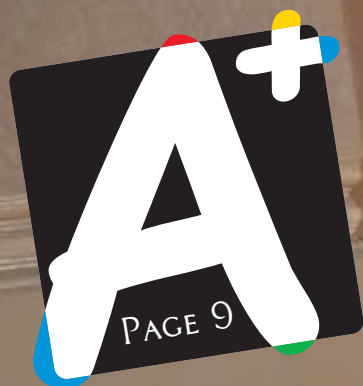


# Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes

# Day Prom

NEWS, PAGE 3



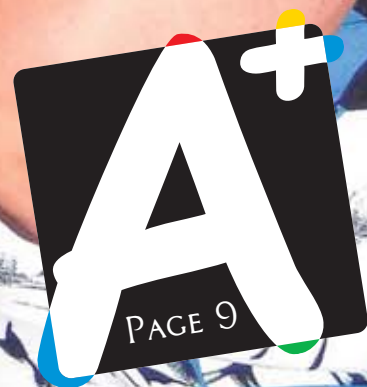
From left are Westfield High's Sara Hall, Tommy Nash and Brigitte Schultz.

## Students Display Work At Chantilly Pyramid Art Show

NEWS, PAGE 4

## Chantilly, Westfield Receive Cappie Nominations

NEWS, PAGE 7





# Save Our Starving Schools, Support the Meal Tax




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# 'The Chance to Be Like Other Teens'

Students attend Day Prom at The Waterford in Fair Oaks.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t last week's prom, the students attending ate pizza, visited with friends, danced and sang along with the music. But this wasn't just any prom — it was the Day Prom for special-education students with intellectual disabilities.

Yet it came with all the bells and whistles, fun and excitement of proms everywhere. And the 250-some students from 11 schools at the Thursday, May 12, event at The Waterford in Fair Oaks had a wonderful time.

"It's a great place where they can just be themselves," said Chantilly High special-ed teacher Patti Caplan. "It's a joyful event."

Chantilly had seven students there, Westfield High, 21, and Centreville High, 24, including four regular-education students in the Best Buddies Club. Westfield instructional assistant Sara Hall said the prom lets the students "interact with other people, and in a different environment."

"It gives our children a chance to experience a prom like other students do," said Westfield instructional assistant Brigitte Schultz, sitting next to student Tommy Nash, wheelchair-bound but smiling. "And the kids get so much joy out of the prospect of dressing up and getting their hair and makeup done, that they might not otherwise have been able to experience."

"They're loving it; they're all out there dancing," said Westfield special-ed department chair Melissa Gordon, pointing toward the dance floor. She said the students were also enjoying the pizza, sandwich wraps, cheese, fruit, vegetables and chocolate cake. And, she added, "The cotton candy, this



Student Marafi Badr makes cotton candy for the prom guests.

year, was a big hit." Most of all, though, said Gordon, "This gives them the chance to be just like any other teenagers. The social piece is important for them, and they get to just let loose and enjoy themselves."

Caplan said Chantilly's special-ed students "either weren't invited to the regular prom or didn't have someone there with them to help them navigate it. But they prepare for the Day Prom. We start early in the year in our Life Skills classes, discussing formal and semi-formal etiquette and dress. We also show them how to navigate a buffet line politely, how to make small talk and how to have good manners."

The students are also shown photos and videos of the Day Prom, and their teachers discuss the event with their parents. "And this year, Reston Limousine donated its time and a limousine with a wheelchair lift for us," said Caplan. "It was super fun. The driver put on the radio, and the kids were singing, the whole time. We wished we had a longer drive. And except for eating, they've been on the dance floor here, the whole time."

Linda Lee, a speech/language pathologist at Chantilly, said this prom is "a wonderful opportunity for the students to get to learn

how to use their social skills" outside of the classroom. "This also gives them a chance to reunite with students they know from other schools and with former classmates who've gone on to other schools," said Lee. "They also get to see friends they know from church, Special Olympics, Challenger Baseball and other activities."

Noting that the Day Prom's theme was "A Day to Remember," she said it really will be for the students, "as they look at their photos and reflect back on all the fun they had."

Chantilly junior Jeffery Creighton called his first prom fun and said he liked the cake and enjoyed dancing. He likes music, especially Bon Jovi. "The prom is excellent," said classmate Adithya Mathuria. "I like everything about it and I also love the chandeliers."

Another classmate, Obida Khawatmi, said his favorite singer is Jason Derulo and he, too, was having fun dancing. He also liked eating the pizza and cotton candy. As for classmate Shantell Martin, she said, "It's fun visiting with friends. And I like the food and the music; Ariana Grande is my favorite singer."

Special-ed teaches Kathleen McGuire and Tommy Lamb co-sponsor Centreville High's



Among those attending the Day Prom from Centreville High are (from left) Sam Rowan, Kathleen McGuire, Jayde McMillan and Jack Erickson.

Best Buddies Club, which promotes friendships between regular-ed students and those with intellectual disabilities. "The Day Prom is the highlight of the year for all these kids and their teachers," said McGuire. "Coach Lamb works on the dances with them; this year, he taught them the Whip, the Nae Nae, the Wobble and the Quan."

Meanwhile, McGuire worked with the Best Buddies offers and peer helpers, coordinating who'd come to the prom. She said one of the high points of everyone's high-school career is prom, and "this gives the [special-ed] students the chance to meet students from other schools and dance and just have a blast."

"What's awesome is that, oftentimes, the students get a chance to reconnect with kids from middle school, elementary school or summer programs they've been to," said McGuire. "And at the same time, it's great for the teachers to reconnect with students they taught before and haven't seen in a while. It's incredibly rewarding for the teachers to see how much the kids have grown and matured. You see their futures and possibilities for tomorrow, and what

SEE ENJOYING, PAGE 5



Students and teachers smiling, laughing and having fun.



Good times at the Day Prom at The Waterford.



# Displaying Work at Chantilly Pyramid Art Show



**Ishita Thatavarthi, Oak Hill, grade 3.**



**Marissa Prem, Poplar Tree Elementary, grade 5.**

The Chantilly High Pyramid Art Show was April 28.



**Joelle Kang, Poplar Tree, grade 2.**



**Shannon McCullough, Chantilly High, sophomore.**



**Peter Palli, Oak Hill, grade 4.**



**Nidhish Sorate, Oak Hill Elementary, grade 2.**



**Maximus James, Brookfield Elementary, grade 6.**



**Emma Gustafson, Chantilly, sophomore.**



**Hazel Flynn, Poplar Tree, grade 4.**

PHOTOS BY  
BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION



**Paula Munte, Lees Corner Elementary, grade 6.**

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



# Enjoying Prom

FROM PAGE 3

great people they're becoming."

Centreville junior Sam Rowan, current Best Buddies Club secretary, joined the group when she was a freshman. "I worked with special-ed kids when I was in the Peer Helping Program at Liberty Middle School," she said. "I helped the kids in their classrooms and wanted to do it again."

This year, said Rowan, Centreville's Best Buddies did a friendship walk, went to a school football game together, went bowling and held a Valentine's Day dance. Then came a Bring Your Own Buddy rave in March and fun on a miniature golf course in April.

McGuire noted that the Elizabeth Ann Healy Foundation — established in honor of a Clifton teen who died of cancer in 2009 — has been a "huge supporter" of Centreville's Best Buddies for the past two years. "They gave us donations funding the trips and activities we've done all year long," said McGuire. "And because of their support and generosity, we're one of the most active chapters in the Best Buddies Capital Region."

At the Day Prom, Centreville sophomore Jayde McMillan said she was enjoying "the music and dancing and doing the Cupid Shuffle. And it's fun eating pizza and meet-



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

**Standing (from left) are Chantilly students Jeffery Creighton, Adithya Mathuria, Carmen Guevara, Obida Khawatmi and Anthony Phan, and seated is Shantell Martin.**

ing new friends."

Agreeing, classmate Jack Erickson said, "I like the wrap sandwiches and hanging out with everyone. I also like dancing and Michael Jackson."

Happy with the way things were going, Rowan said, "There's energy everywhere. The kids see people dancing and they want to dance, too. And I like how everybody knows everybody and treats everyone the same. People don't see the disabilities — they just see each other as people."

## CAPPIES REVIEW

# More Than Dinner'

BY DIANA WITT  
WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

**M**ost dinner guests only stay for the evening, but in Chantilly High School's production of "The Man Who Came to Dinner," Sheridan Whiteside's unexpected stay brings chaos to the Stanley household. In this wacky tale of mischief and mayhem, the characters learn that good can come from the pandemonium of life.

Written by George Kaufman and Moss Hart, "The Man Who Came to Dinner" is a three-act comedy play. It first premiered at the Music Box Theater in NYC in 1939. A film adaptation starring Monty Woolley came out in 1942. The story follows Sheridan Whiteside, a larger-than-life radio personality, when he is invited to have dinner with the wealthy Stanley family. Before Whiteside



PHOTO BY R. DAVID ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHY

**Megan Dinneen and Steven Schwarz**

can even make it in to the house, he slips on the Stanley's front steps and injures his hip. Confined to a wheelchair, Whiteside must stay in the Stanley home longer than just one evening. However, his wheelchair does not stop him from causing disorder. With his large telephone bills, wacky house guests, and even a few loose penguins, Sheridan Whiteside turns the Stanley household upside in this wild, laugh-out-loud production.

Playing the title role of Sheridan Whiteside was Adam LeKang. LeKang hilariously delivered Whiteside's scathingly caustic jests confidently with im-

SEE MORE THAN... PAGE 6

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# OPINION

## In Search of Diversified Revenue

**Fairfax County residents can expect to see meals tax question on November ballots.**

**L**ocal governments pay for almost all of local services, including schools, by taxing a single industry, property owners.

In Fairfax County, property taxes pay for 65 percent of the budget. In Arlington, which has more revenue options as an urban county, property taxes pay for 57 percent of everything. In the City of Alexandria, property taxes pay for 58 percent.

**EDITORIAL** It costs more every year to provide a consistent level of services, and the sources of revenue available to local governments in Virginia are very limited, forcing an outsized reliance on property taxes. The reason is that localities in Virginia have only the power explicitly given to them by the General Assembly, and the General Assembly allows very few options for localities to collect revenue.

Alexandria and Arlington already have a 4 percent meals tax on top of the 6 percent sales tax, and it's evident that the robust restaurant scene in both areas has not suffered as a result. Would-be diners do not drive to Fairfax County to avoid the tax. But whether Fairfax County can collect a meals tax will be up to voters in November, pending the Board of Supervisors putting the question on the ballot.

A meals tax is not a silver bullet, but it does add one more source of revenue. A 4-cent meals tax is roughly equivalent to the 4-cent increase in property taxes that Fairfax County residents will face this year. But the property tax is levied on people with no relationship to their ability to pay. The meals tax is related to spending, a more progressive approach, and will also collect taxes from non-residents.

This is one of the wealthiest regions in the country, and the highly educated population

has high expectations. Schools, public safety, recreational facilities, transportation, human services and other services and facilities cannot be allowed to atrophy because real estate values are flat. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors was correct to provide what Chairman Sharon Bulova called a "booster shot," mostly to schools but also to other needs in the county.

What is needed for the future is access to other, more diversified forms of taxes. While it is a pipe dream given the disposition of the General Assembly, what is really needed is to give localities a portion of the income tax. In the meantime, locals will have to press the state to pay for its fair share locally, and to allow increases in cigarette taxes and other possible sources of revenue.

— MARY KIMM

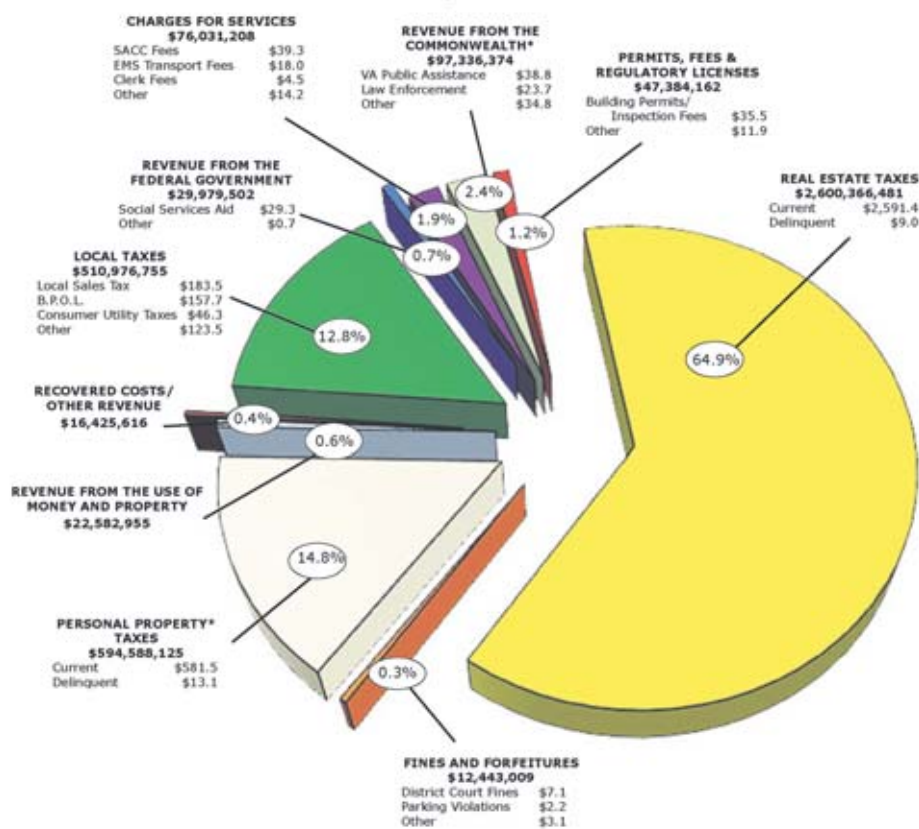
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An exemption and/or deferral of real estate taxes is available for qualified Arlington homeowners age 65 and older and certain totally and permanently disabled homeowners, call 703-228-3920 or visit <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/realstate/taxes-payments/real-estate-tax-relief/>

Residents of the City of Alexandria who are either 65 years of age or older or permanently and totally disabled by Nov. 15, 2016, may be eligible for the City's Real Estate Tax Relief Program for Elderly and Disabled Persons, call 703-746-3901, Option 6, or visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/finance/info/default.aspx?id=2886>.

## 'The Man Who Came to Dinner' at Chantilly

FROM PAGE 5

peccable timing. He was bound by a wheelchair for virtually the entire play, but managed to embody the outlandish and vivacious persona. LeKang created many unique and believable relationships onstage, most notably with his loyal secretary, Maggie Cutler, played by Adriana Castillo. The pair demonstrated the ups and downs of employee and employer, snapping at each other one moment and sharing a friendly giggle in the next. In addition, Castillo adorably captured Maggie's joy and sadness of her romance with newspaper man Bert Jefferson. Jefferson, played by Jack David,

acted as the calm in the middle of the storm. David firmly characterized the dependable and serious, yet charming Jefferson.

Two of Whiteside's guests, Beverly and Banjo, were portrayed by Michael Rosegrant and Connor Cragg. The duo both showcased comedic skill in witty moments with Whiteside. Their bold movements and sharp vocalizations made for entertaining performances. Whiteside's nervous nurse, Miss Preen was played by Olivia Madigan. Madigan amusingly depicted many droll moments of confusion as she got caught up in the flurry of activity in the household. A hilarious cameo per-

formance was given by Marka Doolittle, who played the senile old lady, Harriet.

A gorgeous dual level set adorned the stage. Standout pieces included a grand and glittery Christmas tree and luxurious white sofas. Commendable props included the crate of penguins and the human-sized gold sarcophagus. The set transitions were almost unnoticeable, masked by good lighting and a quick crew.

Confusion, chaos, and commotion created comedy in Chantilly High School's production of "The Man Who Came to Dinner." The cast and crew certainly made an ordinary dinner into so much more.

## Chantilly CONNECTION

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## NEWS

# Earning Cappie Nominations

Westfield gets 11 and Chantilly, 6.

**T**he 2015-2016 Cappie nominations for high-school theater were released Monday, with Chantilly and Westfield high schools receiving 17 nods between them. Chantilly performed the play, "The Man Who Came to Dinner," and Westfield put on the musical, "Footloose." Centreville High didn't enter this year's competition.

The awards will be presented Sunday, June 12, at 7 p.m., at the annual Cappies Gala at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Below are the specific nominations each school received:

## Chantilly

Props  
Set: Michael Rosegrant, Ben Klosky, Evyn O'Reilly  
Stage Management & Stage Crew: Tova

## BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 20-21

**2016 Women's Conference.** 7:15-3 p.m. at Grace Covenant Church, 4598 Brookfield

Besalel, Rachel Weaver and the Set Team  
Comic Actress in a Play: Marka Doolittle  
Comic Actor in a Play: Michael Rosegrant  
Lead Actor in a Play: Adam LeKang

## Westfield

Rising Critic: Diana Witt  
Graduating Critic: Alexa Tuckerr  
Lighting: Kristen Chiamia, Hallie Puckett, Katie Sanfield, Allison Tickner  
Choreography: Sarah Bresnahan, Meredith Mehegan  
Ensemble in a Musical: Ariel's Posse  
Featured Actor: Embrey Grimes  
Female Dancer: Meredith Mehegan  
Male Dancer: Connor Rudy  
Male Vocalist: Eni Oyeleye  
Comic Actor: Keegan Garant  
Critics Team

— BONNIE HOBBS

Corporate Drive, Chantilly. The Women of Grace Covenant Church present the 2016 Refresh Women's Conference: Transform. The speaker will be writer Sharon Jaynes, Vice President of Proverbs 31 Ministries. \$80 before May 1st; \$95 thereafter. Contact Shamika Shahid at [sshahid@gracecov.org](mailto:sshahid@gracecov.org) or 703-318-7073. Visit [www.tinyurl.com/WOG-2016TRANSFORM](http://www.tinyurl.com/WOG-2016TRANSFORM).

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 8

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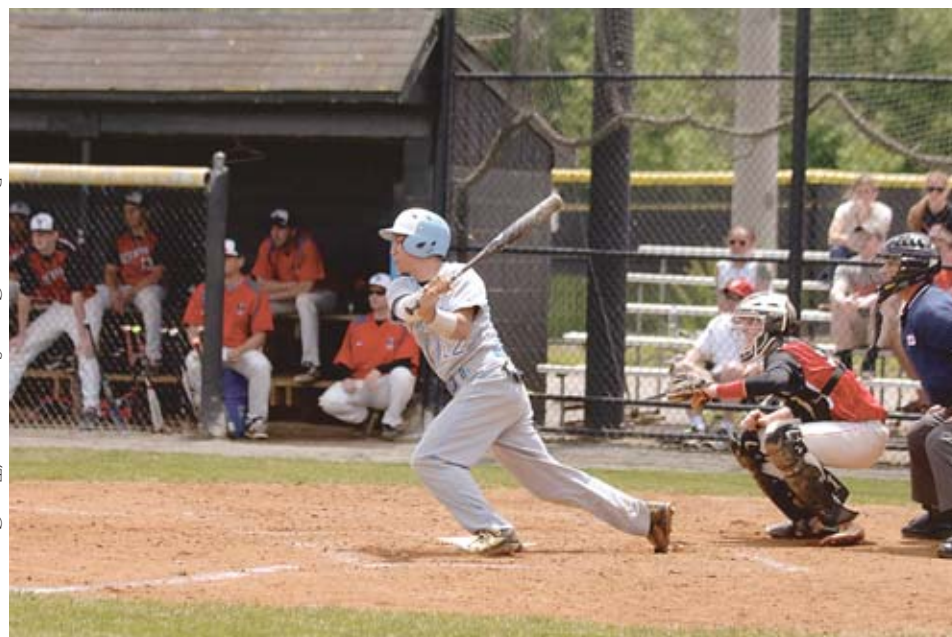
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PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Centreville starting pitcher Carter Egbers struck out 12 in six innings against Herndon on Saturday.****Centreville third baseman Cameron Ray helped the Wildcats beat Herndon on Saturday with an RBI single.**

# Centreville Baseball Keeps Season Alive

## Wildcats pitcher Egbers strikes out 12 in six innings, gets no decision.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**S**tarting pitcher Carter Egbers struck out 12 in six innings and the Centreville baseball team led 4-2 when Conference 5 Co-Pitcher of the Year Carter Bach came on to close out Herndon and extend the Wildcats' season.

Things didn't go as planned.

Bach, a tall left-hander who will pitch for Wake Forest, surrendered two runs in the top of the seventh and the game went to extras. While it would have been easy for the Wildcats to lose their composure after watching their ace fail to hold a lead, Centreville capitalized on some Herndon miscues the following inning and kept its season alive.

Centreville's Cristian Sanchez scored on a wild pitch in the bottom of the eighth inning and the Wildcats, seeded No. 3, defeated No. 6 Herndon 5-4 in the opening round of the Conference 5 tournament on Saturday at Centreville High School. The Wildcats secured a berth in the 6A North region tournament and were scheduled to face No. 2 Westfield at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday in the conference semifinals, after The Connection's deadline.

Sanchez reached base on an error with one out in the bottom of the eighth. The next two batters were each hit by a pitch, loading the bases. With Chris Hannah at the plate, Herndon pitcher Antonio Menendez delivered a wild pitch that allowed Sanchez to score the winning run.

"It just shows that we'll never give up,

regardless of what the situation is," Egbers said. "We could be down one, down 10, we're going to fight until ump says it's game [over]."

Egbers received a no decision, but put Centreville in a position to win. The junior left-hander allowed two runs on five hits in six innings. He walked two and struck out 12.

Centreville head coach Scott Findley described Egbers' performance as "absolutely phenomenal."

"He's really grown as a pitcher here in the past month, two months," Findley said. "He developed a changeup. ... Last outing against them, he threw it some, but not like he threw it today. He threw it every fourth or fifth pitch."

Bach earned the win, allowing two runs — one earned — on two hits in two innings. He struck out two and walked none.

Centreville scored four runs in the fourth inning, including an RBI single by third baseman Cameron Ray and an RBI double by Egbers. The first two Wildcat batters reached on Herndon errors.

Herndon managed just two hits through five innings against Egbers before scoring a pair of runs in the sixth. With two outs, catcher Alex Hurd and left fielder Joe Wright came through with back-to-back RBI singles for the Hornets, cutting the

Centreville lead in half.

With Herndon trailing 4-2, first baseman Graham Seitz led off the top of the seventh with a solo homer to left off of Bach. With one out, a single by third baseman Ryan Ferguson and a Centreville throwing error gave Herndon runners at second and third with one out. Center fielder Devin Vigneault then tied the score at 4-all with a sacrifice fly.

How were the Hornets feeling after tying the score in the seventh?

"In one word," Menendez said, "I'd say confidence."

Centreville would score the game-winning run in the bottom of the eighth, however, ending Herndon's season.

Menendez, a junior right-hander who is committed to Wake Forest, pitched a complete game for Herndon and suffered the loss. He allowed five unearned runs and just three hits in 7 1/3 innings. The Co-Conference 5 Pitcher of the Year walked two, hit six batters and struck out eight.

"It takes more than just great pitching," Herndon head coach Mark Rueffert said. "You've got to have defense behind, hitters have got to hit at the plate. It's a team game for sure, but Antonio did exactly what we'd expect Antonio to do: keep us in the game."

Hurd and Ferguson each had two hits for Herndon.

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

### THURSDAY/MAY 19

**Training for Professional Care Providers.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Crossings at Chantilly, 13921 Park Center Drive #355, Chantilly. This professional training from the Alzheimer's Association Foundations of Dementia Care allows long-term care staff to learn essential skills for dementia care through role-playing exercises and discussions using realistic film clips and case studies. Each training offers a selection of modules and learning objectives. Certificates of attendance will be available. Visit [http://www.alz.org/professionals\\_and\\_researchers\\_foundations\\_of\\_dementia\\_care.asp](http://www.alz.org/professionals_and_researchers_foundations_of_dementia_care.asp).

### FRIDAY/MAY 20

**Bike to Work Day 2016.** Join more than 17,000 area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a fun, healthy and environmentally-friendly way to get to work. Register or locate specific start/end times for all pit stops at [www.biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org).

### TUESDAY/MAY 24

**VDOT Public Hearing.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at VDOT Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax. Virginia Department of Transportation will hold public hearings to discuss the I-66 Outside the Beltway procurement and the planned conversion from HOV-2 to HOV-3. Visit [www.nvta.org](http://www.nvta.org) for more.

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## Centreville Softball To Host Westfield

The No. 1 seed Centreville softball team will host No. 4 Westfield in the Conference 5 tournament semifinals at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18.

The Wildcats finished atop the Conference 5 regular-season standings with a 9-1 record, earning the No. 1 seed and an automatic berth in the 6A North region tournament.

Centreville wrapped up the regular season with a 12-8 win over Westfield on May 12. Kristen Lundquist had three hits and three RBIs for the Wildcats.

The conference championship game is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, May 20 at Westfield High School.

The Wildcats are coached by Donnie Dutton.



PHOTO BY GENINE LUNDQUIST

**Senior center fielder Emily Geist and the Centreville softball team are the No. 1 seed in the Conference 5 tournament.**



# Language Immersion For Young Children

Experts tout the benefits of an early start.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen Martha Davis' daughter Alice was ready for kindergarten, she decided to enroll her in a Spanish language immersion program. Davis, who is the assistant dean for World Languages at Northern Virginia Community College chose Mt. Vernon Community School in Alexandria.

"I know personally the benefits of knowing a second language and I wanted my daughter to experience that," she said.

Davis, also a Spanish professor, says that the benefits of such immersion programs range from boosting cognitive functioning and confidence to accent acquisition and social skills development. "Speaking with a native or near-native accent significantly eases communication, particularly with people unaccustomed to interacting with non-native speakers," said Davis. "This in turn can help boost the confidence of the non-native speaker and can provide the encouragement needed to continue language study."

Numerous studies suggest the brain-boosting power of early exposure to a second language as another benefit of immersion programs for young children, says Ana Lado, Ph.D., professor of Education at Marymount University in Arlington.

"Cognitively, kids who learn two languages in preschool and really young children tend to score better on abstract thinking all the way into high school," said Lado. "If you know that in one language there is one word for chair and it includes foot stool and sofa chair and lounge, and in another language you have three different words it makes your brain think more abstractly."

The sooner children gain exposure to a second language, the easier it is to acquire, says Davis who contrasts her daughter's feelings with those of some of her adult students, "who feel that speaking another language is strange or foreign," which impedes their language acquisition," she said.

"I have found that if students can identify them-



PHOTO COURTESY BY CHRIS REYNOLDS

**Martha Davis reads a book written in Spanish with her daughters, 6-year-old Alice (right) and 4-year-old Jane. Alice is in a Spanish immersion program at Mt. Vernon Community School in Alexandria.**

selves as a speaker of the language of instruction, regardless of their level of proficiency, they enjoy learning the language more and acquire it more easily," said Davis. "This year Alice has begun to sign her name 'Alicia' on her Spanish homework."

Local language immersion programs offer classes for children as young as 10 months old. They use songs and games to teach language in a way that is pleasurable for students. "Starting when they're young helps language develop organically and naturally," said Amanda Michetti of Language Starts, which offers classes to children in Alexandria, Fairfax, Arlington, Reston and Bethesda. "The classes are conversation based with a little bit of reading and writing."

Hilary Javier has three children, ages two, three and four, who take Mandarin Chinese at Language Starts. She wants them to be citizens of the world, and believes exposure to a second language is important in achieving that goal. "You don't have to translate anything into English," said Javier. "They really do understand from picking it up naturally in the immersion setting. There is this special window when they are young to expose them to different cultures they would not never been exposed to, even noticeable in their mannerisms in the classroom."

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# Clutter



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Either it's the cancer/seven-plus years of chemotherapy, or it's my age. Regardless, information retention and recall is not quite what it used to be. What goes in doesn't exactly come out, or if it does, it's somewhat after the fact. I wouldn't say it's embarrassing yet, and it hasn't led to any speech impediment-type of hemming and hawing. But it has led to something, other than this column, that is.

I haven't quite resorted to index/flash cards, nor am I avoiding human interaction as a way to minimize the awkwardness. I am still going about my normal business – or lack thereof, and wondering if time is on my side or has it been usurped by powers greater than me. And since there's no real definitive answer, I'll try to stop questioning whether what I think I'm experiencing is inevitable or am I, as any Three Stooges aficionado would appreciate: simply "a victim of circumstance."

Granted, I may not be the sharpest knife in the drawer, but if we're invoking utensils here, neither am I a spoon. I can accept the fact that in the knife category, I'm closer to a butter knife than I am to a steak knife; meaning I get the job done, probably with less haste, but likely with more waste. Nevertheless, the job gets done and more often than not, it's without further ado. And while I'm using ado/adieu, I don't feel as if this lack of recall/retention is indicative of me bidding adieu. However, it does give me pause about my status as a long-time (in the stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer world, when one's prognosis was originally "13 months to two years," seven-plus years is a long time) survivor. Maybe I'm simply experiencing what any person nearing the age of 62 does. It's not the cancer, it's dare I say/hope: middle age. Although I'll admit I may be on the downside of it, and approaching what I'll call "older" age (not "old" age).

But let's be honest here, when an oncologist advises you at age 54 and a half that your prognosis is at best two years and that he can "treat you but can't cure you," and that perhaps, "you should take that vacation you've always dreamt of," not only does your middle age (or what's left of it) rapidly disappear, so too does your "older"/"old" age.

Quite unexpectedly then, given your prior good health and no history of cancer in your immediate family, your mind/brain quickly gets overloaded with facts, figures, feelings and fears it had never considered before. Ergo the clutter. Not that there's a limited amount of space in your head for all this new/never-expected information, but it does seem to crowd out more familiar, less impactful stuff. At least that's my story/rationalization and I'm most definitely sticking to it.

But my reality is: I am stuck with it, unfortunately. No cure doesn't exactly conjure optimism. Nevertheless, as a long-suffering Boston Red Sox fan (until 2004, that is, when "the curse" was finally broken as the Sox won their first World Series in 86 years), hope springs eternal, and so I remain ever hopeful. It's just that occasionally, I have difficulty remembering/articulating that hopefulness – among other things. No worries though. I know the information is still in my head, somewhere. I'm sure I'll get it out, eventually.

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

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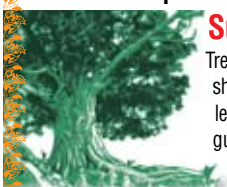
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## Advancing to National Competition

The Nysmith Science Bowl team — Vaibhav Sharma, Ajit Kadaveru, Anusha Allamsetty, Ishaan Kumar and Kaiken Yang — won the Virginia Regional Science Bowl and advances to national competition. The team was awarded the winners trophy, individual medals and prize money in an over-sized check for \$750.

## ROUNDUPS

### Body Found in Pond

Shortly after noon on Monday, May 16, Fairfax County Police officers were called to the 6200 block of Ridge Pond Road for the report of what appeared to be a body in a pond located behind an apartment building.

Paramedics from Fairfax County Fire & Rescue also responded.

The body of an unidentified female was pulled from the pond shortly after 3 p.m. by members of the Fairfax County Police Department Underwater Search and Recovery Team.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Crime Solvers electronically by visiting [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES(274637) or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

### Teen Dating Violence Prevention

Parents will be able to learn about teen dating violence at a workshop at Westfield High School, May 19, 7 p.m. The speaker will be Heather Sarmiento, M.Ed., prevention and education coordinator, from the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services.

### Hearing on I-66 Project

The Virginia Department of Transportation, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, will host a hearing to present the complete set of draft Request for Proposals documents for the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway project and provide an opportunity for pub-

lic comment on the draft comprehensive agreement. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, on Tuesday, May 24.

To view the procurement documents, visit: <http://www.p3virginia.org/projects/interstate-66-corridor-improvements/>.

### Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, May 26, 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 it, 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.

### 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](mailto:director@centrevillelrc.org).

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## 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](http://www.nvshag.org) for more.

**Open Rehearsal.** Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxjubilaire.org](http://www.fairfaxjubilaire.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 to reserve a spot.

**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](http://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.fairfaxjubilaire.org](http://www.fairfaxjubilaire.org) for more.

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**Adopt a Dog.** Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit [aforeverhome.org](http://aforeverhome.org) for more.

**Adopt a Dog.** Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit [www.lostdogrescue.org](http://www.lostdogrescue.org) for more.

## THURSDAY/MAY 19

**Band Spring Concert.** 7 p.m. at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road. The Band Program was rated an Honor Band, this year, through a rigorous assessment program. Free. Call 703-476-3536 for more.

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 20-22

**Fit Food Race Weekend.** 6-8 p.m. Friday, 7 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Saturday (race), 9 a.m.-11 a.m. at various places in Fairfax. John Hancock Life Insurance has teamed up with Cooking Light and Health magazines to produce cooking demonstrations by celebrity chefs, including former

"Top Chef" contestant Jennifer Carroll, food and beverage samples, fitness classes, and more including a 5K run in Strawberry Park. Tickets are \$55 per event or \$160 for all. Visit [www.fitfoodierun.com/fairfax-virginia](http://www.fitfoodierun.com/fairfax-virginia) for a full schedule and more.

## SATURDAY/MAY 21

**Meritage Blending Class.** 1 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Rob Cox teaches the art of wine blending. Participants will have the opportunity to create and taste their own blends and ultimately take home a bottle of their own signature Meritage blend. Tickets are \$55 for non-members, \$5 for members. Visit [www.paradisepresswinery.com](http://www.paradisepresswinery.com) for more.

**Clifton Caboose Twilight Run.** 6 p.m. at The Barn, 7139 Main St., Clifton. 5k Run & 1 mile Fun Run/Walk. Course begins just a few feet from the Triangle (intersection of Clifton, Newman and Main Streets) and ends at the starting point. The scenic course winds down a gently rolling country road, across a creek and past a horse or two. Water provided on course. Registration is \$21 for 5K, \$15 for 1 Mile. Visit [www.SignMeUp.com/113094](http://www.SignMeUp.com/113094).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 21-22

**Fairfax Ballet: "Coronation of the Fairy Princess."** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 4 p.m. Sunday at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. The Fairfax Ballet Company presents "The Coronation of the Fairy Princess," a story ballet, featuring a fairy named Lily and her three sisters, Nixie, Fay, and Blossom, as they prepare for Lily's

upcoming coronation. Just before the coronation on Lily's 16th birthday, the magic scepter is stolen by the sinister Wicked, and it is up to the trio to recapture the scepter. Tickets are \$22, plus a service fee. Visit [www.fxballet2016.bpt.me](http://www.fxballet2016.bpt.me) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 25

**Meet the Snowbirds.** 12-5 p.m. at Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Meet Canada's elite military aerobatic flight demonstration team. The squadron will not be flying at this event. Call 703-572-4118 or visit [airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy](http://airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy) for more.

## FRIDAY/MAY 27

**7th Annual JazzCats Festival.** 7 p.m. at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road. The selected students for JazzCats have been preparing for this performance all year. Additionally, Joseph Henson of the United States Army Blues will be performing. Free. Call 703-476-3536 for more.

## MONDAY/MAY 30

**Rose Show Competition.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Share by exhibiting and creating rose arrangements with coaching from award winning rosarians. Merrifield Garden Certificates awarded for best entries. Rose experts will be on hand to answer questions about all aspects of rose gardening. Hosted by Arlington Rose Foundation. Free. Call 703-371-9351.

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 1

**OAR's 2016 Jazz and Wine Fundraiser.** 7:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. OAR has reserved the full winery and guests will be provided with exclusive access to the entire winery grounds. The Gregg Byrd Band will provide live jazz music. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and Virginia wines will be available. Tickets are \$50. Visit [www.oarfairfax.org/2016-fundraiser](http://www.oarfairfax.org/2016-fundraiser) for more..

## SATURDAY/JUNE 4

**Civil War Living History Day.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 1200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. This Living History Day will introduce visitors to the life of the common soldier during the American Civil War. Demonstrations will include the essentials of camp life. Museum members and children 4 and under, free; children 5-15, \$2; adults 16 and older, \$5. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org).

**Reema Samaha Remembrance Cabaret.** 6 p.m. at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. The Cabaret features professional and up and coming dancers, singers, and comedy sketch artists from around the DMV, New York and Chicago. This event is in memorial of Virginia Tech massacre victim Reema Samaha. Free, but donations accepted. Visit [www.angelfundva.net](http://www.angelfundva.net) for more.

**"Light the Night" Fun Run.** 6-10 p.m. at Fairfax County Police Department Emergency Vehicle Operations Track, 3725 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Run in support of the Special Olympics Virginia. Free. Visit [www.firstgiving.com/torchrunva/LETR-Fairfax-Light-the-Night](http://www.firstgiving.com/torchrunva/LETR-Fairfax-Light-the-Night).

# CENTREVILLE COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

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at  
703-778-9422



## The Church of the Ascension

Traditional Anglican Catholic Services

Memorial Day Prayer Service

Sunday, May 29th at 5:30 p.m.

Holy Communion 10 a.m. Sundays



[www.ascension-acc.org](http://www.ascension-acc.org)

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Centreville VA 20120  
in the "Old Stone Church"  
of Historic Centreville

(703) 830-3176



many peoples, one body

We invite YOU to come connect  
with God this Sunday.

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Sundays at 9:15 am & 10:45 am

COMMUNITY GROUPS  
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Sunday

9:30 AM - Holy Eucharist

Sermon & music • Nursery available

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Wednesday

6:00 PM - Holy Eucharist and Healing

The Rev. Carol Hancock, Priest-in-Charge



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