

Teaching Lifesaving Skills

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Demonstrating CPR, EMT/paramedic Gary Orski locks his arms and uses his upper-body strength and abdominal muscles to compress this mannequin's chest.

How Not To Become Crime Victims

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BONNIE HOBBS/THE CENTRE VIEW

Town Hall Told of 'Chaos-Causing Trump Effect'

Fairfax County NAACP hosts Town Hall gathering with Kaine.

BY ANDREA WORKER

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) spent almost two hours with area residents at a Town Hall-style gathering in West Springfield on the evening of Jan. 11, hosted by the Fairfax County NAACP and moderated by the organization's president, Kofi Annan.

Annan began: "From the outside, from our perspective, it looks like no one knows what's going on, it's chaos [on Capitol Hill]. How are things going in your view?"

The junior senator from Virginia since 2013, Kaine answered that in terms of the daily workings of the Senate, his response would be mostly unchanged from the last few years to this moment. "In our general work, more happens cooperatively than you think. A lot less happens than should. For example, Obama Care. We spent a year fighting to protect health care for 32 million Americans. Instead of repeal, we should have been working on improve, and we weren't."

But the real change today in Kaine's view is "the Trump Effect, not knowing, quite frankly what new surprise will come along."

Kaine spoke of the alleged vulgar remarks made by President Trump earlier in the day about immigrants and some of the countries from which they came. "I mean, you hear that and you just don't know what to say."

THIS LATEST CONTROVERSY, according to Kaine, makes the work being done to address the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Act (DACA) and immigrants in the country under Temporary Protection Status (TPS) that much more difficult.

"And then we didn't know that last week was going to be 'open season for offshore drilling week' around the country," Kaine added, saying that this decision was followed this week by an exception for the state of Florida. "Why Florida? Because we listen to Floridians and the Governor there opposed it. Well, so do we in Virginia."



Kofi Annan, president of the Fairfax County NAACP, moderates the Town Hall-style conversation with U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D), in a community room above Giardino Italian Restaurant in West Springfield.

Kaine admitted that the "Trump Effect" was chaos-causing and frustrating when there "is so much critical work on the table, like hurricane emergency relief and avoiding a government shutdown," but instead, he says, that work gets side-tracked. "Every week it's left hooks, curve balls and surprises."

Annan also asked the senator his opinion of racism in America, including "Why isn't the Ku Klux Klan categorized as a terrorist organization?"

"I don't know," replied Kaine. "To me, it is. I am not sure of the process, but you know, I now plan to find out."

Racism has long been a societal scourge, Kaine said, but that it was the election of Donald Trump and the actions and comments made by the Trump administration that "gave permission to express those racist views" basically with impunity. But he still sees good that may come from this new attitude of "taking off the mask."

"You know who and what you are up against. To really deal with a problem you have to know its dimensions." It is Kaine's



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER

Yasmeen Durrani and Naila Alan, both of Herndon, came to the meeting to ask what U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) would do about the Trump travel bans. "Keep up the fight, work with those who oppose them," replied the senator.

belief that the exposure of the depth and breadth to which racism continues to exist will help bring focus to the issue and aid in the fight against it.

The attendees questioned Kaine and the topics were wide-ranging.

Nayely Lopez is a field employment specialist with CASA, an organization that works with low-income immigrant communities. She attended the session with Sookyoung Oh, area director for the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC), and Jung Bin Cho, also with NAKASEC. "Will you vote to approve the continuing resolution [to fund the government] if there is not a clean DACA bill before then?" she asked.

Kaine was unwilling to commit to her request.

Despite being a "passionate advocate" for immigrants, he also said "I am an anti-shutdown person" and cited the damage done to the Virginia economy and many of its citizens because of the government shutdown in 2013. "I need to see the details of the bills being put forth before I can make

a decision. I think we are really close."

THE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS kept coming — environmental protections and the effects of climate change, LGBT rights and the status of transgender persons in the military, protection against voter suppression, advancing opportunities for minorities at Governors Schools in Virginia (a program started in 1973 by then-Governor Linwood Holton who would later become Kaine's father-in-law), even the possibility of promoting programs like Fairfax County's Diversion First (aimed at diverting individuals with mental health issues to medical care versus the criminal justice system) on the national level.

Jorel Sabado of Springfield wanted to know how the senator's Catholic faith affected his political actions. "Of course, your values inform your decisions," replied Kaine, but added that it was not his job to make everyone follow the rules of his church. "That is not why we are elected."

Naila Alam from Herndon, and a member of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) worries about the travel bans that have been in and out of effect and in the courts since President Trump first introduced them as an Executive Order January last year. Kaine vowed to continue to fight against them.

Asked to comment on the election of more Democrats to the Virginia Legislature, Kaine responded that it gave him a level of energy and confidence for his own chances in Virginia, it bode well for the expansion of Medicaid in the state, and that as a member of the Senate Health and Education Committee there was a synergy that could result.

Kaine is seeking re-election in November, and has already made campaign stops "in some areas of our state that are really suffering," but said that the Town Hall meeting wasn't about campaigning, but about keeping up a dialogue with all Virginians. "Hearing what the concerns are, and keeping people informed — that's practicing democracy."

Northern Virginia Lawmakers Push for Menstrual Equity

General Assembly to consider of bills providing feminine hygiene products in schools and prisons.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

When a City of Alexandria woman was booked into the Fairfax County jail, she wasn't wearing white underwear, the only color allowed. It's not like she packed a bag, and she didn't

know that she would be arrested on a shoplifting charge. So when the deputies confiscated her underwear she started worrying about what would happen when she started menstruating.

"They give you these pads after they have not given you any underwear, so there's really no place to hold the pads," she said. "If you start a menstrual cycle while you are in there with no underwear, they don't give you anything to protect yourself."

While she was behind bars in 2015, inmates were limited to two pads a day. She says they were the cheapest kind available, which means they were very thin and more

than two were often needed. She said she heard some of the other inmates begging for more pads, but the deputies would not provide them.

"It's an area that's probably been overlooked just because it's not a subject that people talk about often in public."

— State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34)

"So I've had to sit on one pad for half of the day and then use the other pad to sleep through the night so that when I wake up in the morning I could get two more pads,"

she said. "It definitely makes you feel less than a person, like I'm not even worth a 50-cent pad."

HER EXPERIENCE in the Fairfax County jail is common say leaders of a nonprofit group known as Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters — known by the acronym BRAWS. That's why they are pushing members of the General Assembly to pass a number of laws to provide "menstrual equity," a growing movement in state capitals across the country.

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

How To Provide Emergency Help **EMT-paramedic teaches residents lifesaving skills.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS

No one knows if or when he or she will be in a position to save a life. But to prepare for such an event, state-certified EMT/paramedic Gary Orski gave lessons to local residents.

A volunteer EMT with the Prince William County Fire Department, he spoke at a recent meeting of the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee. As he did so, he also demonstrated the techniques on mannequins.

"The job of an EMT/paramedic is to provide quality, emergency care and improve the health of the communities we serve," said Orski. He then showed those attending how to perform CPR and also referred them to the American Heart Association's website, www.heart.org, for further information.

First, he said, make sure the scene is safe. "Shake the victim and shout, 'Are you all right?'" said Orski. "If there's no response, call 911 and, if possible, get an AED (automated external defibrillator) and a first-aid kit. Run your hand above the person's nose to check for breathing, for about 10 seconds — and count out loud. If there's no breathing, start CPR. Don't check for a pulse unless you're trained to do that."

Then, he said, "Make sure the patient is on their back and anatomically locate their heart in the center of their chest. Push hard, fast and deep, at least 2 inches — and for an adult, as hard as you can. Push at a rate of about 100-120 beats per minute."

When someone is unconscious and not breathing, said Orski, "The premise is that their heart has stopped. So we try to save their lives. By just doing compressions on their chest, you'll circulate their blood and keep them alive. And that will hopefully jumpstart them until help arrives."

Using the mannequin to illustrate, he then locked his arms and used his upper-body strength and abdominal muscles to compress the chest with both hands. He also



EMT/paramedic Gary Orski shows residents how to use a defibrillator to restart a person's heart.

noted that doing so to the tune of the song, "Stayin' Alive," would ensure the proper rate of pushing.

Orski said the patient's head should be tilted back, with the chin lifted. "Place the palm of your hand on their forehead," he said. "Place the fingers of your other hand under their jaw, but do not press on the tissue underneath the jaw."

Then, he said, "Gently extend the head and neck to open the airway. Look in the patient's mouth for obstructions and remove any you see. Do not do a blind, finger sweep. If it's a stranger, you can just do chest compressions. But for people you know, combine compressions with breaths."

Orski said 30 compressions followed by two breaths equals one CPR cycle, and five cycles of CPR equals 2 minutes of CPR. "Everyone gets tired after doing five cycles," he said. "So if another person is there to help, switch with them then."

And if an AED is handy, so much the better. Said Orski: "Using an AED within the first minute immediately following CPR improves a patient's survivability to 90 percent."

Instructing attendees how to use an AED, he said people should turn it on and follow its audio prompts, "The heart starts to quiver or fibrillate, but using the AED stops that," said Orski. "Its electrical shock stops the chaos."

So, he explained, "Turn on the AED and put the pads on the patient's bare chest — on their upper right and lower left sides. Connect the electrodes and press the 'analyze' button."

"Make sure no one touches the patient while the AED analyzes the heart," he continued. "Then stand clear of the patient when hitting the button to deliver the AED's electrical energy to the heart."

After two minutes, the AED will re-analyze the situation. If the AED says, "No shock required," said Orski, "It means the heart has flatlined and has no fibrillation to stop, so you have to do CPR."

He then instructed people what to do if an infant or child stops breathing. "For toddlers and preschoolers under 45 pounds and under 5 years old, just use one arm and only go one-third of their depth with the compressions," he said.

For babies, said Orski, "Use just two fingers and go one-third of the depth between their anterior and posterior planes. Because babies are very flexible, you're not going to break their bones. But the 30 compressions, the rhythm and the five cycles are the same as with adults. You're pumping the heart and circulating the blood."

Next, he discussed first aid for choking victims. With a choking adult, said Orski, "Do an abdominal thrust. Stand behind them and make a fist with your dominant hand, with your thumb touching your ring finger. Put your leg between theirs, put your fist above their belly button and thrust up and in."

If the person is too tall, he said, "Have



Resident John Werderman practices CPR during the meeting.

them kneel or sit down. Or if they're too big, place them against a wall and press on their chest with two hands and your head down. For a pregnant mom in her second or third trimester, make a fist under her sternum and press straight back."

In the case of a child who, for example, has inhaled food down his or her windpipe, first verify what's happened. "To see if a preschooler or toddler is choking — because they don't know how to tell you — ask them their name," said Orski. "And if they can't answer, they're choking and need help, so do an abdominal thrust. But kneel down and align your shoulders with theirs, and use one arm, instead of two."

For babies, he said, "Sit down, put your legs together and put the baby on them, head down. Do five back slaps and five chest compressions."

Orski said people may never be called upon to use any of these lifesaving techniques. But, he added, "As a community, the more of us that can step up and help someone else when they need it, the better."

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS

'It's a Target-Rich Environment' **Police advise residents how not to become crime victims.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS

Overall, the Sully District is a pretty safe place; but bad things can happen anytime, anywhere. So local residents recently received some tips about how best to prevent themselves and their neighbors from becoming victims of crimes.

Police Lt. Todd Kinkead, head of the Sully District Station's Criminal Investigations Section, addressed a recent meeting of the station's Citizens Advisory Committee. His department consists of four detectives plus him, and he shared information with those in attendance.

"It's a target-rich environment," he said. "There are lots of vehicles, so there are lots of opportunities for car break-ins, all year



Kinkead

'round. People are leaving their purses, checkbooks, iPads, laptops and firearms in their vehicles."

"They even leave their keys in the center console with their garage-door opener — while the vehicle is parked in their driveway," continued Kinkead. "That's just a recipe for disaster. So take the valuables out of your car and lock it when you leave it. And if you see something strange — such as a different person at a friend's car — call us."

He also discussed incidents of destruction of private property in the local area. Between Oct. 24-30, 2017, in Centreville's

Crofton Commons community, he said, someone shot the passenger side and/or front windows of 14 vehicles with a BB gun. Eleven of these vehicles were vandalized between Oct. 24-26, and the other three were vandalized between Oct. 27-30.

Then, said Kinkead, "Between Nov. 3 and 4, driver's-side tires were slashed on three vehicles in Crofton Commons, overnight. And a laptop was stolen from that same street, at the same time."

Regarding other types of offenses, he said the Sully District has some burglaries and larcenies, as well. But, he added, "We're toward the bottom of crime in the county, so this is a very safe area. We handle the burglaries and grand larcenies, but we're trending down from 2016."

But still, Kinkead told the crowd, "Keep your guard up. You guys give us good tips and good leads — for example, license-tag numbers of suspicious vehicles. And it's great to have that type of forensic evidence to help us make cases. So those tips are so critical."

And each traffic stop brings with it the potential for danger, as well as an opportunity to prevent a future crime from happening.

Just recently, said Kinkead, "A gentleman was doing 105 [miles an hour] down I-66. He was coming from a court case for reckless driving. My detective stopped him and discovered that, inside the vehicle, he had all sorts of police garb — including a tactical vest and an AR-15 assault weapon."

Lost Ring? Call Ringfinder

Fairfax Ringfinder reunites lost heirlooms with owners; gets many smiles in the end.

BY MIKE SALMON

While at the backyard mulch pile, a Vienna resident was scattering some fruit scraps when the ring on her finger fell off, a family heirloom that had a lot of meaning. In came Earl Roberts, a City of Fairfax resident that is part of a loosely knit group called “The Ringfinders,” and found the ring after a few minutes.

“I had her reenact the throw, within a couple of minutes I found the ring,” Roberts said.

He could never forget “the smile on her face,” he said.

THE SMILES are one reason Roberts got involved with this craft, using his metal detector when all hope is lost for the jewelry owner.

Chris Turner from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, is the originator of “The Ringfinders,” which is an online directory of metal detecting specialists that will help people find their lost jewelry at beaches, parks, lakes and yards all around the world, as stated on their website. Although Turner has been involved with metal detecting since the 1970s, he started The Ringfinders in 2010. “My goal is to help get you reunited with your lost jewelry,” he said on his website. There is a



Earl Roberts is The Ringfinder in Fairfax.

“Book of Smiles,” section on the site, showing how happy folks get when their jewelry is found.

Although there are charges for this service, “the members listed on The Ring Finders directory all set their own rates and terms, and no recommendations, guarantees or endorsements are made regarding any of the individuals or businesses listed,” it states. There are contacts all over the U.S., Canada, Hawaii and even as far as Peru, according to their map.

Many of the cases Roberts has been working involve yard work and the rings or jewelry comes off unexpectedly.

This was the case earlier in 2017 when a client in Fairfax was clearing out some ivy, put his ring in his pocket, and it came out during the day somehow. “There was a lot of ivy to search, right before dark I found it,” Roberts said.

He’s even been called to Maryland’s eastern shore in 2016 when a ring was lost in the surf at a beach. “We actually found the ring, it took two days, we had to

wait for low tide,” he said.

Roberts is not one of those retirees at the beach who mans the metal detector at sunrise and spends a few hours with a sand sifter to find loose change from strangers, or a Civil War relic hunter.

It started as a hobby when he was in Okinawa with the Marine Corps and took his metal detector to the beach where there was a beach assault in World War II and found two or three knives, a bayonet, a helmet, uniform buttons and a set of dog tags. He even worked with a Japanese museum when he was over there.

TREASURE HUNTERS with metal detectors are shunned most times because of the damage they do while digging things up, like in the case with Civil War relics, but that isn’t the case, Roberts said. The jewelry is right on the surface, maybe under some leaves, but “it’s not six inches in the ground,” he said.

There is a Northern Virginia



PHOTO BY NORTHERN VIRGINIA RELIC HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Civil War bullets found by Roland Frodigh in Virginia.



The family heirloom lost in Vienna garden but found by Roberts and returned to its owner.



Some coins Earl Roberts found in Okinawa.

Relic Hunters Association, organized in February 1972 in Centreville, whose main source of relics is of the Civil War era, but they do not encourage relic hunting in parks and privately owned land. This is where the negative connotations of people digging around may come from. The NVRHA has supported various efforts whose ultimate goal has been the preservation of threatened historical sites, their information states.

more about the project, visit the zMod webpage at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/zmod or call the Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization at 703-324-9300, TTY 711.

Stuff the Bus

To help refill food pantries, Fairfax County runs “Stuff the Bus,” a food collection campaign that partners with nonprofits, grocery stores, and MV Transportation to restock depleted shelves.

Stuff the Bus runs now through Monday, Feb. 19 at 14 local Giant and Shoppers Food and Pharmacy stores. A local collection, benefitting Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, will be held at the Clifton Giant, 5740 Union Mill

Road, on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. View the full schedule at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/stuff-the-bus.

Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Jan. 18, 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. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

ROUNDUPS

Zoning Project

Fairfax County is holding its first community meeting on Jan. 24 as it moves forward to modernize its 40-year old Zoning Ordinance. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. in conference rooms 4 and 5 at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

The public is also encouraged to take an online survey (www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZMOD) that will be available through Jan. 31.

Dubbed “zMod,” the project will revamp the county’s zoning laws that were first adopted in their current form in 1977.

Officials are focusing on making the overall ordinance easier to use and establishing new, more general zoning use categories. To learn

New Year, New Order

Local organizers teach methods for streamlining a space.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

With the holidays now a memory, local organizers are getting requests from those with overflowing buckets of ambition to create and maintain a clutter-free space.

“One of the first things to learn is that a few minutes spent on a few tasks each day can go a long way in maintaining order,” said Jodie Jacobs of SOUPerior Organizing. “Decide how important a clean, clutter-free space is to you and follow through on keeping it that way. Prioritize it like other important things in your life.”

One habit that Susan Unger of ClutterSOS teachers her clients to focus on simple things that can be done easily and frequently. “In general, I recommend keeping up with household duties on a daily basis so none of them become a bigger project,” said Unger. “For example, don’t leave dishes in the sink. Load the dishwasher after every meal and put all cooking and food prep items away so the counters are clear.”

Establishing a daily routine so that tidying becomes second nature is a technique that Unger uses in her own life and teaches to her clients. “I always make my bed first thing in the morning,” she said. “Having a neat bedroom is a great way to start the



Teaching children to put away toys at the end of the day can create a peaceful environment.



Small tasks such as putting away clothes each day can lead to an organized space.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JODIE JACOBS

day.”

Also on her recommended list of daily tasks: apparel. “Be sure to put all clothes away on a daily basis rather than leaving them on a chair or the floor,” said Unger. “Clean clothes should be hung up or put in drawers and dirty clothes in the laundry basket.”

In fact, Unger tells clients to gather the entire family at the end of each day and spend 10 minutes tidying as a group. “Make a sweep of your house and determine which items need to be put in their proper place,” she said. “It makes for a less stressful and

more pleasant morning when you’re not waking up to clutter sitting around,” said Unger.

Deal with mail on a daily basis so it doesn’t pile up, advises Unger. “Immediately recycle or shred the junk mail and put bills, items to file and reading in an appropriate place.”

Whether it’s a small basket by the front door or storage boxes placed under a bed, one technique for tidiness is having a designated space for items. “Kids’ homework should have a landing place like a backpack,” said Jacobs. “The backpack should

go in a particular place, like on a hook. You have to figure out what works for your family.”

Keep bathrooms in order by adding over-the-door hooks to hold towels, suggested Todd Martz, Home on Cameron in Alexandria. “This might make the room appear smaller, but it [offers] a place to put towels,” he said. “Include a decorative bag on the door hook for toiletries so they’re out of the way.”

“Add an ottoman or coffee table with storage,” continued Martz. “Maximize the space next to a utility or laundry room by adding a ... shelf to hold blankets.”

Whether it’s once a week or once a month, schedule time to spend on organization projects and record it on a calendar, advises Jacobs. “Tie it to something that you already do and select a time that won’t be overrun by other events, she said. “If you know that every Sunday at nine o’clock, you always watch a television show, set aside that time to go through mail, pay bills and respond to invitations while you’re watching. That way, your time won’t get bumped for a soccer game or business meeting.”

One caveat that Jacobs offers her clients is, “Maintaining a routine doesn’t mean that you won’t slip up at times,” she said. “You have to hold yourself to realistic standards or you’ll get discouraged.”

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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SPORTS



Talon Murray #15 scores in his team's loss to Westfield.



Caleb Emeogo #11 drives to the basket while Westfield's Marshall Reed #11 defends.

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

Westfield Defeats Centreville

The Westfield Bulldogs traveled to Clifton to take on crosstown rival Centreville Wildcats on Jan. 9 in the first meeting of two meetings between these conference opponents.

Westfield would jump out to an early 15-8 1st quarter advantage.

In the 2nd quarter Centreville would outscore Westfield 19-9 to take a 27-24 halftime advantage .

In the 3rd quarter the Bulldogs would outdo the Wildcats scoring 16 and holding the Wildcats to 10, giving the Bulldogs a 7 point cushion heading into the final quarter.

In the 4th, Centreville would tie the score at 46 with 5:13 to play. However Westfield would score 5 unanswered points and take a 51-46 advantage in just under a minute. With 2:55 to play, Westfield's lead grew to 58-46 . Centreville kept battling, pulling to within 60-54 with 1:39 to play. However, Westfield would close the game out with a 67-56 win.

— WILL PALENSCAR



Marshall Reed #11 picks up a loose ball while Aaron Opoku #3 tries to block Centreville's Caleb Emeogo #11.



Gavin Kiley #5 of Westfield tries to avoid the block of Centreville's Caleb Emeogo #11.



Isaiah Daniel takes the ball to the basket with two Centreville defenders.

NEWS

Lawmakers

FROM PAGE 2

"It's not right to charge them, especially charging prisoners who really don't have much access to money at all," said Del. Kaye Kory (D-38), who has a bill that would require jails and prisons to provide feminine hygiene products on demand. "So it's wrong. And we shouldn't do it."

Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86) has two bills that work toward menstrual equity. One would add feminine hygiene products to the list of products that are exempted from sales tax during the annual back-to-school tax holiday. The other bill would eliminate the sales tax for these products altogether.

"A woman doesn't have a choice whether or not she wants to buy menstrual products," said Boysko. "And because she's taxed on it that's unfair and it's discrimination and so it's a parity issue and a fairness issue."

THE ISSUE HAS been gaining steam for several years, although lawmakers are still trying to get their bills out of committee and onto the floor. Del. Mark Keam (D-35) has been working on this issue since 2016, and he says every year the effort gains more supporters. He's currently working on a bill that will require public schools to provide feminine hygiene products in restrooms.

"Boys may snicker and joke about it, but the reality is that these are serious psychological as well as physical problems that girls have to deal with," said Keam. "I've talked to many young women who said this has happened to them and it's so embarrassing, and they can't study or focus on what's happening in the classroom."

Keam acknowledges that his bill would be an unfunded mandate for school divisions across Virginia. That's one of the reasons state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) is taking a different approach — a budget amendment that would provide funding for groups like BRAWS to distribute feminine hygiene products to prisons and homeless shelters.

"It's an area that's probably been overlooked just because it's not a subject that people talk about often in public," said Petersen. "Really what we are talking about is more matching funds for the community, and we are basically coming late to the party."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 17

Hiring Event. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at Wegmans Chantilly hiring office, 14280 Park Meadow Drive, Suite 100, Chantilly. Wegmans Food Markets is now hiring and training for 320 part-time positions and select remaining full-time jobs at its new location in Chantilly. Job seekers are encouraged to first apply online at wegmans.com/careers.

Women's Business Networking. 6-8 p.m. at Kendra Scott, 2920 District Ave., Fairfax. Awesome Women Entrepreneurs Fairfax will host its first meeting of the year at jewelry retailer Kendra Scott. The event will bring together women entrepreneurs from around the region, providing a friendly space to network and share some laughs with fellow women business owners. From 8-9 p.m., attendees will be able to shop for a cause — 20 percent of sales will be donated to Western Fairfax Christian Ministries. Visit fairfax.awesomewomen.org.

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Seasons Gratings



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a baby-boomer, I've transitioned from black and white television to color to "H.D." - and of course now to "Smart Television," and within that evolution, so too has the variety, content and number of channels— and the "demand" that we consumers can make — from home, transitioned as well. And I don't suppose much of it could have happened without advertising and the revenue it has generated. Promoted by people, places and things. From sports heroes to celebrities to news makers to cartoon characters to puppets and on to anthropomorphic agents/avatars and other creative mouthpieces.

I grew up watching television — without a remote, not listening to the radio. I remember seeing "Mr. Clean," "The Jolly Green Giant," "Mr. Magoo," "Speedy" — from Alka Seltzer — among other iconic creatures of the creative, all of whom sent so many messages to so many consumers, ripe for the plucking. A brand new medium had arrived: television, and its audience was extra large and extra eager.

And even though these spokes-things were not exactly speaking from the heart (what heart?), they were speaking/symbolizing with conviction — and repetition. The impressions made on impressionable future consumers were incalculable. It launched a generation. Not the "Greatest Generation," mind you, but a generation nonetheless, prepped and ready to make its mark: in the drug store, the convenience store, the supermarket, the box store and now the on-line store. We are not merely what we buy, we are what and how we are advertised to.

Previously I had written a column about how I loathe the computer-generated characters which have been utilized on television in an attempt to capture consumers' interest. As soon as they appear on television, I switch rather than fight. For me, it's an immediate turn off, literally and figuratively. I am not listening to inanimate objects/creations tell an "animate" (yours truly) object what to do. And though I understand the humanity behind the message, as far as I'm concerned, the delivery system does not compute (an old-fashioned usage). Artificial spokes-things are not worth the computer screens they're drawn on.

What has brought this rant on is a new element in the artificially-intelligent world in which many of us are subjected: holiday greetings from a computer. Mass emails sent by manufacturers from whom as a consumer we've emailed, inquired, bought, sold, etc., wishing me a "happy, healthy, prosperous holiday/New Year," yada, yada, yada; click/delete. As fast as I can. Are you kidding me? It's not bad enough that as consumers we are regularly watching/listening to fake spokes-things on television, I am now being directly interacted with through my personal emails too. No. That's where I draw the line/terminate my attention span.

However well-conceived, I am not getting involved with what is in effect, a thing. Pre-programmed messages of this kind are the unkindest cut of all; "Et tu, Brute?" If you/your company can only treat me like a number — and not as a person, don't treat me at all. Don't think for a nanosecond that a holiday missive to a massive holiday audience carries any substantial weight. It doesn't. It provides the exact opposite: a greater wait until I respond. It's akin to be weightless in outer space. It's for bemusement. It serves no functional purpose. And though I can certainly appreciate how getting into thousands/millions of personal email accounts with one keystroke has an appeal, you risk squandering a previously hard-earned resource: goodwill.

You want me as a customer? Don't email me feelings. Email me facts and figures. You really want me as a customer? Then speak to me, really. Save your greetings; and not for next year either.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Children's Science Center at Fair Oaks Mall. Stop by the Experiment Bar in January and check out Lava Tubes! Learn about density and polarity in this small tube. And back by popular demand, DIY Snow is here for another month to celebrate winter. Visit childsci.org.

LIBRARY FUN

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.

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.

Lego Block Party. Every other Saturday at 10:30 a.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.

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 to reserve a space.

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 to reserve a space.

PET ADOPTIONS

Adopt a Dog. Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit hart90.org.

Adopt a Dog. Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit aforeverhome.org.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 17

Nature Tots at E.C. Lawrence. 9:45 and 11 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. In this program, youngsters ages 1-3 a chance to explore the great outdoors. Topics vary by month. \$6 in-county or \$8 out-of-county. Call 703-631-0013 or visit



Dulles Expo Home Show

On Friday, Jan. 19 and Saturday, Jan. 20 the Kitchen Cousins, Anthony Carrino and John Colaneri from HGTV will be at the Dulles Expo Home Show. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at the Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Visit www.homeandremodelingshow.com.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

Cottage's John Loecke and Jason Oliver Nixon. Visit www.homeandremodelingshow.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 19

HGTV Stars at Home Show. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at the Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Headlining the Jan. 19-21 Home and Remodeling Show at the Dulles Expo Center will be HGTV's Kitchen Cousins, Anthony Carrino and John Colaneri, and Mapcap

SATURDAY/JAN. 20

HGTV Stars at Home Show. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at the Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Headlining the Jan. 19-21 Home and Remodeling Show at the Dulles Expo Center will be HGTV's Kitchen Cousins, Anthony Carrino

and John Colaneri, and Mapcap Cottage's John Loecke and Jason Oliver Nixon. Visit www.homeandremodelingshow.com.

Birthday Celebration. 1-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Richard Bland Lee would have turned 257 this year, and Sully Historic Site is throwing a party in his honor. During an afternoon house tour at Sully, discover some of the important contributions that Lee made during his impressive political career, and enjoy a piece of birthday cake. The house tour costs \$7 for adults, \$6 for students and \$5 for seniors and children. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

SUNDAY/JAN. 21

G Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Sponsored by the Washington, Virginia and Maryland Garden Railway Society Admission, Museum members and age 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/FEB. 4

Outdoor Kids at E.C. Lawrence. 2 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. In this program, children ages 4-6 explore different habitats, trails, wild animals and wild places. Topics vary by month. \$6 in-county or \$8 out-of-county. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 7

History Tots at E.C. Lawrence. 9:45 and 11 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. In this program, youngsters ages 1-3 will explore history through sight, sound, taste and touch. Topics vary by month. \$6 in-county or \$8 out-of-county. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

SATURDAY/FEB. 10

Ping Pong Tournament. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road. In-door activity in the middle of winter that includes cookies from Clifton's own Sweet Annaline's. Free. Visit clifton-va.com.

History Tots at E.C. Lawrence. 10 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. In this program, youngsters ages 1-3 will explore history through sight, sound, taste and touch. Topics vary by month. \$6 in-county or \$8 out-of-county. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

Embrace the New Year with Meditation. 3:30-5 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library 14200 St Germain Drive, Centreville. Join Gerry Gorman to learn effective techniques that can reduce stress, enhance relaxation and promote inner growth. Also learn how meditation can improve physical, mental and spiritual health. Teens and adults. Free, no registration required. Call 703-830-2223.

SUNDAY/FEB. 11

Table Top N Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, 703-425-9225.

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