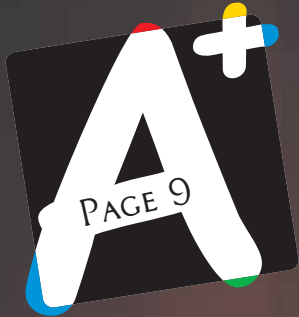




Great Falls CONNECTION

Shakespeare at Madeira

NEWS, PAGE 4



Producing and Artistic Director Jeanne E. Harrison, a Great Falls resident, founded The Traveling Players Ensemble in 2003 to teach self-expression, self-reliance, and professional theatre. The final performances for the summer will take place at 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18 at The Madeira School in McLean.



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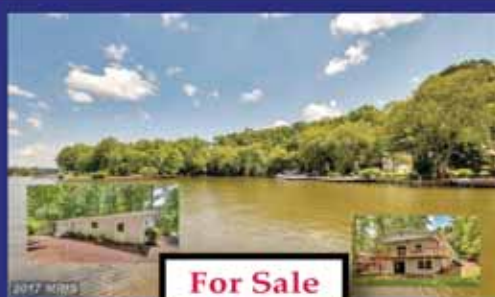
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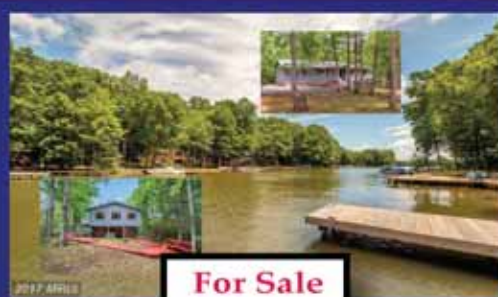
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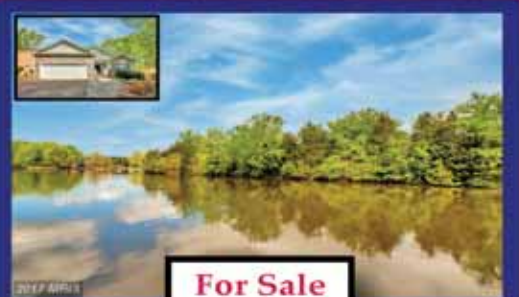
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We will be raising funds for the group:
The Injured Marine Semper Parvum

and
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Deer Management Season Set to Begin

Deer population is “unsustainable” for the health of environment and safety of residents.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Counting the actual number of deer that populate Fairfax County might be an impossible task, but there are ways to calculate the impact that deer have on the community. That on-going data collection gives county officials the means to determine that the deer population is still “unsustainable for the health of the environment and the safety of our residents,” according to Katherine Edwards, Ph.D. Edwards is the county’s wildlife management specialist, and was one of three panelists who presented the details of the upcoming 2017-2018 Fairfax County Deer Management Program to a small group of citizens at a public meeting on Aug. 10 at the Government Center.

Joining Edwards to inform the attendees and to take questions and comments at the meeting were Sgt. Earit Powell with the Fairfax County Police Department, and Kristen Sinclair, ecologist III, county Natural Resources Branch, who is responsible for much of the data collection.

The presentation was divided into three major areas of impact by the wandering ruminants: safety concerns, health concerns, and ecological damage. It is within the first and third of these concerns that the numbers can best be gathered, analysed, and used to justify the county’s management program and aid in developing the best approach.

ACCORDING TO STUDIES, Virginia is considered a “high risk” state, ranked 13th in the nation in 2016 for the number of “Deer-Vehicle Collisions” (DVCs), with chances being 1 in 94 of involvement in such an incident. Police records between 2010 and 2016 record an average of 72 DVCs reported annually. A preliminary analysis of records from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) adds an estimated 1,500-1,600 deer which are picked up from roadsides in Fairfax County. Since it’s approximated that only about 25 percent of deer that are struck by vehicles actually die at the scene, it’s understandable that officials believe that the actual number of DVCs may be significantly higher than those reported.

Edwards and Sinclair told the attendees that the county is working to gather data from a number of sources that are now maintained separately to get the most accurate data.

Sinclair described the efforts to most sci-



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left: Sgt. Earit Powell of the Fairfax County Police Dept. manages the deer hunting operations. Katherine Edwards, Ph.D. is the county’s wildlife management specialist. Together with Kristen Sinclair, ecologist III, Natural Resources Branch, the three hosted the public meeting on the 2017-2018 Deer Population Management Program.



FILE PHOTO

Kristen Sinclair, ecologist III, county Natural Resources Branch, cited a study that deer are consuming seedlings and saplings, bushes, and shrubs, as well as “hindering the forest regeneration.”

entifically measure the ecological damages being done by deer over-population, using hundreds of “browsing plots” throughout the both the county’s park system and in partnership with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. It’s an ongoing study, with data collected on a rotating basis over a number of years, to study the changes.

Deer aren’t just grazing in open parkland, said Sinclair. They are consuming seedlings and saplings, bushes, and shrubs, as well as “hindering the forest regeneration.” The plots show that the very structure of the forest is impaired, significantly changing the forest composition and leading to a loss of “ecosystem services like clean water and air. It ultimately destroys biodiversity.”

The Fairfax County Deer Reduction program was originally approved by the Board of Supervisors in 1998, but didn’t really get

officially underway and under intense supervision until several years later. Today’s program, said Edwards, is based on best practices for deer management and peer-reviewed scientific literature. The current state-approved control methods are archery, firearms managed hunts, and law enforcement sharpshooters and the program is now managed by the Fairfax County Police Department, with Powell in charge.

There are dozens of regulations relating to who may participate, how each form of reduction is managed, and how to best ensure the safety of the public and of the hunters, themselves. Strict recordkeeping is mandated. “A number of hunters were disqualified last year,” said Powell, “not because they did anything unsafe or against the rules in terms of the actual harvesting of deer. They didn’t keep the records that



From left: Melissa Klein of Braddock, and Kathie Sowell of Vienna attended the meeting, and raised concerns about the use of archery as the predominant method for controlling the deer population.

we require. So they were out.”

Powell also noted that in many cases, the hunt group leaders, or other hunters reported the failures of their peers, because “they want to do this right, safely, and be accountable.”

One man expressed concerns for himself and neighbors, as homeowners near deer hunting locations, but Powell insisted that there have been no reports of any injuries to citizens, only accidents to the hunters. “Mostly falls, or other injuries often typical of time spent in the woods.”

THE ARCHERY PROGRAM is the county’s number one method of deer population control, accounting for 95 percent of the 1,092 deer harvested last year by 627 sanctioned archers, working 18 designated archery clusters. The archers donated 44,881 hunt hours, but only 10.4 percent of hunting attempts resulted in deer harvests.

It is the use of archery as the mainstay of population control that caused some concern and pushback by the few residents in attendance.

Melissa Klein from the Braddock area said she understood the need for controlling the deer population, but felt like relying so heavily on archery “wasn’t a 21st century solution.” She and Kevin Rose, district wildlife biologist for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries who was in the audience, entered into a bit of a debate on the use of birth control to reduce the numbers of deer. Both referred to a study in a controlled population of deer in Maryland, using the drug PZP. After some back-and-forth between the two, Rose ultimately stated that the experiment was a failure, in part because of the transient nature of the deer, as they moved in and out of areas and among herds, and because the “balance between births and deaths” is not being achieved by that method.

SEE DEER HUNTS, PAGE 7



PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

The cast of The Traveling Players production of "Atum's Eye," set in ancient Egypt at The Madeira School in McLean takes a bow.



Producing and Artistic Director Jeanne E. Harrison, a Great Falls resident, founded the non-profit company, The Traveling Players Ensemble in 2003 in her community to teach self-expression, self-reliance, and professional theatre.

Traveling Players Ensemble Brings Shakespeare and White to Life

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Friday night kicked off two week ends of theatrical performances by the Traveling Players Ensemble at The Madeira School. Two plays took place: Judith Walsh White's "Atum's Eye," an ancient Egyptian comedy, performed by the youth players, and William Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors," performed by the high school group, a play featuring characters in ancient Turkey.

The Traveling Players Ensemble's mission is to bring great theatre into the great outdoors. They offer summer camp programs for youth groups from fifth grade to high school. The Traveling Players are in residence at The Madeira School in McLean.

Producing and Artistic Director Jeanne E. Harrison, a Great Falls resident, founded the non-profit company in 2003 in her community to teach self-expression, self-reliance, and professional theatre. "Tonight is everything coming into fruition after two weeks of traveling, the kids have transformed," said Harrison. "I get 18 year olds to memorize 400-year-old words and to spit 'em out with sense," she said.

The camp has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for its exemplary performance as a "Summer School in the Arts," in Northern Virginia.

The camp is for two weeks for the youth players, fifth to seventh graders, and they get to learn in an intensive acting environment and produce the play at the end of their session. The program is modeled after the origins of theatre, when troupes of actors roamed the countryside using what they had to perform.

The older students attend camp sessions



From left: Staff for the Traveling Players Ensemble pictured here are Michael Oosterhout, 21, program manager, Anna Stevens, 19, a videographer, Jeeho Ha, 18, an incoming freshman at University of California San Diego, a camp counselor and former camper herself, and Jessica Kemp, 22, a shop assistant and stage designer.

up to 7 weeks. The traveling troupe of mostly high school students completes five weeks of intensive rehearsals before embarking on a two-week tour of Virginia, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Stops on their



Members of The Traveling Players Ensemble perform William Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors," at The Madeira School. Eli Wassertzug, McLean resident, center, has a lead role in the play.

tour included historic Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton, Va. and Colonial Williamsburg.

Michael Oosterhout, 21, program manager with the Traveling Players Ensemble is in his third year working with the troupe. "The kids are the best part, they bring the joy and energy," said Oosterhout. "My only regret is that I didn't get to go to the camp as a kid."

Nairi Nadjarian, 11, resident of Arlington, a rising sixth grader at Williamsburg

Final Performances Friday, Aug. 18

"Traveling Players Ensemble Presents Four Plays of Love and Transformation." The final performances will take place at 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18 at The Madeira School in McLean.

Four Plays of Love and Transformation include:

3 - 5 p.m. "The Blue Monster" and "The Forced Marriage" (order not yet announced)

5 - 6 p.m. Break for Dinner (picnicking is welcome)

6 - 7:30 p.m. "As You Like It"

7:30 - 9 p.m. "The Frog Prince"

Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door.

Middle School played the part of Cleo, a tomb raider, in "Atum's Eye." "I really liked it, I was nervous at first, but it was fun. I never took any acting classes before this," said Nadjarian.

Clara Richmond, 10, a fifth grader at Churchill Road Elementary and McLean resident played the part of Tefnut in the youth players production of "Atum's Eye." "I like making the audience enjoy it. It was fun because the dad was telling the story, and the ensemble was acting out the story for the audience," said Richmond.

McLean resident Jeeho Ha, 18, an incoming freshman at University of California San Diego is a camp counselor and former camper herself. "The staff here are unique here and they lead by example. I was blown away by the amount of attention the staff give to the campers," she said.

Learn more at Travelingplayers.org or call 703-987-1712.

Understanding Political Polarization at Great Falls Library

BY MAGGIE GIORDANO
THE CONNECTION

A class of individuals from diverse backgrounds met at the Great Falls Library at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 9. The class, "Righteous Minds: Trying to Understand Political Minds," gathered to discuss and try to understand how political views and group loyalties make individuals view the political world. The class was hosted by Bill Roos, of Arlington, on the meetup.com app. It is an app in which people create groups that others with similar interests can join. This can include meeting up for hiking, cooking, reading and more. This particular group was created to study key books that help to understand how people find themselves on one side or the other in political debates. The next meeting will take place on Aug. 16 at the Great Falls Library. Here is what some of the attendees had to say about the class:

Dan Holdgrieve

"The class is interesting and it is nice to hear people challenging the status quo and trying to understand each other. I think it is a gentle way of getting people to start questioning whether they are really sure about what they believe," said Dan Holdgrieve from Springfield.



Deborah Elkinton

"It is a really great topic. I think it has helped me with understanding myself better. Particularly with the reading, I am learning a lot about how different people develop their moral values and how we react on the basis of a lot of unconscious feelings and thoughts we have and we are not entirely rational about our ideas and our positions," said Deborah Elkinton from Arlington.



Eva Wildavsky

"I learned group thinking and about political issues. It helps you to think that others may be thinking in 'group think' and that you might also be thinking in 'group think.' People you've agreed with probably think the way you think because of that 'group think idea,'" said Eva Wildavsky, from Chevy Chase, Md.



Daryl Wagner

"The meetings are very good; nobody overpowers anybody, so everybody is able to share ideas. This class reminds me to listen to all folks. It is very easy to get away from that," said Daryl Wagner from Maryland.



PHOTOS BY MAGGIE GIORDANO/THE CONNECTION

Esteban Molfino

"The class is excellent because it frames political discussions in a more constructive and productive way. Of course it is a work in progress because there are always new factors that need to be entered into the equation. I think it makes me more aware of other people's opinions and allows me to take my time before reacting. This needs to be practiced by all of us in the community to communicate without insult and learn to respect each other," said Esteban Molfino of Great Falls.





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OPINION

On Events in Charlottesville

What some representatives had to say about hate, bigotry and the deaths and damage that resulted.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe:

"I convened an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss the next steps we, as a commonwealth, must take in order to begin the arduous process of healing our community and confronting the racism that stubbornly remains in our nation. The events of this weekend have only strengthened our resolve to combat hatred and bigotry, and I want Virginia to be a leader in the national conversation about how we move forward. I have directed my team to impanel a commission with representatives from community organizations, faith leaders, and law enforcement to make actionable recommendations for executive and legislative solutions to advance our mission of reconciliation, unity, and public safety."

Sharon Bulova, chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors:

"The tragedy that took place in Charlottesville does not represent who we are as Virginians. I am incredibly saddened by the hatred and bigotry that was displayed and my heart goes out to the family and friends of the three individuals who tragically lost their lives. We must all do our part to set the tone in our own communities by exemplifying values of acceptance and kindness. As it is often said, 'Be the change you want to see in the world.' That is where we all have incredible power and influence every day in our communities."

U.S. Sen. Mark Warner:

"Virginians mourn the life taken in this morning's events and reject this hateful violence in Charlottesville. We condemn the in-

tolerance behind it and those who would pass it off as a legitimate political movement. Those who traveled to Virginia to incite unrest don't understand the Virginia-born values that make our country great."

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine:

"Virginia has come so far in recent decades to put division behind us. ... It's sickening to see the displays of violence and bigotry that were brought to Charlottesville by white nationalists, which tragically led to injuries and at least one death today. This is not who we are. Charlottesville is a vibrant community that recognizes the deep scars from our past and has rejected hatred in favor of inclusion."

"The fact that people like David Duke cited the President to justify their views is a disturbing reminder that divisive rhetoric has sadly contributed to a climate where individuals who espouse hate feel emboldened. As they seek publicity through their hateful tactics, let's pull together — regardless of party, race or religion — to reject hatred in no uncertain terms and stand together."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly:

"We banished hate a long time ago in Virginia. We must condemn this bigotry and not turn a blind eye to racism."

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer:

"I join the great and passionate majority of Virginians who hold these values dear: abhorrence for racism and hatred, respect for law, and respect for one another. It is especially sad that this ugly incident occurred in the home of one of America's most treasured centers of

learning. The work of creating a more just and equal society will never end and we will re-dedicate ourselves to that in the days and weeks ahead."

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock:

"The Attorney General has done the right thing in opening a federal investigation that will have the full support of the Department of Justice. AG Sessions: 'The violence and deaths in Charlottesville strike at the heart of American law and justice. When such actions arise from racial bigotry and hatred, they betray our core values and cannot be tolerated.' "The neo-Nazi march and the hate and racism on display in Charlottesville are vile, have no place in Virginia, and are denounced by Republicans and Democrats alike in our great Commonwealth."

Del. Marcus Simon:

"The scenes of white supremacist, racist neo-nazis marching proudly in Charlottesville along with heavily armed self-proclaimed militiamen chanting racist slogans and obscenely taunting counter-demonstrators are beyond disturbing. Virginia is better than this."

"Virginia's political leaders have the power to raise the level of discourse. To educate, inform, and enlighten with thoughtful discussion and debate. What's happened over the last 24 hours in Charlottesville is not happening in a vacuum and it's not an aberration. It's what happens when we demonize the other among us."

"What makes Virginia great is our growing diversity. Our openness to new and better ideas. Our willingness to accept everyone who comes here looking to build a better life, a stronger commonwealth and better world."

"We are better than the image that's being broadcast to the world today."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Price of Changing School Name

To the Editor:

As a former Fairfax County School Board member and a native of Fairfax County, I watched the name changing deliberations about JEB Stuart High School with interest. It appears since leaving the board the education of students and financing such education has taken second place to the social agendas of board members.

The frustration about this issue was the members refused to listen to the facts of history and preferred to make assumptions about the man himself, JEB Stuart, and assumptions about the community, the Civil War, the original naming of the school and of Virginia's state history. These School Board mem-

bers, most of whom are from other parts of the country, were compelled to listen to sound bites from two Hollywood personalities who knew little about the history of the school and JEB Stuart. They also listened to activists, one being George Albers, an appointee of Chairman Sharon Bulova's who currently sits on the Fairfax County Human Rights Committee and on the Executive Committee of the local NAACP chapter. He and two School Board members worked to bring in hundreds of community activists from outside the community and county to attend local community meetings on the re-naming of the school for purposes of protesting and agitation. These activists knew little about the history of Virginia and JEB Stuart.

In the end I have no doubt the system spent thousands of dollars and staff time on this issue, for that is what is done; but for what, to

appease a vocal group over the wishes of the impacted community? In 2011 Sandy Evans, the School Board member representing the Stuart Community who pushed for the name change, announced she had a most difficult time voting against a community's wishes and would not do such a thing. I remember this because she voted against a motion of mine that was very controversial which required a great deal of defined community input and was carefully analyzed as it related to fiscal responsibility. Years ago Ms. Evans lost on my motion and when all is said and done she may have lost again on her own issue. Her motion passed but the political capital she spent was high. She and other members of the School Board may have underestimated the importance of fair process and the power of history and truth; a very sad situation to be in as an

elected representative.

Elizabeth Bradsher
Fairfax Station

Only Congress Can Declare War

To the Editor:

President Trump's recent pronouncements of "fire and fury" and "locked and loaded" puts our country and allies at dire risk, and showcases his boundless lack of self-discipline and inability to de-escalate dangerous global situations. Like a schoolyard bully who wants to prove that "my toys are bigger than your toys," the President is goading an unstable North Korean tyrant who may do something that could change our world forever.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Fallon Forbush
Reporter
fforbush@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Reporter
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Editorial Assistant
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Salome Howard-Gaibler
Display Advertising
703-415-5394
salome@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

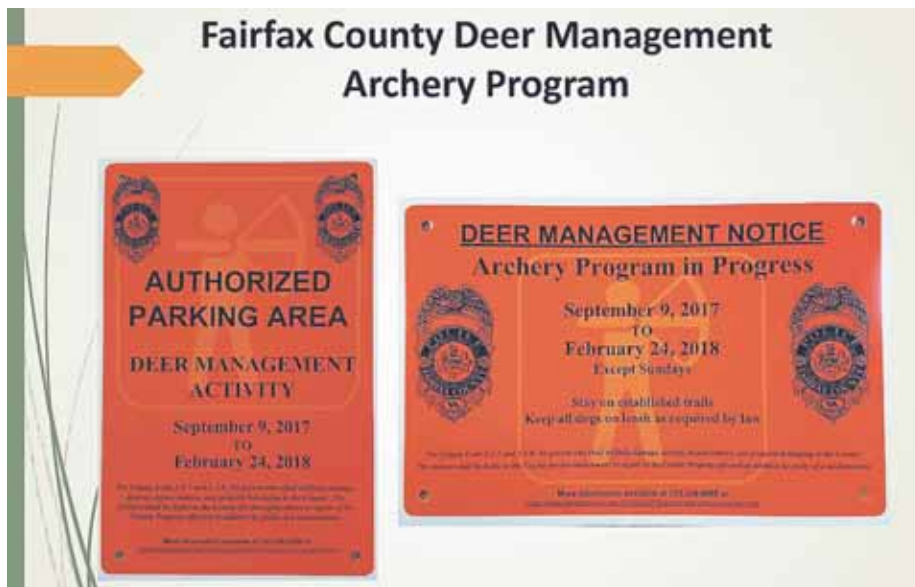
Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



Look for signs like these posted to show that the area has been included in the deer management program.

IMAGE COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY



Managed Deer Hunts Begin Sept. 1

FROM PAGE 3

Kathie Sowell of Vienna also shared some concerns, relating a particularly gruesome encounter with a deer, still mobile, but with an arrow through its eye.

Phil Church of Fairfax had similar objections. "The wounding rate for these animals is what bothers me." Church also agreed that control of the population was needed, but questioned the reliance on archery, when it was "impossible to say how many of the deer wander off wounded, or how long it may take for some of them to die, or to be tracked by the hunter and finished."

Church and others wanted to know why sharpshooting couldn't be the more employed methodology, since

there was agreement that it would be "more humane." "Logistics and cost. That's honestly the answer," said Powell. Having paid law enforcement personnel off the job to handle the deer population is just not efficient or in the budget.

There were no easy answers forthcoming from the officials to the objections, but there were promises to continue to look for other methods, to review the program, and to consider public safety at all times.

The program will begin on Sept. 1, and run through Feb. 24, 2018. No hunting will take place on Sundays. To learn more about the program and to see which parks are included, go to the county's website www.fairfaxcounty.gov, type in "Managed Deer Hunts" and follow the links.

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Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org for more.

The Freeman Store & Museum

Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. Historicviennainc.org

Weekly Storytime.

Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and titles vary. Free admission.

Bingo Night.

Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. www.vvfd.org/bingo.html.

Gentle Yoga.

Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free intro session, senior discounts. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.

Fishing Rod Rentals

8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2 hour max). Valid driver's license required. Rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/

Colvin Run Mill

open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers



Great Falls native Jenny Nichols is now behind the camera making wildlife documentaries, and recently tracked wild elk in Wyoming's Absaroka Mountains. She captured her experience with the elk in an award-winning documentary, which she'll present at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 22 at Great Falls Library Large Meeting Room, 9830 Georgetown Pike.



recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

Evening Painting.

Tuesdays 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Jill Banks focuses on oil painting fundamentals with two sessions each of still life, landscapes, and portrait/clothed figure from a live model. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

AUGUST

Fairfax Family Golf Month.

At Oak Marr Golf Complex is located at 3136 Jermantown Road, Oakton. In August, parents pay for their 9-hole round of golf and accompanying children and teens (ages 8-17) will receive a round at no charge. This is also good at Jefferson District Golf Course is located at 7900 Lee Highway, Falls Church, and Pinecrest Golf Course, 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Visit

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf for more.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 16

Climate Action Night. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton. Sierra Club brainstorms ways for Virginia to create a healthy, sustainable planet by transitioning to clean energy. Email kelsey.crane@sierraclub.org, or call 703-438-6246.

FRIDAY/AUG. 18

Traveling Players at Madeira School. 3 p.m. at Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Traveling Players' youth ensembles will present a festival of four plays. Visit www.madeira.org for more.

Chillin' on Church. 6:30 p.m. at Church St., Vienna. Water games, Mudlark band playing rock and blues. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Teen Center Party. 4-8 p.m. at Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain



Bouhaouala Exhibits at Great Falls Library

An exhibition of acrylic paintings by artist and Great Falls Studios member Lorrie Bouhaouala is on view at the Great Falls Library meeting room through Aug. 31. Expressive figure, landscape, and still life paintings explore vibrant color.

Bridge Road, McLean. 27th Anniversary Block Party includes live music, air-brushed tattoos, street performances, an Old Firehouse Living History Exhibit, concessions and various amusements. Bring a bike to donate to Wheels to Africa, a youth-led nonprofit that collects bikes for children in need throughout Africa. Free. Visit www.mcleancenter.org/ teens for more.

SUNDAY/AUG. 20

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre Green. Vinyl Invention, a Great Falls based group that plays high energy rock and '70s favorites. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org for more.

Colonial Mill Demonstration.

Noon-3 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Demonstration on how grains were milled in years past. \$7 for adults, \$6 for students 16 and up with ID, and \$5 for children and seniors. Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Capriccio String Quartet. 4 p.m. at McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road. Benefit for the McLean Baptist Church Community Missions Power Pack Program which provides weekend packs of food to alleviate hunger for student who receive free or reduced-fee meals during the

week. Call 703-356-8080 or visit www.mcleanbaptist.org.

TUESDAY/AUG. 22

Local Documentary Lecture. 7-9 p.m. at Great Falls Library Large Meeting Room, 9830 Georgetown Pike. Great Falls native Jenny Nichols is now behind the camera making wildlife documentaries, and recently tracked wild elk in Wyoming's Absaroka Mountains. She captured her experience with the elk in an award-winning documentary, which she'll show. Afterwards, Nichols will discuss the making of the film. Call 703-759-3839 for more.

TUESDAY/AUG. 29

Dance Open House. 4-6 p.m. at Cuppett Performing Arts Center, 135 Park St, SE. Beginner through pre-professional dance classes in ballet, tap, jazz, modern, lyrical, hip hop, acro and musical theatre. Visit CuppettePAC.com or call 703-938-9019.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 30

Back-to-School Quote-Along Movie. 7 p.m. at the Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road. The Alden begins a series of quote-along movies with a back-to-school viewing of "Mean Girls," Tina Fey's 2004 high-school comedy. Call 571-296-8385 or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

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Solar Eclipse 2017 Local experts offer instruction in safe viewing.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Details

Some local science teachers went back to school recently for a lesson on the upcoming solar eclipse on Aug. 21 when a total solar eclipse cuts a path across the U.S. Instructors from Fairfax, Arlington, and other Northern Virginia counties attended a half-day workshop led by professor Harold Geller, Ph.D., of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at George Mason University.

During the event, which was sponsored by the Virginia Space Grant Consortium, teachers received ideas on teaching their students about the eclipse. “We tested the teachers’ knowledge,” said Geller. “They also worked in small groups to develop a lesson plan on the eclipse.”

Teachers also got a hands-on outdoor session on safe viewing of the sun and solar eclipse as well as a hands-on lesson on the moon’s phases. Geller said the lesson and safety precautions can be applicable to anyone with an interest in the event. “Everyone seems to know the date ... but many are not aware of the times,” said Geller. “They vary by location. In Washington, D.C. on 21 August 2017 the partial solar eclipse will begin at 1:18 p.m. The peak or maximum will be at 2:43 p.m. The partial solar eclipse will end here at 4:02 p.m.”

For more information, see <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/>.

For those who may be unaware of the specifics, Geller underscored the importance of understanding what a solar eclipse is. “Most simply, it’s the phenomena which occur when the moon gets in direct line of sight between the Earth and the sun,” he said. “In the D.C. metropolitan area, between 81 and 85-percent of the sun’s disk will be blocked by the moon.”

For those in the Washington, D.C. region who are wondering what will be visible, Geller said, “At the start of the eclipse, it will appear that a dark disk is blocking out the light from the sun. As we proceed to maximum, more and more of the sun’s disk will be blocked by the moon. Then, after the peak, less and less of the sun’s disk will be blocked by the moon.”

For those wishing to see the eclipse without leaving the Washington, D.C. region, “The best place to view the eclipse is in the path of totality, that is, wherever the shadow of the moon will totally block all the light from the sun,” said Geller. “Another very important factor is the weather. You should have a direct line of sight to the sun, no interfering clouds. So an open field, with no interference along the line of sight to

the sun between 1 and 4 p.m. in this area, would be best.”

Safety is a factor that Eric Bubar, Ph.D., associate professor of biology and physical sciences at Marymount University underscores.

“Never look directly at the sun, unless you can approved solar viewing glasses,” he said. “These might be hard to find at the moment. Most online vendors are sold out.”

For those considering using their sunglasses instead of eclipse glasses, Bubar offers a warning. “Your sunglasses are not suitable for viewing the sun,” he said. “No matter how dark, expensive or polarized they are, don’t use them. Polarization and UV blocking are great for decreasing the ambient brightness outside, but direct sunlight light can pierce right through and cause damage to your eyes. The only safe way to see the sun with your own eyes is through eclipse glasses or appropriate solar filters.”

“No one should ever look directly at the sun without proper protection,” added Geller. “Only special equipment should be used, whether looking directly at the sun or indirectly at the sun. Only a limited number of manufacturers’ products have been tested for safety. Make sure you are using one of these or that you use an indirect



PHOTO COURTESY OF HAROLD GELLER

George Mason professor Harold Geller led a workshop for science teachers that included an outdoor session on viewing the Sun and the upcoming solar eclipse safety.

method for observing the sun.”

Bubar recommends using the list of vendors certified by the American Astronomical Society. “Also, look at the glasses and make sure there are no holes or punctures in the viewing material,” he said. “Even a small crease or puncture can make them unsafe.”

Eclipse enthusiasts should not be fooled by glasses that appear similar to eclipse glasses that have been certified for safe viewing, says Bubar. “The material in solar filters can look a lot like aluminum foil but is completely different,” he said. “If you can’t find solar viewing glasses ... you can see it indirectly with a pinhole viewer.”

Instructions for using this method can be found by visiting: (<https://eclipse.aas.org/eye-safety/projection>) for how to do this.

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WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Claude Moore Farm Presents Colonial Tobacco Harvest

The Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean, will host Colonial Tobacco Harvest on Saturday, Aug. 19, 1-4 p.m.

Tobacco was an important crop in Colonial Virginia, used as currency by the Claude Moore Colonial Farm family to buy supplies and other goods. Help the farm family harvest their tobacco crop. Gather the cut plants and hang on sticks to cure in the Tobacco Barn. Educational and fun. Regular admission; free park-

ing; directions and more information at www.1771.org.

‘Elk River’ at Great Falls Library

“Elk River,” an award-winning National Geographic film, tracking the annual migration of Yellowstone’s wild elk in Wyoming’s Absaroka Mountains will be shown on Tuesday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m. at Great Falls Library Large Meeting Room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.

Present to offer commentary will be the film’s director, Jenny Nichols, who grew up in Great Falls.

Free Training in Disaster Response Skills

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a training program administered through the county fire and rescue department.

The training prepares residents to help themselves, their families and neighbors in the event of a disaster in their community.

Through CERT, residents can learn about disaster preparedness and receive training in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations.

At this time, the next available CERT Class is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, Aug. 30 at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy. There are two sessions each week on Mondays and Wednesdays that run until Sept. 27. The class is 28 hours in length, plus the final practical exercise. CERT training is free of charge and basic gear is provided. The minimum requirements to participate in CERT training at any



COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPT.

The next available CERT Class is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, Aug. 30 at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy.

level is that residents be 16 years of age or older, and either be a Fairfax County resident, or work in the county. To learn more about CERT, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cert/cert.htm>

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**Request for Qualifications
Contract ID #: C00099478DB98
0007-029-942 & 0007-029-225
Route 7 Corridor Improvements Design-Build Project
Fairfax County, Virginia**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is seeking Statements of Qualification for the Route 7 Corridor Improvements Design-Build Project from qualified respondents with experience in the design and construction of highway facilities. The Project is located on Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) just west of the Route 7/Dulles Toll Road Interchange in Fairfax County, Virginia. The Project includes widening of about a 6.8 mile segment of Route 7 from four to six lanes between Jarrett Valley Drive and Reston Avenue. The purpose of the Project is to increase capacity, improve traffic operations and reduce congestion, improve community access at intersections and via frontage roads, and improve safety in corridor. Project improvements include: an additional eastbound and westbound lane; shared use paths on both sides of Route 7; replacement of the existing Route 7 bridge over Difficult Run; stream relocation; a new pedestrian tunnel under Route 7 accessing the Colvin Run Mill; a grade-separated intersection for eastbound Route 7 at Baron Cameron Avenue; asphalt overlay of existing pavements; new sound barriers; and installation of storm drain pipes and stormwater management facilities. The Design-Builder will also be responsible for coordinating the Route 7 Widening Project with the Washington Gas transmission line upgrade project within the Project limits.

Questions/clarifications regarding the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) should be submitted to John Daoulas, P.E. (John.Daoulas@vdot.virginia.gov).

Copies of the RFQ and additional submittal requirements can be found at <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/request-for-qualifications.asp>.

The Department assures compliance with Title VI requirements of non-discrimination in all activities pursuant to this advertisement.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

MEMBERS WANTED

Great Falls Friends and Neighbors (GFFN) invites women living in the Langley High School District or The Estates of Lowes Island to learn more about the group. The purpose of GFFN is to establish and foster an atmosphere in which new and current residents can develop new friendships and community contacts through social, educational and cultural activities. In addition, the club provides service, support and donations to philanthropic and civic organizations in and around the Great Falls community. Email info@gffnva.org or visit www.gffnva.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 17

Support Group for Caregivers. 10-11:30 a.m. at the UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. This support group is designed for caregivers of adult family members. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

THROUGH AUG. 18

Artist Application Deadline. Visual artists who wish to participate in the 17th Annual Reston Multicultural Festival art exhibit "Art Mirrors Culture" should visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com. The festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 at Lake Anne Plaza in Reston. Interested groups or individuals should fill out the appropriate Vendor Application Form, available at www.restoncommunitycenter.com/mcf.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

President Trump plays fast and loose with nuclear talk, speaking as if it was his personal wild card that he keeps in his back pocket. The loss of millions of lives is an obvious outcome of a conflict between two nuclear powers. But also, given that the South Korean economy is the fourth largest in Asia and the 11th largest in the world, the destruction of South Korea in such a conflict could deal a devastating blow to the world's economy.

The President's seems unable to control his alarming rhetoric. I only hope that our Ambassador to the United Nations and our Cabinet members will employ maximum diplomatic efforts, and that the Congress — the co-equal branch of government — will be strong enough to remind the President that only they have the Constitutional power to declare war.

Barbara Glakas
Herndon

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I Had a Dream



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Which apparently, according to my oncologist, is not unusual. In fact, he's had them, too. What I am referring to, in a general sense, are cancer dreams. The 'cancer dream' I had was my first. Actually, it was not so much a dream, with a beginning, middle and an end, as it was a fragment; a moment in subconscious time that provided (illuminated would be too strong a characterization) an opportunity to possibly see my future and prepare accordingly.

Before I share my dream, let me give you a bit of context relating to my cancer condition. I am nearly five months into my ninth year post diagnosis. I have stage IV non-small cell lung cancer, the terminal kind. Stage IV, if you don't know (and I certainly didn't know stage IV from stage left until my oncologist told me in late February 2009) means the tumors have metastasized (moved from its original location, which is rarely good) and are inoperable (which means surgery is not an option/recommended/reasonable). Ergo, the "13 month to two year" prognosis I was given and the associated 2 percent chance of survival beyond five years. To say then that cancer/my mortality is constantly on my mind is an understatement of epic proportions.

Given the unlikely still-living situation in which amazingly I find myself, I am regularly waiting for disappointing/discouraging health-related symptoms/news. With every five-week cycle of pre-chemotherapy lab work/24-hour urine collection and chemotherapy infusion, followed by quarterly CT Scans and semi annual brain and/or lower abdomen MRIs, I am at the mercy of results — which at this juncture rarely manifest themselves in any symptomatic/life-changing way. In short, I rarely know what the cancer is doing until my oncologist tells me. So far, mostly so good. As a result of this general lack of symptoms, I am always anticipating the day when I am not so lucky and wondering how it will happen/how I'll react when "the cancer," as "Forrest, Forrest Gump" said it, asserts its insidious hold. This was the dream fragment I had.

The only real symptom of my lung cancer/treatment shows up in my lab work: specifically my creatinine level, which measures kidney function. And kidney function, per conversations with my oncologist, is a major concern. The damage I've incurred already is irreparable and likely to get worse and a constant worry (I've recently had a "liquid biopsy" in an attempt to determine non-surgically the genetic mutation of my tumors which could possibly enable me to switch my chemotherapy to one which is not filtered through the kidneys). In the interim however, or until there is an "actionable" match, I am still preoccupied with this risk. The fear of dialysis/a kidney replacement weighs heavily on my mind.

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



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