Uncorked: After years of buying the cheap stuff, an unschooled consumer decided to plumb the mysteries of choosing fine wine. By Tom Shroder

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The Unlikely Congressman

How Joseph Cao lost his country, decided to be a priest, then wound up on Capitol Hill

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DON'T MISS

“The New Word” and “The Old Lady Shows Her Medals”

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo
Making its Kennedy Center debut, the all-male troupe shows off the fun side of dance with a parody on classical ballet and modern dance. // 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday. Kennedy Center, Eisenhower Theater, 2700 F St. NW. 202-418-4600. www.kennedy-center.org. $22-$56.5.
— Stephanie Merry

Museums & Galleries

STEPHANIE MERRY'S PICK

Tribute to an art pioneer
The National Museum of Women in the Arts is paying tribute to a local artist with the survey “Lois Mailou Jones: A Life in Vibrant Color.” The Howard University professor, who broke barriers of race and gender, had a career that spanned seven decades and encompassed all manner of styles and subjects. The exhibition includes 70 of her works, including paintings and textiles, which show off her myriad inspirations from the French countryside to African art. // Saturday through Jan. 9. National Museum of Women in the Arts, 1250 New York Ave. NW. 202-783-5000. www.nmwaa.org. $10, $8 students and seniors, free 18 and younger.

DON'T MISS

“Wild Music: Sounds & Songs of Life”
The National Geographic Museum has unveiled a show that should please both nature lovers and music fans. The interactive exhibit looks at sounds unique to various animals from bird songs to whale calls. // Through Jan. 2. National Geographic Museum, 1145 17th St. NW. 202-657-7588. www.nationalgeographic.com. Free.

“Truth Beauty: Pictorialism and the Photograph as Art, 1845-1945”
For the pictorialists, the camera was not merely an apparatus of record but also a vehicle for fresh artistic expression. The images on display by the likes of Alfred Stieglitz and Elias Goldensky illustrate a period of technical advancement that led to artistic innovation. // Saturday through Jan. 9. The Phillips Collection, 1600 21st St. NW. 202-387-2151. www.phillipscollection.org. $12; $10 students and seniors.
— Stephanie Merry