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CENTRE VIEW

MAY 30 - JUNE 5, 2018

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE

1st Lt. Ryan Morgan (left), assistant commander of the Sully District Police Station, presents Officer of the Year certificate to PFC Devin White.



Sully's Officer Of the Year

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'Amazon Would Be A Game-Changer' Here

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW
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Theater Directors Respond to Cappies Nominations

Westfield and Chantilly will be at June 10 awards gala.

By Bonnie Hobbs

The 2018 Cappies Awards Gala is Sunday, June 10, at 7 p.m., at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and both Westfield and Chantilly High will be well-represented. That's because Westfield's musical, "The Phantom of the Opera," captured 13 Cappies nominations, and Chantilly's play, "Pride and Prejudice," received three nominations.

Westfield was honored for: Rising Critic: Grace Jenkins, Julia Tucker and Sarah Bourgeois (individual nominations); Graduating Critic: Diana Witt and Anna Krelovich (individual nominations); Special Effects and/or Technology: Ray Panzer; Hair and Makeup: Kaili Fox; Sound: Nic Swanson, Vicky Thomas; Orchestra: The Don Juannabes; Female vocalist: Molly Van Trees; Male vocalist: John Henry Stamper; Critic Team and Musical.

Chantilly was recognized for Costumes; Stage management and crew: Valerie Mellard and stage crew; and Comic Actress in a Play: Annie Silva. And both Westfield and Chantilly's theater directors are delighted with the Cappies nods their schools garnered.

"I am incredibly excited for all of the nominations 'The Phantom of the Opera' received," said Westfield Director Rachel Harrington. "The show turned out beautifully, and I couldn't be prouder of all my students.

They took on a production that presented itself from the start as a difficult show. However, they took on those chal-



The cast of Chantilly High's "Pride and Prejudice" poses for a group shot. Photo Courtesy of Shannon Khatcheressian

lenges and raised the bar even higher."

"I attribute all of this wonderful recognition to their hard work and talent," she continued. "And what a wonderful season for high-school theater arts. As a teacher, I beam with pride for my students, my school and the county that supports our students as they pursue their passion in theater arts."

At Chantilly, Director Shannon Khatcheressian said, "We are thrilled with our Cappies nominations. We were so proud of the show — and to see members of our cast and crew recognized for their time, commitment and talent is always welcome."

She said the school's costuming team actually consisted of more than 20 students who participated in both the costume design and construction. And, she noted, "They really learned a lot throughout the process and created some simply magnificent garments."

Khatcheressian described the show's stage manager, Valerie Mellard, as "the constant source of balance for everyone throughout our production. We had a lot of major scene changes that needed to move quickly and professionally, and we didn't want it to distract from the pacing of the story. Valerie was essential in ensuring that we all worked



The cast of Westfield High's "The Phantom of the Opera." John Henry Stamper and Molly Van Trees are in the front row, center.

as a cohesive unit and supported one another."

In the acting realm, said Khatcheressian, "Annie Silva was nominated for Comedic Actress in a Play, and I was simply thrilled for her.

She is such a wonderfully physical actress; she adapts quickly to character and blocking changes and really makes the character her own. And she was instrumental in providing the comedic relief in a heavier piece, such as 'Pride and Prejudice.'"

Candidates Seek to Convince Local Voters

Sully and Hunter Mill Democrats host forum for 10th Congressional District.

By Andrea Worker

With only three weeks left until the June 12 primaries when one of them will be chosen to challenge two-term incumbent U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10), the six Democratic candidates continue to circle the widespread 10th Congressional District, individually holding events and knocking on doors, as well as meeting on stage in their battle to differentiate themselves from each other.

One of the latest combined candidate forums took place in the Chantilly High School auditorium on Tuesday, May 22, hosted by the Sully District Democratic Committee and their neighbors in the Hunter Mill District. Before turning over the microphone to event moderator Robert McCarthy, senior regional correspondent covering government and politics for the Washington Post, Sully District Democratic

Committee Chair Maggie Godbold made the opening remarks to the crowd that turned out despite spurts of torrential downpours. Before passing the baton, however, Godbold informed the contenders that she was still an undecided voter, but planned to make up her mind that evening before casting an early voting ballot the following morning.

"So, don't any of you feel any pressure," she quipped.

As the candidates took their seats on stage, there was one noticeable absence: state Sen. Jennifer Wexton (VA33) was missing from the forum, having been called back into session in the General Assembly in Richmond.

"Jennifer wishes she could be here tonight, but she is back in the capital, working on the budget, pay raises for teachers, and more," said Sully District Democratic Committee Treasurer Jerry Foltz, offering

See Candidates Seek, Page 3



Photo by Andrea Worker

The latest skirmish for the right to challenge U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R) for the 10th Congressional District seat included candidates (from left) Julia Biggins, Dan Helmer, Lindsey Stover Davis, Alison Friedman, and Paul Pelletier with Sully District Democratic Committee Chair Maggie Godbold and forum moderator Robert McCarthy.

'A Constant Achiever, Going the Extra Mile'

White honored as Sully District Station's Officer of Year.

Bonnie Hobbs

It takes someone special to be selected as a police station's Officer of the Year. And as far as Capt. Dean Lay and 1st Lt. Ryan Morgan — the Sully District Station's commander and assistant commander, respectively — are concerned, PFC Devin T. White is that person.

They both nominated White for this honor for 2017 and officially recognized him during the March 14 meeting of the station's Citizens Advisory Committee. To explain why he was chosen, Morgan read their nomination letter out loud.

"The schedule and duties of patrol on the midnight shift are challenging and unpredictable," he said. "Often, some in our community take advantage of perceived opportunities under the cover of darkness, while the majority sleep."

So, said Morgan, "Midnight officers are tasked with ensuring the communities of Fairfax County remain safe, and [they] do so by proactively patrolling the roadways, neighborhoods and business districts. Police Officer First Class Devin White has demonstrated outstanding performance and dedication throughout 2017, exemplifying the mission of the Fairfax County Police Department."

He said White understands the dangers of impaired driving and makes every effort to keep the roads safe for the motoring public. And to increase his knowledge and understanding in this field, White applied for and was selected to participate in the Alco-

hol Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement course.

Hosted by the National Enforcement Training Center, in conjunction with the Department of Motor Vehicles, this course was created to address the gap in training between Standardized Field Sobriety Training and Drug Evaluation and Classification. It's routinely reserved for officers who are specialists in DWI enforcement units. But, said Morgan, "Due to White's strong, demonstrated commitment in this field, he was selected and returned with valuable information which was provided and proffered to other interested officers at the Sully Station."

Furthermore, White was recognized in December 2017 by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP). Founded in 1982, its goal is to keep the Metropolitan Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths lower than the national average, through education and advocacy.

WRAP representatives honored White for his continued, exemplary enforcement efforts to identify and apprehend motorists suspected of driving while intoxicated. And besides this regional acknowledgement, he was nominated as Officer of the Month for the Sully District on three, separate occasions and was selected for the recognition in March.

This honor was initiated by his supervisors and reviewed by the station commanders; and, said Morgan, it was supported by White's "continued DWI and criminal enforcement efforts. For calendar year 2017,



PFC Devin White

his 50 DWI arrests led the Sully District Station and ranked fourth among the nearly 1,400 sworn Fairfax County police officers. White also led the Sully District with 168 criminal arrests."

But White's contributions don't end with DWI and criminal enforcement. "He takes pride in managing calls-for-service in his patrol area and routinely volunteers for assignments with other squads," said Morgan. "White finds balance in serving the community in times of need." Morgan then presented two examples of how White has done just that.

* "In July 2017, White was dispatched to a reported, weapons call on Pan Am Avenue, part of a community on the northwestern end of the Sully District," said Morgan. "On his arrival, he encountered two individuals: The person who called for police assistance, and another — who was nearly unconscious — laying bloodied in a driveway. White assessed the situation and recognized the person on the driveway had suffered obvious stab wounds from an unknown assailant."

Recognizing the injuries to be serious, White immediately called for rescue. "From what could be observed, the victim had at least four stab wounds," said Morgan. "One of the most serious and un-stabilized ones was a wound to the victim's arm. White obtained and applied a departmental tourniquet and performed other life-saving measures, while his squad mates took efforts to locate the perpetrator."

The Fire and Rescue Department arrived shortly afterward to provide additional life-saving efforts before transporting the man to a hospital.

"It was determined by medics and doctors that the actions taken by White that night directly correlated to the victim's survival," stressed Morgan. "The heroic actions

of White have also been discussed for consideration through the Department's Meritorious Awards Committee."

* Then in October 2017, White was dispatched in response to an assault report. "Through his investigation, he determined a violent, domestic assault occurred," said Morgan. "He performed an outstanding investigation through multiple interviews and information-gathering techniques. The victim in the case had tried to fend off his angry, older brother who advanced swinging a full-sized machete. As a result, the younger brother sustained a severe, defensive laceration to his upper torso."

Upon completion of the police investigation, the older brother was arrested. "White had no issue effecting an arrest, but realized the value of the machete for evidentiary purposes," said Morgan. "With support from Sully Station detectives, he authored his first search warrant and coordinated with available resources to see its timely execution."

"The initiative to learn and work through the challenges of the legal requirements of this complicated incident was rewarding. During the search, White discovered items that assisted in the closure of additional property crimes in the area."

Overall, said Morgan, "White's performance over the past year is an excellent example of the kind of effort and responsibility we all appreciate from our officers. He is a constant achiever, going the extra mile to keep the community members of Fairfax County and, specifically, the Sully District, safe."

"White is dependable and has performed at a level that is rarely achieved by officers with similar time in grade," continued Morgan. "It is our great pleasure to name Devin White as Sully Station's Officer of the Year for 2017."

Candidates Seek to Convince Local Voters

From Page 2

Wexton's apologies. Foltz temporarily represented the senator, delivering her opening statement in her stead, but could not participate further in the proceedings. Left to tackle the remarks, question, answers and rebuttals were: Julia Biggins, Alison Friedman, Dan Helmer, Paul Pelletier, and Lindsey Davis Stover.

Moderator McCarthy received praised from audience members after the forum for "keeping the questions concise and not rambly," as Evelyn Schumacher of Chantilly said. "In some of these debates, the questions are so long and involved that the candidates can only answer in general, with nothing specific."

McCarthy did keep the questions — several of which were submitted in writing by attendees prior to start time — short and to the point. "And the candidates have asked me to skip straight to the issues," he added. "They don't want to waste time on the question of whether or not they will each sup-

port whomever wins the primary. That answer was 'Yes' from all of them."

Standing out in the candidates' crowd can be difficult, especially when there is substantial agreement among them.

Candidate Alison Friedman, a former Obama Administration official launched the first salvo in the effort, by calling out the absent Wexton on some of her votes in the Virginia Legislature, as well as for having taking corporate PAC donations in past elections.

Friedman also spoke out strongly for diplomatic solutions to "undo what Trump has done" to the country on the world stage.

"We need to re-staff the State Department, support and lift up our dedicated federal workers" especially in the intelligence and diplomatic agencies, to restore what she sees as "our devastated reputation around the world."

Julia Biggins, with a doctorate in molecular virology from Baylor College of Medicine, looks to her scientific background and

approach for her candidate identity, saying that it is time for the "professional political class in Congress" to be replaced by "real professionals." Biggins also commented that in all her years of dealing with infectious and dangerous diseases, she has "never seen a disease like what is running through our Congress right now."

All six candidates favor some level of gun control. Dan Helmer, who believes he has "the best change to defeat Comstock," offers not only his education, including having been a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, but also his military service as an advantage. Helmer served several tours of combat duty in Afghanistan, and Iraq.

"I have carried weapons of war," he said, "and I can say they have no place on our streets."

Lindsey Davis Stover, like Friedman, served in the Obama administration, after working as a chief of staff on the Hill. Her commitment to ending gun violence recently took a more personal turn. Three of

her cousins back home in her native Texas are students at Santa Fe High School, the scene of last week's school shooting that left 10 dead. "Thankfully, they are all OK. But I am hell bent on changing this situation, whatever it takes."

Paul Pelletier presses his years of service and accomplishments as a federal prosecutor as part of the strengths of his candidacy. "I am a problem-solver. We need someone who can do just that and help fix our broken government." Pelletier submits that he can bring all elements of the Democratic Party together to get the win. "We need more than a Blue Wave. We need a Purple Tsunami to get where we need to be in November and beyond."

Pelletier and Biggins are both supporters of a single-payer healthcare system and both think that an overhaul of the system, tackling the costs of medical treatment and pharmaceuticals are needed.

Jennifer Wexton is the one candidate with

Opinion

Preventing Gang Violence

By Gerald E. Connolly
U.S. Representative (D-11)

Families throughout our community have been shaken by the recent rise in gang activity across the Washington region. This is a serious issue that must be addressed with collaboration and cooperation from all levels of government. We know the problem, and now we must find the right solution.

Fairfax County offers a model for what our country can do to fight gang violence. When I was chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, we worked with local law enforcement, the business community, and the faith and civic communities to reduce gang crime and gang association. We hired the county's first gang prevention coordinator and started tattoo and graffiti removal initiatives. We collaborated with the Boys and Girls Clubs to launch the "Join a Club, Not a Gang" campaign, and expanded after school programs to all 26 of our middle schools. And we reached out to parents to help them understand the signs of gang involvement. Thanks to this collaboration, the number of teenagers involved in gang activity declined by 50 percent and the crime rate fell to a 32-year low. Fairfax County remains the safest jurisdiction of its size in the United States.

I brought that local government experience with me to Congress and on a bipartisan basis,

I worked with former U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf to secure federal funding for the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force (NVRGTF). In fact, I offered the last earmark for the NVRGTF before the House Majority abolished earmarks, stripping the task force of its federal funding.

The best thing we can do is resume funding for regional task forces that focus on gang prevention, intervention, and suppression in our communities. It is not enough to fund programs and organizations that focus solely on prosecuting gang members after their crimes have been committed. We must take a well-rounded, holistic approach to community safety by restoring the federal government's commitment to preventing these crimes from ever being committed in the first place.

We know that collaborative programs like the Task Force work. Regional task forces provide local governments and law enforcement bodies with unified organizations that span jurisdictional boundaries and allow for streamlined input from various stakeholders across a community. That is why, recently, I introduced the Preventing Gang Violence Act, legislation that will increase funding for competitive and evidence-based programs to reduce gang violence by \$18 million.

This bipartisan legislation builds upon our success in Fairfax County by providing community-based violence prevention grants to effective regional task forces across the country. Grant applications would be evaluated based on a number of factors, including an

applicant's record of implementing best practices in gang violence prevention, evidence of collaboration between relevant stakeholders, an effective grant implementation plan, and plans for evaluating results.

In addition to its bipartisan support in Congress, this proposal has the support of a diverse set of expert organizations, including the National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations (NAGIA) and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ). As NAGIA notes, this legislation "recognizes that communities must be equipped with prevention programs to keep their children from joining gangs." And CJJ makes clear that the bill brings a "community-based approach to bear on our nation's gang violence problem."

Some, most notably the President, would have you think America must shut its borders. That you cannot allow immigrants into our country and maintain security. We know this is a false choice, and runs contrary to the American and Fairfax experience. I've rejected the ant-immigrant proposals pushed by the Administration, including its unconstitutional travel ban. Our immigrant communities contribute so much to the fabric of life in Northern Virginia. We shouldn't drive them into the shadows. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Fairfax County has made progress, but we need the Federal Government to remain a partner. The Gang Violence Prevention Act is a down payment on making our communities safer.

Letter to the Editor

LGBTQ Equality Is Good Business

To the Editor:

For the past six years, Fairfax County has shown our dedication to inclusiveness and equality, each year proclaiming June to be "LGBT Pride Month" throughout the county.

This annual proclamation by Fairfax County is not only morally the right thing to do, but also a smart business decision. Nationwide, 1.4 million LGBTQ-owned businesses are directly responsible for contributing \$1.7 trillion to the U.S. economy. In the U.S., the adult LGBT population has a combined buying power of over \$917 billion. Clearly, the LGBTQ community is an economic powerhouse.

Locally, an environment of equality can help Fairfax County attract industry leaders such as Amazon and Apple. Jeff Bezos, the founder and chief executive of Amazon, and Tim Cook, the CEO of Apple, have both shown a commitment to LGBTQ equality both in their personal lives and in the manner their companies conduct business.

Jeff Bezos is known for his commitment to LGBTQ causes, including donating \$2.5 million in 2012 to support marriage equality in Washington State. Amazon has also expressed corporate support for LGBTQ issues, including offering employees health benefits that fully cover transition surgeries for transgender employees

Earlier this year, Jeff Bezos and other Amazon executives toured Fairfax County, a final-

ist in the company's search for a location for their new headquarters, HQ2. HQ2 would bring a \$5 billion investment and 50,000 jobs to Fairfax County. In turn, 250,000 additional jobs would be indirectly created as a result of HQ2. Given Bezos' proven track record of support for the equality movement, LGBTQ rights have been speculated to be an "unspoken factor" in Amazon's quest for a new home.

Tim Cook, the first openly gay CEO of a Fortune 500 company, has often been referred to as "the most powerful gay man in America." A well-known advocate for LGBTQ causes, he has addressed the United Nations and lobbied Congress on LGBTQ issues such as marriage equality and worker protections. In 2015, he led 8,000 Apple employees as they participated in San Francisco's 43rd Annual Gay Pride Parade. Apple is also very open about the company's support of LGBTQ causes, most recently by signing an amicus brief supporting LGBTQ nondiscrimination to the Supreme Court regarding a case in which a Colorado baker refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple.

Like Bezos, Tim Cook has also recently toured multiple locations in Northern Virginia as potential sites for a new Apple headquarters. This new headquarters, expected to be approximately 4 million square feet — two-thirds the size of the Pentagon — would bring 20,000 jobs to Fairfax County.

Unfortunately, Supervisor Pat Herrity, who represents the Springfield District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, has continually shown his disrespect towards the LGBTQ com-

munity. Every year when the Board of Supervisors votes to proclaim June as LGBT Pride Month, Herrity excuses himself from the dais during the vote. The end result is that for the past six years, he has turned down the opportunity to support LGBTQ equality throughout Fairfax County.

It is necessary for all members of Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors to embrace all county residents with open arms — regardless of sexual orientation. Supervisor Herrity has shown through his continued absence whenever the topic comes up for a vote that he does not respect the invaluable contributions that members of the LGBTQ community make to Fairfax County.

There is no excuse for an elected official's repeated absence when it comes to equality — inclusion should be the default response of all our leaders, no matter their political persuasion.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will invite representatives of the LGBTQ community and its supporters to appear before the Board on June 5 to commemorate LGBT Pride Month. Let's hope Supervisor Herrity will embrace the LGBTQ community not only on this day, but everyday moving forward. If he chooses, yet again, to excuse himself from supporting LGBTQ equality, I guarantee that there is someone willing to take his place on the Board who will.

Linda Sperling

The writer is a candidate for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Springfield District.

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‘Amazon Would Be a Game-Changer’ Here

Sharon Bulova addresses WFCCA’s quarterly meeting.

Bonnie Hobbs

Fairfax County’s past, present and future were on Sharon Bulova’s mind when she addressed the recent quarterly meeting of the West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA). She’s spent 30 years on the county’s Board of Supervisors and has been its chairman since February 2009.

“Cable TV, gypsy moths and planning for the VRE [Virginia Railway Express] were the big issues when I first joined the board,” she said. “Now, I’m working on the Silver Line — the Metro extension.”

Speaking before the supervisors officially adopted the county’s new budget, Bulova said some of the priorities were funding for transportation projects and the Metro system — for new cars and improvements to the tracks and stations.

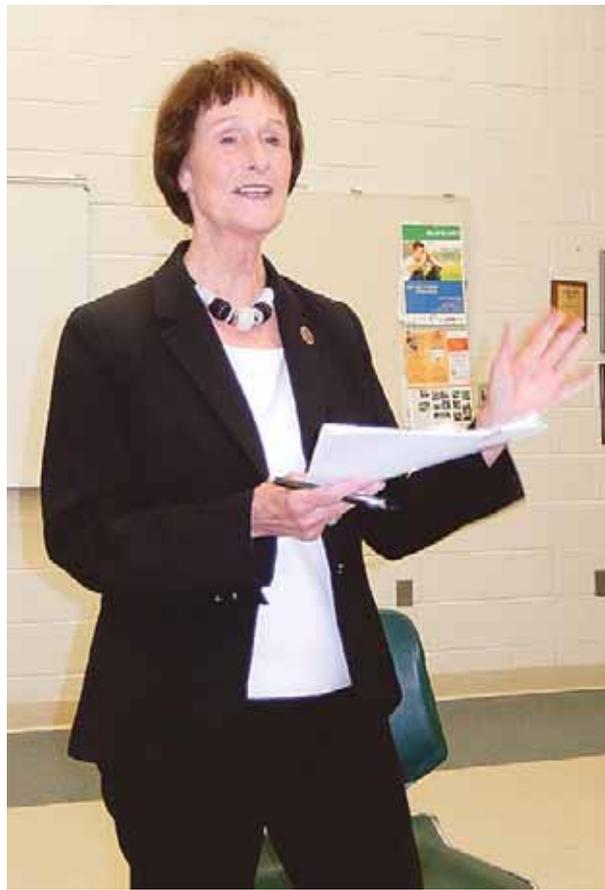
And, she added, “It looks like everything is falling into into place. So the drama is making sure there are enough votes in the General Assembly to sustain the governor’s

proposal. And it’s been exciting seeing sustainable funding come together and more jurisdictions participating in the funding.”

Bulova said the county’s FY ’19 budget fully funds the School Board’s request and increases teachers’ salaries — which, she said, “has been a challenge for us in the previous years. [It] also provides funding for early childhood education, gang prevention and the opioid crisis.”

She noted, as well, that this budget “expands the Diversion First program, whereby people with mental issues who’ve committed minor infractions of law can receive treatment, instead of being incarcerated. I’m especially proud of this,” she said. “And I believe mental illness deserves a larger focus than it’s received in the past.” On another topic, At-Large Planning Commissioner Jim Hart asked Bulova to explain what having Amazon set up shop in Northern Virginia would mean to this area. He also asked her, “When are we likely to know more?”

“By the end of the year,” she replied. “But prior to that, they may narrow the list [of possible sites], so we’ll know if we’re still on it. Having



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova addresses the WFCCA.

Amazon here would be a game-changer for our region that’s been struggling with federal cutbacks. It would be a very big deal — and I like that it’s a joint proposal with Loudoun [County] because both counties have their attributes.”

“Loudoun has its data centers and Fairfax has technology, and both have excellent schools and a well-educated workforce,” continued Bulova. “It would be additional commercial growth to offset our residential tax base — which is exactly what we want. And maybe this will open up the door for more cooperation between the two counties.”

But, she added, “That’s not the only business this county is concerned about cultivating. Fairfax County has really focused on diversifying its commercial growth, especially in the areas of health, research, genomics and personalized medicine. And we have stability — and that bodes well for our economic development.”

Traffic-wise, said Hart, “We suffer the impact of Loudoun’s growth, without any of the benefits. But there are reasons to work with them on other things, and I hope there are opportunities for that.”

Photo by Bonnie Hobbs

It’s a Way of Life at Boutique Called Horse Hippie

Locally made products adorn the shelves of shop in Clifton.

By Mike Salmon

“Horse Hippie” was Laura Batts high school nickname because of her interest in horses which she turned into a career as an environmental scientist that focused on horse farms and animal welfare in the equestrian industry. She grew up around horses and introduced her children to the equestrian life when time came. Fast forward a few years, and Horse Hippie is now a boutique she owns in Clifton that focuses on horse-themed handmade items made by local artists that features clothes, jewelry, accessories and gifts.

“Horse Hippie is a lifestyle brand, it’s how I live my life,” Batts said.

The store, which opened in November 2017, is co-located with the Clifton Café on the main street in Clifton. Inside it’s divided into a few rooms with a peacenik theme throughout. Even the bathroom has items on display, including soap, creams, books, essential oils, candles and incense. “What’s a hippie shop without incense?” she asked.

“Every item here has a backstory,” Batts said, “I’m really into repurposing,” she said. Each item has a story behind it which is on a card posted with the item. “A lot of Bohemian,” she said. While Batts is an in-between age and wasn’t old enough to be an original hippie in the 1960s, she feels protesting the Vietnam War would have been right up her alley and is into the folk music

Centreville High School senior Chloe Ross, 18, has a summer job at Horse Hippie until she heads off to Virginia Tech to pursue a degree in fashion.

Photos by Mike Salmon



of the times. In the store, the stereo softly has a soundtrack going of Fleetwood Mac, the Eagles and similar songs. She likes rap

too but approaches everything with a “live and let live,” mentality. “I live the lifestyle, I don’t force it down anyone’s throat,” she

said.

On Mother’s Day, Riker Lawrence, a local that runs the cash register at one of Clifton’s restaurants, wandered into Horse Hippie to pick out a present for her mother. “They have very cute stuff,” she said, before a baseball hat with “Tired As A Mother,” on the brim caught her eye. “I got my mother that,” she said. The hippie theme may not be for her though. “It’s more my sister’s style, she can pull it off better than I can,” she said.

In the beginning, Batts started with a trailer she drove around to horse shows, manning a table with the same type of items, and spoke at horse expos. With the horse influence around Clifton, her location is a good one and did well over the past holiday season, which is important to retail establishments. Her use of the internet is consistent with business today, and her Facebook page is big. “I do it more of a brand awareness,” she said. In one day, people came in that were from California, Missouri, Colorado, and Florida.

Getting her business up and going in Clifton did hit a couple of snags, but she opened on time. “The support locally has been wonderful,” she said. In the past, she had a nature store, so the retail business is not totally new to her, and her husband does the bookkeeping. Andrew Vo is a manager at the Clifton Café that shares the same building with Horse Hippie. “It ties in together,” Vo said.

Candidates

From Page 3
experience as an elected official, and has represented many of the constituents in the area covered by the 10th Congressional District. Wexton also comes with big-name endorsements, including Gov. Ralph Northam. Wexton feels she is the right choice, since she has already built a strong network in the community and learned the art of successful bipartisan negotiation, "without compromising our values."

After the forum, did anyone turn the tide with the "undecideds" like Maggie Godbold?

A quick "stop and poll" as the audience was departing the event indicated that many of those who hadn't made their minds before the forum, are still doing some "compare and contrast" before throwing their support behind one particular candidate. But like the candidates themselves, those questioned declared that once a Comstock challenger had been selected, they were prepared to offer their full support and their vote in November.

Bulletin Board

THURSDAY/MAY 31

Meet with Virginia WMATA Representatives. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Virginia's representatives to the board of directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will meet the public in a forum sponsored by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. The event will include a presentation focused on funding, governance and safety, followed by a question-and-answer session. The facility is within walking distance of the Vienna Metro station. Visit www.novtransit.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Help Children Navigate Adolescence in the Digital Age. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. What else can parents do to keep their teenager safe on the internet? Join Richard Stegman, FCPS Educational Specialist, to learn the top internet dangers for teens and seven steps for good digital parenting. Free. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center.

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

Sully District Open House and Food Drive. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Supervisor Kathy Smith and her staff will share what matters most to them as a Sully district residents. The food drive will support Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry. Guests will have the opportunity to tour a nearby stream valley park to learn about ways to protect natural resources, and learn more about Park

See Bulletin Board, Page 7
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Announcements

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ABC LICENSE
MONGKOLSIRI LLC trading as OCHA THAI KITCHEN AND CAFE, 5037 WESTFIELDS BLVD, CENTREVILLE, VIRGINIA 20120. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. MONGKOLDECH RAJAPAKDEE, MEMBER OF MONGKOLSIRI LLC. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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News

Local Man Charged with Three Robberies

By Bonnie Hobbs



Aziz

Fairfax County police have caught and arrested the man they believe is responsible for a series of robberies in Centreville and the City of Fairfax. He is Youssif Aziz, 27, of Centreville. He was arrested May 4 and charged that day and on May 17 in connection with the following robberies committed in 2017:

- June 8 – Advance America, a check-cashing/payday-loan business in the Centreville Square Shopping Center in Centreville;

- June 9 – TD Bank, 9500 block of Main Street in the City of Fairfax;

- June 17 – TD Bank, 6200 block of Multiplex Drive in Centreville's Centre Ridge community. According to police, the day after the robbery at Advance America, City of Fairfax police responded to a robbery, June 9, 2017, shortly after 3:30 p.m., at the TD Bank on Main Street. Police said a man entered the bank, demanded money and fled with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Eight days later, Fairfax County police responded to a similar robbery at another TD Bank. This one happened June 17, 2017, around 12:45 p.m., in Centre Ridge. No one was hurt in either incident. However, after the three robberies, detectives in both the Sully District Police Station and the City of Fairfax Police Department teamed up to identify and find the perpetrator.

The suspect was described as white, possibly Hispanic or of Middle Eastern descent, in his 20s, between 5 feet 5 inches and 5 feet 9 inches tall, and 140 pounds. Police were also able to obtain bank surveillance photos of him. And now, after almost a year has passed, police believe they have the robber in custody. Aziz is currently being held without bond in the county's Adult Detention Center.

Furthermore, detectives believe he may also be linked to other robberies in the area. So if anyone has any information that might connect Aziz to other crimes, they're urged to contact Fairfax County's Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers via <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org> or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS. People may also text "TIP187," plus a message, to CRIMES (274637). Text STOP to 274637 to cancel, or HELP to 274637 for help. Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1,000 if their information leads to an arrest.

Bulletin Board

From Page 6

Authority volunteer opportunities, tap water production in Fairfax, mosquito and tick prevention tips, and summer REC Center information. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sully/ for more.

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Find us on Facebook and become a fan! www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online The Connection to Your Community www.connectionnewspapers.com		An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg	

View to a ShriII



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I watch a little bit of television. Okay, maybe I watch a lot of television (probably too much if truth be told). And in the curse of watching that television, like it or not, fast-forwarding or not, commercials will be seen and unfortunately heard. Sometimes, what I see and hear causes me to interact with my television, verbally. And even though this verbalization is rarely responded to (other than by my wife, Dina), these outbursts (again if truth be accurately characterized) make me feel so much better.

What irritated me today – which led to this column being written, was a television commercial for a cellular phone company, an ("Approved AARP provider since 2008") providing "exclusive benefits for AARP members" which, as I consider my age, and associations which have value, I would have to say, to quote my late father: "The idea has merit." The commercial featured – among other facts and figures – endorsements from a half a dozen or so satisfied customers. The praise was typical of what you might expect/hear; all good about everything: price, service, reliability, value, etc. One woman's comments however caught my attention. I believe I heard her correctly when she said: "Wild horses couldn't drag me away from" And then off I went.

Really? Are you kidding me? Rather than change your cellular service, you'd consent to being dragged behind a team of wild horses? Do you actually mean to say that if you had your hands and feet bound and you risked being ripped to shreds, you still wouldn't change carriers? You can't be serious? As Minnie Driver asked Matt Damon in a scene from the 1997 movie "Good Will Hunting" discussing his having studied organic chemistry "a bit": "Are you mad? Have you completely lost your mind?" This customer appeared to be of sound mind but, her comments were so ridiculous that it diminished her value as a "spokes-customer."

I suppose however, if one were to analyze this amazingly, incredibly loyal comment (and take it at face value), one would have to be impressed. Who wouldn't want the kind of service whose reliability, service, value, cost, etc. was worth dying for? For me, if the choice was between being dragged behind a team of wild horses – and being torn to pieces/possibly even dying in the process, or changing cellular service companies, I'd change in a minute or as quickly as I could (given the phone calls required) to avoid this Western-era torture. This woman can't be telling the truth, can she? I mean, it is television where hyperbole and coercion go hand and hand with the remote, and I imagine there was a script involved. Nevertheless, her comments started at the top and went up from there. Apparently, being reasonable isn't part of this commercial's equation. Their "spokes-customers" haven't just drunk the Kool-Aid, they've invited the Kool-Aid Man, pitcher and all, into their homes and offered us viewers a drink.

The problem for me, other than I spend too much time watching television, is that when what I'm watching tests the bounds of believability, be it content or especially commercials/advertisements, it inevitably turns a positive message into a negative one. Subsequently, my take-away: don't bother me with nonsense; I'm not interested. The exact opposite of the intended effect. If truth be told (yet again), I'm likely over-reacting (really?) but, when a line is crossed, sometimes I can't go back, like Burt Lancaster/"Moonlight Graham" couldn't in the 1989 movie, "Field of Dreams."

To invoke/extrapolate Capt. Woodrow F. Call from the epic, 1989 mini-series, "Lonesome Dove:" "I hate rude behavior in a man. Won't tolerate it." Well, neither can I tolerate commercials which take me for a dope. Can't handle it.

I may not be the sharpest knife in the drawer, but I do have a little intellect and substance to draw upon even when I'm sitting on the couch watching television. I haven't completely lost my mind, yet.

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

Entertainment

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

ONGOING

Fitness for 50+. Daytime hours, Monday-Friday at Sully Senior Center, 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Jazzercise Lite, Zumba Gold, Hot Hula Fitness (dancing Polynesian style), Strength Training, Qi Gong, Tai Chi and more. Membership is \$48 a year, and waivers are available. Email lynne.lott@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-322-4475 for more.

History Volunteers Needed. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs history buffs. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Email volunteers@fairfax-station.org or call 703-945-7483 to explore opportunities. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. It is open every Sunday, except holidays, from 1-4 p.m. www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/MAY 27

Reading Circle and Activities. 1:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. At the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Reading circle for "That Dadblamed Union Cow," the children's story based on a real-life case of a cow that adopted Union soldiers during the Civil War. The museum will be open from 1-4 p.m. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2, ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org,



Photo by Stephen Jaffee

The Bull Run Park venue offers plenty of room for Bichons and their families.

www.facebook.com/FFXSRR. Call 703-425-9225.

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Forks, Corks & Kegs. 6-11 p.m. at St Andrew School, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton. A tasting festival of local breweries, wineries, and food trucks with the Sunday Night Big Band performing. \$55; \$65 after May 25. Call 703-969-1891 or visit handbid.app.link/standrew.

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

Churn Ice Cream. 1-2:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Long before high-tech came to Fairfax County, dairy cows were churning up business for the region. In this hands-on walking tour, discover how important immigrant dairy workers were in the 1800s. Hear the immigration story of the Thompsons. Experience farm tasks, and churn ice

cream. Designed for participants age 4 to adult. \$8 per person. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 2-3

Living History Weekend. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Museum will host its third annual Living History Weekend with a Civil War Encampment. Civil War re-enactors will be in full attire with drills, musket shooting demo and camp life demonstrations. In addition, ladies in Civil War period costume will hold a Victorian Tea Party and give presentations on their Civil War costumes. Sunday's events include a Ball run by the Victorian Dance Ensemble and the performing troupe of the Civil War Dance Foundation. Museum members and 4 and under, free; 5-15, \$2; 16 and

2018 Bichon Bash

The Bichon Bash is a family friendly event where Bichons can play together in a safe outdoor area, and experts can provide advice on the breed. This is an annual fundraiser for the Bichon Frise Club of America rescue group, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Bichons only. Sunday, Sept. 16, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Bull Run Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. \$15 pre-register online; \$20 at gate; \$5 children under 12. Call 703-401-9551 or www.bichonbash.org.

older, \$5. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR or call 703-425-9225.

Vintage Virginia Wine and Food Festival.

Saturday, noon-6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Bull Run Park Special Events Center, Bull Run Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. This annual event features Virginia wine, food and music. Vintage Virginia has offered an opportunity to taste from nearly half of Virginia's homegrown wineries, from the oldest and the largest to the smallest boutiques. Visit www.vintagevirginia.com.

TUESDAY/JUNE 5

Climate Reality Presentation. 6:30-9 p.m. at Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Paula Clements, a Climate Reality Leader, will present a presentation about the destructive impact of climate change. She will include uplifting stories about the success of renewable energy. Free. Call 703-655-5069 or visit virginia2.sierraclub.org.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 6

S'more Fun. 6:30-8 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Come to the park for a turkey hot dog supper roasted over the campfire, and take a brisk wagon ride through the Rocky Run Stream Valley. Learn about Ellanor C. Lawrence and the area's local and natural history. Hot dogs, buns, condiments and s'mores provided. Bring drinks and sides. \$10 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered for the program. Meet at Cabell's Mill. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence for more.

MONDAY/JUNE 11

Scholarship Golf Classic. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. George Mason University hosts its annual Diversity Scholarship Golf Classic to support college scholarships for deserving high school students enrolling at Mason who will be the first generation in their family to attend college. \$200 per golfer. Call 703-993-1438 or visit diversitygolfclassic.gmu.edu for more.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 16

CFH 2018 5k. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Come out and support a four-decade mission to provide sustainable affordable housing and critical life skills training to help set individuals and families on a path of self-sufficiency. \$30 pre-registration; \$35 day of registration. Visit cfhva.org/2018-5k-for-affordable-housing.

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