

Westfield High Principal Anthony Copeland stands by a wooden, American flag in his office.

Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ❖ Fair Lakes

HomeLifeStyle

PAGE 9

Meet Westfield Principal Copeland

NEWS, PAGE 3

Buying or Selling?

HomeLifestyle, PAGE 9

Westfield Boys' Basketball Returns to Winning Ways

Sports, PAGE 8

CALENDAR, PAGE 12 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 8

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Taking Their Show on the Road

Rocky Run Show Choir performs at the Sunrise senior living facility in a special Sunday performance. Front, from left, are Bella Rubijono, Vanessa Scola, Luke Medeiros, Alyssa Peyton, Sienna Williams, Siya Divekar; second row, Shreya Mallamula, Jenny Miller, Trevor Belsky; center, John Henry Stamper, Colin Brown; back, Savannah Jeffries, Aisha Goni, Lara Zanotti, Aru Mokkaapati, Emma Holincheck, and Madeleine LeBeau. The show choir, led by musical director Lynn Christman and choreographer Ahmad Maady, has performed at school events for many years. But this year, the choir wanted to share its music with Rocky Run's community. That led to this performance, which featured 16 choir members presenting a mix of high-energy numbers, from the 1920s ("This Joint Is Jumpin'!") through the 1960s ("Can't Buy Me Love" and "Do You Love Me?") as well as recent hits like "I Got a Feeling" and "Light Up the World."

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Meet Westfield Principal Anthony Copeland

Decades of leadership prepared him for the job.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Westfield High Principal Anthony Copeland has a wealth of experience as a leader, both in schools and in the military. Before taking over the reins at Westfield in September 2015, he was an assistant principal at Lake Braddock Secondary and North Stafford High and an Army field artillery officer who served 20 years in the military.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Ga., he was in JROTC in high school and, afterward, got accepted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point's prep school. "My mom couldn't afford to send me to college," he said. "But I knew, if I went into the Army, West Point could be my college."

"I met great folks who exposed me to so many things and prominent people I couldn't have known in Georgia," continued Copeland, 55. "So the Academy gave me a different perspective on my life and the whole world."

During his active duty, one of his jobs was as an instructor at Field Artillery School. "I really enjoyed it and the interactions with the other officers," he said. "So I signed up for the federal Troops to Teachers program — two years at ODU — and, in 1999, got my master's in education science while still in the Army."

Copeland retired as a major in 2002 and, within a month, he got a job teaching math at North Stafford, which he did for three



Westfield High Principal Anthony Copeland at his desk.

PHOTO BY
BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

years. "I loved teaching, but I was learning how to teach adolescents instead of adults, plus getting used to a new career," he said. "And every year afterward got better and better." He also enjoyed getting two months' vacation in the summer, but taught summer school to get more experience.

He was also looking ahead. While still in the Army, a colleague of Copeland's told him he'd be a good leader and suggested he consider someday becoming a school administrator. So in 2002, before retiring, he started working on his Ph.D. to get his doctorate and administrative endorsement.

Then in 2005, he became an assistant principal at North Stafford. "I had good experiences and forged good relationships with the kids," he said. "I also helped at-risk students get scholarships to college or go into the military, and I saw that [educators] can make a difference."

After six years there, Copeland joined FCPS, moving to Lake Braddock in 2011 as

an assistant principal there. He calls it "a good primer" for his duties at Westfield because Lake Braddock had almost 400 faculty and staff members, including 14 administrators.

"So there was a lot of natural working together and bouncing ideas off others, plus compromising and fighting for your time," he said. And although Westfield's not a secondary school, it has more than 300 faculty members and seven administrators under Copeland, including five subschool principals.

At Lake Braddock, he learned how FCPS functions and who to call for whatever assistance he needed. "I also met great colleagues," he said. "People have always been very willing to help, so that made this county a really good place to work."

Meanwhile, Westfield's former principal, Tim Thomas, left to take the helm at Annandale High, and Copeland applied for his job. He was interviewed for it last Au-

gust and, on Sept. 2, learned he got it. Eight days later, he started work at Westfield.

"I felt like, all of a sudden, a lot of responsibility had been placed on my shoulders, but I really wanted to be here," he said. "But I also knew I'd spent four years at the premier leadership school in the nation, West Point. I'd spent 20 years leading adults and had been in education 13 years, so I knew I could do this — I'd been prepared."

At Westfield, Copeland received an "incredibly welcoming" reception. "The families, kids, teachers and the whole community are always willing to step up and land a hand," he said. "This is who they are — they really care about the school, teachers and students. There's a strong mix of cultures that gets along, and that's a beautiful thing, so it's a special place."

He said the students and teachers have "a lot of pride and wanted to know what I thought of everything here." And he takes the job seriously. Copeland was one of six children and his father died when he was 12.

"So when I see the opportunity to provide kids with exposure to someone who's been successful, overcome something or has words of wisdom to offer them, I want to do that," he said. "As principal, I consider myself the ultimate helper, and I have a responsibility to the parents and children to run the best school possible."

Noting that Westfield has 100 fewer students this year than last year, Copeland wants to increase enrollment from the current 2,600 students to possibly 2,800. "I want to show them this is truly a great school with great teachers, kids, faculty and staff," he said. "We also have wonderful programs, both academic and extra-curricular."

SEE COPELAND, PAGE 7

Baldassari Is Named Sully District Officer of Month

Acknowledged for his expertise, enthusiasm and professional demeanor, PFC Kevin Baldassari is the Sully District Police Station's Officer of the Month for January. He was honored during the Feb. 10 meeting of the station's Citizens Advisory Committee.

Before presenting the officer with his award, Capt. Bob Blakley, the station commander, spoke about Baldassari, who works the evening shift.

"He truly is a leader out there, every single day," said Blakley. "As a patrol officer, he has the cool, calm and collected [frame of mind] to do the job well. He's also the field training instructor for new and auxiliary officers and is probably the best one we have. Guys like him risk their lives every day, and it's heroes like this who keep us safe."

In nominating him for the award, Baldassari's supervisor, Lt. Jonathan Stern, detailed the officer's many attributes. "PFC Baldassari has been selected as Officer of the Month based on his exemplary performance," wrote Stern. "He's been with the Fairfax County Police Department for 18 years and assigned to the Sully District Station for the past nine years."

Stern also noted that Baldassari "has proven himself to be the epitome of a well-rounded patrol officer. He sets the example for what a police officer should be — completely knowledgeable about his profession, enthusiastic about the work, maintaining an expert knowledge of his community, and being a great communicator."

"Baldassari recognizes his strengths and uses his positive attributes efficiently," continued Stern. "Kevin is a modern example of the old-time beat cop — fair, knowledgeable, respectable, reasonable and, most importantly, effective. Because of these abilities, he's been a field training instructor for many years. During 2015, he trained three new officers and one auxiliary officer."

Furthermore, wrote Stern, "Kevin is an invaluable asset to his squad and supervisors, as well. He's reliable and competent in his day-to-day job performance and goes way beyond the norm in order to ensure a safe and educated police force is on the job at the Sully District Station. PFC Baldassari is a dedicated and reliable employee and most deserving of this recognition."

— BONNIE HOBBS



PFC Kevin Baldassari (left) receives his certificate from Capt. Bob Blakley.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Team X-BOTS is a community team unlike many other teams that are school-based. The team consists of (from left): Thejus Unnivalan (TJHSST, 11th grade), Srinidhi Krishnan (TJHSST, 10th grade), Satish Venkatesan (Chantilly HS, 10th grade), Anoushka Chintada (RRMS, 8th grade), Nikhil Chintada (TJHSST, 11th grade), Shreya Menon (Robinson SS, 10th grade), Eric Link (TJHSST, 10th grade), Pooja-Aria Gupta (John Champe HS, 10th grade), Edward Sun (TJHSST, 10th grade), Charlie Wu (Longfellow MS, 7th grade), and Kieran Beaumont (TJHSST, 10th grade).

Heading to Eastern Super Regionals

FTC team 6700, the X-BOTS, a Robotics team of high-school and middle-school students from Northern Virginia, is heading to the FTC Eastern Super-Regional championships in Scranton, Pa., following a successful performance at Virginia State Championship on Feb 13 where they were awarded Inspire Award (3rd place), Won Kamen Division, were Championship finalists, and Nikhil Chintada won Dean's List finalist award to represent Virginia at World Championships.

X-BOTS will be one of 12 teams from Virginia out of 176 heading to Super Regional. X-BOTS will be

competing with 72 teams from Maine to Virginia in the FTC East Super-Regionals during March 18-20 for an opportunity to advance to the FTC World Championship in St. Louis, Mo.

On the way to Super Regional, X-BOTS won 19 awards this season, and 41 overall in the four years they have competed.

FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) is a program created by F.I.R.S.T (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a not-for-profit organization founded by Dean Kamen, that promotes STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) for students in grades 7-12.

ROUNDUPS

WFCCA Land-Use Committee

The West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee will meet Tuesday, March 15, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly. On the agenda are proposed changes to the Chantilly Crossing Shopping Center, including a Lidl grocery store.

Dialogue on Teen Drug Use

Westfield High School PTSA invites parents to an evening of dialogue on Thursday, March 17, 7 p.m. in the school's lecture hall with a panel of high school seniors about drugs and alcohol use, teen parties, parent supervision and enabling, social media and communication with parents. Facilitating will be Jennifer Lewis-Cooper of the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County. This is a parents-only event open to the community.

Expect Delays at Intersection

Drivers can expect 10- to 15-minute delays at the intersection of Braddock and Pleasant Valley roads for cable relocation:

- ❖ Monday, March 7 to Thursday, March 10: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ❖ Friday, March 11: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ❖ Saturday, March 12: 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Motorists are advised to use alternate routes.

This project replaces the existing four-way stop with a one-lane roundabout in western Fairfax, to improve operations and enhance safety. The \$5.8 million project is being administered in cooperation with Fairfax County and is expected to be complete in May.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, March 17, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Time to Spring Forward

Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday, March 13, at 2 a.m. So before going to bed Saturday night, make sure to turn all clocks, watches and the time on electronic devices forward one hour.

Leland House Receives Grant

UMFS' Leland House in Centerville, which works with high-risk youth in crisis situations, received a \$10,000 grant from the CarMax Foundation.

Leland House staff will use the money to provide therapeutic services, Spanish-speaking interpreters and the purchase of special workbooks, as well as other tools and toys used in therapy sessions.

UMFS is a nonprofit social service organization with locations throughout Virginia. Visit www.umfs.org

Moving Equipment Is Sought

The Centerville Labor Resource Center is in need of moving equipment to add to its tool supplies. Requested items are back braces, lift belts, sliders and straps that are used for moving jobs.

This equipment can be checked out by workers and brought back when they complete jobs. It will ensure that they're able to complete moving jobs more safely. In addition, the CLRC is seeking Spanish-speaking people to fill a number of volunteer positions. Contact Molly Maddra-Santiago at director@centervillelrc.org.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Police Honor Chick-Fil-A

Chick-Fil-A's Peter Kim (left) receives a plaque from police 1st Lt. Matt Owens. The restaurant was honored during the Feb. 10 meeting of the Sully District Station's Citizens Advisory Committee. Owens, the assistant station commander, said Chick-Fil-A donated food to the police officers working on New Year's Eve and has partnered with the station on various community projects. The plaque recognized Chick-Fil-A for its "continued, outstanding support and dedication to the men and women of the Sully District Police Station."

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Sully District Police Station.

BURGLARY: 6100 block of Jenlar Dr. March 5, 1:04 a.m. A resident reported that someone entered the residence and took property.

BURGLARY: 5700 block of Osprey Ct. March 4, 8:04 p.m. A resident reported that someone entered the residence and took property.

BURGLARY, 13800 block of Braddock Springs Road, Feb. 26, 9:35 p.m. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

DUI / REFUSAL OF BREATH TEST: New Braddock Road/Union Mill Road, Feb. 26, 8:41 p.m. Officers responded to a car accident at this location. One of the drivers was suspected of being under the influence of alcohol. A 39-year-old Centerville man was charged with driving under the influence, obstruction of justice, refusal of breath test, and driving on a suspended license.

TRESPASSING: 4700 Stonecroft Blvd, Feb. 17. A former student was found to be trespassing at Westfields High School. On Feb. 20, A 18-year-old man from Centerville was charged with trespassing.

Stone Middle Students To Visit United Kingdom

Exchange program began in 2003.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE CONNECTION

With Spring Break around the corner for Fairfax County Public Schools, 19 students from Centreville's Ormond Stone Middle School are gearing up for the trip of a lifetime: an eight-day adventure in the United Kingdom.

In 2003, under the leadership of then-Principal Ken Gaudreault, Stone Middle School established a partnership with The Warriner School in Oxfordshire, United Kingdom, for an exchange program that

every other year sends groups of students and accompanying school faculty members in both directions across the Atlantic.

The exchange program with the Warriner School is completely funded by the students that participate.

"The first exchange took place in 2003, and with the length of the student application and preparation processes, we do it every other year," said Christine Sciabica, Stone Middle School vice principal. "That would mean we've done seven exchanges, with 150 students and their families that have participated since it all started. We usually take somewhere between 20 and 24 students, keeping it manageable so that we only need one bus for the touring and other activities abroad."

The upcoming March 18-26 trip to Oxfordshire will be the fourth one of these exchanges for Sciabica, who agrees that the opportunity for both students and faculty to immerse in another culture for a week or so has proven to be invaluable.

"Through the years, this program has been a great experience for students and staff, giving them an opportunity that normally they wouldn't have," she said. "While it's not extensive, being just a week in another country, it's a great exposure to another culture that, while not terribly different, it still is different.

For example, British history is so much longer than America's. The education system is very different than ours, with uniforms and year-round school. It's a great experience for students and staff."

Jennifer Kudlacik, whose 7th grade son Dane will be going to Oxfordshire later this



Ormond Stone Middle School's 2016 exchange participants.

month, said the exchange program has already benefitted her son even more than she imagined it would.

"My mother and I were both born in London," Kudlacik said. "I brought the idea of the exchange program to Dane, because I thought it would be a great way for him to learn more about my side of the family, and our country. Also, my husband and I are well traveled, and we thought the exchange program was an exceptional opportunity to carry on this tradition. The program definitely has broadened Dane's perspective has given him an idea of how large and diverse our world really is. He was fascinated with the differences between himself and his exchange buddy, Alex. He's looking forward to his visit to England over Spring Break."

The program partners one Stone Middle School student to a Warriner School student, like Dane and Alex.

When the Warriner students travel to the Washington D.C.-metropolitan area, they stay with their American partner's family, who agree to expose the visiting English student to American culture and cuisine outside of school hours. The same is true for Warriner School families when they host their children's partners from Stone.

Similarly, faculty members stay with the host country's faculty

members.

"We don't have parents go," Sciabica said. "It is always staff members, who will split their time between observing classes and teaching classes. During one visit, for example, one of the Warriner teachers taught physical education, so when he was here

at Stone, so he did a co-lesson with one of our P.E. teachers."

For each part of the exchange, there are designated days for the visiting students to tour some defining landmarks and sites of their foreign destination.

During last month's Warriner visit, the English students and staff explored some hallmark Washingtonian spots, including Mount Vernon, the Washington D.C. monuments and the Newseum. They also experienced an unforeseen snow day for Fairfax County, limiting their days in the classroom but giving them a taste of life during winter for students in Northern Virginia suburbs.

Now, it's the Stone group's turn to fulfill their wanderlust. As the students are dreaming of Big Ben and Buckingham Palace, the teachers still have lessons to prepare before the group leaves for England on March 18.

"We have a science teacher going, so she is going to teach a science lesson," Sciabica said. "I will be teaching a lesson on American government, since that was what I taught before I became an administrator. One of my computer specialists is going, too, so she will be doing a computer lesson. This is a true student and faculty exchange."

The program has evolved since 2003, with most of the changes relating to how much the students are expected to connect and communicate with their international buddies before meeting face-to-face. This generation of students, for example, has free access to all kinds of technology and free applications that make long-distance bonding much easier, and without the cost it once involved.

"Communication has really changed because back when we started in 2003, there weren't the types of cell phones and social media that there is now," Sciabica said. "We used to rely on expensive video conferencing equipment that could be tens of thousands of dollars. That type of technology isn't really needed anymore. Now, we have a \$100 wide-angle webcam that

works in some ways better than the really expensive equipment we started out using. There is now constant communication between these kids before it's time for the Warriner group to come over. Where there used to be a lot of group planning and meetings for communicating with The Warriner School, now the expectation is on the students to spend their own time getting to know their partner. Today, kids have that ability to constantly communicate."

While pre-travel communication may have changed in the last 13 years, the popularity of the program has not. Every year, about 60 students apply for roughly 20 spots.

The selection process involves parental consent as well as willingness to properly host a visiting student, a list of the applying students' interests, an essay, teacher recommendations and interviews of the interested rising-seventh graders.

Since the application process starts so many months ahead of the actual exchanges, eligible seventh graders are still only in sixth grade when selection begins, Sciabica said. Selection for the 2016 exchange started last January.

It's not a cut-and-dry selection, because the faculties of both The Warriner School and Stone Middle School create partnerships based on similarities and compatibilities. Girls will only stay with girls, for example, and each partnership must consist of two students in the same grade.

"This year, we have seven seventh graders and 12 eight graders," Sciabica said. "That's just how it worked out. We have to match what they have on the UK side. There are a lot of factors in deciding who to pick for this kind of international travel."

This program fosters passion for international travel and learning, all while forging lifelong relationships.

"As much as we do, The Warriner School faculty understands the value of the experience too," Sciabica said. "We are able to keep it going knowing this program is such a good experience with these students. It really has created situations where students have gotten lifelong friendships and relationships as well as a desire to study abroad. It's made a world of difference to so many of the families."

Kudlacik agreed that the exchange program has turned out to be more than an international learning opportunity for her son.

"Dane and Alex got along really well, better than we could have hoped," she said. "They will definitely will remain long term friends and have already mentioned meeting up outside of the exchange program. We'd love Alex to come visit again during the summer. I was also surprised at how excited and engaged my entire family became in the exchange process. My younger son spent a lot of time with Alex and Dane and now wants to apply when he's old enough. And, an unexpected bonus was how much time we all spent together. It was a good family bonding experience. My entire family benefited from the exchange."

OPINION

Bringing Back the Electric Chair

In a word: Barbaric.

No doubt Virginia and Texas will be the last two states to continue with the death penalty until, inevitably, evolving standards of decency lead the U.S. Supreme Court to declare that the death penalty is unconstitutional.

But fear of loss has motivated the Virginia General Assembly to amend a law that allows prisoners facing execution to choose between lethal injection and the electric chair so that the electric chair is used if drugs for lethal injection are not available.

It's barbaric, and execution debacles with electrocution and unproven drugs for lethal injection could speed overall rejection of the death penalty.

Most representatives from our area voted against, but in the House of Delegates, which voted 62-33 for the electric chair, Dave Albo, Jim LeMunyon and Vivian Watts voted in favor; Tim Hugo didn't vote but registered that he intended to vote yes. (Voting no were Jennifer Boysko, David Bulova, Eileen Filler-Corn, Charniele Herring, Patrick Hope, Mark Keam,

Paul Krizek, Mark Levine, Alfonso Lopez, Bob Marshall, Ken Plum, Mark Sickles, Marcus Simon and Rip Sullivan. Kathleen Murphy didn't vote but registered that she intended to vote no.)

The Virginia Senate voted for the electric chair 22-17. From our area, only Dick Saslaw voted in favor of the electric chair. Voting no were George Barker, Adam Ebbin, Barbara Favola, Janet Howell, Dave Marden, Chap Petersen, Scott Surovell and Jennifer Wexton.

Residents of the 35th Senate District could rightfully question whether they are getting the representation they expect from Senator Saslaw (D), who without doubt will continue to be reelected until he chooses to retire.

Saslaw voted for mandatory use of the electric chair if lethal injection drugs are not available, worked to kill legislation that would protect consumers from predatory lending and interest rates of more than 200 percent, and was chief patron of the notorious proffer bill, which, if signed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe as passed, will result in localities losing the ability to temper costs of development and likely property tax increases.

Making Good Choices On Saint Patrick's Day

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), will offer the 2016 St. Patty's Day SoberRide program, providing free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area next Thursday, March 17.

SoberRide will be available for 12 hours starting 4 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day and continuing until 4 a.m. on Friday, March 18 as a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

Make your own plans to celebrate safely by having a designated driver, celebrating where you can take public transportation or spend the night. But if those plans go awry, area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) for a no-cost (up to a \$30 fare), safe way home. For more information, visit www.soberride.com.

— MARY KIMM

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EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

General Assembly Agrees on Budget

BY JIM LEMUNYON
STATE DELEGATE (R-67)

The past week has been a busy one in the General Assembly as the House of Delegates passed the 2016-2018 biennial state budget. The Senate also passed a similar budget. During the next two weeks, differences between these two budgets, which are relatively minor, will be negotiated to form a consensus budget that will be forwarded to the governor. The new budget will take effect July 1.

Unlike the deficit spending and political acrimony in Washington D.C., the Virginia House passed a balanced budget on a bipartisan basis. The budget has no new taxes

or fees. The House budget bill, HB 30, passed the House on a vote of 98-2. I voted yes. I'd like to highlight funding for K-12 education, public university education, mental health, and transportation that is included in the House-passed budget.

K-12 education funding from the state will increase from \$7.1 to \$7.7 billion between 2016 and 2018. Education funding from the state for Fairfax County schools is \$614 million for the current school year. For the next two school years, the figures are \$632 million and \$671 million respectively. Higher education funding includes funding for increased access for in-state undergraduate students and

affordability.

General fund spending for higher education in the House-passed budget is \$1.77 billion in 2017 and \$1.82 billion in 2018. This compares to \$1.59 billion in the current year. These increases are aimed at holding tuition increases at in-state universities to no more than three percent per year, although each university board and not the General Assembly, makes this decision.

Funding for mental health treatment centers throughout the state is \$746 million for the 2016-18 period, an increase of 10 percent from 2014-2016.

Transportation funding statewide for 2016-2018 is \$13.4 bil-

lion, a 12 percent increase in funding from 2014-16. Part of the transportation funding includes \$140 million for widening I-66 eastbound inside the Beltway, with additional money available for I-66 improvements outside the Beltway.

These two related projects are expected to reduce congestion in Northern Virginia in a way that adds approximately 100,000 hours of time back into the lives of Northern Virginians each business day. These I-66 projects are expected to be completed by 2020 or 2021.

I may be reached at deljlemunyon@gmail.com or 703-264-1432. Your call will forward to the Richmond office.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community will be holding a program to introduce the True Islam and the Extremists campaign in the Virginia area on Friday, March 11, at 6:30-8 p.m. at the Mubarak Mosque, 4555 Ahmadiyya Drive, Chantilly.

Inconsistent messages from Muslim leadership have created increased risk of extremism and radicalization. The True Islam (trueislam.com) campaign aims to provide all Americans a clear way to distinguish true Islam from extremism and to unify Muslim

Americans on the correct understanding of Islam that Prophet Muhammad taught. To this end, the following 11 points

have been selected as key tenets of True Islam that differentiate it from extremism.

1. True Islam wholly rejects all forms of terrorism
2. True Islam believes in non violent Jihad of the self and of the pen
3. True Islam believes in the equality, education, and empowerment of women
4. True Islam advocates freedom of conscience, religion, and speech

5. True Islam advocates for the separation of mosque and state

6. True Islam believes in loyalty to your country of residence

7. True Islam encompasses the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

8. True Islam believes in all verses of the Qur'an and forbids lying

9. True Islam recognizes that no religion can monopolize salvation

10. True Islam believes in the need for unified Muslim leadership

11. True Islam rejects the concept of a bloody Messiah

We invite everyone, regardless of religious or political affiliation, to join us on the March 11 in a friendly atmosphere to understand the true Islamic perspective on these topics. The program will include a presentation, question and answer session, and refreshments. We hope you will join us in this initiative to promote peace through education and help rid society of misunderstanding, fear and hatred.

Rizwan Khan
Chantilly

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Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SOBER-RIDE FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Free Cab Rides. Thursday, March 17, 4 p.m. through Friday, March 18, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) and receive a free (up to a \$30 fare) safe way home. AT&T wireless customers can dial #WRAP for the same service. Visit www.soberride.com.

NOW REGISTERING

Kindergarten Registration. Greenbriar West Elementary School is now accepting information for next year's Kindergarten classes. Parents of children who live within the school's boundaries and who will turn 5 years of age by Sept. 30, 2016, should call the school office at 703-633-6700 as soon as possible.

THROUGH APRIL 18

Cell Phones for Soldiers. Donate unwanted cell phones to help active duty military and vets call loved ones. Drop-off at Liberty Tax, 5622-G Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Call 703-323-5580 for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

"LAX for a Cause." Southwestern Youth Association (SYA) and, Chantilly Youth Association (CYA) are joining forces to host the third annual "LAX for a Cause" day of lacrosse. The eight-hour lacrosse event features dozens of lacrosse games at Centreville High School to raise \$20,000 to benefit the nation's veterans through Fisher House Foundation. Visit syasports.org/lacrosse/Laxforacause to donate.

Open House. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. All Minnieland Academy locations in Centreville will have an

open House to unveil their Summer Camp EdVenture themes and activities. Parents and children are welcome to stop by any of the Centreville Square or Sully Station locations to learn about the summer theme, "Time Travelers," enjoy refreshments and reserve a place for their child. Visit www.minnieland.com/ for more.

Real Food For Kids Culinary Challenge. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Learn about food writing and photography, family meal planning, school gardening and school food. Watch 11 student teams compete to create a delicious school breakfast, lunch or snack. Visit www.realfoodforkids.org for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 17

"Saturday Night in the Suburbs." 7 p.m. at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. The program is open to adults in the community and features a panel of high school seniors who talk openly about alcohol and drug use, teen parties, social media, parent supervision and enabling, and communication with parents. Middle school and high school parents are encouraged to attend. Visit www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org or www.facebook.com/unifiedpreventioncoalition.

SUNDAY/MARCH 20

Easter Event. 3:30 p.m. at King of Kings Lutheran Church and Preschool, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. King of Kings Lutheran Church is having its annual Easter event for Families and Easter Egg Hunt — Rise Up With Jesus. Activities for children up to grade 6 include: picture with the Easter bunny, egg hunts for different ages and special needs, and decorating Easter trees. \$5 per child. All are invited. Contact Judi Cooper at jhagen@kofk.org or 703-378-7272, ext. 225 or visit www.kofk.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 21

Garden Club Meeting. 7 p.m. at Sully

Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Centreville Garden Club presents "All about Sedums" with Donna Kuroda, past president of the Cacti & Succulent Club of Washington, D.C. Visitors welcome. Learn more at centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com, email centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com or call 703-266-9233.

Woman's Club Meeting. 7 p.m. at the Cale Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. The GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club will host Joanna Walker who will relate the story of a difficult time when her son, diagnosed with bipolar disorder, was spiraling out of control.

Walker will discuss how she came to join the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Northern Virginia five years ago, and its role in providing support, education, and hope to individuals and families whose lives have been affected by mental illness. Guests are welcome and admission is free. Visit www.wfcwc.org or call Mary Jane at 703-378-4250 for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Financial Planner Consultations. 10 a.m.-2p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, Chantilly Conference Room, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly.

Certified Financial Planners from Quantis Wealth Management will give 20-minute one-on-one consultations at no cost and with no obligation as a public service. Contact Melinda Soulisak at melinda@quantiswm.com or 703-462-9643 to schedule an appointment.

MONDAY/MARCH 28

Kindergarten Registration. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Colin Powell Elementary School, 13340 Leland Road, Centreville. Colin Powell Elementary School in Centreville will conduct their kindergarten registration in the school cafeteria. Forms and other information are available at www.fcps.edu/it/forms/bundles.shtml. Due to time constraints, parents are asked not to bring children along.

Copeland

FROM PAGE 3

"I want to establish a stronger connection between the school and the community to make Westfield a focal point where graduates will come back and enjoy and appreciate the things we do here," he continued. "We want people to want to be here because they know we have a quality program with teachers who provide great instruction and great opportunities for kids to learn."

Copeland said his focus is on helping both students and teachers be the best they can. Leadership, he explained, is "the art of enabling others to do their very best, giving them confidence and putting them in the situations they need to be successful."

He expects the hardest part of his job will be leaving it someday because "there'll be no other experience like this."

We're graduating 97 percent of the kids out here, and the administrative team is incredibly experienced and competent at what it does."

The best part, said Copeland, will be seeing the graduates in June. "That's the end game — knowing that they're well-prepared for life, we've given them the tools to be successful and they had a great education here." And to the community, he said, "I appreciate the opportunity to be principal of this great school, and my faculty and staff are here to serve you and your kids."



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Westfield Boys' Basketball Returns to Winning Ways

Bulldogs beat C.D. Hylton in 6A state quarterfinals.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Tyler Scanlon said the Westfield boys' basketball team needed to do some soul searching after the Bulldogs lost to Battlefield in the 6A North region final on Feb. 27.

They must have found something useful. Westfield led by at least eight points throughout the second half and defeated C.D. Hylton 67-49 in the state quarterfinals

“Battlefield destroyed us on the boards. It was hard to watch. You almost had to put your hands over your eyes. They just killed us on the boards. We had to learn from that. I think we did a better job of that tonight — we can still improve.”

— Westfield senior Tyler Scanlon

on Friday at Robinson Secondary School.

The Bulldogs advanced to the semifinals, where they faced 6A South champion Woodside on Tuesday at VCU, after The Connection's deadline.

Westfield entered the region final riding a 22-game win streak, but lost to Battlefield 77-72. After the game, Scanlon said the Bobcats were tougher, worked harder



Westfield senior Hank Johnson finished with a double-double, scoring 20 points and grabbing 11 rebounds, during the Bulldogs' win over C.D. Hylton on Friday in the state quarterfinals at Robinson Secondary School.

and rebounded better than the Bulldogs, who had won the region title and finished state runner-up the previous season.

Six days later, Westfield took care of business against Hylton and earned a return trip to the state final four.

“It was a brutal week,” Scanlon said. “We watched film [from] that Battlefield game. Me and Coach [Doug] Ewell went at it for about 30 minutes [about] defense and schemes. That really helped us. ... Battlefield destroyed us on the boards. It was hard to watch. You almost had to put your hands over your eyes. They just killed us on the boards. We had to learn from that. I think we did a better job of that tonight — we can still improve.”

“We focused on defense and boxing out this week, that's really all it was.”

Ewell said the loss to Battlefield might have been beneficial for Westfield, forcing the Bulldogs to evaluate their shortcomings and make adjustments. Change, however, didn't come immediately.

“To be honest with you, on Monday I thought we were done,” Ewell said. “If you would have asked me Monday or Tuesday, I thought our kids waved the white flag ... so it was really good for us to grow throughout the week. If we had played on Tuesday or Wednesday, we would have been in a lot of trouble. But I think growing, communicating, maybe humbling yourself a little bit, was probably a really good thing for us. I'm really proud of the way they played.”

“They played probably their best team game in a long time.”

Senior guard Blake Francis led Westfield with 21 points and Scanlon finished with 15. Junior guard Kory Jones scored eight points.

While Scanlon and Francis have been Westfield's top offensive threats for the last two seasons, Hank Johnson has stepped up to help carry the load. The 6-foot-4 senior



Westfield senior Tyler Scanlon scored 15 points against C.D. Hylton in the state quarterfinals on Friday.

produced a double-double Friday, finishing with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

“Hank is playing amazing,” Ewell said. “He's being really consistent. It's great to have a consistent third. He's a big, he can step out and shoot it, he can score at the rim, he makes free throws and so that's a huge plus.”

Johnson scored nine points in the third quarter, including a 3-pointer that gave Westfield a 46-32 lead with 1:43 remaining.

“Monday was really a big day for us,” Johnson said. “Coach Ewell kind of said be all in or just go home. We're still in this. Our goal is still ahead of us. We just kept working. We had a really good week of practice. Coach Ewell pushed us really hard and it showed tonight.”

Westfield advanced to Richmond for the state semifinals. Last year, the Bulldogs lost to Colonial Forge, 47-46, in the state final.

“We want it all,” Johnson said. “We're not going down there just to say we made it to VCU. We're going down to win it all and we're very intent on doing that.”

SPORTS BRIEF

Senior Softball League Seeks Players

The Northern Virginia Senior Softball League is looking for players for the 2016 spring/summer and fall seasons starting April 5 and ending in late October.

Women age 40 and up and men age 50 and up are eligible to play. Games are played on Tuesday and Thursday mornings starting at 9:30 a.m. at various playing fields in Fairfax County. The league has more than 500 members and fields teams at three sepa-

rate competitive levels of play so there is a place for players regardless of skill level, of age, when last played, or if one never played.

The league holds skill assessments to determine competitive level placement.

The league has many players in their 70s and 80s. See www.facebook.com/NorthernVirginiaSeniorSoftball and www.nvss.org for more.



Blake Francis led Westfield with 21 points during the Bulldogs' victory over C.D. Hylton on Friday.

Buying or Selling?

A primer for doing either and avoiding pitfalls.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Here we are, once again right on the edge of the Spring/Summer real estate season when it seems like “For Sale” signs become the most common lawn ornament or condo window decoration.

With help from some knowledgeable sources like the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR), the National Association of Realtors (NAR) and some respected local experts, here’s a bit of a primer on buying or selling a property. We’re going for the basics here with a few comments about our local market.

Let’s start with our sellers, since for the most part, they have the most work to do to get the job done.

Let’s assume that you are working with an agent. Hopefully, you asked all the right questions before signing an agreement to sell. Don’t be shy. It’s okay to “interview” several agents and ask for references. Ask to make contact with their last two or three clients – not just the ones that they offer up as testimonials.

Be realistic about your asking price. “Don’t be too aggressive,” cautioned real estate agent Jennifer Boyce of Long and Foster in Burke.

Anita Lasansky, CRB, managing brokerage president Long and Foster Reston North Hills-Herndon, agrees with that advice, and adds that sellers around the Wiehle Metro station in Reston shouldn’t expect a big bump in sales price just because of Metro’s arrival. Lasansky has seen sellers factor in 5-10 percent increases on that basis, but “it just hasn’t had that effect,” she said.

Think about getting a pre-sale home inspection. This could cost a bit. Think at least \$500, depending on the size and age of the property. Being proactive could help locate potential problems that might stall, or even end a sale. Even if you don’t go for the professional inspection, take a look around and get on with those repairs or more affordable upgrades you’ve been meaning to tackle. While you’re at it, locate those warranties and manuals - something that really impresses those buyers, while last-minute searches could pose a problem at closing.

Clean and get organized. Here’s where you need that thick skin. Your agent isn’t casting aspersions on your personal taste or “dissing” your kids, pets, hobbies, etc. when she tells you to neutralize as much as possible, put away the toys and pet paraphernalia, and all the other stuff that is part of our comfortable living. Your agent is merely looking out for you, and making your home appealing to the widest pool of potential buyers. Pay special attention to closets and bathrooms, and no, don’t use the spare bedroom as the storage catch-all. If there isn’t space inside the house, con-



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

What’s wrong with this picture? It’s a gorgeous kitchen, but real estate agents will tell you that the green plastic cup, the dishwashing soap and the drainboard should all vanish from the selling photos of your house, and certainly during any showings.

sider the smallest space at a storage facility for the the extra boxes, furniture, gadgets and whatnots while your property is on the market.

First impressions. That means check out curb appeal, from the condition of lawn and landscape to the front entryway. Trim those bushes. Edge that grass. Put down some new mulch, and clean up those oil spots on the driveway.

Photos. Let the professionals handle this one. Most buyers today do their scouting online. Lots of quality photos attract the most visitors.

YOUR REAL ESTATE AGENT can give you a more comprehensive checklist and do a walk-through before an Open House or to prepare for showings, but here are some of the “musts” as advised by some of our area experts:

- ❖ Double check for clutter, and clean, clean, clean. A thorough cleaning by a professional service is much recommended. Don’t forget the windows and the carpets.

- ❖ Do the “Sniff Test.” This one is critical for homes with pets or smokers. Again, put on your thick skin armour. Refrigerators, garbage disposals, trash cans and carpets can be odoriferous stumbling blocks to a good showing. Give your home a thorough airing out before show time, especially in the kitchen.

- ❖ Double check for sticking doors, burned out light bulbs, loose knobs.

- ❖ **Stage it** – Consider a professional “stager” or at least give each space a neutral, de-cluttered living “story” that helps buyers visualize themselves right at home.

To highlight upgrades or bring attention to items/features in a room, you might add an attractive picture frame with a few well written and formatted sentences on classy writing paper. Of course, a little light music and a plate of yummy cookies make everyone feel welcome.

- ❖ Put away small valuables, jewelry and medications.

- ❖ **Don’t hang around** – and take Fido or Fifi with you if possible. If not, confine pets to crates or one room and be sure to warn agents in advance. Be sure you have left contact information in case of questions or issues.

- ❖ **Make your property accessible** – If potential buyers can only see your property from 10 a.m. until noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, prepare for a long wait before a successful closing. Selling a home is often a numbers game. As disruptive as it can be, the more people who look, the better chance of a sale.

FOR BUYERS. Just as with the sellers, buyers should shop around for a trusted real estate partner. Again, ask those questions, get those referrals and be sure that your agent understands your needs and expectations and that you understand the process as they describe it.

Buyers don’t have to do all that physical prep work until it’s time to get ready for their actual move, but there are a lot of considerations to deal with on this side of the real estate fence, as well. The best starting place is making sure that you know what you are looking for. Single family house with an enormous backyard or a “zero lot?” A condo in an urban setting with Metro ac-

cess, or a more resort feel with access to walking/biking trails or other amenities? The National Association of Realtors suggests developing a “Home/Neighborhood Wish List,” prioritizing from “must have” to “it would be nice if ...” and reviewing the list after a few viewings to see if your thoughts have changed.

Some of the basics as advised by the NVAR and NAR and some of their area experts:

- ❖ **Get pre-qualified.** Better yet, get pre-approved by a lender before you start looking. That way you will know what you can afford, be ready to make an offer and be a more attractive buyer since the seller knows you can make good on that offer. In many markets within Northern Virginia, buyers still outnumber inventory, so pre-approval can help set your offer apart. Megan Bailey of Bailey Fine Properties says “Buyers must be pre-approved before going out to look at homes with me. It’s important to know that they feel comfortable ... by having the lender provide them with a “Good Faith Estimate” to break down the costs and to make sure the lender can finance the home. Taking someone to look at homes out of their price range ... sets the client up for disappointment.”

- ❖ **Be ready to move** – sounds simple, but buyers have lost out on deals because they weren’t ready. Worse yet, they may put their “Earnest Money Deposit” at risk if they can’t go through with a sale as contracted.

- ❖ **Think about resale.** This may sound counter intuitive at this point, but especially for first-time buyers with an average of 10 years in the home, it’s good to think ahead and consider what the area and the home might be like when it’s time to move on.

- ❖ **Keep repair, maintenance and running costs in mind.** Even a brand-new home may require some work or customizing to suit your lifestyle, so consider those costs. You may have the approval for that attractive “McMansion” but are you prepared for the electric bills, mowing that acre, and the property taxes on top of the monthly mortgage? Ask the seller for details on utility costs and other maintenance that the property requires, i.e. pool upkeep.

- ❖ **Don’t go “house-blind.”** When you are so taken with the house that you might ignore factors that will ultimately make for a poor buying decision. Visit the property several times, inside and out, at various times of the day and on different days of the week to get a real feel for the neighborhood.

- ❖ **Research.** Your agent can direct you to resources where you can check out local schools. Even if you don’t have school-aged children, it’s something to think about for re-sale down the road or any kids you may be adding to the family.

For those buyers considering a condo or property with an HOA (Home Owners Association) there are even more questions to ask and things to be considered. These can get pretty specific and detailed, so your best bet is to ask that agent.

And It's Just So Happening Now



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

The day after my seven-year anniversary. And not that I want to stop recounting the years since February 27, 2009 – years for which I am most proud to have survived – and thrived even, I must look forward because it's the future that lies ahead, not the past. Medicine, science and nutrition are particularly evolving disciplines with revelations, discoveries and life-changing/life-saving/life-affirming research in the offing. Nevertheless, having beaten my original, extremely discouraging, life-expectancy odds/prognosis: "13 months to two years," (received at age 54 and a half no less), doesn't mean that I can rest on my unexpected and certainly unpredicted survival. I wish the past was indeed prologue but we're discussing cancer here; I'm more afraid the past may simply be a prelude and that my epilogue may suffer the consequences.

But not to worry. I'm not weakening in my resolve, just being realistic and honest. Cancer is not the preferred diagnosis when one is planning one's future. Even so, rates of survival seem to rise every day now, and research studies, clinical trials (and tribulations) and non-Western alternatives, assure that presently, if not in the very near future, great promise exists that many more of us afflicted with this terrible disease can begin/return to live relatively normal lives, making cancer more of a chronic, treatable/manageable-type condition rather than what it is now, in many cases (not all, of course): a terminal one, or at least one with an abbreviated life expectancy.

Still, I'm not counting on any magic pill to cure what ails me. This whole cancer thing is my responsibility. I must do all I can to keep my own house in order. Relying, depending or anticipating even that some opportunity will present itself to rid me of my cancer cannot be my plan "A." Plan "C" maybe? As such, in the interim, I must steady on and stay the course and try to remain open to new and different strategies, all the while attempting to find calm in the midst of a very distressing set of circumstances.

And diagnosis-to-date, I think I've done a pretty good job of bearing the unbearable. Not that I had any training or experience in such endeavors (I had a relatively easy childhood in a middle-class home, with two loving parents, and minimal sickness and/or loss with which to contend). Nevertheless, through DNA or a nurturing environment or thousands of years of evolution, it turns out I'm made of sterner stuff than I might have imagined. As an effect, or so it seems, I have endured my challenges with aplomb and good humor; and if ever there were a situation that called for it, receiving a terminal diagnosis at age 54-plus would certainly qualify.

But just like, at a fairly young age, crying over spilled milk doesn't change the facts, neither does bemoaning the facts of a malignant diagnosis – in whatever alternative state you get to: denial and/or drink or disillusion, change anything. It may blur your reality, but the reality is: this particular problem is likely not going away, and the sooner you buck up and gain control, the sooner you can get on with your life. Granted, you have to allow for the shock of the diagnosis/prognosis to permeate your brain, almost like osmosis, and it definitely won't happen overnight, that's for sure. Probably it will happen when you experience your first chemotherapy infusion/radiation treatment. That's when you'll know you're not in Kansas anymore – unless you're actually in Kansas. And when symptoms and hair loss occur, you'll be one-hundred-percent convinced that you've officially entered your own "twilight zone."

And that's what this anniversary part two column has been about: moving forward somehow. Whether staying the course or changing protocols/treatment, maintaining a positive attitude in this constant cycle of wondering if you can still live long and prosper, the future likely holds out more hope than the past.

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

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ONGOING

Photos with the Easter Bunny.

Through March 26, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Fair Oaks Mall - Grand Court, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. The Easter Bunny will greet visitors in Bunnyville—a three-dimensional town for children to explore. Located on the lower level in Grand Court, Bunnyville features many places to visit including Hoppin' Fresh Bakery, Hare Salon and 24 Carrot Bank. The last stop along the adventure is an opportunity to visit with the Easter Bunny and have photos taken. Free. Visit www.shopfairoaksmall.com.

Carolina Shag Dance. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Visit www.nvshag.org for more.

Open Rehearsal. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaire.org for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Castles & Catapults Workshops. 10-11 a.m. at Children's Science Center, 11948 Fair Oaks Mall, Fair

Oaks. Children will learn about science and engineering principles, like gravity, buoyancy, and simple machines, presented in the context of medieval times. Activities include building towers, boats, draw-bridges, and catapults as well as designing medieval coats of arms and jewelry. This session is for grades 1-3. The price per participant is \$160. Visit www.childsci.org for more.

Science Solutions Workshops.

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at Children's Science Center, 11948 Fair Oaks Mall, Fair Oaks. Children will apply science, math and engineering solutions to help the owners of the "E.Z. Science Journal" They will create sand clocks, design an experiment, build a stronger egg carton, solve knot puzzles, design journal cover art, sketch and construct a new invention, and develop more efficient delivery routes. The price per participant is \$160. Visit www.childsci.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 10

Authors Panel. 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Art Taylor, Agatha Award winner and author of "On the Road with Del & Louise," leads a panel of novelists and short story writers whose work treads between literary fiction and crime writing. Authors include Tara Laskowski, Laura Ellen Scott, and Steve Weddle. Call 703-830-2223.

FRIDAY/MARCH 11

Sipping & Painting. 6:30 p.m. at the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Instructors give step-by-step instructions to create a painting of a sunset. \$40 for club

members, \$45 for non-members. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Feeding Day. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Join a naturalist and youth volunteers at the park who will demonstrate how site display animals are fed, and give them a hand with feeding time. Make a birdfeeder to take home. Tickets are \$6. Call 703-631-0013.

Author Talk: "George Washington's Mulatto Man: Who Was Billy Lee." 11 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Author Jim Thompson will talk about tracing the tragic yet fascinating life of Billy Lee, George Washington's personal servant. Copies of his new book will be for sale. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce or call 703-830-2223.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 11-13

National Capital Boat Show. 12-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday at Dulles EXPO & Conference Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Dealers from Virginia and Maryland will showcase jon boats, yachts, etc. Marinas, electronics, water sports and safety equipment will be on display. Meet experts on insurance, financing, repair, maintenance and boating safety. Tickets are \$10, free for children 16 and under. Visit www.dullesexpo.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Family Day: Women in Aviation and Space. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at

Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. At this family day, learn about the significant contributions women have made despite the many challenges they faced. The day will feature presentations by women in the field, hands-on activities, and stories. Free. Call 703-572-4118 or visit airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy.

Irish Community Dance. 6:30-10 p.m. at Frying pan Park Visitors Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Marilyn Moore calls an Irish Ceili and Set Dance. Tickets are \$15, \$35 maximum for families. Visit www.ccepotomamc.org for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 12-13

Sipping & Painting II. 11:30 a.m. at the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Instructors give step-by-step instructions to create a painting of a sunset. \$40 for club members, \$45 for non-members. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for more.

Barrel Tasting Weekend. 12-5 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Guests will enter the barrel room in a small group and proceed through three different stops to taste nine different wines directly from barrel. Also, find food pairings along the way. Tickets are \$25, \$15 for members. Call 703-830-9463.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

Lecture. 2 p.m. at Total Wine, 13055-C Lee Highway, Fairfax. Adele Barnett, WSWDC founder and Wedgwood specialist presents "Shell-Shock: Centuries of Wedgwood's Shell Fancying," followed by a wine-tasting. Free. Visit www.wedwoodcapital.org for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 18

Friday Night Flights: Library. 7 p.m. at the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. "Library Wines" will be featured in this event led by Dean Gruenburg and accompanied by light bites. Tickets are \$35-45. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 18-19

Chantilly Invitational Jazz Festival. 4:30 p.m.-10 p.m. on Friday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. on Saturday at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Watch as jazz bands and combos from area middle schools and high schools compete. Featured artists this year include the U.S. Air Force Band Airmen of Note and National Jazz Workshop All Star Jazz Orchestra. Exhibition performances by Chantilly High School's own Workshop Jazz and Chantilly Jazz groups. Free. Visit www.chantillyband.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 18-20

Super Pet Expo. 3-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday at Dulles EXPO & Conference Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Find education and shopping opportunities. Also, pets are invited to play, and pets will be available for adoption. Weekend passes are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children and day passes are \$13 for adults and \$8 for children. Children 3 and under are admitted for free. Visit www.dullesexpo.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 19-20

Barrel Tasting Weekend. 12-5 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Guests will enter the barrel room in a small group and proceed through three different stops to taste nine different wines directly from barrel. Also, find food pairings along the way. Tickets are \$25, \$15 for members. Call 703-830-9463.

SUNDAY/MARCH 20

N Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK group will have a display and running N Gauge Model Trains. Tickets for museum members and children 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; adults 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 22

Lecture: "A Woman's Story of Life in Virginia After the War." 7:30 p.m. at Cabell's Mill, 5235 Walney Road, Centreville. Cornelia Peake McDonald will share her family's struggles in a devastated Virginia in the years following the Civil War. Portions of Mrs. McDonald's Civil War diary have been published as "A Woman's Civil War." Free. Call 703-830-5407.

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

Lecture: Building Stars, Planets, and the Ingredients for Life in Space. 8 p.m. at Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Ewine F. van Dishoeck, professor of molecular astrophysics at the Leiden Observatory at Leiden University in the Netherlands and winner of the 2015 Albert Einstein World Award of Science will discuss the discovery of planets around stars other than our Sun at this year's John N. Bahcall Lecture. Tickets are free, but require registration. Call 703-572-4118.

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