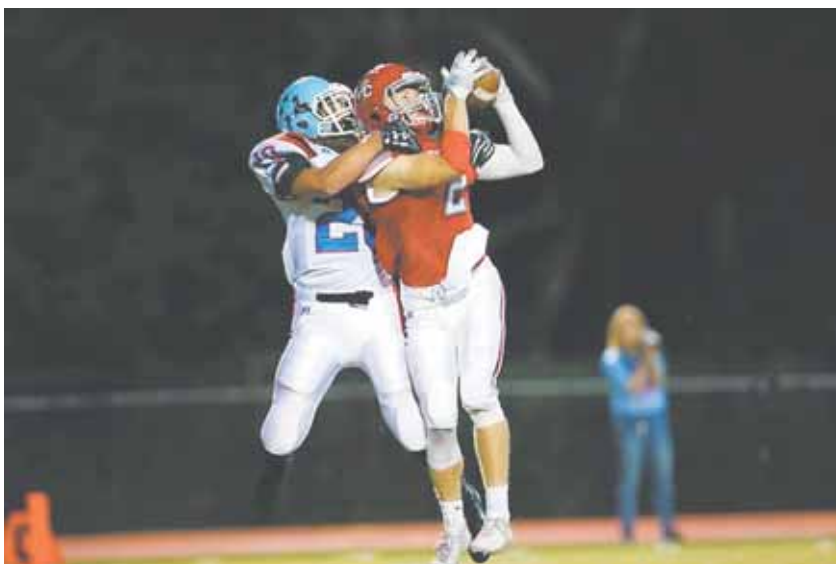
FRIDAY/SEPT. 29

Dance Party. 7-10 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Teens can enjoy catered food and drinks while immersing themselves in music played by a DJ, for 7th-12th graders. \$5. Visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.

SPORTS

A touch-down pass to Carter Govan (2).

PHOTO BY
KENT ARNOLD



Marshall Wins at McLean, 35-14

A high school football game Marshall vs. McLean on Friday, Sept. 1 was a game of two halves: The first half belonged to McLean, but the second half was dominated by Marshall — they won by a score 35-14.

McLean scored twice in the first half on a 50 yard run by junior running back George Stimpson (21) and a 20-yard reception by senior wide receiver Carter Govan (2). McLean held Marshall to only 60 yards in the first half.

Marshall came back in the second half and scored four unanswered touchdowns. The attack was led by Marshall's quarterback Andrew Margiotta who ran for 127 yards including two touchdowns of 33 and 2 yards. Brandon Gonzales had 67 yards and a TD along with Colin Nininger who had 87 yards rushing and a TD. Marshall rushed for a total of 200 yards in the second half.

McLean defense stats:

- ❖ Adam Taylor (6) had 14 tackles with seven solo tackles and caused one fumble.
- ❖ Carter Govan (2) had 12 tackles with seven solo tackles, caused one fumble and knocked down two passes.
- ❖ Ben Davis (44) had seven tackles with one solo tackle.
- ❖ Luca Karoney (11) had five tackles, recovered two fumbles and knocked down one pass.

McLean offense stats:

- ❖ George Stimpson (21) led the offense with 75 yards on 16 carries, with one 50 yard TD.
- ❖ Carter Govan (2) had 56 yards on three receptions including a 20 yard TD.
- ❖ Omar Varela (13) had 48 yards rushing, including a 30-yard kick return.
- ❖ Adam Taylor (6) had 35 yards on five carries.

FAITH NOTES

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

Mom's Group meets second and fourth Thursday of the Month, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Join the group for coffee and fellowship. The group meets in the Lillian Croy Room, near the Church Office. Childcare will be available just across the hall in the Childcare Center. If you are interested in joining the group, contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521 so that we can plan appropriately for materials and childcare.


St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, has Sunday services at 7:45, 9 and 11 a.m. with nursery care provided. In the summer, they offer musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including an 8 a.m. worship service without music and a 10 a.m. worship service with nursery care. 703-759-2082.

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 and Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. Email bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

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SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

September 1-30, 2017

PRS, Inc. and The Connection Newspapers team up for

#CallTextLive

A social media campaign promoting suicide prevention and awareness.

#CallTextLive engages the community in discussing suicide and encourages people to get help.

Learn more at:
prsinc.org/CallTextLive

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Saint Ann Catholic Church

SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:
 Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM
 Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 AM
 1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy

DAILY EUCHARIST:
 Weekdays
 Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM
 Saturday, 8:30 AM

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter

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TOWN OF VIENNA

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, 2017
11:00 AM – 7:00 PM
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WWW.VIENNAOKTOBERFEST.ORG

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ABC LICENSE

Rreal Image Inc. trading as The Salsa Room, 1524 Spring Hill Rd. Ste ME, McLean, Fairfax, VA 22102. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On Premises & Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Victor Villarreal, Corporate Secretary.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Announcements

SPORTS



PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION

The National Anthem is sung by Debbi Miller, Ms. Virginia Senior America from Fairfax, during the opening ceremonies.

Senior Olympics Athletes Gather for Opening Ceremonies

Tennis and indoor track last weekend.

The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics kicked off its 35th anniversary season on Sept. 9, at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington. The opening ceremonies included the T.C. Williams High School Army JROTC Color Guard, remarks by NVSO committee Chairman Jim Mackenzie, and the carrying of the Olympic Torch. This year there are 752 competitors. The first day of competition took place on Sept. 9 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center and included indoor track events. Tennis singles (50-69) took place on Sept. 11 at Wakefield District Park in Annandale. The Senior Olympics runs through Sept. 20. See <http://nvso.us>.



Lisa Bridges from McLean hits a forehand during her match. Bridges won gold in the 50-69 age group.



Clarence John L. Wells-Martin from Herndon received a gold medal for placing first in the 60 meter dash in the 70-74 age group. Number 36 is his lucky number from high school.



Lisa Bridges (left) from McLean and Sheila Laszlo from Ashburn both won gold medals in their championship matches.

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BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 14

Good Morning McLean. 7:30-9 a.m. at J. Gilbert's Wood-Fired Steaks and Seafood, 6930 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. The second Thursday of each month is the McLean Chamber of Commerce "Good Morning, McLean breakfast." Visit www.mcleanchamber.org or call 703-893-1034 for more.

Prayer Service for Peace. 7:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. This prayer service, open to anyone of any faith, will focus on peace, with the affirmation "I am peace in the midst of all matters." The event is part of the 24th annual World Day of Prayer, sponsored by Silent Unity, Unity Worldwide, and Unity of Fairfax. Free and open to all. Email care@unityoffairfax.org or visit www.unityoffairfax.org.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 19

Joel Goldsmith Study Group. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. in the Unity of Fairfax, Conference Room, Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Ongoing small group discussions on the teachings of profound mystic and healer, Joel Goldsmith. The first book to be discussed will be "A Parentheses in Eternity." Donations will be accepted. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org for more.

IN-PERSON, TV DEBATES

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold four in-person forums and three televised forums for the public and the press to learn about the candidates who are running for election to the Virginia House of Delegates. The League invited all certified candidates campaigning for office in their respective districts. At the in-person forums, question-and-answer sessions will be followed by an opportunity for informal conversations with individual candidates. The public and press are encouraged to attend. For more information about the candidates' priorities and positions, visit www.vote411.org.

In-person forums:

- ❖ **Sunday, Sept. 17** at 2:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center: Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston.
- ❖ **Thursday, Sept. 28** at 7 p.m. at Providence Community Center: 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax.

The televised forums at Fairfax County Public Access are on Channel 10 or livestreamed on YouTube "Inside Scoop Livestream." The public can submit questions by email to theinsidescooptv@gmail.com or call 571-749-1142 between 7-8:30 p.m. Tune in on: **Monday, Sept. 11** at 8 p.m.; **Monday, Sept. 18** at 8 p.m.; and **Monday, Oct. 2** at 8 p.m.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 21

Shepherd's Center Caregivers Support Group. 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. This support group is designed for caregivers of adult family members. Contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, 703-821-6838, jtarr5@verizon.net.

Chapter Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc., invites all veterans, friends, and the general public to attend the next chapter meeting. Channapha Khamvongsa, founder and Executive Director of Legacies of War, will discuss its mission. She is a native of Laos and earned degrees from George Mason University and Georgetown University. Admission is free. Call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit www.vva227.org.

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"Kenny's Story"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Ordinarily I wouldn't have given the Lyrica television commercial too much attention. But there sat a spokesperson named Kenny, his name clearly printed in red script on top of a white oval located above his right breast pocket on his custom-work shirt, a middle-aged white man like me, holding his left foot across his right knee talking about a medical problem that we both feel: the "shooting, burning, pins and needles of diabetic nerve pain." It was odd seeing someone named Kenny on television referring to a problem that not-on-television Kenny also has, though my symptoms are not from diabetes; they're from eight and half years of chemotherapy. Nevertheless, as Babe Ruth said about the sound of his throat-cancer-ravaged voice on "Babe Ruth Day" at Yankee Stadium on April 27, 1947: "It feels just as bad."

Campaign to date, according to iSpot.tv, within the last 30 days, "Kenny's Story," as it's identified, has had "74 commercial airings." And though I don't think for a moment that this Kenny could be confused with that Kenny, considering that he's an auto mechanic who "grew into a free-wheeling kid" and "enjoyed every step of fatherhood," and I'm not "free-wheeling," not a father and know zero about cars, I do feel his pain – literally.

Now the fact that the words of advice are coming from someone named Kenny does give me pause however. Not that all Kennys have identical personalities or life's experiences but knowing how little familiarity I have with this product makes me distrust him somehow. My name is Kenny and I'm not prepared to make those statements. How can he?

It reminds me of a long-ago M*A*S*H episode when Major Frank Burns was feeling paranoid (as he said: "I'm only paranoid because every one's out to get me") because he thought "someone else is using my face." None of which makes any more sense than my not believing spokesperson-Kenny just because his name happens to be Kenny.

But there's no accounting for viewer reaction, probably. That's likely why there were a total "1,271 airings" of Lyrica diabetic nerve pain commercials nationally over the last 30 days. "Kenny's Story," at 74 airings, was a small percentage of at least a dozen variations on this theme as well as a parallel campaign to address Fibromyalgia, a similar condition also treated by Lyrica.

It's odd, of the multiple spots that have appeared on television, all of which show people living active lives – and being grateful for using Lyrica, only three: "Kim's Salon," "Michael," and yours truly are "given-named." All the others: "Coach," "Grandpa," "School Teacher," "Keep the Beat Going," "Helping Others", as a few examples, are not.

I'm wondering if "naming"/invoking names in these spots does in fact personalize the experience for viewers in a way that the pharmaceutical companies think is counter productive? Maybe naming the spokesperson/sufferer causes a reaction among Kims and Michaels that yours truly is feeling/writing about?

Moreover, given that "Big Pharma" probably doesn't want to limit its reach by excluding a segment of the market because of name recognition possibly lends some credence to the presumption that using a name to identify the individual in one of these spots is rare because it's unhelpful. As it relates to these spots and their names, perhaps less is more, given how many research/clinical dollars (hundreds of millions of dollars we're often told) are invested in the process of bringing FDA-approved products to market? Accordingly, I suppose "Big Pharma" can't afford to leave any potential stone/"prescriptee" unturned.

I certainly don't know the answers to any of these questions. I can only wander – and wonder what is it that makes sense here and where I fit into their universe. The commercials have hit their intended target: me, a patient with "shooting, burning, pins and needles ..." , but I have to tell you: I don't like "Kenny."

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



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