

Rainey Qualley and Gabriel Sunday in a scene from the film.

Grad's Movie Showing on Sunday

Centreville High film-production classes inspired him.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

A 1996 Centreville High grad, Jason Corgan Brown is the producer, director and co-writer of the independent film, "Falcon Song."

And it's having a sneak preview, this Sunday, March 23, at 2 p.m., at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema in Ashburn. Tickets are available now at http://drafthouse.com/movies/falcon-song/northern_virginia.

Fresh from the Santa Barbara Film Festival, where it premiered in February, the PG-rated movie is a contemporary western in which a guitar-playing drifter helps a rancher's granddaughter find her true calling. It explores themes of land conservation and soul searching in a world filled with quirky, colorful characters and magical realism.

The ensemble features Gabriel Sunday ("Year One") with Rainey Qualley (daughter of Andie MacDowell), plus Martin Kove ("Karate Kid"), James Storm ("Dark Shadows"), Michael Yebba ("R.I.P.D.") and David Hayward ("Matlock").

"It's a drama, but borderline comedy with subtle touches of fantasy," said Brown. "It's not a cowboys-and-Indians western and is not violent. It takes a few steps back to a more innocent era and is something the whole family can enjoy."

He describes it as "a lighthearted movie using lighting and editing techniques to achieve a



Surrounded by cameras is filmmaker and Centreville High grad Jason Corgan Brown.

dreamy, glossy look used a lot in the 1980s. You don't see many films today that have this visual appearance, and this gives the movie its signature look."

Brown was speaking by phone from the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin, Texas, where he was "doing some legwork" for an upcoming film. So he's come a long way from the Braddock Ridge neighborhood in Centreville where he was raised — and, he said, it all began at Centreville High.

"I took film-production classes there from theater teacher Mike Hudson," said Brown. "They gave me a focus and were inspirational to me, and I developed them into a career. We had cameras and equipment, and he let us go with our instincts to do what we wanted with our projects. And it was important to me to have that creative freedom to explore things without restraints."

He said photography teacher Kim Basinger also played a part. "Her teaching style also impacted

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'Highly Motivated And a True Leader'

MPO Ray Ordonez is Sully's Officer of the Year.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

A 26-year veteran of the Fairfax County Police Department, MPO Ray Ordonez is the Sully District Station's and its Citizens Advisory Committee's 2013 Officer of the Year.

He was honored as such last Wednesday, March 12, at the station, and every one of his roll-call officers turned out for the ceremony.

"I have great admiration for Ray — he's a true master police officer," said Capt. Ed O'Carroll, the station commander. "He's announced his retirement, but is still out on the front lines."

Ordonez entered law enforcement in 1987 when he attended the eighth session of the county's Criminal Justice Academy. During his career, he served 11 years at the Mason District Station, five years at the Fair Oaks District Station and six years in the Major Crimes Division.

During his tenure in the Criminal Investigations Bureau, he was assigned to the Auto Theft, Child Sex Crimes and Fugitive sections. Yet, while doing those jobs and working a full case load, he volunteered to assist the Robbery Section, Financial Crimes Section, and Organized Crime and Narcotics detectives with cases needing a Spanish-speaking detective.

Overall, Ordonez investigated hundreds of cases in the Major Crimes Division, apprehending and helping successfully convict



BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW
Capt. Ed O'Carroll (left) congratulates MPO Ray Ordonez, the Sully District Police Station's Officer of the Year.

numerous criminals. He was also a polygraph examiner, a crime-prevention officer and a school resource officer. In addition, he worked as a shopping-center officer and a CIS detective and is currently in his fourth year at the Sully District Station, assigned to patrol.

"He leads our younger officers by example, with passion, loyalty and steadfast commitment to excellence," said O'Carroll. "And he's trained more than 20 officers at the Mason, Fair Oaks and Sully district stations."

Ordonez's supervisor, Sgt. Dan Spital, called him a "highly motivated officer and a true leader." And, he added, "The officers trained by him were "fortunate to have had such a knowledgeable and experienced officer as their mentor."

SEE ORDONEZ, PAGE 8

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Cancer had act one. Isabel received the encore.

At 15 months old, Isabel was diagnosed with a tumor on her left kidney. It was growing rapidly and immediate action was required. Isabel's parents turned to the experts who specialize in pediatric cancer. Watch her journey at JustRightForChildren.com/Isabel.

“ I'm Isabel and I like to dance. ”

Isabel Doran
Promising ballerina



NEWS

Budget Competition

Taxes to increase across Northern Virginia, some more than others.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
CENTRE VIEW

Two things are certain in life, death and taxes. And just as the spring flowers start to bloom this time a year, so do concerns about rising tax bills. As local governments across Northern Virginia consider budget proposals, taxpayers are reaching for their wallets. A review of proposed budgets in the region shows residential property taxpayers in Fairfax are looking at the largest potential increase, more than \$300. Taxpayers in Alexandria are looking at the smallest potential increase, less than \$200.

“There is always a competition among Northern Virginia local governments for who can either cut the most or raise their property tax the least,” said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University. “So it is a healthy competition.”

Now that government executives have presented their proposed budgets to elected officials, members of the public are presenting their input in a series of formal public hearings and informal discussions. At issue for government leaders is what kinds of investments are necessary to enhance property values, the cash cow for jurisdictions in Virginia. Shafroth says homeowners generally want to see their assessments increase, although nobody wants to pay the higher tax bill.

“All of that, of course, could change significantly if Congress eliminates the deductibility of the property tax and limits the home mortgage deduction,” said Shafroth. “Those two changes would make today’s whines seem ludicrous in comparison.”

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, the county executive has proposed a tax rate of \$1.085 for every \$100 of assessed value. Earlier this month, the Board of Supervisors voted to advertise a real estate rate that’s two cents higher, \$1.105 for every \$100 of assessed value. Budget officials say one penny of the tax rate is equal to about \$21.9 million in general revenue, and an additional \$50 for the average residential property taxpayer. That means that supervisors might end up increasing the average bill more than \$400.

“It is important that the board allows for flexibility in considering a tax rate so that

Proposed Tax Increases

◆ Alexandria: The average residential property tax bill would increase from \$4,901 to \$5,091. The additional \$190 would be a 3.88 percent increase.

◆ Arlington: The average residential property tax bill would increase from \$5,278 to \$5,560. The additional \$282 would be a 5 percent increase.

◆ Fairfax: The average residential property tax bill would increase from \$5,071 to \$5,403. The additional \$332 would be a 6.54 percent increase.

debate and discussion is not cut off at the very beginning of the budget process,” said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova. “The board can adopt a tax rate that is lower but not higher than what is advertised.”

Last month, County Executive Ed Long presented a proposed budget with flat commercial tax revenues and

lower than expected tax revenues for sales taxes, hotel taxes and business and professional license taxes. Budget officials say the only area that is experiencing an upward tick is the assessed value of residential property. That means homeowners are likely to get stuck with a higher tax bill just to keep the current level of service.

“As the county continues to face fiscal challenges, we must persist in our cautious and deliberative approach to budgeting, only funding items that are sustainable,” said Long. “We also must be ready to make the necessary decisions to maintain investment in our services, infrastructure and development of the community.”

vestment in our services, infrastructure and development of the community.”

IN ARLINGTON, county manager has proposed a tax rate of \$1.006 for every \$100 of assessed value, which includes the base rate of \$0.993 and the county-wide sanitary district rate of \$0.013 for stormwater management. Last month, members of the Arlington County Board voted to advertise no increase in the rate, which means elected officials must find a way to balance the budget using the increase in property values. Fortunately for Arlington, property values in the county have been some of the strongest in the region.

“The gap between funding for ongoing

“There is always a competition among Northern Virginia local governments for who can either cut the most or raise their property tax the least. So it is a healthy competition.”

— Frank Shafroth, director, Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

St. Baldrick's Sign-Ups

A St. Baldrick's Day event is slated for Sunday, March 23, at 4 p.m., at Fast Eddie's in the Newgate Shopping Center, at Routes 28/29 in Centreville. The event raises funds for childhood cancer research. People volunteer to have their heads shaved and raise money in advance for the privilege. Then all those being shaved get it done together while others cheer them on.

Sign up at <http://www.stbaldricks.org/events/mypage/149/2014>.

In addition, Valvoline Instant Oil Change in Centreville is giving a 10-percent discount on services and 10 percent back to the St. Baldrick's Foundation when customers mention St. Baldrick's.

Fair Oaks CAC to Meet

The Citizens Advisory Council of the Fair Oaks District Police Station will meet Tuesday, March 25, at 7 p.m., in the roll-call room of the police station. It's at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway in Chantilly.

Disaster Resiliency Summit

The Fairfax County Community Collaboration Summit for Disaster Resiliency is designed for organizations that provide day-to-day support to Fairfax County community members and will give them sustained support when a disaster strikes. The summit will be held Tuesday, March 25, from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at Mount Olive Baptist Church, 6600 Old Centreville Road in Centreville.

Entities such as faith- and community-based organizations, disaster volunteer groups, residential-management groups, civic associations and representatives from the private, public and non-profit sectors involved in disaster recovery, should attend. Register at <https://2014summit.eventbrite.com>. This event is sponsored by Volunteer Fairfax, Fairfax County's Neighborhood and Community Services and Faith Communities in Action.

Budget Town Hall Meeting

A town hall meeting on the FY 2015 Fairfax County and FCPS budgets is set for Thursday, March 27, at 7 p.m. It'll be held in the cafeteria of Rocky Run Middle School, 4400 Stringfellow Road in Chantilly. Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) and Sully District School Board representative Kathy Smith will be on hand, and budget staff from FCPS and the county Office of Management and Budget will make a presentation. Co-sponsor is the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, March 27, 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.

However, 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.

Centreville High International Night

Celebrating its cultural diversity, Centreville High will hold its International Night next Friday, March 28, at the school. A dinner featuring an array of foods from a variety of different countries will be offered in the cafeteria at 6 p.m. Following at 7 p.m. will be the show – highlighting songs, dances and fashions from all over the globe – in the theater. Cost is \$5 for the show only and \$10 for the show plus dinner.

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 4

Having Fun, Raising Money

Life Time holding Zumba-Latin Fusion dance class for MDA.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Peter Callas is living a happy and productive life, both personally and professionally. But it wouldn't have been possible without his own determination, the love of his family and support from the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA).

So each year, his brother, Alex Callas, of Centreville's Virginia Run community, does all he can to raise money for this organization. And on Saturday, April 5, area residents can help — and have fun, too — by participating in a Dance Jam for MDA.

It's a Zumba-Latin Fusion dance class, from 9:15-10:30 a.m., at Life Time Athletic, Centreville, in The Trinity Centre, off Route 29. Cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members, and all proceeds go to the MDA. Members may register at the club in advance or that day; non-members should call 703-266-6200 to register.

"We are deeply committed to supporting the MDA, and the folks at Life Time have been absolutely amazing," said Alex Callas, who's a member there. "I cannot thank Tamer Mouden, the club manager, enough for his generosity, energy and support. He and the club's Kaliente fitness instructors are helping make this event first-rate."

During the event there'll be gifts for participants, plus \$2 raffle tickets for several prizes, including tickets to the Ringling Brothers Circus at the Patriot Center. Anyone taking part in the raffle will automatically receive a 30-percent-off discount coupon for Athleta Performance apparel. And after the dance class, representatives from this Reston store will display the latest in women's fitness clothing.

Alex Callas, his wife and their three sons have lived in Virginia Run for two decades. For the last nine seasons, he's helped coach football at Westfield High and is a longtime SYA coach, as well.

For years, he's raised money for MDA via a golf tournament, and the 23rd annual one will be June 25 at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. For more information, see www.golfdayformda.org. Now, he's adding another fund-raiser with the Life Time dance class. And he's happy to do it in honor of his brother.

Peter Callas lives in Trenton, N.J., with his wife; but more than 40 years ago, he was diagnosed with neuromuscular disease. "Our family will never forget that day," said Callas. "We were shocked, scared and pessimistic about my brother's life expectancy and what the future would hold for him. In the early '70s, information wasn't as readily available and the support system in place today didn't exist."

The family had no idea why this disease had attacked Peter Callas; they just knew he was very ill



The Callas brothers, Alex (left) and Peter, at a past MDA golf tournament.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

and facing a bleak future. "Many would have given in to the pain, suffering and hardship this disease inflicts on you," said Callas. "But his life story is one of amazing courage, determination and inspiration. He's a success story in every sense." Peter was in 8th grade when he was diagnosed. "He came from a family of achievers and my parents expected nothing less from him," said Callas. "Our late father, Peter Sr., sat him down and told him that FDR [Franklin Delano Roosevelt] — a man with a disability — became president of the United States and we weren't going to let him feel sorry for himself."

Their father told Peter there was nothing he couldn't achieve if he wanted to, and Peter took those words to heart and built his life around them. He came from a family of athletes, but couldn't participate in high-school sports. Yet he was active with several teams and, in his senior year, he received the Al Del Greco Award as the Bergen County, N.J., Athlete of the Year.

He graduated from college with honors and used his journalism degree in the newspaper industry. He eventually became managing editor of the Trenton Times, retiring after 25 years to start his own communications company. But living every day with MDA has been difficult, painful and challenging.

Peter Callas' undergone major surgeries and has done his best to overcome whatever obstacle he faced. "His recovery was aided by our sister Hope, who took her college summers off to stay home and care for him," said Alex Callas. "My mom always told us the true strength of a family is that they rally around the one who needs it the most."

Calling his brother "an inspiration and a profile in courage," Alex Callas said his brother almost died in a serious accident in 1994. "But his future wife was by his side the entire time, and we count our blessings that they found each other. Peter's had an uncanny ability to overcome adversity, but the message is that there's hope for those fighting this disease."

And throughout the years, said Callas, "There's been a constant that helped all of us [with the battle]. The MDA has been with us the entire way, providing



Alex Callas is a Westfield High football coach.

"There's hope for those fighting this disease."

— Alex Callas, raising money for MDA

SEE HAVING FUN, PAGE 4

ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 3

Sully District Station News

There's a new assistant commander at the Sully District Police Station. Lt. Paul Cleveland, who formerly held that position, was promoted to captain and is now commander of the Fairfax County Police Department's Organized Crimes and Narcotics Division.

Sully's new assistant commander is Lt. Bob Blakley. A former Virginia State Trooper, he's been with the Police Department since 2002. The station's commander, Capt. Ed O'Carroll, remains the same.

Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry urgently needs donations of spaghetti sauce, fruit juice, cooking oil; pancake mix and syrup, sugar, flour and canned fruit and meat. (Also needed are toothpaste, deodorant, baby wipes and shampoo).

Bring all items to WFCM'S new food-pantry location, weekdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John's Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly's Sully Place Shopping Center.

Thrift-store needs include coats, fall and winter clothing, like-new houseware, plus Bibles in English and Spanish. The store is at 13939 Metrotech Drive. In addition, Thrift Store volunteers are needed for two- to four-hour shifts Fridays, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Saturdays, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Long-Term Care Advocates

The **Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities. Training is provided in March. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Drive Seniors to Appointments

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults to medical appointments** and wellness programs. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Fairfax County needs Meals on Wheels drivers in Chantilly and group Meals on Wheels coordinators in both Chantilly and Fairfax. Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 711, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm.

How to Help the CLRC

The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) needs volunteers to lead vocational training workshops to increase the workers' job skills. A Wednesday morning ESOL instructor is also needed; contact Molly Maddra at coordinator@centrevilleLRC.org for more information.

In addition, end-of-year contributions to CLRC may be made at www.centrevilleimmigrationforum.org. The organization is supported totally by grants and donations; it receives no government funding.

Give Caregivers a Break

Fairfax County needs Respite Care volunteers throughout the county to give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month.

Volunteers are matched with families in or near their own neighborhoods. Support and training is provided.

Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

NEWS

Honoring Sully's Steve Pollard

Steve Pollard, former co-chair of the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee was honored during the Wednesday, March 12, CAC meeting. He received a Commander's Commendation in recognition of his "exceptional performance and dedication to the Sully District Station and outstanding community service to the Sully District." (From left) Capt. Ed O'Carroll, the station commander, presents the certificate to Pollard while CAC Chairman Leslie Jenuleson looks on.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Having Fun, Raising Money

FROM PAGE 3

information, guidance, physical tools and compassion."

He and his family view the MDA as "the bridge between the harsh realities of this disease and hope.

We cannot thank them enough for all they've done to help Peter." And that's why, 42 years ago, his father began raising money for the organization.

In 1991, Callas began Golf Day for MDA, renaming it in his father's honor after he died in 1993. To date, the tournament has raised more than \$450,000 for the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Alex Callas at a Westfield High football game.

MDA.

And the Callas family's combined efforts over four decades have yielded nearly \$900,000 for the organization.

"Today Peter continues to battle as the disease takes its toll on him, but manages to stay positive and live a productive life," said Callas. "He often tells us that, in a way, he's grateful to muscular dystrophy for the meaning and purpose it's given him and our family. And we're grateful to the MDA for what they've done and continue to do for all those battling neuromuscular disease."

Mathnasium Makes Learning Fun

The husband and wife team of Keni and Punam Patel has brought the Mathnasium concept of learning to Centreville area students. The Mathnasium opened in February in Centreville Square II near the Party Depot. Inside the storefront, an open area is filled with tables and games; oversized math "scribbles" decorate the walls.

Keni Patel received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in electrical engineering from Boston University and was subsequently an Advanced Studies Research Fellow at MIT. He is currently an applied mathematician in the Advanced Technology Group at Boeing Defense in Fairfax.

Punam Patel studied human psychology at the University of Iowa and has since worked for the Red Cross and Boeing Defense in coordination, recruiting, and human resources roles.

All new students at Mathnasium are given an oral and written assessment that gauges their level of mathematical maturity and finds the gaps. Each child receives a customized plan for resolving those issues

Mathnasium, located within Centreville Square



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Keni and Punam Patel have opened Mathnasium, a new after-school math learning center in Centreville.

II at 5959 Centreville Crest Lane, is open for instruction Monday through Thursday, from 3 to 7 p.m.; and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The program is geared for students in grades 1-12. Visit www.mathnasium.com/centrevilleva, email centrevilleva@mathnasium.com or call 703-828-2003.

10th District Democrats Nominate John Foust

Democrats cancel convention uniting for Dranesville Supervisor for Congress.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
CENTRE VIEW

The field of GOP contenders vying for retiring U.S. Rep. Frank R. Wolf's seat is still crowded, but the Democratic pool of political hopefuls dwindled to one on Monday: Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

The 10th Congressional District Democratic Committee (10th CDDC) announced Monday, March 17, it had cancelled its April 26 convention after Foust became the only candidate to file to seek the Democratic nomination for Congress.

"To win this race in November we needed to avoid a costly primary and coalesce around a nominee as soon as possible," said Committee Chairman Charlie Jackson in a statement regarding the decision. "We've done that and we couldn't be happier that John Foust will become our nominee and have the ability to hit the ground running right away as our standard bearer."

"I am very grateful for the support I'm receiving across the district," Foust said Tuesday morning. "I believe we're unified because we represent the concerns and priorities of the residents of the 10th district, and I look forward to continuing the campaign through November and having a discussion on the issues with whomever the Republican nominee is."

Jackson said the move on Monday will give Democrats an edge in building wide-

spread district support for Foust before a Republican nominee is named in a "firehouse primary," also called a party canvass, slated for April 26.

Democrats had anticipated McLean attorney Richard Bolger would continue his bid for the nomination, but Bolger announced he was suspending his campaign late last week.

In a news release, Bolger said it became clear to him that "John Foust is our strongest choice with the best chance of helping our party win this seat and change the direction of Congress,"

ON MONDAY, Jackson praised Bolger and his campaign.

"Richard Bolger has been a class act from day one," Jackson said. "He put together a top-notch team and demonstrated an ability to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars. That's no small achievement."

"John Foust is the only problem solver in this race," said state Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37), a longtime Foust friend and supporter. "His most well-known potential opponents are tea party types. Even Frank Wolf can't be happy about the Republicans in this race. He has little use for this wing of the party and has publicly said so."

When Foust entered the Democratic primary for the 10th Congressional District in December, he seized on the public's negative perception of Congress often stuck in partisan gridlock, citing both parties' "reckless brinksmanship." Foust's campaign fo-



Supervisor John W. Foust (D-Dranesville)

cused on bringing a fresh face to Washington.

Foust quickly racked up a slew of endorsements from more than 50 former and current elected officials, including Lt. Governor Ralph Northam and U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), who later announced he would not seek reelection.

Foust's momentum had a rainmaking impact on donors. In late January, Foust reported raising more than \$217,000, with nearly that amount — \$210,000 — reported as cash on hand.

"This is another clear sign that our message of bringing problem solving, bipartisan leadership back to Congress is resonating with Northern Virginia residents," Foust said in a statement about his successful

About John Foust

John Foust was re-elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 2011, winning every precinct and more than 60 percent of the vote. He serves as chairman of the board's Audit Committee, vice-chairman of the Budget Committee and chairman of the county's Economic Advisory Commission. He cites his leadership in expanding full day kindergarten to the entire county and funding the widening of Route 7 to ease congestion for commuters as successes. He lives in McLean, and has been married to Dr. Marilyn Jerome for 30 years. They have two sons, Matthew and Patrick.

For more about John Foust's campaign for Congress, visit www.foustforvirginia.com.

fundraising. The two-term supervisor also touted his current service on the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and his past service on the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

WITH MONDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT, Foust now has more than a month head start campaigning against an unknown Republican challenger.

"We expect he will take advantage," Jackson said Monday.

According to the 10th Congressional District Republican Committee, six candidates will compete for the Republican nomination, Del. Barbara Comstock, Stephen Hollingshead, Howie Lind, Del. Bob Marshall, Marc Savitt and Rob Wasinger. The Republican nominee will be decided in a Party Canvass on Saturday, April 26 at 10 different locations around the District. For more information on the candidates and the Party Canvass contact PartyChairman@vagop10.org or visit the 10th District website at vagop10.org.



At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Scouts from Centreville's Cub Scout Pack 2011, Owen Proper and Jonathan Faupel, lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier while den leader, Col. Tom Faupel, U.S. Army (Retired) and Connor Gary watch on with the rest of the Pack.



Scouts from Centreville's Cub Scout Pack 2011 had the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery on March 15. From left are Luke Carballosa, Brady Conner, Jacob Adams, Joseph Barnett and Joshua Huguet.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN ADAMS

Income Gap Alive and Well

Statistics make life in the area sound idyllic, but many families are left out in the land of plenty.

Northern Virginia is a place of wonder and plenty. So says the New York Times this past week in, "Income Gap Meet the Longevity Gap," (March 15, 2014).

Fairfax County is cited as a place whose residents "are among the longest-lived in the country," and compared to McDowell County, W.Va., where residents have one of the shortest life expectancies. In Fairfax, "men have an average life expectancy of 82 years and women, 85, about the same as in Sweden. In McDowell, the averages are 64 and 73, about the same as in Iraq."

If you are reading this, chances are that the Connection was delivered to your single family home in an affluent neighborhood. In fact, many of us do live in the Northern Virginia described in the New York Times. All it takes is money.

"In Fairfax, there are ample doctors, hospi-

tals, recreation centers, shops, restaurants, grocery stores, nursing homes and day care centers, with public and private entities providing cradle-to-grave services to prosperous communities."

But here is where the crack in the wall appears: "The jobs tend to be good jobs, providing health insurance and pensions, even if there is a growing low-wage work force of health aides, janitors, fast-food workers and the like."

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 49,000 of the 185,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized or free meals. In Fairfax County, more than 100,000 people lack health insurance, including 35,000 who could be covered now at no cost to themselves or the state if they lived in West Virginia because West Virginia has embraced the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, so its poorest residents do have access to health

care. Not so in Virginia.

In Northern Virginia, we have our own income gap, and likely our own longevity gap. In Northern Virginia, we have a health care crisis. In Northern Virginia, we do have an affordable housing crisis.

EDITORIAL

Tens of thousands of working poor people in Northern Virginia, families with at least one full time job, cannot afford to rent an apartment. Earnings of at least \$1,100 a week would be required to afford market rate rent in Fairfax County according to the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance. But the county's 50,000 retail workers, for example, average about \$635 a week according to the Virginia Employment Commission. The county's 40,000-plus food service workers average \$415 a week. Even the county's 38,000 local government employees average \$950 weekly, a stretch in this area.

To read the story in the New York Times, go to www.NYTimes.com and search "income gap."

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support Angel Fund

To the Editor:

We would like to thank Edgar Espinosa and the staff at Picante! Restaurant in Chantilly for their very generous offer to Angel Fund. Mr. Espinosa sent us coupons enabling customers to donate 10 percent of their meal's bill to Angel Fund. Readers may visit our website: <https://www.angelfundva.org/donate> to print out the coupons or write Lu Ann McNabb at l.mcnabb@cox.net for copies. Picante! Restaurant is one of the more delicious, colorful, fun restaurants in the area. We encourage everyone to patronize Picante! Restaurant and support our non-profit at the same time.

Lu Ann Maciulla McNabb

President, Board of Directors, Angel Fund

Commending Election Officials

To the Editor:

During this year's Sunshine Week, the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area salutes the Fairfax County Electoral Board, General Registrar and employees of the Fairfax County Office of Elections for their transparency and willingness to share information with the public in the follow-up to the 2013 general election.

Their handling of the election reporting, canvass, provisional ballot determinations and recounts in the races for Virginia Attorney General and 33rd District Senate seats exemplified the best principles of open government. The Office of Elections frequently published updates on election reporting problems and the extended provisional ballot determination process, later on providing details about the

progress of the recounts, all the while describing the safeguards in place to protect the integrity of the ballot.

That integrity is essential for our system of government to work.

This is why during Sunshine Week we commend the Fairfax County Office of Elections for sharing important voting results and information with the residents of Fairfax County, detailing exactly how their votes in these important elections were counted and protected.

Jones and Helen Kelly, Co-Presidents

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

Saying 'No' Without Alternative

To the Editor:

Thank you for your considerate opinion that a vote against Medicaid expansion is a vote against Virginia. This opinion unfortunately gets little attention in the debate.

Those opposed to health care for the working poor in Virginia also opposed an increase in the minimum wage, which has not been increased at the Federal level since 2009.

And there is no logic to their reasoning why they oppose an expansion in health care coverage for as many as 400,000 Virginians. Nor do they offer an acceptable alternative.

Bruce Neilson

Fairfax

Not Cute At All

To the Editor:

There you go again, Mary [Kimm, publisher], spotting that "free" federal money ["Voting against Virginia?" – Connection, March 12-18,

2014]. Don't you realize that many, if not most, of your readers see through your flowery attempts to sell an imaginary utopia? I mean, it used to be cute to read your "pie in the sky" collectivist fantasies when one could assume that your "intentions were good." But that same old intellectually deficient, emotional appeal doesn't manage to pass the sniff test anymore. It isn't cute at all, but rather sad; for those that unknowingly read your predictable, short-sighted and poorly vetted "opinion" with the hope that there is a feasible, sustainable solution to be found in there somewhere. But also rather insulting; that you do not realize that most of your readers are not so gullible. At least the Connection is "free;" even if federal money isn't.

Brent Emory

Vienna

Write

The Centre View welcomes views on any public issue.

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

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A Connection Newspaper



ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos welcome.

ONGOING

The **Airbus IMAX Theater at National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center**, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, is showing movies including "Hubble," "Fighter Pilot," "Hidden Universe" and "The Dream is Alive". Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy/> or call 703-572-4118 for the movie schedule.

Super Science Saturdays. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. the second Saturday of each month at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy>.

Sully Historic Site. 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Enjoy guided tours of the 1794 home of Northern Virginia's first congressman, Richard Bland Lee. \$7/adult; \$6/student; \$5/senior and child. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 703-437-1794.

Art Exhibit. Paintings by Centreville artist Rosemary Gallick will be on display Feb. 19-March 28 at the Atrium gallery at the Woodbridge Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 15200 Neabsco Mills Road. "Diversity in Music: Crossing Gender and Race" honors the talents of many artists. Free. E-mail rgallick@nvcc.edu, visit nvcc.edu or 703-878-5797.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 14-29

Theater Performance. The Providence Players present John Guare's "The House of Blue Leaves," a dramatic farce which illuminates the American dream and obsession with celebrity. Bronx Zoo attendant Artie Shaughnessy is a failed songwriter with an overly medicated wife, an impatient mistress, an AWOL son, and beer-drinking nuns on the day the Pope visits New York City in 1965. Contains mature themes and some strong language. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday matinees, 2 p.m. At The James Lee Community Center Theater 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Order tickets (\$17-\$20) online at www.providenceplayers.org, by email at providenceplayertickets@cox.net, by phone at 703-425-6782 or at the door.

FRIDAY/MARCH 21

Bouncin' Babies. 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Babies up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes, songs, stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Small Wonders. 4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy rhymes, songs and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Reservation Deadline. Sunday, March 30 and Monday, March 31, 3 p.m. at the Sully Historic Site in Chantilly off Route 28, one quarter mile north of Route 50. Enjoy an exhibit of Japanese fans and small objects, including Netsuke; sample a few teas, and make your own fan in celebration of Cherry Blossom season. A tour of the 1794 home of Northern Virginia's first congressman, Richard Bland Lee is included at 4 p.m. Reservations must be made by March 21. \$15. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site/> or call 703-437-1794.

Comedy Show. 7 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, Centreville. Smart comedy with Robert Mac to benefit Meant2Live. 7 p.m. live music, 8 p.m.

seating and 8:30 p.m. comedy show. Wine tasting and refreshments available for purchase. \$25. Visit robertmac.com/tickets for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 22

Peaceful Paws. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children on the autism spectrum or with other developmental challenges meet and read to a trained therapy dog Dakota, a gentle giant Bernese Mountain dog. Reading is not required, but can read from a library book or already owned one. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

SUNDAY/MARCH 23

Movie Premiere. Jason Brown, a 1996 Centreville High School graduate, will premiere his film "Falcon Song" at 2 p.m. at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema in Ashburn. Visit www.falconsong.com for information or drafthouse.com/movies/falconsong/northern_virginia for tickets.

MONDAY/MARCH 24

Bouncin' Babies. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Babies up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes, songs, stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Small Wonders. 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy rhymes, songs and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Sully Book Club. 1 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Discuss "The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court" by Jeffrey Toobin. Free. 703-830-2223.

Book Buddies. 2:15 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in grades 1-2 can discuss a book. Free. 703-502-3883 for title.

Writers of Chantilly. 6:45 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can share

their work and receive feedback. Free. 703-502-3883.

Presentation. 7:30 p.m. at Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. The Historic Centreville Society is hosting a presentation by William Page Johnson, II, on "The Quaker Scout, Jonathan Roberts (1818-1901)." Roberts served as a scout and guide for the Union Army and was elected sheriff of Fairfax County during the war. Light refreshments will be served. Free.

TUESDAY/MARCH 25

Toddlin' Twos. 10:30 a.m. or 11:30

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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CVHS Film-Production Classes Inspired Him

FROM PAGE 1

me with the freedom we had to create,” said Brown. “She encouraged us to find our inner voice, so I thrived in both hers and Hudson’s classes.”

After graduation, Brown attended the four-year North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem, obtaining a degree in film making, concentrating on directing. Enjoying it, he said, “It was a close-knit community of filmmakers.”

Next came an internship at NBC in Los Angeles and, 18 months later, he moved into the feature-film arena and was production assistant on the Robert Zemeckis film, “What Lies Beneath.” Brown then worked with Zemeckis’s company, ImageMovers, for several years and did production and art-department work.

Afterward, he helped develop the new field of asset management for motion-capture productions. It’s the technology used to make films such as “Avatar,” “Polar Express,” “G.I. Joe: Retaliation” and “Lord of the Rings.”

“There’s a real actor underneath, and computer software tracks his movements,” said Brown. “Then the data moves the computer-generated characters.”

He worked in that field a few years until 2010, when he branched out and started

his own company, Corgan Pictures. For the first couple years, though, he worked simultaneously on larger studio projects.

Now, said Brown, “We’re working to establish our brand — art-house material that can also thrive in mainstream theaters. We’re a boutique film studio because we’re not just working on other people’s productions; we’re developing and securing financing for our own films.”

Corgan Pictures’s first movie was “Nightfur,” a micro-budget cult film. It’s a sci-fi movie available in 3,000 outlets worldwide. It’s not a theatrical release, but is in retail stores and on video-on-demand streaming platforms.

“Falcon Song,” intended for limited theatrical release and one-time screenings, is the company’s second film. It also marks Qualley’s first major role in a feature film. Running 109 minutes, it took 18 months to produce.

“It’s important at this stage to make sure our product stays true to my artistic vision,” said Brown. “That’s why I’m heavily involved in it. We shot across six different cities in Montana and did post-production and editing in California.”

Calling his movie “uplifting,” he said it’s rare to find an independent film that’s good



The official poster for the movie, “Falcon Song.”

dominated by violence, shock, cynicism and negativity,” said Brown. “It’s a bit of an escapist film with a storybook-world feel, and I hope people will enjoy it.”

“Falcon Song” will be shown in 10 cities and, if it does well, it’ll go into additional theaters. Then in May, it’ll be released on most major cable-on-demand and Internet video-on-demand platforms.

“I feel really happy,” said Brown. “I feel like the past 12 years have led up to this point — to have the knowledge, ability and confidence to make the films I want to do and keep going. So it’s a really exciting time and I’m looking forward to the next project, another feature film currently in development.”

“Working in asset management and helping create that new field was integral in helping me acquire the networking and contacts needed to start my own company,” he continued. “It was an historical milestone in the development of film technology, and it was exciting to be a part of it.”

Through it all, though, he hasn’t forgotten his roots. What does he see himself doing down the road? Said Brown: “I’d eventually like to do a coming-of-age movie someday about growing up in Northern Virginia.”

Ordonez

FROM PAGE 1

Calling Ordonez’s dedication to the department “unmatched,” Spital said, “After almost three decades as a police officer, MPO Ordonez has not slowed down and continues to work hard every night, proudly serving the community.”

Furthermore, said Spital, Ordonez stands out among other police officers who’ve dedicated themselves to protecting the county’s residents. Said Spital: “[His] diverse career exemplifies the highest levels of professionalism and commitment to the Fairfax County Police Department.”

Citing a particular incident, O’Carroll said while Ordonez was on patrol at 4 a.m., he helped solve a case involving people who were stealing used cooking oil from fast-food restaurants. “He’s not in the right place at the right time by accident,” said O’Carroll. “He patrols and observes, and this arrest was significant because it was tied to several [similar] cases on the East Coast.”

Besides that, said O’Carroll, Ordonez is “always advocating for the younger officers.” Turning toward Ordonez, O’Carroll said, “Ray, it’s been a pleasure working with you. For all that you’ve done, it’s an honor to bestow Officer of the Year on you.”



Capt. Ed O’Carroll (left) presents a certificate to February’s Officer of the Month, PFC John Kolcun.



Capt. Ed O’Carroll (left) congratulates PFC Joe Compher for being March’s Officer of the Month.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Two Sully Police Officers Honored

Because snow cancelled February’s meeting of the Sully District Police Station’s Citizens Advisory Committee, two officers of the month were honored last week. Station Commander Ed O’Carroll recognized PFC John Kolcun for February and PFC Joe Compher for March.

He and the CAC feted both officers during the CAC’s March 12 meeting at the Sully District Station. O’Carroll said Kolcun was being acknowledged for “his diligence out on the streets. He’s permanently on night duty so, when we’re all home sleeping and safe, he’s out there fighting crime.”

Describing Kolcun as “dedicated and committed,” O’Carroll said, “He’s always willing to help the community and his fellow officers. And he was the officer who stopped the car with the occupants who broke over 150 vehicle windows with BBs.”

As a result, said O’Carroll, “We arrested two females and three males.” Turning toward Kolcun, O’Carroll said, “I’m proud to work with you, each and every day.”

Compher works the evening shift, from 1:30 p.m.-1 a.m. “I worked with Joe when he was a police cadet,” said O’Carroll. “He’s now a six-year veteran, all of that time at Sully. He’s very dedicated and also busy

fighting crime.”

O’Carroll said Compher does “superior work out on patrol, including arresting offenders and serving warrants. He often works with PFC Joe Shields and, one night, PFC Compher heard a radio call about a robbery in progress. Responding, the officers saw the robbers and challenged and arrested them — and both men had stolen guns from previous burglaries.”

Addressing Compher directly, O’Carroll told him, “You’re an inspiration to us all. Thanks for all your hard work.”

— BONNIE HOBBS

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 7

a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 2 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Wheee! 11 a.m. at Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy a high octave story time. Registration required 703-830-2223.

Storytime. 1:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 3-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 26

Read, Build, Play. Duplo Story

Time. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 18-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

Bouncin' Babies. 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Babies up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes, songs, stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Small Wonders. 4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy rhymes, songs and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

A Novel Society. 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults can discuss "Angle of Response" by Wallace Stegner. Free. 703-830-2223.

THURSDAY/MARCH 27

Toddlin' Twos. 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age

2 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Chantilly Library Teen Advisory Board Meeting. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Free.

FRIDAY/MARCH 28

Student-Built Robotics

Competition. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Patriot Center, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive. Students will showcase their remote-controlled robots in a tournament. Winners will qualify for the World Robotics Championships. Free. There will be displays and more. Visit www.dc-first.org for more.

Ready for School Storytime. 1:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 4-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY/MARCH 28-

SATURDAY/APRIL 19

Easter Bunny. Bunnyville will be located in the lower level of the Fair Oaks Mall's H&M wing, opposite Charming Charlie and Payless ShoeSource. Bunnyville will welcome visitors Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. and Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Fair Oaks will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 20. All children who visit the Easter Bunny at Fair Oaks' new Bunnyville will receive a gift from the Bunny just for visiting. Visit www.shopfairoaksmall.com or call 703-359-8300.

SATURDAY/MARCH 29

Student-Built Robotics Competition. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at

Patriot Center, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive. Students will showcase their remote-controlled robots in a tournament. Winners will qualify for the World Robotics Championships. Free. There will be displays and more. Visit www.dc-first.org for more.

Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy rhymes, songs and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Bouncin' Babies. 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Babies up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes, songs, stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Bull Run Swamp Stomp. 7 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Join naturalists from Potomac Overlook on a night hike and search for salamanders, spring peepers, woods frogs and more. Rubber boots and warm clothes recommended. Adults and children age 6 and older. Call 703-528-5406 to make a reservation and get directions.

MONDAY/MARCH 31

Bouncin' Babies. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Babies up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes, songs, stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Small Wonders. 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy rhymes, songs and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Book Buddies. 2:15 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road.

Children in kindergarten can discuss a book. Free. 703-502-3883 for title.

Afternoon Adventures:

Amphibians Abound. 3 p.m. at Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children ages 6-12 can meet live native amphibians including frogs, toads and salamanders. Free. Registration required, 703-830-2223.

SATURDAY/APRIL 12

Passion4Community. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the nZone, 14550 Lee Road, Chantilly. Cost of Admission is a can of food or other non-perishable item, which will be used to help families in need throughout our local communities. Visit <http://artsncraftsfair.weebly.com>.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 12-13

Bunny Paws. Fair Oaks Mall will host two 'Bunny Paws in Bunnyville' dates for pet photography with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 12, 8:30-9:30 a.m., and Sunday, April 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m. The popular 'Bunny Paws' events require all pets be on a leash or in a lightweight cage or pet carrier with a harness. Pets and their owners may enter Fair Oaks after hours from the lower level south east entrance only, adjacent to Today Japanese Sushi & Seafood Buffet. Visit www.shopfairoaksmall.com or call 703-359-8300.

SUNDAY/APRIL 13

Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a T-TRAK (table top) train show of N gauge model

trains. \$4/ adults 16 and over; \$2/ children 5-15; free for children under 5 and for members. Call 703-425-9225 or visit www.fairfax-station.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 17

Girl Scout Day Out. 1-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Scouts can practice skills while exploring the history of Sully. Hear stories, play games, sample sweets and more. No badges will be completed, but components of several badges will be offered. \$16/ scout. Tours for adults are \$5. Reservations must be made by March 26. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully or 703-437-1794.

FRIDAY/APRIL 18

Boy Scout Day Out. 1-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Scouts can practice skills while exploring the history of Sully. Hear stories, play games, sample sweets and more. No badges will be completed, but components of several badges will be offered. \$16/ scout. Tours for adults are \$5. Reservations must be made by March 26. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully or 703-437-1794.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25

Step Out with the USO. 7-11 p.m. Support the Dulles USO lounge and members of the armed forces at the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott on Aviation Drive. There will be food, dancing, cash bar, silent auction and raffle. \$35/person. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/step-out-with-the-uso-at-dulles-tickets-10454099493.

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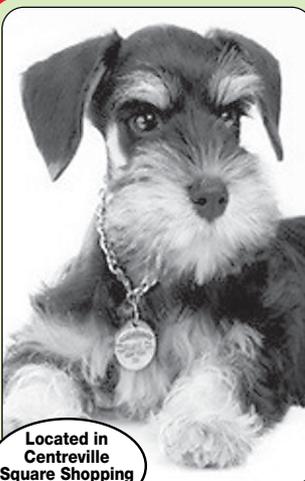
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Students at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, attend an English class. Experts say strong reading and writing skills will help students on standardized tests.

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Preparing for New SAT

Local experts say working hard in class is the best way to be successful.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
 CENTRE VIEW

Linda Mitchell and her 15-year-old daughter, Alexis, say they don't really know what to expect when Alexis sits for the SAT college admissions exam in 2016, but they're not too worried at this point. Two years is a long time.

"I'm just going to make sure she gets the best education possible," said Mitchell, who lives in Great Falls. "There's nothing else that I can really do at this point."

Local experts said that Mitchell's strategy is wise, explaining that the best way current ninth grade students (and those who are younger) can prepare for the test is to become strong readers and writers.

"It would appear that College Board's recent announcement regarding the redesigning of the SAT will indeed have some impact on how students, mainly current ninth graders, will prepare for standardized tests in the coming years," said Michael R. Hude, a college counselor at The Heights School in Potomac, Md. "The best way to prepare for any standardized test is to work hard in everyday coursework and to read as many good and challenging books as possible."

Reading and reading comprehension skills are key. "There are kids today who love to read. They've been exposed to an extensive vocabulary so they aren't afraid of words," said test preparation expert Harriet Broder of Breakthrough Test Prep in Potomac. "If you're a strong reader, you're going to do well on the test."

So how can parents help their children become more effective readers? "I have had students who say they hate reading," said Broder. "One thing that parents can do, for example, for children who don't like to read, is if their child wants to go see a movie, the parent can say 'Read at least two or three reviews about this movie and then tell me why you want to see it.' That is the place to start for non-readers."

Students, said Broder, should also be exposed to a

variety of writing styles. "There's no magic SAT fairy dust," she said. "Students should be exposed to different types of writing. They will be able to apply their skills more comfortably."

Broder also said improving reading speed and learning to recognize an author's main point and how the author had developed that point are critical skills. "Kids need to be trained to read to learn the author's thesis," she said. "Some students can read a chapter in a school book and can answer questions at the end, but they can't tell you the main point the author is trying to make."

Broder said an improved reading ability can be accomplished with "step-by-step ... strategies in critical reading, problem-solving [and] vocabulary development ..."

Officials at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington said they will focus on professional development strategies for teachers so they can help prepare students for the new test format.

"The proposed changes to the SAT will definitely have some impact in the way students prepare for the exam. The elimination of more obscure vocabulary words, free online test prep materials and aligning the test to coincide with what students actually learn in high school will allow students to focus more clearly on what they need to know to do well," said Kristina Herbst, the school's director of college counseling. "Also, the elimination of the penalty for wrong answers will make the test more user-friendly and help eliminate much anxiety over guessing while taking the test."

For those concerned about how the revised test might impact their admittance to their top college choices, officials at Marymount University in Arlington said they don't foresee a large adjustment.

"We will need to adjust to the changes in scoring, but otherwise no significant difference at this time," said Francesca Reed, associate vice president for enrollment at Marymount. "When we evaluate applicants, we look at the applicant holistically and consider not only their high school GPA and rigor, but their letters of reference and the level of engagement at their school and/or community. In an age when colleges are considering test-optional admissions, standardized tests will need to demonstrate that they provide admissions offices with resources that otherwise wouldn't have been determined through grades and other requirements."

Students, said Broder, should also be exposed to a



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Youth Art Month Celebrated

Experts say art can teach valuable life skills.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
CENTRE VIEW

Brightly colored self-portraits, landscapes dotted with spring flowers and hand-carved sculptures fill a gallery at the McLean Project for the Arts in McLean. All of the art was created by local school children. Meanwhile, in Alexandria, parents and tots dip their fingers in glue, clay and paint to create collages, sculptures and paintings.

"It is a true delight to see parents and children making things together in the studio. Joy is found in the stuff they make — the collages, paintings, drawings and sculptures — as well as the more intangible things we build: relationships, confidence, creativity, persistence and the many ways we make meaning through art," said Kathryn Horn Coneway of Art at the Center in Mount Vernon.

These are just some of the local art activities for children. In fact, Youth Art Month is an annual observance held each March to emphasize the value of art and art education. This year's theme is "Start With Art, Learn for Life," which was chosen by the Council for Art Education, a sponsor of Youth Art Month.

Local art educators are using the month as an opportunity to emphasize the importance of art education and raise awareness about the important life skills it can build.

"We believe art is important to study for its inherent value, but art also promotes life skills, including creativity, problem solving, determination, concentration, collaboration and confidence," said Samantha Marques-Mordkofsky, education and outreach manager for the Arlington Arts Center in Arlington. "Regardless of what field a child pursues later in life, these skills will translate and he or she will be better rounded because of ... art. We also offer multidisciplinary classes like Book Illustration, Amazing Architects & Engineers, and Murals: Big Art, Big Ideas where students have the opportunity to master technical skills in art while simultaneously learning about other subjects."

"What our art educators have known for many years research is now confirming," said Benita Cathey, director of admissions at Grace Episcopal School in Alexandria. "Art helps develop critical thinking and reading skills. Art education is vital because it builds

concentration, motivation and confidence."

Jorge Luis Somarriba, art teacher and artist-in-residence at Norwood School in Bethesda, Md., says the school is a community of artists. "We believe in a process-oriented and child-centered philosophy," he said. "Art nurtures self-confidence through self-discovery and personal visual expression. Art education is instrumental in the holistic development of a human being: spiritual, mental, emotional and physical. Art making develops the right brain, empowering individuals to become creative, problem-solvers who may think 'outside the box.'"

Experts said art education also develops self-expression and an appreciation for the work of others. "Elementary school students create art with such unbridled enthusiasm for painting, drawing and creating things," said Dabney Cortina, communications director for the McLean Project for the Arts. "I think it's because they haven't been told that there is anything wrong with how they create art. Currently going on is our youth art show featuring Fairfax County Public Schools in the McLean area. It is incredible to look at. You see the talent they have. It is totally amazing."

Eileen Lyons, chair of the Fine Arts Department at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Md., said that the arts are a vital part of the school's curriculum. "Arts education helps students learn how to solve problems in unique ways and it deepens their overall learning experience," she said. "Through collaboration and cross-curricular projects, teachers at Holy Child work closely together to engage students in the arts on many different levels. Art teachers collaborate with language, social studies, English and geometry teachers to bring deeper meaning to learning."

For example, said Lyons, on a recent trip to the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., art and French teachers worked together to bring the Van Gogh Exhibition to life in both English and French.

Stacie Steinke, chair of the Arts Department at The Madeira School in McLean suggests art education might not be taken as seriously as other disciplines. "Schools in general have been responding to trends that you need more science and math education and have been teaching to tests. Not at Madeira, but at some other schools, art education has diminished," she said. "We look at arts as a process. Our students learn to work effectively with others. Our approach draws on a student's natural curiosity, ability to perceive art in different forms and ability to think spatially. They develop cognitive growth, so they learn to see how parts relate to a whole."

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SPORTS



Westfield senior Melissa Fangio flips the ball to senior Katie Calearic during a scrimmage against Loudoun County on March 15.



Westfield senior KK Brummett throws across the infield during a scrimmage against Loudoun County on March 15.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Westfield Softball Looking to Return to Regionals

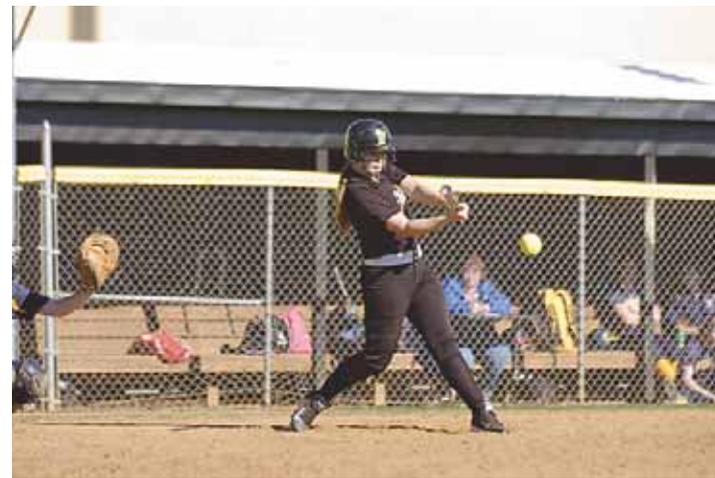
Brummett, Wilson, Shaw are Bulldogs' top hitters.

The Westfield softball team failed to qualify for the regional tournament last season, losing to Chantilly in the opening round of the Concorde District tournament.

How do the 2014 Bulldogs bounce back and reach regionals? It starts with strong team chemistry. "They get along with each other. We've got good team chemistry," Westfield head coach Dean Ferington said. "... There's no one leader. ... If something needs to be done, they step up and do it. If something needs to be said, it doesn't matter whether it's a junior or a senior, they can talk to each other." Senior shortstop/third baseman KK Brummett is one of Westfield's top returning players. Second



Westfield junior Kristen Goodman swings during a scrimmage against Loudoun County on March 15.



Westfield senior KK Brummett is one of the Westfield softball team's top returning hitters.

baseman Lorelei Wilson and outfielder Helanna Shaw also figure to be productive members of the Bulldog batting order. Westfield's top pitchers are senior Melissa Fangio and junior Kristen Goodman. "I think

we have a better attitude than we did last year," said Brummett, who will play at Chowan University next season. "... There's not really [any] overruling people. ... Everyone works together." Westfield will open

the season at home against Dominion at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 24. The Bulldogs will host Stone Bridge on March 27 and West Potomac on March 31.

— JON ROETMAN

Centreville's Green, Blumer to Participate All-Star Game

The 10th Suburban Classic girls' basketball all-star game will be held on Sunday, March 23 at Oakton High School.

The game features some of the top seniors from the 6A North and 5A North regions. There is a 3-point shootout at 2 p.m., followed by the main event at 3 p.m.

The West team, led by Madison head coach Kirsten Stone includes Centreville guards Jenna Green and Katie Blumer. The rest of the West roster includes: Abby Rendle (South Lakes), Caitlin Jensen (South Lakes), Bailey Dufrene (Osborn), Arnelle Collins (Freedom-South Riding), Katie Kerrigan (Madison), Kayla Hix (Stonewall Jackson), Nicole Zubovich (Freedom-South Riding) and Alexia Johnson (Broad Run).

The East team is led by Edison head coach Dianne Lewis. The East roster includes: Amy Berglund (West Springfield), Amber Bryson (Lee), Tatiana Torres (Edison), Michele Noel (Wakefield), Cami Prock (McLean), Tykera Carter (T.C. Williams), Angie Schedler (T.C. Williams), Samantha Porter (Mount Vernon) and DJ Jean Pierre (Mount Vernon).

Admission is \$5, with senior citizens and children younger than 5 admitted for free. Proceeds help to fund the Northern Virginia Women's Basketball Coaches Association scholarship program.

Centreville senior Jenna Green will compete in the 10th Suburban Classic girls' basketball all-star game on Sunday, March 23 at Oakton High School



CENTRE VIEW FILE PHOTO

SPORTS



Noah Fletcher (back left) and Drew von Rinteln (front right) are Senior Men's Boat Captains.



Laura Anhalt is Senior Girl's Boat Captain.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Million Meter Madness Fundraiser

Rowers and supporters from Westfield High School's Crew team turned out to row a million meters in a rowathon on Saturday, March 15. Proceeds from the event will

benefit the team, which is a fully self-funded athletic program of more than 85 rowers on both the girls and boys teams. This year is the 10th anniversary of the Westfield Crew team. Row-

ers rowed 10,000 meters each and even some parents, board members and a coach joined in. For more information, or to donate to the Westfield Crew team, see www.westfieldcrew.org.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos are welcome.

Lee, Sarah Lim, and Asmita Shah of Westfield High School, Senior Group Documentary; Sara Sturm, Kellie

Cleveland, and Skye Koutstaal of Westfield High School, Senior Group Website.

Fairfax County Public Schools named 64 students to the 2014 Virginia All-State Band, and 86 FCPS students have been named to the 2014 Virginia All-State Orchestra. Both groups will perform at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 5, at the new Moss Arts Center at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. Fairfax County Public School students from 22 high and secondary schools were named to the band or orchestra. Centreville High School: Alison Dettmer, Flute; Edward Chung, Violin; Joy Kim, Violin; Yehyun Kim, Violin; Joshua Pak, Violin; Jihun Yom, Violin. Westfield High School: Chandler Comer, Tenor Trombone; Daniel Park, Violin.

Fairfax County Public Schools won nine first place awards at the regional competition for National History Day, held recently at Mount Vernon High School. The two best entries in each category and in each age division have qualified to compete in the Virginia History Day contest on Saturday, April 26, in Williamsburg.

First place winners included: Zainab Calcuttawala and Swetha Kota of Westfield High School in Senior Group Exhibit for "Miep Gies Fights for Rights." Maisha Hoque and Raisa Hoque of Westfield High School in Senior Group Performance for "Akbar the Great: How a Mughal Used His Rights to Fulfill His Responsibilities." Hayley Seal of Westfield High School in Senior Individual Performance for "The Louisiana Purchase Song."

Westfield High School student Monica Rudolph won the Newseum First Amendment Freedoms Award, sponsored by the Newseum, for her Senior Individual Exhibit, "Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, Leading the Way for Women's Voting Rights."

Second place winners included: Celina Paudel of Westfield High School for Senior Individual Performance.

Third place winners included: Jisun

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No Know. No Problem.



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

I felt a bit of a dope this week when, after reading last week's column, "Whew!", multiple friends called to inquire specifically as to the "Tony-the-Tiger Great" news I wrote that I received from my oncologist, and I couldn't answer them in any detail: shrinkage, less fluid, "partial stable remission"? Nothing. And though I tried to get my oncologist to explain to me exactly what was so encouraging about this most recent CT Scan – compared to the one I took three months ago (as opposed to the one I had nine months ago which was mistakenly compared to this most recent scan and resulted in the "Some better, some worse. I'll explain more on Friday" e-mail I received from my doctor and talked about in "Whew!") – I was rebuffed. Rebuffed in the best possible way: being told instead how great I was doing, how great my lab results were (for this most recent pre-chemotherapy) and how I could live a long time like this (presumably continuing to be infused with Alimta) – it was almost disconcerting; especially when you consider the original e-mail assessment we received and our less-than-positive interpretation of it. Moreover, the oncologist's exuberance and smiling countenance, along with his offer of a congratulatory handshake led me away from the missing facts and immediately into these new-found feelings.

There's an old advisory among sales-people: "Don't be afraid to take a 'Yes.'" Well, I took a yes (figuratively speaking), and didn't feel compelled to press my doctor to further explain the reasons for his excitement. I became very happy taking the good news, and extremely fortunate that what Tuesday's inaccurate e-mail suggested: trouble, was turned completely on its figurative ear Friday when in person, my oncologist explained the semi-miscommunication. Believe me, when your oncologist gives you news with which you can live – pun intended, your reaction, at least mine, is not to question his judgment too much further in pursuit of some heretofore untold truth that could ruin what super-amazing-positive words you just heard. Call me naive, "Simple Simon," whatever, but since I am still alive five years post-diagnosis, you can call me anything you want.

A week later, a few of these phone calls have given me pause for reflection. And though I've tried to answer their queries in a sort of intelligent way, I'm sure I've failed. But I'm moving on. I will enjoy relative peace over the three-month interval until my next CT Scan on May 28th and follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results – in person. Then, we'll do this all over again. For the time being, I'm very lucky to have received such good news, however incomplete it originally may have seemed. Nevertheless, I can certainly appreciate the message even if I was confused by the delivery.

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

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Taxes

FROM PAGE 2

county services and revenues that I predicted in the fall was eliminated by our higher-than-anticipated real estate assessments," said County Manager Barbara Donnellan. "But we must still work to achieve efficiencies and continue to invest in our community."

"We like to say we like balanced development in the county. But that can be good or bad depending on where we are in the cycle."

— Richard Stephenson, Arlington's budget director

In Arlington, unlike Alexandria, the tax base is split evenly between residential property and commercial property. County budget officials say that's a blessing and a curse. When residential values declined during the recession, jurisdictions that were heavily reliant on them suffered. But commercial properties have been sluggish in the wake of sequestration and shutdown because the local economy is so heavily tied to the fate of the federal government. That means that Arlington finds itself balanced between two different markets instead of tied to the fate of one.

"We like to say we like balanced development in the county," said Budget Director Richard Stephenson. "But that can be good or bad depending on where we are in the cycle."

IN ALEXANDRIA, the city manager has proposed a tax rate of \$1.038 for every \$100 of assessed value. Earlier this month, City Council members voted to advertise a tax rate that's half a cent higher. That tax rate of \$1.043 for every \$100 of assessed value would raise the average residential property tax bill by \$230. That's a 7 percent increase compared to last year.

"I did not run to raise property taxes," said Councilwoman Allison Silberberg. "But we have some growing needs."

Unlike Arlington, Alexandria's tax revenues lean heavily toward residential properties. Almost 33 percent of the city's revenues come from residential property taxpayers, while commercial property taxpayers contribute only 25 percent of the tax base. That means the average single-family house, which increased about 3 percent this year, is shouldering a disproportionate amount of the burden for the increased cost of government in Alexandria.

"We have an 18 percent vacancy rate that's devaluing the commercial side of the ledger," said Alexandria Budget Director Nelsie Smith. "If we had a healthier commercial base that wasn't contributing to an 18 percent vacancy rate, we would not have seen the 0.68 percent growth from last year to this year."

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BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE

Tax Help. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive will hold free tax help hosted by AARP Tax-Aide on Tuesdays from 4-8:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 1-5 p.m. Free. For taxpayers with low- and middle-income and special attention to those age 60 and older. Bring photo ID, social security card and prior year's tax return.

THURSDAY/MARCH 20

Assistance League of Northern Virginia. 10 a.m. at Dominion Virginia Power, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Volunteers needed to help pack food for Weekend Food for Kids. Contact Wilma Bastian at 703-391-1963 or alnorthervna@yahoo.com.

Republican Women's Club. 6:30 p.m. at the Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Guest speaker will be Del. Barbara Comstock, candidate for the 10th Congressional District seat. Social hour from 5:30-6:15 p.m. Free, open to the public. Call 703-378-2519.

Support Group. 7-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200

St. Germain Drive. For people who have lost a loved one within the past two years. Free. E-mail kytyner@capitalcaring.org or 703-396-6198.

Conference. 7 p.m. at The Hub (SUBII) Ballroom – Middle, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Central Virginia Chapter host this event for people of all backgrounds to learn about Prophet Muhammad from practicing American Muslims. This event provides an educational and civil response, demonstrates why more than a billion Muslims revere Prophet Muhammad, and serves to build bridges of understanding. This is part of a national campaign with events happening in 70 chapters of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community around the country. Visit www.muslimsforpeace.org/events.

SATURDAY/MARCH 22

Health Screening. 9 a.m.–3 p.m., at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Centreville. Free EKG screenings for high school-aged children in Fairfax County. Visit www.ryanlopynski.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 23

Party-Planning Expo. Noon-4 p.m. at

the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Free admission and parking. Visit www.jccnv.org, www.gesher-jds.org, www.shalomdc.org, or call 703-323-0880.

MONDAY/MARCH 24

Assistance League of Northern Virginia. 1-2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library Room A/B, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Learn about an all-volunteer organization that feeds, clothes, educates and nurtures those in need in the community. Contact Mary Spence at mespence@cox.net or 703-425-2243, or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 25

Community Collaboration Summit. 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Mount Olive Baptist Church, 6600 Old Centreville Road, Centreville. Prepare your faith community to communicate and collaborate before, during and after a local disaster. Call 703-324-5185 or 703-324-3453. Attend half- or full-day summit. Lunch provided. Register at <https://2014summit.eventbrite.com/>.

Living With Alzheimer's: For Middle-Stage Caregivers. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Alzheimer's Association

Mulch Sales

Centreville High School. Get premium double shredded hardwood mulch (3 cubic foot bags) at \$4.90/bag for orders of 1-49 bags or \$4.55/bag for orders of 50+ bags. Order online now through March 23 at midnight at www.cvhsmulch.org. To pay by check, download, print, and mail the attached order form available on the web site. Delivery is available to ZIP codes 20120, 20121, and 20124. Free delivery for orders of 10+ bags. Delivery of mulch will be March 28-30, or pick up mulch at CVHS Saturday, March 29. All proceeds benefit Project Graduation and senior scholarship programs and activities. Visit <http://football.cvhstouchdownapp.com/mulch-spreading.html> for mulch spreading services.

Westfield High School. Sales have begun for the Westfield High School Mulch Sale. Get double shredded hardwood mulch delivered to help raise money for a safe and sober graduation party for the Class of 2014, as well as other PTSA programs. A WHS athletic team will even spread your mulch if you want, at only \$2 per bag. Order by Tuesday, March 18. Free delivery or pick up is March 29. Visit <http://pta.westfieldhs.org> to learn more or submit an order.

National Capital Area Chapter, 3701 Pender Drive, suite 400, Fairfax. Discuss helpful strategies to provide safe, effective and comfortable care in the middle stage of Alzheimer's. Hosted by the Alzheimer's Association. Free. Register at 800-272-3900.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 26

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm for meeting

materials, archives and more. Call 703-324-8662.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

Town Hall Meeting. 7 p.m. at Rocky Run Middle School, Cafeteria, 4400 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Topics include the 2015 Budgets for Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools, with Supervisor Michael Frey, School Board Representative Kathy Smith, Fairfax County management and budget staff, and Fairfax County Public Schools budget staff. Co-hosted by The Sully District Council.

MONDAY/MARCH 31

Kindergarten Registration. 2-4 p.m. at Colin Powell Elementary School, 13340 Leland Road, Centreville. Visit www.fcps.edu/start/kindergarten.htm for forms and information.

TUESDAY/APRIL 1

The Affordable Care Act. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Rd, Herndon. \$45, members; \$60, prospective members. Call 571-323-5304, or email info@dullesregionalchamber.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 2

Kindergarten Registration. 6-8 p.m. at Colin Powell Elementary School, 13340 Leland Road, Centreville. Visit www.fcps.edu/start/kindergarten.htm for forms and information.

Sully Woodland Planning Open House. 7 p.m. at Bull Run Elementary School, 15301 Lee Highway, Centreville. Give input on the planning of Sully Woodlands. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/sullywoodlands.htm or 703-324-8662.

MONDAY/APRIL 7

Kindergarten Registration. Brookfield Elementary School will host a kindergarten registration for the 2014-2015 school year. Parents of children who will be five years old on or before Sept. 30, 2014, and are living within the Brookfield Elementary School boundaries should contact the school at 703-814-8700 in order to make an appointment.

MONDAY/APRIL 21

Registration. Lees Corner Elementary School is gathering information on children who will be 5 years old by Sept. 30, 2014. Boundary information can be accessed at www.fcps.edu/boundary/. Call Mrs. Nolan at 703-227-3500 if you have a child who meets these requirements. Registration will be held 2-7 p.m. Enrollment information and forms will be mailed out prior to the registration. Visit www.fcps.edu/parents/start/kindergarten.shtml.

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