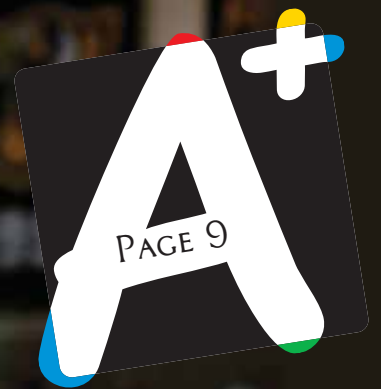


Chantilly
CONNECTION
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State Champions

SPORTS, PAGE 8

Westfield senior Blake Francis scored a team-high 23 points against Oscar Smith in the state final on March 9.



Schools, County Both Need More Money

NEWS, PAGE 3

Wish Comes True For Local Boy

NEWS, PAGE 7

BULLETIN BOARD

We invite you to join us for Holy Week and Easter services St. John's Episcopal Church

Wednesday, March 23 – 6:00 PM Service of Holy Eucharist
Maundy Thursday, March 24 – 7:30 PM Service of Holy Eucharist,
 Foot Washing, and Stripping of the Altar
Good Friday, March 25 – 12:00 Noon and 7:30 PM, Good Friday Liturgy
Saturday, Easter Vigil, March 26 – 8:00 PM, Lighting of the New Fire,
 and the first Eucharist of Easter
Easter Day, March 27 – 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM, both with Holy
 Eucharist, sermon and music

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30, 2016, are eligible to attend kindergarten. Find the correct neighborhood school by entering your address at <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/>. Complete a packet of registration forms found at www.fcps.edu/it/forms/enroll.pdf or in the school office. Gather supporting documents: proof of residence in the school boundary, a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, and any custody orders. Certificate of physical exam and immunization will be required before the student may start school, but is not required for registration. Parents who choose to delay enrollment in kindergarten by one year are required to notify the school in writing of their intent.

Greenbriar West Elementary School is now accepting information for next year's Kindergarten classes.



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

First Signs of Spring

Trees are covered with pink blossoms while yellow daffodils push through the ground outside the Fairfax Towne Center, off West Ox Road.

Parents of children who live within the school's boundaries and who will turn 5 years of age by Sept. 30, 2016, should call the school office at 703-633-6700 as soon as possible.

Union Mill Elementary is currently registering new students for the 2016-17 school year. Call the registrar at 703-322-8500 or email sheri.brown@fcps.edu to make an appointment to bring completed registration forms and supporting documentation to school.

Kindergarten Orientation takes place Friday, April 22, 9-10 a.m. Rising kindergarten students will have the

opportunity to visit a kindergarten classroom while parents attend an information session.

Colin Powell Elementary School will hold kindergarten registration on Monday, March 28, 1:30-3:30 p.m. and Tuesday, March 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Due to time constraints, parents are asked not to bring children along.

Poplar Tree Elementary will hold its Kindergarten Orientation on Thursday, April 14, 9:15-10:15 a.m. Call 703-633-7400 for more.

Greenbriar East Elementary

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 11

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ROUNDUPS

Dialogue on Teen Drug Use

Westfield High School PTSA invites parents to an evening of dialogue on Thursday, March 17, 7 p.m. in the school's lecture hall with a panel of high school seniors about drugs and alcohol use, teen parties, parent supervision and enabling, social media and communication with parents.

Facilitating will be Jennifer Lewis-Cooper of the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County. This is a parents-only event open to the community.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, March 17, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly.

No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

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

Learn about Dulles Suburban Center

The public is invited to a community meeting with Fairfax County staff on Tuesday, March 29, at 7 p.m., to learn about the start of the Dulles Suburban Center Study. It'll be held in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly.

This study will assess current conditions and update recommendations for future land uses and development for the 5,000-acre area adjacent to the Washington-Dulles International Airport, along the Route 28 and Route 50 corridors. The last comprehensive review of land use recommendations occurred in 1993. For more information, call 703-324-1380 or emailDPZDullesSubCenter@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Help Library Plan for Future

The public is invited to share their opinions about what library services are needed in the community at a forum on April 12, 7-8:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library.

Moving Equipment Is Sought

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

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

Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry needs donations of 1-2 pound bags of rice, canned fruit (all types), canned pastas, canned meats (tuna, ham, chicken), cold and hot cereals, spaghetti and sauces, peanut butter, canned vegetables (including spinach, collard greens, beets) and cooking oil.

Toiletries needed, which WFCM clients cannot purchase with food stamps, include facial tissues, toothpaste, shampoo and solid deodorant.

Bring all items to WFCM's food pantry, 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. A volunteer stocker/bagger is needed Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Contact Annette Bosley at 703-988-9656, ext. 110, or abosley@wfcma.org.

NEWS

Looking for More Money

Could meals tax be answer for schools and county?

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The residential real-estate tax comprises nearly 65 percent of Fairfax County's General Fund revenue. But since that's not enough to fund everything the county provides – including public safety and human services – its advertised FY 2017 budget proposes a 4-cent tax hike.

Trouble is, even increasing the county's annual transfer to the school system by 3 percent leaves an almost \$68 million gap between what the county says it can give and what FCPS says it needs. So last Monday, March 7, both sides presented their cases at a town hall meeting at Rocky Run Middle School.

Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) co-hosted the event with Sully District School Board representative Tom Wilson, and the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations sponsored it.

At the outset, Smith said she was there to learn about the community's wants and needs. "We want great teachers, so we need to find a way to have salaries be competitive and keep class sizes down," said Wilson. "And we have to have a creative approach toward managing our money."

Joe Lahaitt and Christina Jackson, with the county's Department of Management and Budget, detailed the county's revenues and expenses, while FCPS Chief Operating Officer Susan Quinn did likewise regarding the school system. Then the audience members asked questions.

"Since 2008, we've cut half a billion dollars [from our budget] and over 2,000 positions," said Quinn. "The county's proposed budget doesn't include money to replace textbooks, and some are 10-15 years old. And because our teachers' salaries are significantly below the market average, we started this school year with 200 vacancies — which is unprecedented in FCPS."

Arlington County has the highest teachers' salaries of any local jurisdiction, and Oakton resident Peter Skangos asked, "What's Arlington's magic recipe?"

"It has almost a 50-50 split between residential



Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith addresses the audience.

and commercial real-estate revenues," replied Lahaitt. "And their meals tax generates a significant amount of revenue."

"So I think we have to have that discussion," added Smith. "A 4-percent meals tax could bring in \$90 million."

But Franklin Farm resident Chuck McAndrew disagreed, saying, "Every year, the Fairfax County budget goes up at twice the rate of inflation. And if you keep raising taxes, you'll drive out the middle class and upper middle class."

Meanwhile, Sully Station II resident Sam Elson said, "It'll be another spring of [budget] slashing on the School Board. And I'm disheartened after [Springfield Dis-

trict] Supervisor [Pat] Herrity dismissed [School Superintendent Karen] Garza's and Quinn's presentation as 'political theater.' I have children at Westfield High, Stone Middle School and Cub Run Elementary, and [Herrity's attitude] is scary. It's about the money and taking care of our kids and the vision we have for our school system."

Army Sgt. 1st Class Richard Douglas spoke on behalf of the foreign-language immersion programs and was irritated that two county supervisors "expressed disdain for them. It's harder and more expensive to learn a foreign language as an adult, than as a child." And another man asked if there are any other strategies to raise money, other than by increasing taxes.

"Diversifying our revenue streams, looking for efficiencies and making cuts," answered Smith. "And also reflecting the values of the community. So during our three days of public hearings [April 5-7], I'll be listening."

One idea, suggested Wilson, might be having the School Board consider allowing individual schools to come up with their own, money-saving solutions. For example, he said, if a neighborhood wants its children to walk to school, instead of riding a bus, it would save money.

"So we need to have a mentality of being focused on operating better," he said. "Teachers, too, have ideas on how to save the school system money, so the board needs to be flexible."

SEE LOOKING FOR, PAGE 4



Sully School Board representative Tom Wilson.



Chantilly High teacher Mary Kay Downes, sitting next to her husband Linus, said the schools need more money from the county.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Looking for More Money

FROM PAGE 3

"The reality is that, when the school system doesn't get what it needs, teachers' salaries get cut," said Smith. "And that's something that's no longer sustainable."

Also speaking up was Chantilly High yearbook advisor and English teacher Mary Kay Downes, a 34-year school-system employee who was on the FCPS FY '17 Budget Task Force. "People campaigned to support individual items, but no one paid attention to the budget as a whole," she said. "We need more of a [monetary] transfer [from the county]. We're going to get cuts, and I hope it's not teachers first — because that's what's been happening for a long, long time."

Greenbriar parent Heidi Daugherty said teachers are important and children need to be well-rounded to be successful in the world today. "Police and firefighters need salary increases, as well, because they can't afford to live here," she said. "But increasing property taxes will drive people out. So we should instead look at what we need to save, not cut."

Kevin Hickerson, who teaches 12th-grade English with Downes, also spoke on behalf of educators. "Being on the Budget Task Force was gut-wrenching because I could see our school system being eroded," he said. "Programs are pitted against each other. And with two FCPS employee salaries in my house, we have a tough time living here. So last year was the first time I considered moving out of the county. [The county should] give 1 cent of the tax-increase [rev-



Susan Quinn explains the school system's needs.

enue] to the school system."

Jeff Parnes, with the Sully District Council, commented on the meals-tax idea. "When I go out with my friends and family to eat in Fairfax City, for example, we go to the restaurant we want to," he said. "A meals tax is not our major concern. Just put a tax on the restaurants; people will pay it." Furthermore, said Parnes, "The libraries, human services, fire, police and shelters are also hurting and need money, so disburse the [tax proceeds equally]."

Former School Board member Ted Velkoff also talked about equity, but regarding the treatment of employees. "The county executive has created a budget that fully

funds the county employees and tells the school employees, 'You're on your own,'" he said. "So the two boards need to establish what's fair compensation for all employees of the county."

County employee John Daugherty, of Greenbriar, told the county representatives that "In 14 years here, I've not gotten much more than a cost-of-living increase."

You've got to pay your employees fair salaries because they're responsible for the success of your programs. Many people leave here after three to five years and get hired elsewhere [where they can make more money]."

Among the last speakers was At-Large School Board representative Ilryong Moon. Basically, he said, "It is so unfair for the county's budget to go up 5.43 percent and the school system's by 3 percent."

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Odyssey, Chantilly High School's yearbook, is one of six yearbooks from five Fairfax County public schools that have been named finalists for the Crown award by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. Mary Kay Downes is the yearbook adviser.

Sherry Feng, a graduating senior at Chantilly High School has been named one of more than 4,000 candidates in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The candidates were selected

from nearly 3.3 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools in the year 2016. She is the daughter of Wally Feng and Helen Zhang.

Seven Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) student publications have been named finalists for the Pacemaker award, presented by the National Scholastic Press Association. The Pacemaker competition has been considered by many to be student journalism's highest honor. Finalists include:

❖ **Odyssey**, Chantilly High School; Stephanie Dugan and Rachel Palmer, editors, and Mary Kay Downes, adviser.

❖ **The Guardian**, Westfield High School; Nick Alexander-Goldsmith, Elis Kim, Crystal Park, and Heather Ren, editors, and Anthony Whitten, adviser.

Winners will be announced at the Journalism Education Association-National Scholastic Press Association spring national high school journalism convention in April.

Kalkidan Befekadu, of Chantilly, was named to the dean's list at Quinnipiac University (Hamden, Conn.) for the fall 2015.

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 5

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NEWS



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Tournament Raises \$6,000

The Dunkin' for Dollars Charity basketball tournament, organized by Nathan Reed, Spencer Schwartz and Zachary Levine — three seventh graders at Franklin Middle School — raised \$6,000 for Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and Peace Players International/Middle East program. The event was held on Sunday, March 13 at Worldgate Sport & Health and was sponsored by Orthodontics By Crutchfield.

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 4

Eric Bracco of Chantilly, **Ryan Cobb** of Fairfax, and **David Hu** of Fairfax, were named to the dean's list at Ohio University (Athens, Ohio) for fall 2015.

Fairfax County Public Schools stu-

dents won 10 first place awards at the regional competition for National History Day held in March at Mount Vernon High School. First and second prize winners in each category and in each age division have qualified to compete in the Virginia History Day contest on Saturday, April 23.

First place winners included **Jesus**

Neyra and **Nicholas Lin** of Westfield High School in Senior Group Website for "The Silk Roads Impact on the Han Dynasty."

Second place winners included **Zoe Seal** of Westfield High School in Senior Historical Paper and **Aislin Carpenter** of Westfield High School in Senior Individual Performance.

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OPINION

Homelessness on Its Way Out in Fairfax

Homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring;
776 fewer homeless individuals in 2016 than in 2008.

Homelessness is down in Fairfax County in every major category, a fact confirmed on Jan. 28, 2016, the annual Point in Time Count. There were 145 fewer individuals homeless than the Point In Time Count a year earlier, 138 of those in families, and seven fewer homeless individuals. There also were no families in overflow motels, and no families were unsheltered in the 2016 count.

Sixty-four percent of the 577 family members who were literally homeless on Jan. 28, 2016 were in transitional housing, with the rest in emergency shelter. There were vacancies in emergency shelters for families and in domestic violence shelters; no families were unsheltered.

"This trend is beautiful," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. "The things we're doing are making a difference."

In 2008, the Fairfax County established the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness with a plan to end homelessness within 10 years.

"Seeing the numbers decrease in so many different areas is encouraging after working on the 10 year plan," said Dean Klein, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. Since 2008, the number of people who are literally homeless on the day of the Point in Time Count has decreased by 776 individuals. "Since 2008 there has been a 42 percent reduction in the number of people counted as homeless,

from 1,835 people in 2008 to 1,059 in 2016," Klein reported to the Board of Supervisors on Monday, March 14.

Julie Maltzman, manager of Continuum of Care, reported the details to the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness on Monday afternoon.

A coordinated effort among partners, more housing options and flexible funding helped to get formerly homeless families into more viable housing with appropriate services, said Joe Meyer, executive director of Shelter House. More public awareness around homelessness is also making a difference, Meyer said.

Still, 341 children under the age of 18 were among those literally homeless in this year's Point in Time Count, 32 percent of all homeless.

Eighty percent (190 people) of the adults in homeless families were female; 66 percent of adults (155) in homeless families were employed; a slight increase from 62 percent in 2015. Twelve percent (21) of families were considered "youth households," with all family members under 25 years old.

Single adults made up 46 percent of all homeless people counted, a total of 482. Forty-two percent (202 people) of single adults who were homeless suffered from serious mental illness and/or substance abuse, a 13 percent decrease from last year. Many had chronic health problems and/or physical disabilities as well.

Thirty percent (146 people) were experiencing chronic homelessness. This is a significant decrease from last year when 42 percent (203 people) were experiencing chronic homelessness.

Among the factors helping to reduce homelessness, Maltzman said: the adoption of a Housing First approach; increased homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing efforts; prioritizing housing for individuals with the longest history of homelessness and highest vulnerability; additional permanent supportive housing for singles experiencing chronic homelessness; focus on housing veterans including use of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers; new permanent housing opportunities for families with children.

Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/

Support the effort to end homelessness by contributing to the Build a Village campaign found there as well.

Support the nonprofit partners working to end homelessness, including FACETS, Cornerstones, New Hope Housing, Northern Virginia Family Services, Shelter House, United Community Ministries, Good Shepherd Housing, Alternative House, Homestretch, Pathways Homes and others.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Mary Kimm is a member of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness.

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Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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LETTER

Everyone's Job

To the Editor:

I am a Boy Scout from unit 1826 and I am writing to express my opinion on an article I have recently read ["State of the Station," March 2].

You wrote that the Sully district is a safe place to live. I agree with that.

One thing that I would add is that it is not only the neighborhood watch and the neighborhood police patrol's job to help protect our community but everybody's job.

Every person in the community can do their part. Sometimes my family goes out to pick up litter and even that helps the community by staying clean.

We believe in the "broken window theory." It is a hope that when a neighborhood looks well kept and clean, small crimes such as littering, and vandalism will not be as frequent.

I am glad that many people take part in keeping this a safe area.

Mitchell Palmer

End of Session Report

BY JIM LEMUNYON
STATE DELEGATE (R-67)

The 2016 General Assembly session concluded in Richmond on Friday evening. We will reconvene for a single day session on April 20 to consider any vetoes or amendments proposed by Governor McAuliffe.

The next regular session will begin in January 2017.

A total of 907 bills passed the House and Senate.

Many have already been approved by the Governor; a few have been amended or vetoed. Of these 907 bills, 21 were introduced by me and five of these have already been signed into law. Most of the bills I introduced pertain to transportation, education, and ensuring government transparency and accountability while reducing government waste and inefficiency. All of the 21 bills that passed did so with bipartisan votes. I'm pleased to report that 21 bills represents the most bills passed by a member of the House or Senate during the 2016 session.

The last action item on Friday was passage of the 2016-2018 state budget. Unlike the way the federal government operates, Virginia has a balanced budget. There are no new taxes or fees. We are not accumulating debt to be paid by future generations of Virginians.

COMMENTARY

The budget represents a compromise between the House and Senate, and includes bringing more money back to Northern Virginia for transportation and education. Fairfax County and Loudoun County public schools will receive record amounts of state funding during the next two years. Funds are included in the budget to widen I-66 inside the Beltway eastbound from Rt. 7 to Ballston, including fixing the merge with the Dulles Toll Road, as well as widening I-66 outside the Beltway. Even so, the General Fund, which pays for these and other government operations, is five percent smaller than 10 years ago, taking inflation and population growth into account. This is accomplished by continual focus on government efficiency.

The General Assembly also filled two court vacancies. Stephen McCullough was elected to the Virginia Supreme Court and Mary Bennett Malveaux was elected to the Court of Appeals.

Now that the session is finished, I'll continue with some "off season" responsibilities, including chairing the Freedom of Information Act Advisory Council, which is undergoing a review Virginia's open government laws. I also serve on the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the Standards of Learning Innovation Committee, which focuses on statewide education standards and testing. I serve as vice-chair of the Code Commission, which is re

SEE END OF SESSION, PAGE 11

His Wish Comes True

Centreville's
Liam Bruen
gets a
companion dog.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Like most little boys, Liam Bruen loves super-heroes and playing with his dog and his friends — he just does it from a wheelchair. Born with muscular dystrophy, he was officially diagnosed one-and-a-half years ago.

And although he's mostly non-verbal, he can move his fingers to use assistive technology to communicate. "The whole world has opened up to him since he started using this computer two years ago," said his mom, Jamie Bruen, of Centreville's Cabell's Mill community. "He loves it and being able to go to school and learn."

Liam, 6-and-a-half, is in first grade at Poplar Tree Elementary, where he takes both special-education and general-education classes. "He's the happiest kid — he's such a joy," said Bruen, a single mother. "He has a very active mind, can make facial expressions and will make certain sounds to tease me. For 'yes,' he'll make his eyes big or will say, 'Uh, huh,' and for 'no,' he'll blink or say, 'Eh, eh.'"

"A nurse goes to school with him and comes to our home at night so I can sleep," she continued. "Liam needs someone with him 24 hours a day because he's on life support. We live with my parents — I couldn't do this without them."

When he's not busy with school, Liam enjoys humming songs, especially, "Hi, Ho," and watching his favorite movie, "Snow White." He also likes reading about Curious George and superheroes like The Hulk and watching "Handy Manny" on Netflix and "Marvel's the Avengers."

"Liam also loves to go to the pet store and see the chameleons and birds," said Bruen. "He absolutely loves the birds." And he's overjoyed about having a companion dog, a black Lab named Patch, courtesy of Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic, which grants the wishes of children with life-threatening, medical conditions.

"Liam loves dogs, and we had them in the past, but they weren't companion dogs," said Bruen. "We couldn't raise a puppy and Liam wanted a big dog, so we needed one that was full-grown. So I contacted Make-A-Wish, a few years ago, but it took a while to find a dog — and one with the right temperament and age."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMIE BRUEN

Centreville's Liam Bruen loves having a companion dog.

The Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind trained Patch, who's 2 years old. "He's a great dog, and very sweet and curious," said Bruen. "Liam wanted a dog he could play with and chase around in his wheelchair, and that's what he got."

PATCH got his name because he has one white patch on his otherwise black fur. He spent a day with Liam, before Christmas, to see if they'd be a good fit, and Liam loved him. Now, said Bruen, "He loves taking Patch for a walk and throwing a ball to him with my help. Patch is gentle and mild-mannered, and he's happy here; he even has play dates with some neighbor dogs. But his main thing is to be a companion dog and help Liam interact and play with other kids. Then at night, he'll curl up by Liam's bedside."

Liam has fun taking Patch outside and is always excited to show off his furry buddy to his friends and other family members. "It feels like our little family is complete," said Bruen. "Liam has his own dog, and it makes the little things of life more exciting."

Liam even helps feed him by making sounds to help his mom count out the scoops of food Patch needs to have. Doing so, said his mom, gives Liam "more responsibility and more of a typical life like other children who do chores."

"I want to say thank-you to the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind and to Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic and the volunteers who helped facilitate this," said Bruen. "Patch is a wonderful dog who gives our lives more variety and makes life a little more fun. We're just beyond grateful."

"It feels like our little family is complete."

— Jamie Bruen, Liam's mom

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Westfield Boys' Basketball Wins State Championship

Bulldogs first Fairfax County team to win states since 1981.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Westfield/Oscar Smith matchup in the 6A boys' basketball state championship game was a historic one — it was the first time since 1921 two schools had met in the football and boys' basketball state finals in the same academic year.

At the end of the night, Westfield made some history of its own.

The Westfield boys' basketball team won the program's first state title with a 74-56 victory over Oscar Smith on March 9 at VCU in Richmond. The Bulldogs led by 13 points at halftime and by 20 entering the fourth quarter.

Westfield became the first boys' basketball team from Fairfax County to win a state title since Lee won it all in 1981.

T.C. Williams, which captured the 2008 state championship, is the only other boys' basketball team from Northern Virginia to win a state title in the last 35 years.

"I'm really excited for our region," Westfield head coach Doug Ewell said. "It's been 35 years since [Fairfax County has] won a state title —since 1981. We've had some great coaches and I don't think I'm anywhere close to them, but we do have a state title back in Northern Virginia [and] that's important to me."

Senior guard Blake Francis led Westfield with 23 points during the Bulldogs' win over Oscar Smith. Senior forward Tyler Scanlon scored 22 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and senior forward Hank Johnson finished with 18 points and seven rebounds.

Johnson knocked down four 3-pointers. "Tyler and Blake always put me in a great spot to succeed," Johnson said.

"They get so much attention — and rightfully so. They just give me good open looks and I know them down when I get the chance."

Scanlon and Johnson were members of the Westfield football team that defeated Oscar Smith 49-42 in triple overtime in the fall to win the state championship. Scanlon said the boys' basketball team's loss to Colonial Forge in the 2015 state final served as motivation for both sports. The Bulldogs missed four free throws in the final minute and lost by one point.

"Last year, after the Colonial Forge game ... I remember Coach Ewell saying, 'Tyler will be back, he'll be in the gym tomorrow' and we took that mentality into football," Scanlon said. "... We don't win these cham-



The Westfield boys' basketball team won the 2016 6A state championship.

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR



Westfield senior Tyler Scanlon scored 22 points against Oscar Smith in the state championship game on March 9 at VCU.

pionships without last year, because that motivation was unbelievable. Every time you wanted to walk away, it was, 'Man you were this close to getting your ring sized.'

"When you have a motivation like that and you have some talent, that's really what gets you there."

While Westfield won comfortably against Oscar Smith in the state final, the Bulldogs' win over Woodside in the semifinals the



Westfield senior Hank Johnson made four 3-pointers and scored 18 points during the Bulldogs' win over Oscar Smith in the state final on March 9.

previous night was much more dramatic.

Scanlon scored with 2 seconds remaining in regulation and Westfield won 52-50.

"Truly, at the end of the day, we go to our horses, they go to their horses," Ewell said, "and our horse took the lead."

With the score tied and time winding down in the fourth quarter, Francis flipped the ball to Scanlon near the top of the arc

and set a screen. Scanlon drove to his right before lofting a shot over three Woodside defenders from just outside the lane.

Woodside came up empty on the game's final shot.

"The whole game they were switching on ball screens and pretty much every screen, so I knew I was going to get a switch there, and I knew I had an open side ... and I figured I was just going to attack the basket," Scanlon said. "I was planning to get a layup, but things didn't work out."

Scanlon finished with 26 points, eight rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Westfield held the ball for more than a minute before Scanlon dropped in his game-winner.

"I think my teammates trust me and that's a big deal," Scanlon said. "When your team has faith in you to take that shot, it makes it a lot easier."

Westfield trailed by four early in the fourth quarter. After a Scanlon bucket cut the Woodside lead to two, Francis knocked down a 3-pointer from the right wing and drew a foul.

He converted the four-point play, giving the Bulldogs a 46-44 lead with 4:36 remaining.

"My shot really wasn't falling at the beginning of the second half," Francis said, "so I got my confidence boosted a little bit" after the four-point play.

Francis' jumper with 3:48 to go gave Westfield a 49-48 advantage. He finished with 15 points on 5-of-13 shooting.

Johnson finished with eight points and six rebounds. Joe Katchmark knocked down a 3-pointer for the Bulldogs.

‘Do You Keep a Gun in Your Home?’ **Tips**

Starting conversations about gun safety can help prevent play date tragedies.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Starting the conversation felt awkward. After all, she didn’t want to offend another parent. It also felt necessary, because putting her 5-year-old son in harm’s way was not an option. After procrastinating, role-playing and even discussing it with a therapist, Sara Hayes finally initiated the dialogue. Before scheduling a play date, she wanted to know if the families of her son’s friends owned guns.

“My son had started making friends in kindergarten and of course I wanted him to have playmates and go on play dates,” said Hayes. “But I had this fear of him being in someone’s house where there was a gun that he could get his hands on.”

Statistics from the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence indicate that one out of three homes in the United States with children have guns and almost 1.7 million children live in a home with a gun that is unlocked and loaded. Child development experts say that because many children are

naturally curious, the odds of a child finding and playing with a gun that is relatively accessible are high. Even if a parent has never thought to ask about guns in a home or finds the topic too uncomfortable to raise, the conversation is vital to helping parents make decisions about safety, because simply telling a child to stay away from a gun is not enough to change that child’s behavior.

A study by a researcher at Eckerd College showed that educating preschool children about the potential dangers of guns didn’t prevent them from playing with guns. In writing about her findings, Marjorie Hardy, Ph.D., explained, “... We brought a police officer to a class of 60 children and he told them: ‘Don’t touch guns — they’re dangerous. If you see a gun, leave the area. Go tell an adult.’”

After the officer’s presentation, the children could repeat what they’d been taught to do when they saw a gun. “But when we left them alone with disarmed guns, they picked them up and shot everything in sight,” she wrote.

Officer Roger Henriquez of the Fairfax

County Police Department, Franconia District Station says that parents might consider asking a parent before a play date: “How many guns do you own, and how do you keep them stored?” “Do you have a lock box or other safety features ... like trigger locks?” “Do you take your kids to a firing range?”

Such questions will help parents gather information to determine whether their child’s playmates’ parents share their views on gun safety and storage, since parenting philosophies run the gamut from lax to strict where guns are concerned. “Some parents take their kids to a firing range and other kids are told nothing except ‘Stay away from this box,’” said Henriquez.

Starting such conversations can be fraught with anxiety, and many parents are reticent to broach the subject, especially with friends. “It’s uncomfortable to talk honestly with other parents about issues such as guns because they are so politically divisive,” said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University in Fairfax. “It’s also difficult to ask other parents questions that may be taken as a judgment on [their] parenting.”

To increase the chance of a smooth and amicable conversation, Best suggests that

The Center to Prevent Youth Violence has created a resource for parents who want to inquire if there are firearms where their children play. They offer these tips, which might make it easier to open a dialogue:

❖ **Ask with other questions.** Include the question along with other things you might normally discuss before sending your child to someone’s house such as seat belts, animals, or allergies.

❖ **Use the facts.** Over one-third of homes with children have a gun. Many of those guns are left unlocked and loaded. That is why you are asking — you just want to make sure that your child is safe.

❖ **Don’t be confrontational.** Present your concerns in a respectful manner. You are simply trying to make sure your child is in a safe environment.

Visit askingsaveskids.org

bringing up questions about possible firearms and their storage should happen well before a play date, rather than when a child is dropped off at a friend’s house.

“A parent can begin with letting the hosting parent know if your child has any allergies,” said Best. “This can be followed by ‘I just wanted to make sure if you have guns at home, they are secured in a lock box.’”

A straightforward approach is an essential part of initiating these conversations.

The statistics, say child researchers, bear out the importance of overcoming initial discomfort about a potentially controversial conversation. “I think most parents support firearm safety, if that means keeping children safe,” said Best.

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21 Announcements

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PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING
COMMISSION AND CLIFTON TOWN
COUNCIL

April 5, 2016

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning Commission and the Town Council will hold a joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider a request for a special use permit for Peterson's Ice Cream Depot, located at 7150 Main Street. The special use permit request includes an expansion of the existing use, including, but not limited to, the increase in number of seats; an increase in parking; an expansion of the hours of operation; an increase in employees, from the previously issued special use permit. The application for this special use permit is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend the joint public hearing of the Town of Clifton Planning Commission and the Town Council and express their views with respect to the requested special use permit for Peterson's Ice Cream Depot.

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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"I Have Cancer"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Hardly a news flash, as you regular readers know. But when I said it the other day in response to some general conversation, I almost couldn't get the words out. It was peculiar, since I'm not usually uncomfortable discussing cancer or any of the associated experiences, and I certainly spend enough time writing about it. But when I said these words, I almost shook with anxiety or fear or something. And it scared me because it was a reaction/sensation I had never felt before; well, hadn't felt in a long time, anyway.

And it's not as if I spend a majority of my time denying my affliction. I wouldn't say I embrace it, but neither do I shrink from the responsibility of living with it and trying to overcome it. Nor do I mind being asked questions about cancer or my feelings before, during and throughout any and all ongoing treatments, scans, appointments and lab work and how it all relates and impacts. I'm open and honest and try to be "self-effacingly" positive in the midst of/against terrible odds. Generally speaking, not much bothers me. In fact, I've found a little humor goes a long way, and a lot of humor can mask a multitude of negative/unproductive emotions. (As you might imagine, there's no shortage of these.)

So it was odd – to me, when I went unexpectedly negative, experiencing an almost physical reaction to words (which aren't supposed to hurt me; after all, they're not "sticks and stones"). Words which I must have said in some context hundreds of times since I was diagnosed seven years ago, and rarely if ever shuddering – literally, at the mention of them. But shudder I did. I thought I had become accustomed to acknowledging them. Perhaps not?

But this is what cancer does; it sneaks up on you and takes control, physically and emotionally. And not merely when you least expect it, but when you thought you had passed the point of expecting it because you felt you had been there and doing it long enough that you were resistant to its ravages. Well, I was reminded quite clearly by this recent conversation that I will likely never get out from underneath its influence and effect. And here I thought I was Mister Well-Adjusted/Cancer Cool. Not so much, apparently. I'm just another cog in the cancer machine. Granted, I have my moments where I'm Charles and in charge, but this past week has shaken me to the core.

Not that I'm rethinking my approach to being a cancer patient/survivor; more that I've gained newfound respect for my adversary. You know, all things considered, I've had an amazingly easy time of it since I was diagnosed in late February, 2009, and perhaps I've misjudged/miscalculated/totally misinterpreted that amazing good fortune, thinking that somehow I was immune to cancer's insidious nature. Well, if I wasn't convinced before, I'm definitely convinced now. I don't suppose cancer schemes, but now I sort of feel like a pawn in a chess match and all I am is the timer.

But it is Spring Training (baseball) when all things are possible and hope is eternal. And though I have admitted some of my deepest and darkest fears, nothing is inevitable. My original prognosis was "13 months to two years" SEVEN YEARS AGO, so I'm not easily swayed. Presumably, in the future, there will be blips on my health radar, but it's nothing I can't handle. This recent experience actually confirmed it. It made me rethink some of my situational self-assessments and encouraged me in a way. I'm not exactly sure how or why but strangely enough, I sort of feel stronger and more capable going forward. On the whole, an excellent result.

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

OPINION

End of Session

FROM PAGE 6

sponsible for publishing Virginia's law books, as well as recommending the deletion of obsolete laws and clarifications to laws that are unclear.

I expect to announce a date for a town hall meeting in the near future to provide more details about the 2016 session and answer questions.

It is a privilege for me to sit in your chair, work at your desk, speak on your behalf and do all of the other things required of a state legislator. Nearly 397 years ago the Virginia House of Delegates held its first meeting in Jamestown, known then as the House of Burgesses. We live in a time of rough and tumble politics and acrimony, particularly in presidential campaigns. It is my objective, shared by many other Virginia legislators of both parties that the legislative body in which democracy in America was first formed in the 17th century be an example of democracy in America at its best in the 21st century. I hope you will let me know how we are doing in this regard, in addition to sharing your views on specific public policy matters.

As always, please feel free to contact me by phone at 703-264-1432 or by email at deljlemunyon@gmail.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

School will have Kindergarten Orientation/Registration on Thursday, April 21, 2:30 p.m. Call the school office at 703-633-6400 with questions.

THROUGH APRIL 18

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 17

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

MONDAY/MARCH 21

Garden Club Meeting. 7 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Centreville Garden Club presents "All about Sedums" with Donna Kuroda, past president of the Cacti & Succulent Club of Washington, D.C. Visitors welcome. Learn more at centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com, email centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com or call 703-266-9233.

Woman's Club Meeting. 7 p.m. at the Cale Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. The GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club will host Joanna Walker who will relate the story of a time when her son, diagnosed with bipolar disorder, was spiraling out of control. Walker will discuss how she came to join the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Northern Virginia five years ago, and its role in providing support, education, and hope to individuals and families whose lives have been affected by mental illness. Guests are welcome and admission is free. Visit www.wfwc.org or call Mary Jane at 703-378-4250 for more.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

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

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

Toddlin' Twos. Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Storytime for Three to Fives. Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children age 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

English Conversation Group. Thursdays, 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

English Conversation Group. Saturdays, 3 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Practice English with a group

of students and adults. Free. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

English Conversation Group. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

Plant Clinic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

ESL Book Club. Mondays, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Meet and discuss a book chosen by group. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

ESL Book Club. Every other Saturday, 11 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults learning English are welcome to meet and discuss a book chosen by the group. To find out book title, call 703-502-3883.

Lego Block Party. Every other Tuesday, 3 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883.

Duplo Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Live After Five. Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Every Friday night a band plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for a full

schedule.

Singing. 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires rehearse every Wednesday which includes training by an award-winning director. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaires.org for more.

Legos Kids Club. Every other Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Thousands of Legos for children to play with. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223.

Starlight Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories under the stars for ages 4-8. Wear pajamas and bring stuffed friends. Free. Call 703-830-2223.

FRIDAY/MARCH 18

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

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 18-19

Chantilly Invitational Jazz Festival. 4:30 p.m.-10 p.m. on Friday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. on Saturday at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Watch as jazz bands and combos from area middle schools and high schools compete. Featured artists this year are the Alan Baylock Jazz Orchestra, George Mason University Jazz Ensemble, U.S. Air Force Band Airmen of Note and National Jazz Workshop All Star Jazz Orchestra. Exhibition performances by Chantilly

EASTER EVENTS

SUNDAY/MARCH 20

Easter Event. 3:30 p.m. at King of Kings Lutheran Church and Preschool, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. King of Kings Lutheran Church is having its annual Easter event for Families and Easter Egg Hunt — Rise Up With Jesus. Activities for children up to grade 6 include picture with the Easter bunny, egg hunts for different ages and special needs, and decorating Easter trees. \$5 per child. All are invited. Contact Judi Cooper at jhangen@kofk.org or 703-378-7272, ext. 225 or visit www.kofk.org.
Photos with the Easter Bunny. Through March 26, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Fair Oaks Mall — Grand Court, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. The Easter Bunny will greet visitors in Bunnyville presented by StoneSprings Hospital Center — a three-dimensional town for children to explore. Located on the lower level in Grand Court, Bunnyville features many places to visit including Hoppin' Fresh Bakery, Hare Salon and 24 Carrot Bank. The last stop along the adventure is an opportunity to visit with the Easter Bunny and have photos taken. Free. Visit www.shopfairoaksmall.com.

High School's own Workshop Jazz and Chantilly Jazz groups. Free. Visit www.chantillyband.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 18-20

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

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 19-20

Barrel Tasting Weekend. 12-5 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Guests will

enter the barrel room in a small group and proceed through three different stops to taste nine different wines directly from barrel. Also, find food pairings along the way. Tickets are \$25, \$15 for members. Call 703-830-9463.

SUNDAY/MARCH 20

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

TUESDAY/MARCH 22

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

MARCH 29-MAY 17

Tai Chi for Beginners. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-11 a.m. at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. Learn slow, fluid movements to promote relaxation, balance, strength, and flexibility. Workshop fee is \$115. Visit www.inova.org/creg for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

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

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Tour of Civil War Sites. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will sponsor a tour of rarely visited Civil War sites and earthworks in Fairfax Station, Clifton and Centreville. Local Civil War Historian, John McAnaw, will lead the tour. Tickets are \$20 for Museum members; \$30 non-members. Register or questions at events@fairfax-station.org.

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