

Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION

Cougars Beat Bulldogs, Improve to 13-4

SPORTS, PAGE 5



Oakton's Hanna Kaloi #23 shoots ball over a West-field defender: Kaloi led all scorers with 27 points in the Cougars' 56-35 win over Bulldogs.

Ready for Success in 2020

NEWS, PAGE 3

Closing All the Loopholes

NEWS, PAGE 2

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Closing All the Loopholes

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

The days of unregulated high-interest lending may be coming to a close in Virginia. Now that Democrats have seized control of the General Assembly, members of the Legislative Black Caucus say cracking down on predatory lending is one of their top priorities for the 2020 session. Del. Lamont Bagby (D-74) and Sen. Mamie Locke (D-2) have introduced a legislative effort they're calling the Fair Lending Act. The bill would cap all loans at 36 percent and institute a maximum monthly fee of \$25.

"All of these lenders make the same loans in Colorado and Ohio and charge one third as much as they charge Virginians," said Jay Speer, executive director at the Virginia Poverty Law Center. "So it's pretty clear they charge the maximum they're allowed to charge and it has nothing at all to do with market forces."

The current state of Virginia law is a hodgepodge of different approaches for different loans. Some are regulated and capped at 264 percent. Others are totally unregulated, so nobody knows how many of them are being made or what the interest rates are. The Fair Lending Act would require all lenders get a Virginia license and



MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

Campaign-finance records show that in the last election cycle, LoanMax gave \$150,000 to Republicans and \$100,000 to Democrats.

register with the State Corporation Commission, which would track how many loans are made and many other details about the transactions. Advocates for reforming the system say the current system takes advantage of people who are already in a vulnerable financial situation.

"It's designed to bankrupt them," said Mark Levine (D-45), who introduced a bill to regulate open-end lines of credit. "It's designed to take every single asset they own."

HIGH-INTEREST LENDERS have been

Democrats poised to impose new regulations on high-interest lenders.

under increasing scrutiny in recent years, and campaign-finance disclosures show these companies are spreading their money around to Democrats and Republicans in an effort to influence the General Assembly. During the last election cycle, the industry gave \$1 million in campaign contributions. Car-title lender LoanMax was the top contributor, giving \$250,000; online lender Enova gave \$176,000; open-end-line-of-credit lender Check Into Cash gave \$88,000.

"There's no question that when it comes to car-title lenders, that has been controversial," said Bob Denton, professor at Virginia Tech. "Republicans have protected that industry by and large."

Republicans are no longer in charge, and that has created a momentum for reforming an industry that many lawmakers believe preys on vulnerable people who are desperate for money and don't fully understand the consequences of getting caught in a debt trap. One of the key Republicans who helped thwart efforts was former Del. Tim Hugo (R-40), who was chairman of a subcommittee that often served as graveyard for reform efforts. He was one of the four Republican incumbents unseated last year, giving Democrats a majority in the House and shifting the balance of power.

"Far too often I'm riding into work or into

session, and I hear the commercials on the radio knowing that there's somebody listening to that who desperately needs a loan to pay for their electrical bill, to pay a child care payment, pay a college loan," said Bagby, who is leading the reform effort in the House. "They are going to be calling that number that's on the radio or online to receive that loan not knowing what the rates are, and not understand what the fees are associated with that."

ONE OF THE key provisions in the Fair Lending Act is that it creates a cap on how much these companies can charge in interest and fees — no more than 50 percent. This is designed to prevent these companies from bilking consumers into forking over significantly more money than they borrowed in the first place, a key feature of the industry that helped earn the title "predatory."

"We want to make sure that the borrowers have terms that make sense and are reasonable because they can't negotiate those terms," said Jennifer Carroll Foy (D-2). "All they know is that they need the money, and they need it now."

Current rules allow for a wide variety of

SEE LOOPHOLES, PAGE 7

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Ready for Success in 2020

Virginia lawmakers and GVP supporters reflect on seven years since Sandy Hook.

BY MARTI MOORE
THE CONNECTION

More than 100 gun violence prevention activists remembered the seventh anniversary of the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., Dec. 14 with prayer, speeches and live music.

Speakers included U.S. Rep. Gerald “Gerry” E. Connolly (D-11) and Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), who makes Commonwealth history as the first woman and Jewish politician selected to lead the Virginia General Assembly House of Delegates. Also she is the first Speaker from Fairfax County, according to a list maintained by the Virginia House of Delegates Clerk’s Office.

Participants also paused for reflection late Saturday morning as each name of the slain 20 school children and six educators was called aloud, followed by the gentle strike of a bowl-shaped remembrance bell.

Since Dec. 14, 2012, Connecticut has passed laws that require universal background checks on firearm sales, online reports say. The state also has banned numerous types of assault weapons and has limited gun magazines to 10 rounds each.

In Virginia, voters on Election Day gave majority control of both chambers of the General Assembly to the Democratic Party. Lawmakers plan to pass

gun violence prevention legislation in the 2020 regular session, which starts next month.

For years, the proposed firearm safety measures didn’t reach the floor of the Virginia House of Delegates because they were killed without a recorded vote in a sub-committee controlled by Republican Party representatives — according to GVP watchdogs and lawmakers, who have spent years introducing these bills. On the senate side, GVP bills were rejected in the Courts of Justice Committee.

“Time after time, we’ve been blocked,” Filler-Corn said during the Sandy Hook vigil at 11250 Waples Mill Road. Gun rights advocates are taking symbolic measures to bypass proposed GVP laws by calling on local-level governments to declare themselves Second Amendment sanctuaries in order to exempt their police from enforcing new state laws they deem unconstitutional.

“A month ago, they were condemning sanctuary cities,” U.S. Rep. Gerald “Gerry” E. Connolly (D-11th District) pointed out Saturday and remarked gun rights advocates have perverted what the Second Amendment means. Elected officials and GVP activists are not stirred by the confusion, and remain focused on preventing future deaths from gun violence.

“You all spoke loudly Nov. 5,” Filler-Corn told the crowd of people standing in the cold, pouring rain. “You made a difference,” she added and told activists their state lawmakers will pass gun violence prevention legislation in 2020.



PHOTO BY KAREN HIGA/THE CONNECTION

Speaker of the Virginia House Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) reminds more than 100 activists how far they have come in their fight against gun violence Dec. 14 along the sidewalk of the National Rifle Association in Fairfax. Standing behind her is the next generation of gun violence prevention activists: Oakton High School senior Elizabeth Paul, 17, director of diversity and inclusion for the March for Our Lives Virginia chapter.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Waples Mill ES STAMP volunteers at Give Together.

STAMP Volunteers Made MLK Day a Day On

Waples Mill ES STAMP volunteers made MLK Day a day on, not a day off by participating in Volunteer Fairfax’s annual Give Together in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day. Students, alums and parents volunteered side by side with Supervisor Dalia Palchik of Providence District, FCPS Board Members Karen Keys-Gamarra & Meghan McLaughlin,

and Volunteer Fairfax’s CEO Steve Muty. (STAMP stands for Science, Technology, Art, Music, and Philanthropy).

Hernandez family making valentines destined for care packages for former foster care kids who are now in college



Eric, David, Nicole & Sara Holtz at Give Together in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day.



The People's Business

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

The General Assembly has shifted into high gear to get through its agenda of thousands of bills in sixty days. The old saying that you cannot be in two places at one time is disproven every day as the 140 members of the House and Senate scurry among subcommittees and standing committees on which they serve and the subcommittees and committees before which they have to present their bills. By strategically placing an assistant or intern in one meeting while the member moves quickly among several meetings, it may even appear that a member is in more than even two places at one time. The legislature is not a place for lengthy contemplation but rather is a place for action. After all, we ran on a platform of what

we promised we were going to do, and the legislative session is the time of action to deliver on our promises.

With such a "meat grinder" approach can we trust the outcome of a legislative session? Consider that in order for a bill to become a law it must meet the approval of a subcommittee and full committee, passage twice in the full house on two different days, the same process in the other house of the legislature, and the signature of the governor.

All that time there are hundreds of advocates, constituents, lobbyists and others looking over your shoulder and providing comments on what you are doing. Bills get intense scrutiny before they are passed. It is easier to describe how a bill does not make it than it is to tell how a bill becomes a law. Fewer than half the bills intro-



duced become law.

Election outcomes do matter for to change the outcome of debate on important issues it may be easier to change the people in the legislature through the ballot box than it is to change the minds of incumbent legislators. A case in point is ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment that was debated for decades but approved within a week in a General Assembly made up of new members supporting the rights of women. Those same new members, joining the progressives who were already there, have even now approved sweeping new common-sense gun safety laws such as my universal background check bill that had been defeated for two decades by previous members of a subcommittee of the House. Laws that put barriers in the way of women in making choices con-

cerning their own reproductive health are being repealed. Laws that disproportionately affected people of color are being repealed. The criminal justice system is undergoing a major shift to make it work more fairly for all people. Challenges to the environment are being met with meaningful legislation.

It is impossible to list in a short column the thousands of bills before the legislature. You can however review the full list with descriptions and status at lis.virginia.gov and for the first time this year you can see livestreaming of most full and subcommittee meetings at virginiageneralassembly.gov/house/chamber/chamberstream and virginia-senate.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3. And you can visit the Capitol in Richmond; all meetings are open to the public. Some say the process is like making sausage. The important thing is it is doing the people's business.

After Virginia Ratification Of Equal Rights Amendment Beyer: 'Next Steps Depend On Congress'

Rep. Don Beyer (D-8), a longtime supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), and cosponsor of legislation to extend the deadline for ratification, issued the following statement after the Virginia General Assembly voted to ratify the ERA:

"Today, Virginia became the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, and I could not be more proud. Ratification of the ERA is long overdue, but it is wonderful that Virginia took the historic step today which brought the Amendment across the three-fourths threshold necessary for ratification.



Rep. Don Beyer (D-8)

"I congratulate and applaud everyone in the Virginia General Assembly, including Senator McClellan, Senator Locke, and Delegate Carroll Foy for making

this long-overdue legislation a top priority, and seeing it through successfully.

"The recent legal opinion issued by the Trump Administration via the Justice Department makes it clear that the next steps depend on Congress. I am determined to do everything I can in Congress to help pave the way for the final ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. Equality, justice, and history demand nothing less."

Beyer is a cosponsor of House legislation to extend the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, sponsored by Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA). The issue of

the deadline was raised most recently by a Trump Administration legal opinion arguing that the ERA could not be ratified because of the expiration of the original deadline. Beyer is also a cosponsor of new Equal Rights Amendment legislation introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY).

Beyer's most recent Annual Women's Conference and Forum focused specifically on the need to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, with a panel discussion that featured speakers from VA Ratify ERA (Virginia's campaign to ratify the ERA) and the ERA Coalition.

Wexton: 'A Historic Moment'

In response to the final passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in the Virginia General Assembly, Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-10) issued the following statement: "Today, Virginia sent a powerful message to the rest of the country — that 'Equal Justice Under Law' is a constitutional right for women.

"I was a sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment during my time in Richmond, and I am proud of my former colleagues in Richmond who made this issue a priority in this year's session.

"This is a historic moment nearly one hundred years in the making. Thanks to the tireless work of so



Rep. Jennifer Wexton (D-10)

many trailblazers and activists over the years, women — finally — are one step closer to being included in our nation's founding document."

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. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
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Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: editors@connectionnewspapers.com

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SPORTS

Cougars Beat Bulldogs, Improve to 13-4

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR/THE CONNECTION

The Oakton Cougars de-feated the Westfield Bulldogs 56-35 on Jan. 21 in a Concorde District game. Hannah Kaloi led Oakton with 27 points. Westfield was led by Shreya Sivaram's 11 points.

In the 1st quarter Kaloi would add 8 points, matching what was the Westfield team output for the opening quarter. Sivaram would lead the Bulldogs with 3 points in the quarter. Oakton's lead 13-8 to close the quarter.

In the 2nd quarter, Kaloi would again lead Oakton with 9 points in the quarter, giving her 17 at the half. Bella Bruce added 3 points and Aba Quaindo scored two for Westfield, and the Westfield deficit was now 36-13.

In the 3rd quarter the Westfield defense would tighten up holding the Cougars to 9 points while scoring 9 points. Westfield's Shreya Sivaram scored 4 points in the quarter and Juliana Phillips scored 3 points. Kaloi again led Oakton with 4 points, while teammate Sophia Zinzi added 3. Oakton's lead 46-25.

In the 4th quarter the Bulldogs would outscore the Cougars 13-11. The Bulldogs were led by Sivaram with 4 points, while Bailey Jovanelly added 3 points and Victoria D'Ercole, Aba Quaindo and Stephanie Ghyzel each had 2 points. Hannah Kaloi again led Oakton with 6 points in the quarter.

With the 56-35 win Oakton improves to (13-4) (2-1). Westfield falls to (9-8) (1-2).



Shreya Sivaram #4 can't get to the shot of Sophia Zenzi #3



Hanna Kaloi #23 led all scorers with 27 points

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NEWS

Waples Mill Rose to the Valentine Challenge — 894 Valentines!

On Saturday, Jan. 11, 76 volunteers including FCPS Board Members Karl Frisch, Karen Keys-Gamarra, and Rachna Sizemore Heizer; Principal Greg Brotemarkle; Waples Mill ES students, teachers, alums and their families; and students from Crossfield ES, Franklin MS and Rachel Carson MS made 894 valentines for Foster Care to Success. Valentines from this Valentine Challenge will be put in care packages and sent to former foster care kids who are now in college and may not get care packages like their fellow college classmates. In the past four years, Waples Mill ES STAMP volunteers have made over 2,800 valentines with Volunteer Fairfax for Foster Care to Success. (STAMP stands for Science, Technology, Art, Music, and Philanthropy).



Clara Dinh, her daughters Gabriella and Bella, and FCPS Board Member Karen Keys-Gamarra.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



FCPS Board member Karl Frisch (Providence District) with STAMP volunteers

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

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.

QUICK GUIDE AVAILABLE

For 26 years the Northern Virginia Regional Commission has published a Quick Guide which is a pocket index to the most frequently sought human services in our region. The Guide is designed to meet the needs of all those in the region seeking to deal with difficult situations. You can search services for the Guide by visiting the following link: <https://novaquickguide.org/>. You can also save the link to your Smart Phone. Just enter the url <https://novaquickguide.org/> into the browser of your phone and save it to your home screen. You will have the full functionality of the website.

RUN FOR SEAT ON GOVERNING BOARD

Are you a resident of Small District 1-A Dranesville? Are you looking for ways to make a difference in the community? Consider running for a seat on the McLean Community Center's (MCC) 2020-2021 Governing Board. MCC is seeking district residents to run for seats on its 11-member volunteer board, which provides oversight and guidance for MCC programs and facilities, including the Robert Ames Alden Theatre ("The Alden") and The Old Firehouse Center (OFC). An agency of Fairfax County Government, MCC is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave. To run for a seat on the volunteer board, a candidate must reside in the Center's tax district (Small District 1A-Dranesville). Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. To have their names placed on election ballots, candidates are required to obtain the signatures of 10 McLean tax district residents in their respective categories. Candidate petition packets will be available at MCC starting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Key Election Dates:

- Friday, March 13: Completed Petition Packets are due at MCC by 5 p.m.
 - Saturday, March 14: Candidates' Orientation.
 - Wednesday, March 18: Absentee Voting begins at the MCC and The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean, Va. 22101.
 - Wednesday, May 13: Absentee Voting ends at 5 p.m.
 - Saturday, May 16: Elections at McLean Day (Lewinsville Park) from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or logon to the Governing Board Candidates' webpage: <https://bit.ly/2QwOURj>.

Loopholes

FROM PAGE 2

lending. Some are regulated and some are not. For example, payday loans and car-title loans are monitored by the State Corporation Commission. But open-end lines of credit and installment loans made online are not, leading to confusion about the scale of the industry and what kind of interest rates they charge. That's why the Fair Lending Act requires all businesses making loans in Virginia get a license, which will allow state regulators to track their activity. Critics say this creates a new loophole.

"We have no statute to cover somebody offshore," said Terry Kilgore (R-1). "It's going to drive a lot of people to the internet and offshore lending."

Supporters of the bill say the legislation has a solution to that problem: the attorney general.

"All you do is complain to the attorney general, and you don't have to pay a single dime," said Levine. "Sorry Russian company. Sorry German company. You're getting none of it back because under Virginia law, the loan is void."

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I couldn't before, Mr. Rogers, but now I can. And I even know what it means, which 10 days ago, in my neighborhood, I wouldn't have had a clue. Now, not only do I have a clue, I have a date for surgery: Jan. 27. Moreover, in addition to a date (and I don't mean my wife, Dina), I have a time and a place, a list of pre-surgical dos and don'ts, and a few items to buy: a post-surgical healing ointment and a special scrub to help minimize the risk of infection. And of course, I've been advised to wear loose-fitting clothing, perhaps a button down cardigan will do. If all goes well, I'll be home in my jammies around supper time when my recovery begins. Details of which are still a bit sketchy. I suppose I'll have to 'recover' to find out.

Let me amend that last sentence: I'll be on a soft-food diet for five days. What might not jump at you is that I don't eat many soft foods (M&Ms melting in one's mouth instead of their hands likely doesn't count). More significantly and quite out of my ordinary, my wife, Dina, will be managing and controlling my menu. So far that menu includes eggs, pudding, apple sauce; all good but her last two items: spinach and kale, not good at all. I imagine I'll survive the surgery, but given how rarely Dina and I have shared meals together over the years, I may not survive the recovery. And though her heart and head might be in the right place, I'm afraid my knife and fork won't be. During the best of times, I'm challenging to feed. After my surgery, I'm likely going to be at my worst. Although I certainly don't look it, food has always been the bane of my existence.

But at that post-surgical point, aren't I entitled? I mean, when I was a little boy and had my tonsils removed, I remember being given ice cream to eat - in bed. That had never happened before - or since, quite frankly. Soft foods. What's softer than ice cream? Why should I be deprived? I have two types of cancer. Yet so far, I don't see ice cream on the list. Maybe Dina's waiting for confirmation from the surgeon that cold foods are just as soft as hot. If true, I think I'm going to need that in ALL CAPS to convince my wife to give in to my indulgences. After all, one's thyroid gland isn't extracted every day so shouldn't I scream (perhaps whisper would be advisable) for ice cream? Wouldn't it soothe the savage beast that I might be after surgery? Presumably there will be some pain or discomfort and/or side effects from prescription medications I'm obliged to take so why not humor me; I like to laugh.

Except there's really nothing funny about surgery, other than the old joke: it's minor surgery when it's someone else, when it's me, it's major. So even though I've been told on relatively good authority that a thyroidectomy is not exactly major surgery, it's still me that's being anesthetized and operated on for four hours. And though I'd rather it would be somebody else, I don't see how that would help remove my thyroid gland which apparently has spread cancer to my neck and a lymph node. I guess if it has to come out, it might as well come out of me. And then we can get on to the business of learning whether I have one cancer or two and perhaps get an updated assessment of my life expectancy. If I had my druthers, I'd just as soon have only one cancer. Two is too much.

That being said/vented, right now, I just want to wake up after surgery and get home. And when I get there, either that night or for breakfast the next day, there better be a pint or two of ice cream with my name on it. I think it's only fair, don't you?

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

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. For more information, visit the web site www.goldengirls.org

Beginners Mah Jongg Class. Tuesdays thru Feb. 18. 12:30-2:30 p.m. At Great Falls Library, 9830 VA-193, Great Falls. Learn to play the fun, fast-paced game of Mah Jongg. Registration is now open for an Adult Beginners Mah Jongg class. The class will run for six weeks on Tuesday afternoons from 12:30-2:30 p.m. beginning January 14 through February 18. Attendees should plan to attend all six sessions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 29

Playdate Meetup. 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Toys and play space for children. Birth-5 with adult. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/oakton>

Qigong Introduction. 2 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn to practice the Ancient Chinese exercises of Qigong to improve your health and increase your vitality. Adults and Older Adults. No registration necessary, but space is limited to first 20 people. First come, first served. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/oakton>

Drawing the Figure Class. 6-8:30 p.m. At The Arts of Great Falls School, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Six weekly classes with Marcia Klioze; cost is \$275. Interested in painting or drawing the figure? This class is designed for all levels of artists. Students will be painting the human figure from a model. In this class you will gain the knowledge of basic painting concepts and techniques such as value, color, temperature, composition, and transition, through one-on-one instruction and demonstration. Visit the website: www.greatfallsart.org

THURSDAY/JAN. 30

Lunch & Learn on Senior Housing Options. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Huckaby Briscoe Conroy (HBC) Group at Keller Williams McLean has organized a Lunch & Learn on Senior Housing Options. Seniors Real Estate Specialist Karen Briscoe, HBC Principal, and HBC partner Lizzy Conroy are hosting this discussion for seniors in the Northern Virginia area. Also participating is Jeanina DiVittorio, a Senior Living Expert. Subjects to be discussed include: In-home care vs. retirement community living; Elder nourish and senior community programs; Retirement community options and their costs; How to decide when to downsize and move; and Selling your home to help pay your long-term needs. RSVP by Jan. 23 to 703-734-0192 or Homes@HBCGroupKW.com.

Pet Therapy for Teens. 6:30 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Hang out with therapy dogs. Pets have been proven to benefit mental health and they're pretty cute! Teens. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/oakton>

Musician Damien Sneed. 7 p.m. At The Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. "We Shall Overcome: A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., featuring Damien Sneed" will arrive at The Alden for one performance. This is the only DMV stop in the 40-city "We Shall Overcome" tour. Sneed is a graduate of Howard University, and he will be joined by the Howard University Choir. Tickets are \$45 for the general public, \$25 for seniors and students and \$20 for McLean Community Center tax district residents. Visit: www.aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123.

Unruly Theatre Project Improv Performance. 7 p.m. At McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Free admission. The Unruly Theatre Project is The Alden's professional teen improv company dedicated to bringing comedic productions to the community. Call the Center at 703-790-0123, or visit the website, www.mcleancenter.org.



The Vienna Theatre Company presents "Cinderella."

(Top Row - L to R): Kathy Young as Fairy Godmother, Sophia Brown as Cinderella, Carson Cullen as the Prince, David Berkenbilt as Duke and Jennifer Levy as Lady of the Court. (Bottom Row): Wendy McHune-Stepsister as Matilda, Martha Zimmerman as Stepsister Griselda, Ava Quaale as Stepsister Frump

SATURDAY/FEB. 1

"Cinderella." 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. At the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. The story of Cinderella has been charming children and adults alike for ages. This version of the beloved fairy tale by the Vienna Theatre Company emphasizes audience participation. Come sneer at the wicked stepmother and her two rotten daughters as they try to foil our heroine's plans for happily ever after. Cheer as Cindy learns the difference between a pumpkin and a zucchini. Help the Fairy Godmother because her magic is rusty and she needs practice and reassurance. Find out if a pumpkin can really turn into a beautiful carriage. Remember when this was every dream you ever had...Tickets \$8/adults; \$5/children and seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the door on performance days. For more info visit: www.viennatheatrecompany.org



"Leading Ladies" is now thru Feb. 1 at the Vienna Community Center

In rehearsal of VTC's upcoming production of "Leading Ladies," the character Doc, portrayed by Steve Rosenthal, disapproves of the relation his son Butch, portrayed by Ric Anderson and Audrey portrayed by Dana Gattuso.

NOW THRU FEB. 2

"Leading Ladies." At The Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. The romantic comedy "Leading Ladies" centers on two down-on-their-luck English Shakespearean actors, Jack and Leo, reduced to performing "Scenes from Shakespeare" on the Moose Lodge circuit in 1950's rural Pennsylvania. They hear an old lady in a nearby town is about to die and leave two-thirds of her fortune to her two long lost English relatives, Max and Steve. They resolve to pass themselves off as these beloved relatives and get the cash. However, they make a critically incorrect assumption about Max and Steve. Ken Ludwig's brilliant brand of, mayhem, madness and mirth ensue. Show times are 8 p.m.: Jan. 31, Feb. 1; and 2 p.m. Feb. 2. Tickets are \$15. Tickets may be purchased in advance at VCC or by cash, credit card or check at the door before each performance if still available. Visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org

JAN. 30 THRU FEB. 23

"The Royal." At 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. "The Royale" by Marco Ramirez, Directed by Paige Hernandez. Jay "The Sport" Jackson dreams of being the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world, but in the racially segregated world of boxing in 1905, the odds are stacked against him. When a crooked boxing promoter hatches a plan for "the fight of the century," "The Sport" might land a place in the ring with the reigning white heavyweight champion. Show times are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$42 general admission, \$39 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Purchase online at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

FRIDAY/JAN. 31

Little Explorer's Playgroup. 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Join in an adventurous STEAM centered playgroup that engages the senses. Age 2-5 with adult. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/oakton>

TMO — Tysons McLean Orchestra

Reception. 5:30-7:30 p.m. At Bank of America, 8300 Greensboro Drive, McLean. Join the Orchestra Board of Trustees for an evening reception sponsored by Merrill Lynch, where TMO will unveil the 50th Season Repertoire, Development Plan and Calendar for the year. RSVP to info@tysonsmcleanorchestra.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 1

Pairing Premium Teas and Chocolate. 1-3 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. This favorite seminar is back! Learn about the similarities of theobroma cacao and camillia sinensis, from their growing regions to their processing methods as you taste, compare, and pair special teas and chocolates. Taste some treats made with these two delectable ingredients. A take home sampler included. Cost is \$35. Use ID Code 4C6.790B. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-222-4664.

Author Talk. 1:30-3 p.m. At Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Author Julianna Miner shares insights from her book on how parents can help their kids navigate childhood and adolescence while they learn to use smartphones, apps, and websites — and reduce unexpected consequences. Adults. Free. Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5815506>

MONDAYS/FEB. 3, 10, 24

Baby Storytime. 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Have fun with baby while building early literacy foundations for reading success. Birth -18 months with adults.

TUESDAYS/FEB. 4, 11, 18

Toddler Tales. 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Have fun with your child and build early literacy foundations for reading success. Age 18 months-3 years with adults.

TUESDAY/FEB. 4

Entrepreneurship 101: Starting a Business in Fairfax County. 7:30-10:30 a.m. At Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, 8300 Boone Blvd., McLean. Held in partnership with the Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (SBSD), U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and Community Business Partnership (CBP), the sessions have attracted nearly 4,000 attendees. The sessions provide overviews of: Business start-up basics (licenses and permits); workforce services and training programs; SBA financing and resources; SDB, MBE and 8(a) certification. There is no charge, but pre-registration is required and the workshops almost always fill up. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxcountyleda.org/event/5437/>

GFHS Award Dinner. 6:30-8:30 p.m. At The Old Brogue, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Join The Great Falls Historical Society in honoring Mike Henry as the 2020 recipient of the Tibbetts Award. Mr. Henry works tirelessly for the Colvin Run Mill and they are excited to celebrate him. Cost is \$50. Visit the website GFHS.org