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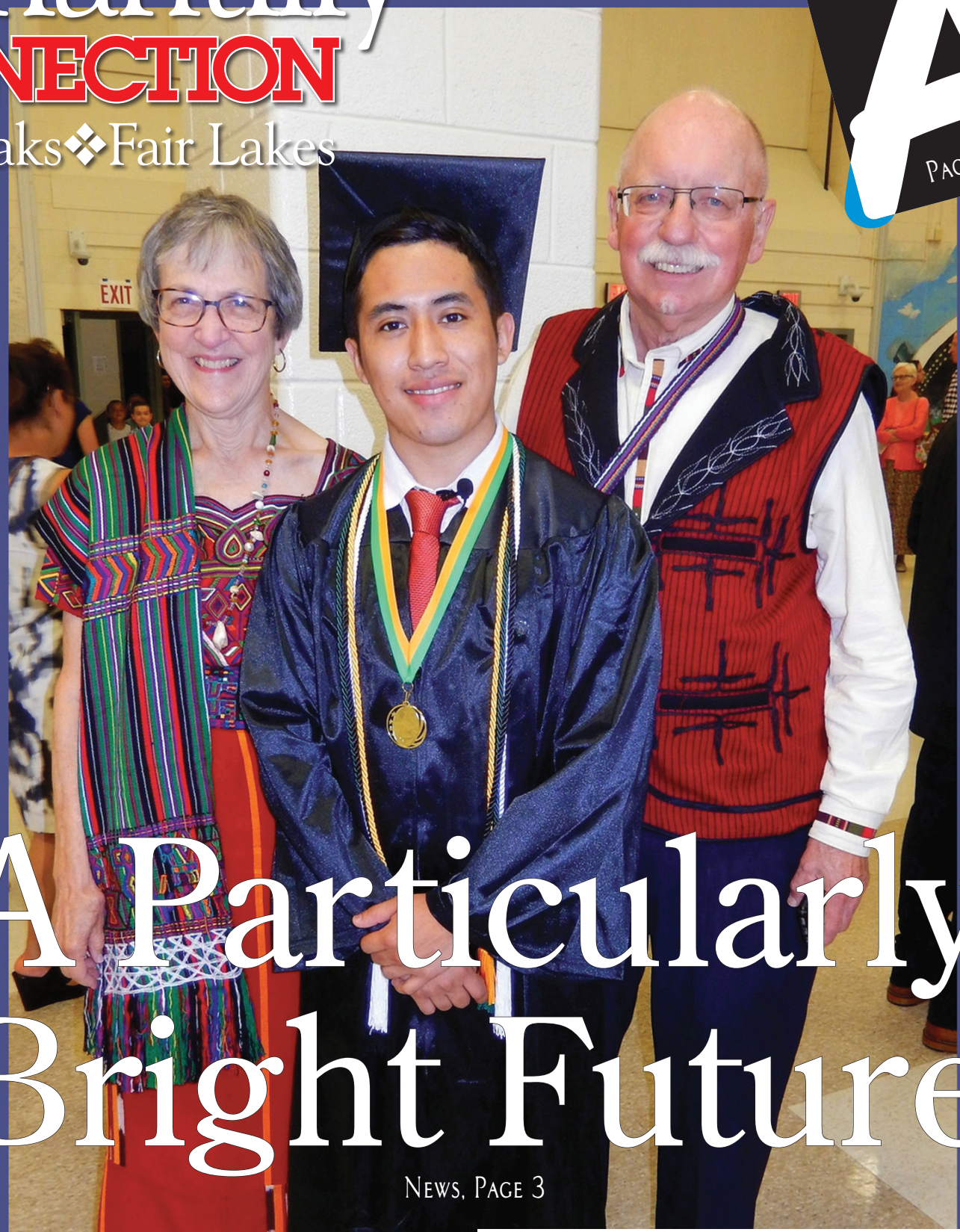
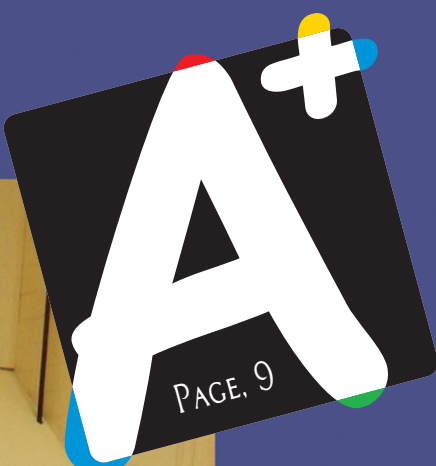
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# Chantilly

## CONNECTION

Fair Oaks❖Fair Lakes



Alice and Jerry Foltz with Mountain View grad Brayan Perez Brito. The Foltzes are wearing traditional, Ixil Mayan clothing Brito's mother made for them in Guatemala.

# A Particularly Bright Future

NEWS, PAGE 3

Wexton to Take On Comstock

NEWS, PAGE 4

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CALENDAR, PAGE 12 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10



# ‘Nothing about What Happened Is OK’

Westfield grad  
Chaz Coffin is in  
“The Scottsboro  
Boys.”

BY BONNIE HOBBS

**C**haz Alexander Coffin, a 2012 Westfield High grad, recently returned to this area. But he’s not just here visiting family and friends — he has one of the lead roles in Signature Theatre’s production of “The Scottsboro Boys.”

A musical based on a true story of racism and injustice in the Jim Crow South, the show opened May 29 and runs through July 1, and possibly longer. The theater is at 4200 Campbell Ave. in Arlington’s Village at Shirlington. For tickets, go to SigTheatre.org.

“It’s draped in the framework of a minstrel show,” said Coffin. “But it’s a hard-hitting, controversial production that touches people’s emotions.”

While at Westfield, besides appearing in several shows, Coffin also performed with The Alliance Theatre and won a Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH) award for best actor in Alliance’s summer 2011 musical,



**“The Scottsboro Boys” at Signature Theatre: Singing in front row are (from left) Chaz Alexander Coffin and Stephen Scott Wormley. (Back row, from left) are Jonathan Adriel, Aramie Payton, Andre Hinds and Darrell Purcell Jr.**

“Hairspray.” He later received his bachelor’s in fine arts from East Carolina University and acted in several, professional productions throughout the country. (See sidebar.)

Then in April, he answered a casting call in New York for “The Scottsboro Boys.” He initially auditioned for one of the boys, but got the roles of Mr. Tambo and the

boys’ defense attorney.

It’s the true story of nine, black, young men, ages 12-19, who were riding on a freight train in northern Alabama in 1931, en route to Memphis to find jobs. A fight broke out between black and white youths, and the nine blacks plus two white women were rounded up. Someone said the word, “rape,” and the boys were pulled

from the train and taken to the nearest jail — in Scottsboro, Ala.

Their story made national news, was sensationalized by the Southern press and spurred the involvement of the NAACP and the ACLU. A prominent, New York defense attorney took their case, pro bono, and the boys became a symbol of American injustice.

Tambo is one of two, minstrel



**Chaz Coffin graduated from Westfield High.**

clowns moving the show from one scene to another with one-liners and the shake of a tambourine. “There’s something special about African-American men onstage telling their stories,” said Coffin. “We also portray the white sheriff and prison guard, and it’s interesting being blacks playing whites who oppress the show’s black characters.”

As the defense attorney, Coffin portrays Samuel Leibowitz, considered an outsider because he was a Jew from New York. “This role resonated with me the most because Leibowitz was the good guy and has more of an impact than the other characters I portray,” said Coffin. “I also have a

SEE PERFORMING, PAGE 10

## From Comedy to Musicals, Drama

Chaz Alexander Coffin  
builds his theatrical résumé.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

**A**ctively pursuing a career in the theater, Westfield High graduate Chaz Alexander Coffin has compiled a steady and varied résumé showcasing his talents as an actor in musicals, comedy and drama.

In college at East Carolina University, one of his favorite roles was an African dwarf who became a jester in the comedy, “Las Meninas” (“The Little Maids”). “It was fun and fulfilling,” he said. “And I learned a lot about myself and what I could do as an actor because it was a straight play and not a musical.”

I also played Benny, one of the eight leads in “Rent.” He’s often seen as a villain, so I liked diving into a different dynamic and making him likable.”

Coffin then began his professional career and was happy to put to good use the lessons he’d learned at Westfield. Since his theater directors there had taught him “professionalism, poise and how to talk to people,” he was well-prepared to audition and already had jobs lined up upon graduating from ECU.

His advice to other, aspiring actors is to “keep moving. Even if you’re not performing, keep hustling toward what you want to do. Get yourself seen, meet people, audition and keep trying.”

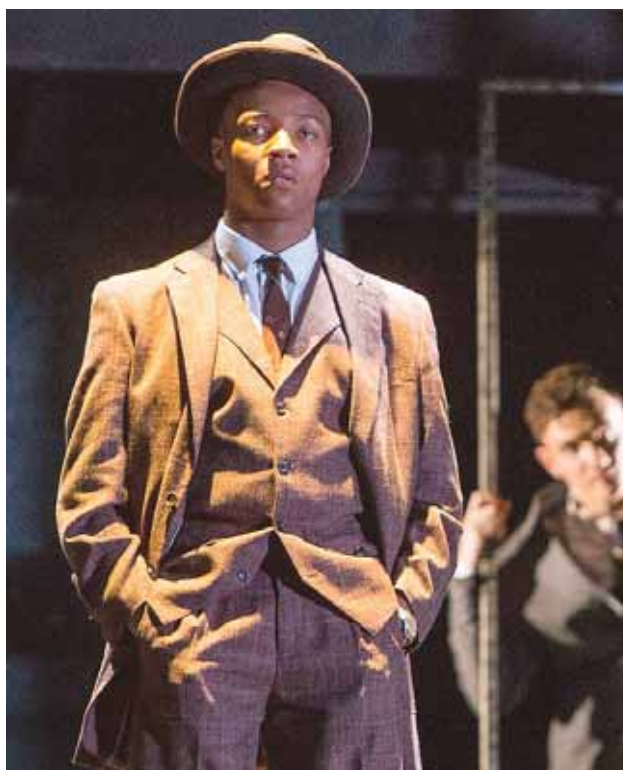
Coffin’s first, professional lead was as Donkey in “Shrek” in Bigfork, Mont. “It was a Broadway musical; and as long as I wanted to do theater, I wanted to play Donkey,” he said. “So it meant a lot to me to leave college and do my dream role.”

This was one of four shows we did in summer 2016.”

“In college, I was trained mostly in drama, and Donkey is the most fun, iconic character in that show,” continued Coffin. “It was the most challenging responsibility, and I got to sing by myself, too.”

But the best part was meeting kids and families from the audience and getting their excited responses after the show.”

He was next in the ensemble of “The Wiz” in Sarasota, Fla., and



**Chaz Alexander Coffin as Richard Roe in “Machinal” at East Carolina University.**

acted in “The Addams Family” and “Sister Act” in Clarksville, Ind. “At this point, I was getting a lot of comedy roles — which were still new to me,” he said. “But I was getting accustomed to them and enjoying them.”

Then last summer, Coffin moved to New York to learn what it was like being an actor there. But after four months, he booked “Dream Girls” in Columbus, Ohio. “It was another dream role of mine, C.C., Effie’s brother who writes the songs,” said Coffin. “Everybody loved him and he was relatable, and wasn’t flashy or a villain or drug-abusing singer, like the other guys in the show.”

It also meant a great deal to him because it was his first role since college that wasn’t comedic, but more like a real person. And it enabled him to get into the membership candidacy program for Equity, the professional union for stage actors.

SEE BUILDS, PAGE 10

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# NEWS

## ‘Filled with an Abundance of Love’

### Mountain View grads praise their high school.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

**A**t the start of Mountain View High’s graduation ceremony last week, Assistant Principal Claudia Pirouzan-Jones told the students, “You share the common bond of being part of the Mountain View family. And the school’s motto of ‘Family, Love and Respect’ lives within your soul.”

The graduation was Tuesday, June 12, at Centreville High and was powerful and heartfelt because — unlike students at larger, traditional high schools — those at Mountain View have more obstacles to overcome. So their diplomas signify the achievements they’ve made and the future potential on the horizon.

“You have perseverance, grit, intelligence and drive,” said Pirouzan-Jones. “You’re resilient and strong, and you have a lot to be proud of.” She then thanked the parents and all members of the Mountain View family and had the seniors stand and applaud to show their gratitude.

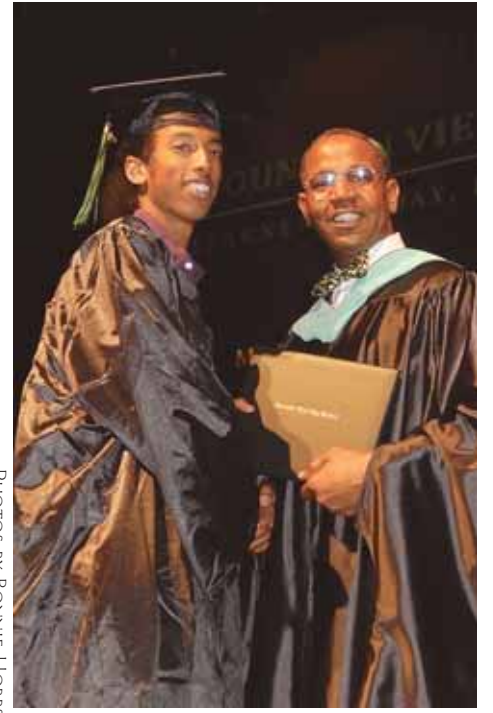
Saying he shared the graduates’ joy and excitement, Principal Gary Morris told them, “Because of our experiences together, I’m truly touched by this day.” He then read a letter he wrote to his youngest child, telling her he has a renewed confidence in her future because of the 68 new Mountain View Timber Wolf graduates who’ll lead the way for her.

He said no path to success is ever truly straight, but she can reach it by possessing the four characteristics these grads have. The first is being courageous. Whenever he felt down and wanted to stay home from

SEE MOUNTAIN VIEW, PAGE 8



**Graduate Denilson Aguilar Lopez with (from left) siblings Randy and Amy and parents Yolanda and Ramon.**



**Koshin Khalif receives his diploma from Principal Gary Morris.**



**ESOL teacher Elizabeth Park (center) presents Citizenship Awards to (from left) Charlotte Williams and Duc My Tran.**



**English teacher Courtney McPhee gives Personal Achievement Awards to Jose Ramos Cantarero and Callie Harry.**

## Bright Future for Local Graduate

BY ELLEN FAY

*Below is the speech given by Mountain View High Counselor Ellen Fay, last week, to graduating student Brayan Perez Brito before presenting him with the school’s Faculty Award.*

“**B**rayan, when you completed your 70-day journey from Guatemala to the United States, you did not know there was another ‘Mountain’ ahead of you. You said that you memorized one sentence in English when you came to register at Mountain View High School. It was, ‘Excuse me, but does anyone here speak Spanish?’ And with the help of the amazing [administrative assistant] Tina Perez, who does speak Spanish, you began

your high-school journey.

For most students, high school can be a challenge. But when a student is in a new country, without family and not understanding the language or the culture, the obstacles can seem insurmountable. Your commitment to learning and your ability to reach out for support are the driving forces behind your success.

You embraced the Dreamcatcher Program at George Mason University. Searching for work, you found the Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF); and before long, you were not just using the center for resources, but you soon became a volunteer director, using your talents to help others.

You have been an active partici-



**Brayan Perez Brito receives the Faculty Award from counselor Ellen Fay.**

## Mountain View’s Brito earns two scholarships.

part in the Mountain View Family. In the past, you have represented the school at the Superintendent’s Round Table, you were a member of the Mountain View student council and president of the school’s Environmental club.

On Jan. 19, a snowy, icy-cold day, I accompanied you to the Supreme Court of Virginia, in Richmond, where you were one of three finalists from the 10th Congressional District for the Harry F. Byrd Jr. Leadership Scholarship. This prestigious scholarship is open to every student in a public or a private high school in the state of Virginia. Academics are a factor, but the most important factors

SEE BRITO, PAGE 11



# Wexton to Take on Comstock

Moderate state senator did not get pulled to the left in primary.

By Michael Lee Pope

State Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33) made a name for herself in Northern Virginia as a tough-as-nails prosecutor, including one case that grabbed national headlines involving a woman who persuaded her boyfriend to kill her father with a samurai sword. During her campaign for the Democratic nomination in Virginia's 10th Congressional District, she never lost that sense of law-and-order grit, refusing to be pulled to the left as other candidates were calling for President Trump to be impeached. "We are now on a mission to bring real representation to Northern Virginia and to remove Barbara Comstock from office," said Wexton in a statement shortly after securing the nomination. "Barbara Comstock has worked to strip healthcare from millions of Americans, proudly touts her A rating from the NRA, and is so out of touch with this district that she hides from her constituents and has never held a single town hall."

Comstock is the only Republican incumbent in Virginia to be defending a district that Trump lost in 2016, which puts this particular race at the top of the agenda for Democrats this fall. Two years ago, Comstock won 53 percent of the vote against Democrat LuAnn Bennett. But Hillary Clinton also won the district with 52 percent of the vote. Since that time, Comstock has tried to position herself as a centrist looking out for the interests of her constituents while taking an arms-length approach to some of Trump's more conservative rhetoric.

**"Barbara Comstock has defeated a Jennifer Wexton-type candidate before, and she'll do it again in November."**

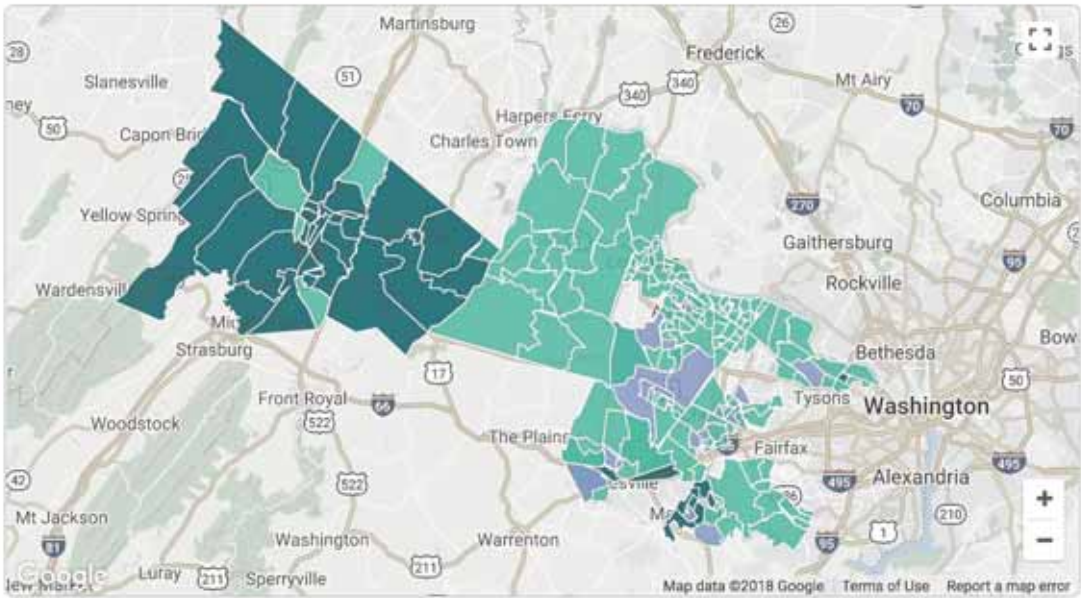
**— Maddie Anderson, spokeswoman, National Republican Congressional Committee**

### LAST YEAR'S BLUE WAVE

election has given Democrats hope that they're entering a midterm election season with the wind at their back, and they're targeting three incumbent Republican House members in

Jennifer Wexton	22,394	41.88%
Alison Friedman	12,289	22.98%
Lindsey Stover	8,561	16.01%
Dan Helmer	6,709	12.55%
Paul Pelletier	2,010	3.76%
Julia Biggins	1,512	2.83%

Click on a precinct for details



10th District map.

Virginia. Aside from Comstock, incumbents who find themselves in the crosshairs include U.S. Rep. Dave Brat (VA-07) and U.S. Rep. Scott Taylor (VA-02). The House Majority PAC is supporting Democrats in all three of these races, hoping to turn these red parts of Virginia blue. "These candidates will stand up for Virginia families and fight for an agenda that lifts up the middle class while their Republican opponents have made it clear that they aren't looking out for the hardworking Virginia families they're supposed to represent," said Charlie Kelly, executive director of the political action committee. "These Republicans have enabled a toxic GOP agenda that raises taxes on hardworking Virginians, imposes a devastating age tax and takes away health care from millions of Americans."

**WEXTON** was able to beat back a crowded field of Democratic challengers, including

two former Obama administration officials. One, Alison Friedman, was able to pump \$1 million into her own campaign and remained a constant presence on television ads. The other, Lindsey Davis Stover, became a constant presence at community meetings and town halls over the last few months. In the end, neither was able to match the name recognition that Wexton has built.

"From the moment it began, this campaign has been about putting people back into the center of our politics," said Stover in a concession statement, thanking the other candidates in the race. "Together, we built momentum and enthusiasm that will ensure Democrats can unseat Barbara Comstock this November."

Friedman was able to win seven precincts in Fairfax County and nine precincts in Loudoun County. And Stover had a strong showing in Frederick County, Manassas and Winchester.

But Wexton was able to run up the numbers in Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William County for a comfortable margin of victory. Republicans say they're ready to take on Wexton this fall.

"The nasty and divisive Democratic primary forced Nancy Pelosi recruit Jennifer Wexton to lurch to the far-left, rendering her unelectable," said Maddie Anderson, spokeswoman for the National Republican Congressional Committee. "Barbara Comstock has defeated a Jennifer Wexton-type candidate before, and she'll do it again in November."

### 211 of 211 precincts reporting (100.00%)

Jennifer Wexton	22,394	41.88%
Alison Friedman	12,289	22.98%
Lindsey Stover	8,561	16.01%
Dan Helmer	6,709	12.55%
Paul Pelletier	2,010	3.76%
Julia Biggins	1,512	2.83%

### 211 of 211 precincts reporting (100.00%)

Barbara Comstock*	28,274	60.71%
Shak Hill	18,301	39.29%

<https://www.vpap.org/electionresults/20180612/ushouse/>

## Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, June 21, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should in-

stall the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed. Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and

times.

## Rocky Run Trail Improvements

The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold a public information meeting to discuss proposed improvements to the Rocky Run Stream Valley Trail, including stream-

crossing upgrades and paving of the gravel sections between Stringfellow Road and the Fairfax County Parkway. The meeting is set for Thursday, June 21, at 7 p.m., in the Greenbrier East Elementary School cafeteria, 13006 Point Pleasant Drive in Chantilly. A brief overview of the proposed project will be presented, followed by an opportunity for questions and answers.



# Voters Choose Firebrand Corey Stewart to lead Republican ticket in Virginia this fall.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

Conservative firebrand Corey Stewart was denied an opportunity to be the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor in 2013. And then he came within striking distance of being the party's standard-bearer in the gubernatorial campaign last year. Now, finally, the chairman of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors has secured a spot at the top of the ticket, bringing his brand of anti-immigrant, pro-Confederate Trumpism to the race against incumbent U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine.

"We will unite the coalition that President Trump brought together in 2016," said Stewart at a victory party in Woodbridge. "We will win working men and woman across this state. We will restore our values. We will restore our economy. We will restore our border. And we will restore America."

The Republican establishment campaigned against Stewart, worrying that his brand of conservatism would tarnish the GOP and harm down-ticket Republicans in competitive congressional races. They tried

to rally behind Del. Nick Freitas (R-30), who grabbed national headlines earlier this year with a barnburner of a speech on the floor of the House of Delegates that took on Democrats for their support for gun control by blaming them for slavery and massive resistance to civil rights. In the end, voters chose the candidate who is outspoken in his support for Confederate flags and statues.

"Basically the Republican Party of Virginia is setting themselves up for a loss in No-

Stewart was typically defiant in his victory speech, taking on Democrats and media and even other Republicans. He thanked Freitas, adding that he has a future in the party. But he also brought out a familiar list of themes from the 2016 campaign, including attacking immigrants and Hillary Clinton. That prompted the audience to chant "build the wall" and "lock her up" just as they had two years ago. Even though that approach put Trump in the White House, it failed to win the day in Virginia.

"We're going to hear a lot about Hillary Clinton in this race in part because Tim Kaine was Hillary Clinton's running mate, so we're going to get a reprisal in some ways of the presidential race here in Virginia," said Quentin Kidd, a professor at Christopher Newport University. "Hillary Clinton won Virginia by five points in 2016, so it's going to be an uphill climb for Corey Stewart."

In Fairfax County, Stewart won with 49 percent of the vote, with the strongest showing in Bull Run, Difficult Run and Woodyard. Freitas was able to win some parts of the wealthy northern suburbs, posting his strongest numbers in Greenbrier

West, Bush Hill and Grovesnor. But it was no match for Stewart, who has a long history in the region and a familiarity with voters from years of experience leading a neighboring county.

"Senator Tim Kaine has spent his career fighting for civil rights, good jobs, and education for all Virginians," said Susan Swecker, chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Virginia. "Corey Stewart has spent his spreading hate and engaging in destructive carnival barking."

Republicans, though, are prepared to take on Kaine. During the primary, Stewart promised to run a campaign against Kaine that would be "vicious." Within hours of Stewart securing the nomination, Trump endorsed him and called Kaine "a total stiff." In the endorsement, Trump mentioned immigration and tax cuts — setting out a template for the campaign they plan on waging against the freshman Democratic senator.

"Senator Kaine spends more time whining about Crooked Hillary's big loss than actually representing Virginia in the U.S. Senate," said John Whitbeck, chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia. "It's about time that Virginia had a senator that looked out for the interests of the Commonwealth over the interests of his California or Massachusetts donors."

**"We're going to hear a lot about Hillary Clinton in this race in part because Tim Kaine was Hillary Clinton's running mate, so we're going to get a reprisal in some ways of the presidential race here in Virginia."**

— **Quentin Kidd, Professor, Christopher Newport University**

vember against Tim Kaine, and that could have all kinds of ramifications down ballot," said Geoff Skelley at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "If Kaine ends up winning by more than 10 points, that could create conditions for Democrats to win some tough congressional races."



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# OPINION

## ‘Just Add Water’

To the Editor:

I am writing as a new Team Rep for our neighborhood’s summer swim team here in Centreville, the Faircrest Cyclones. You published an article about our first season back in 2016, <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2016/jul/13/faircrest-cyclones-swim-first-season/>.

That article highlighted some of what we offer our community: opportunity for youth and unity from diversity. Now entering our third season, we faced a tremendous obstacle: our community’s clubhouse was struck by fire April 6. You can see some of the local television coverage here: <http://wjla.com/news/local/crews-battle-massive-fire-as-community-clubhouse-goes-up-in-flames-in-centreville>. The fire has closed our pool for the entire summer: for what it’s worth, the news reports grossly undervalued the damages. No one was hurt, thankfully, and we will rebuild.

Unfortunately, the blaze left the Cyclones with no pool where we can practice this year: a swim team without a pool, but with swimmers, parents, and coaches still fiercely determined to swim, to have fun, and to represent the community this summer. After the fire, we immediately and actively explored options to get practice time elsewhere, making “Just Add Water” our theme for the season. In an area so blessed with pools and so active in competitive swimming, this proved surprisingly challenging.

Registration for the team had opened a month before, and March’s steady enrollment stalled with the uncertainty as possibilities were explored and leads followed, coming to

naught. Swimmers and their parents make their decisions for summer activities based on logistics, and ours were dependent on the pool and clubhouse, left floating in the air by the fire.

I am elated to say that this story has a happy ending, and even an inspiring one. We reached out to the swim community, and a neighboring swim club responded in early May at the urging of its own summer team, going well out of its way to provide us a home away from home this summer by adding hours, lifeguards, and a firehose-like blast of warm welcome. With just a few days before outdoor pools open, the business details were hammered out. Registration for the team resumed, and with fervor.

Overcoming the adversity posed by the fire has created palpable excitement here in Faircrest, matched both by the joy these young swimmers have at being in the water for a third summer and by the confidence that if this can be overcome there will be many more seasons in our future.

I would like to thank publicly all in the swim community who offered sympathy, suggestions, and options, but particularly the Brookfield Swim Club in Chantilly, their swim team the Breakers, and their league, the Northern Virginia Swim League, for pulling this rabbit out of the hat for us. If a pool supporting not just one team but two were not shocking enough, I will also point out that the Cyclones are not even members of the Northern Virginia Swim League. For its part, I would also like to extend our gratitude to our own Herndon Swim League for promptly and efficiently reshuffling a nearly finalized meet schedule, for its empathy, and for providing the Cyclones all possible

latitude as our season teetered on the brink.

Of course, like any team, we always salute our sponsors, the local businesses that support us. It would be trite and commercial to name them here, but for standing with us when we could not promote them exactly as planned, they have our profound respect. We are proud to wear their logos on the backs of our tee shirts and fly them on our banner.

I would also like to thank our HOA, the Centreville Farms Community Association, that owns and operates the pool. During a time when it was understandably taxed with safety, insurance, recovery, and reconstruction issues from the fire itself, its board and managers nonetheless stood staunchly behind the team’s efforts to carry on its own mission. Finally, I am deeply indebted to the Cyclones families and coaches themselves, for treating the fire as an inconvenience rather than a tragedy, and for rallying with patience, perseverance, and good humor.

The team’s plight certainly pales compared to that of those injured and left homeless by the area’s more recent fires, but to me the story of overcoming it is an important one. Those organizations named above demonstrate, I believe, the very best qualities of summer swim — teamwork, volunteerism, and community. “Just Add Water” to those and you get the very sunny result of kids swimming, learning, and having fun.

With a final flip turn, we get back to where the story began. To those who professionally “Just Add Water” all year long, the Fairfax County Fire Department, thank you.

**Mike Wiedemann**  
Faircrest Cyclones

## Board, in 10-0 Vote, Approves More Inclusive Policies

To the Editor:

On June 14 at its regular meeting, the Fairfax County School Board approved updates to the Family Life Education Curriculum which are more inclusive of transgender students and family members, and a provision which will teach about ways to help fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic and inevitably save some of our students from infection.

Many members of the LGBTQ community and many allies came to the School Board meeting wearing purple, outnumbering those opposed by more than two-to-one. School Board members Karen Corbett Sanders (Mount Vernon), Tamara Derenak Kaufax (Lee), Megan McLaughlin (Braddock), Jane Strauss (Dranesville), Dalia Palchik (Providence), Pat Hynes (Hunter Mill), Sandy Evans (Masson), Karen Keys-Gamarra (at-large), Ilryong Moon (at-large) and Ryan McElveen (at-large) spoke eloquently and clearly in support of these provisions. Sully

representative Tom Wilson and Springfield representative Elizabeth Schultz spoke against them, but were in fact away from the table for the final vote; it was unanimous at 10-0.

As president of FCPS Pride (a

social welfare organization for LGBTQ employees, parents of LGBTQ students, and LGBTQ parents and allies in Fairfax County Public Schools), I would like to express my gratitude for the citizens who came to support, and to

the elected officials who responded to those community members. We look forward to contributing, canvassing and voting at the elections in 2019.

**Robert Rigby, Jr.**  
President, FCPS Pride

## Disappointed by Family Life Education Changes

To the Editor:

*The following statement was issued regarding the Fairfax County School Board’s vote on its Family Life Education (FLE) curriculum.*

While I am pleased that the Fairfax County School Board has voted to retain clergy among the list of people our youth ought to consider trusted adults, I am nevertheless disappointed to see the board has chosen ideology over biology in introducing such terms as “sex assigned at birth” in place of “biological sex” in the schools’ Family Life Education (FLE) curriculum. It is also distressing to see students receiving information about the drug regimen PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) while at the

same time not learning that abstinence is the only 100 percent effective way of preventing the transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). As a community committed to proclaiming the truth about human life, dignity and sexuality, the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Arlington will

continue its efforts to educate the public regarding the content of the FLE curriculum and encourage parents to exercise their God-given right to “opt-out” their children from those lessons that distort the truth and are morally offensive.

**Bishop Michael F. Burbidge**  
Catholic Diocese of Arlington

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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# Learning a Trade

**Program teaches special ed students a trade in IT security and recycling.**

After graduating, Sergey “Lex” Schmitt, a senior at Chantilly High School, is transitioning to the Davis Career Center to pursue vocational and life skills training, but he already has a leg up on his competition due to a special work training program he has been participating in for the past year.

Schmidt started his first work-based learning experience at Securis, Inc., a local provider of green alternatives for electronic recycling, hard drive shredding and data destruction. For more than 10 years, students with special needs at Chantilly High School have gained real-world experience as part- and full-time employees.

Securis, headquartered in Chantilly, holds three different classes, training up to 12-14 students each day, through the county’s Career Preparation Class and Education for Employment for Special Education.

“It was hard at first because I did not know how to use the tools,” said Schmidt.

“I learned how to take apart computers and became good at it. I like the people who helped me learn this trade.”

His parents said that he gained confidence working at Securis, and they thank the Chantilly High School teachers and the staff at Securis for giving their son the opportunity.

Sue Collins, a Career and Transition teacher at Chantilly High School, explains how the program works: “Students go to the company’s nearby facility anywhere from four to five times a week, usually accompanied by a teacher. They learn work skills, life skills, and social skills. They get respect, dignity and joy, and self-worth – It builds up their self-confidence.”



**Sergey “Lex” Schmitt, a senior at Chantilly High School.**

dence.”

Securis has been proactive in designing work environments and tasks that are appropriate for each student, and is dedicated to hiring employees with disabilities, says company Founder and President Jeremy Farber.

“Students with special needs can sign up for the program and a bus brings them to our facility a few days each week,” said Farber. “Some of them have come to Securis full-time after they graduate. It’s been a great way to participate in the local community and help kids. We have provided training and work experience for over 100 students with disabilities to date.”

One student worked for the company for five years before moving out of state as a full-time onsite supervisor, teaching students with disabilities how to disassemble electronics and follow safety guidelines, while serving as a mentor and role model for the students.

The company has recently initiated a partnership with the high school to create more opportunities for students with disabilities who are transitioning from high school, such as paid internship opportunities with the intent of hiring students for part-time summer employment.

## Fairfax Ballet Names Artistic Director

Andrea Cook will serve as The Fairfax Ballet Company’s (FBC) new artistic director. One of the longest running ballet companies in Northern Virginia, the FBC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit performing arts organization.



Cook, a Fairfax County native and Chantilly High School alum, attended Point Park University, where she received a BFA in Dance Performance, with a concentration in jazz and was awarded Outstanding Graduating Senior for her class. She then moved to New York City to pursue dance performance and teaching opportunities.

During her time in New York City, Cook danced with PushFactor Dance Company and was a founding member of the Undertoe Dance Project, worked for the New York International Ballet Competition, and taught dance classes at the New York Kids Club. She also served on the faculty of and was a judge for DanzJam Conventions in the New England area. Cook is currently the academy administrator at the

Fairfax Academy for Communications and the Arts, after directing its dance program for 9 years. As the dance director, she received a Wolf Trap Grant for High School Performing Arts Teachers, which allowed her students to learn and perform two works by Paul Taylor.

Cook’s choreography has been featured on numerous companies and as part of choreography festivals in Pittsburgh, New York City, and the Washington D.C. area, in addition to local theatre companies. She has been nominated for numerous WATCH awards and won for Best Choreography for Reston Community Player’s production of “Curtains.” Cook joined the NCA Cappies Gala team to direct and choreograph the Cappies Gala Dancers at the Kennedy Center each June.

She has worked with dancers at various youth companies including setting both ballet and contemporary works for the FBC.

“Having worked with the dancers of the FBC for the past decade, I am excited to be taking on a new role that will allow me to continue to stretch myself and the dancers artistically,” Cook said.

“I am thrilled to be part of a program that creates a wonderful environment for dancers to learn, grow, and discover who they are as artists and human beings.”



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# Mountain View Grads Praise Their High School

FROM PAGE 3

the job he loved, said Morris, he remembered the battles they fought daily just to be at school. He also thought about what awaited some of them at home.

“Some had to navigate abusive households or gang-ridden neighborhoods; some had another eight-hour work day,” he said. “They fought and learned a new language in a condensed amount of time. And some had to change the perception of who they were in order to be what they knew they could be. Courage isn’t what they displayed, it’s what they are.”

Second is commitment. “It’s so much more important to be committed than compliant [so that] you give everything you have to it and strive to be better at it every day,” said Morris. “Our students taught me that you can’t always judge a person by statistics, dates and benchmarks. Despite the struggles, home issues, changes in academic standards and — for some — political pressures, they successfully arrived at today.”

Third is curious. He said these students opened their minds to new experiences and wanted to learn about “new cultures, extending this planet’s life and how we all could work better together. That type of curiosity has driven them and will continue driving them to be equipped for tomorrow.”

Fourth is loving. “It describes the heart and passion these students displayed to the staff and to one another in times of adversity,” said Morris. “They shared kind words, meals, finances and rides.” Because they accepted each other, regardless of color, culture, religion or socio-economic status, he said they etched a place in the world for his daughter to feel accepted and loved.

“I can count on them to shoulder the inequities and level the playing fields so you can hold your head high with a purpose that’ll be respected,” he told his daughter. “All I ask is that you follow in their footsteps and pay forward the rewards they’ll set in place for you to reap. If you do that, you’ll be safe, respected and — in every sense of the word — you’ll know what it means to be a Timber Wolf.”

Next, three seniors shared their stories



**Celebrating daughter Monica’s graduation are her parents, Maritza and Carlos Velasco, and her brother, Rodrigo.**



**Grad Natalie Paniagua with daughter Andrea, 1, sister Claudia and brother Mateo.**

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS

with their classmates. The first, Callie Harry, worried when she initially came to Mountain View because attendance is expected. But her chronic illness makes it difficult for her to do homework, so she can’t always turn in her assignments on time.

“The stigma and ignorance surrounding chronic illness at my former school made me lose trust in school,” she said. “I don’t look sick, so they just labeled me lazy, without getting to know who I was. But at Mountain View, everybody greeted me and asked if they could help me. My teachers made accommodations for me, and my peers were only interested in the kind of person I was.”

With everyone making her feel so welcome, said Harry, “I had my most success-

ful school year yet and enjoyed school. What I had to say mattered at Mountain View, and my teachers inspired me to follow my dreams. [Sue] Houde is the best counselor I’ve ever had. And my family — whose support has never faded — lifted me from the darkest time of my life so I could start over at Mountain View.”

Harry was even accepted at the University of Massachusetts. “I’ve thrived here and have plans I’m looking forward to,” she said. “And I wouldn’t be in that position if it wasn’t for Mountain View. I’m never going to forget the people here who gave me a second chance because, once a Timber Wolf, always a Timber Wolf.”

School was also tough for Sebastian Cruz because of his behavior issues and absenteeism from Centreville High. One day, Principal Dave Jagels asked him what was wrong. “For a long time, I was stubborn and made bad choices,” said Cruz. “So I was working 30 hours/week at Wendy’s to make restitution to the people I’d hurt.”

So Jagels told him about Mountain View and took him to lunch with Morris and Student Services Director Jim Lockwood. “They said I could do it and made me feel welcome,” said Cruz. “In March 2017, I started at Mountain View. I didn’t know anyone, but the students were cool and the teachers were nice and patient. They also helped me earn my community-service hours. Mountain View is a place where people show each other respect. It’s filled with an abundance of love and opens its arms to welcome everyone like a family.”

When Charlotte “Lotty” Williams first arrived there, she was cynical. “My past

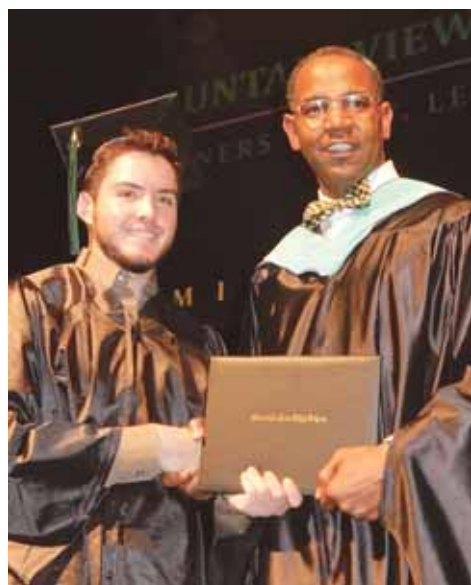
schools led me to believe schools never kept their promises. And when you’re a kid with special needs, it’s hard when you’re lumped in with all the other kids. But I needed something else.”

For example, she said, “I can’t work in a crowded room where everyone’s talking because I can’t filter them out. I need lots of reminders about when things are due, and shouting at me and calling me a cry baby doesn’t help.” But when she came to Mountain View last year, she discovered that things were different.

“It was quieter here because the kids were doing their work, and it felt safe in here,” said Williams. “I asked Mr. Morris what would happen if a fight broke out among the students, and he said, ‘That rarely happens here.’”

“I wasn’t ‘til I came here that I was treated as human in school and not ridiculed,” she continued. “I’m proud to say I’m graduating from Mountain View Alternative School — something I couldn’t say about any of my other schools.”

Then, before the diplomas were presented, awards were presented to some of the most outstanding graduates. The Citizenship Award — given to students who’ve helped build a positive school community — went to Williams and to Duc My Tran. Personal Achievement Awards — for students dealing with adult commitments, but still succeeding personally and academically — went to Callie Harry and Jose Ramos Cantarero. And the Faculty Award (see sidebar) — for a student who succeeded academically, despite significant, personal obstacles — went to Brayan Perez Brito.



**Timothy Rudolph shakes hands with Principal Gary Morris.**



**Principal Gary Morris gives Kathaleen del Carmen Ordonez her diploma.**



# Talking to Children about Suicide

**Creating safe environment is key to opening a discussion.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**T**he recent high profile deaths by suicide make it inevitable that children will ask questions and express a curiosity about the topic. However, some parents might feel a sense of uneasiness about answering those questions. Local mental health educators say that the steady increase in death by suicide each year since 1999 makes those conversations vital.

Parents can begin by creating a safe environment for an age-appropriate dialogue, says Linda Gulyn, Ph.D, professor of psychology at Marymount University. "As always, reassure young children that you are there for them no matter what," she said. "Don't feed into the anxiety. Teens understand it 100 percent, probably more than you realize."

"Encourage children to ask questions and answer them honestly," added Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University. "Parents should state that they will help their children handle any bad feelings or problems that happen."

Suicide can be a frightening topic for children and a difficult subject for parents to explain, advised Short. "Explain that people die in different ways and suicide means that people hurt themselves and died from it," he said. "A more detailed explanation is that our thoughts and feelings come from our brain, and sometimes a person's brain is sick. People feel alone, believe they are a burden on others, and are hopeless that it will change. Some people cannot stop the hurt they feel inside by themselves, but they can get help."

Parents should have a general understanding of suicide rates, signs and methods of preventing before embarking on a conversation with their children about the topic, advises Monica Band, Ed.D., assistant professor of counseling at Marymount University, who recommends the National Suicide Prevention and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention as sources of information. "I would also recommend parents challenging their misconceptions and preconceived notions of [those who] who attempt and think of committing suicide because it is an issue that has an impact across cultures."

Some children might not understand the difference between feelings of sadness and clinical depression. "Explain that we all get sad and have good days and bad days," said Gulyn. "Usually we feel better. But kids who commit suicide are so sad that they don't know what to do to feel better. But the truth is there is a way to feel better, and there are very helpful adults in school and at home who are great to talk to."

However, some children might have difficulty grasping the concept of mental illnesses like depression. "Sad is normal, sad is part of life, and usually we feel sad when something outside of us happens,

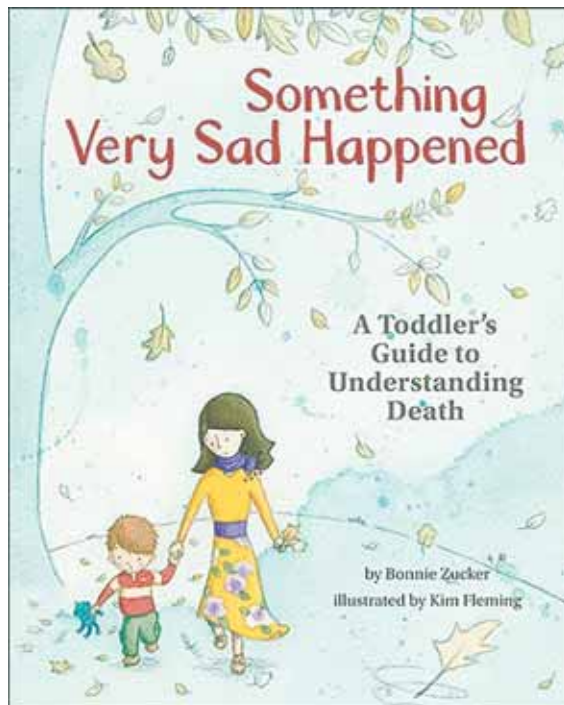


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Books like "Something Very Sad Happened: A Toddler's Guide to Understanding Death" by Bonnie Zucker can help parents explain concepts of mental health to their children.**

like when a friend moves away. And we know that we will feel better," said Gulyn. "Depression is when someone feels hopeless that he or she won't be sad anymore. And that makes them not want to do fun things, or take care of themselves."

An awareness of warning signs of mental illness and the fact that depression is not a normal phase of adolescence are two factors that Gulyn underscores. "[Depression] is a serious mental health disorder for which there are effective treatments," she said. "Parents need to be aware of kids isolating themselves from others, especially peers. Other signs [include] not taking care of your physical appearance, consistently performing poorly in school, substance abuse, eating disorders, excessive or inadequate rest."

If a parent notices any of these symptoms or suspects that their child might be depressed, Gulyn advises a straightforward approach. Don't be afraid to ask your teen directly, "Do you think you are depressed?" or "Have you been thinking about hurting yourself?", she suggests.

Teaching a child healthy help-seeking behaviors will give them an invaluable tool when facing mental health issues, advised Monica P. Band, an assistant professor of counseling at Marymount University. "If parents raise the child to have specific religious or spiritual beliefs, this could be a way to begin the discussion of how one finds

strength, resilience, or peace in times when they feel like they're not in control," said Band. "Regardless of one's religious or spiritual beliefs, it is worth it if parents have an understanding and awareness of mood shifts or changes with their children and set an example and expectation with how to address these issues when things aren't feeling right or normal for their child."

## Resources

### National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>  
**American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**  
<https://afsp.org/about-suicide/risk-factors-and-warning-signs/>

### BOOKS:

**"Something Very Sad Happened: A Toddler's Guide to Understanding Death"** by Bonnie Zucker

**"Depression: A Teen's Guide to Survive and Thrive"** by Jacqueline Toner and Claire Freeland

**"Danny and the Blue Cloud"** by James M. Foley

**"Why are You So Sad, A Child's Book About Parental Depression"** by Beth Andrews

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# NEWS



**Chaz  
Coffin in  
“Las  
Meninas”  
at ECU.**

PHOTOS  
COURTESY OF  
CHAZ COFFIN

## Builds a Theatrical Resumé

FROM PAGE 2

This spring, he was in the musical, “Hair,” in Peoria, Ariz. “I love ensembleship; and being with actors you form a bond with and like, you find your tribe — and we still keep in touch,” said Coffin. “The show’s message was ‘Make love, not war.’ And when the Parkland shooting happened in February, we dedicated a special cabaret in the school’s honor.”

**Chaz Alexander  
Coffin is cur-  
rently acting in  
“The Scottsboro  
Boys.”**



## Performing in ‘Scottsboro Boys’

FROM PAGE 2

song and talk really fast.” Although it’s a musical, he said “The Scottsboro Boys” is “a different dynamic. It holds a mirror up to the audience and makes them uncomfortable watching it. And they should be — because nothing about what happened is OK. Nothing about a minstrel show should be easy to watch, and it makes the show even more powerful because this is actually what happened.”

This musical came on Broadway in 2010; and in 2013 — long after they’d died — the state of Alabama pardoned the boys. “This show is, without a doubt, the most influential and significant production I’ve ever been fortunate to be a part of, because of its relevance today,” said Coffin. “In our current political climate — and with our given history of

police brutality — people come to the show and have a real, visceral reaction to what they’re watching.”

“Those who don’t know about the story learn a shocking history lesson,” he continued. “And those who knew about it see that it’s still happening today. People also have post-show discussions; they ask us how it feels to be an African-American putting on this story and how we feel about its current-world relevance.”

Coffin’s life journey has been markedly different from those of the Scottsboro Boys. But still, he said, “Every day, something else happens that brings me even closer to this show. When rapper Childish Gambino’s song, ‘This is America,’ came out recently, that directly reminded me of what I’d been seeing my whole life — the target on my back. I’m not entirely safe.”

## BULLETIN BOARD

**SATURDAY/JUNE 23**

**Women’s Summit 2018.** 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Hyatt Regency Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd., Herndon. Network NoVA presents their second Women’s Summit to continue the grassroots momentum of building coalitions across the state to flip Virginia’s Congressional delegation blue in November. This weekend event for women and men will feature speakers, workshops, an advocacy fair, congressional row, and most importantly, network opportunities. \$65. Visit [networknova.org](http://networknova.org) for more.

**MONDAY/JUNE 25**

**Future of Retail-Non-Office Building Repurposing.** 7 p.m. at

Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 9/10, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Non-Office Building Repurposing. The meeting provides an opportunity to learn how retail markets are changing and discuss how alternative uses may be used to fill existing retail spaces. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/plan-amendments/non-office-building-repurposing](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/plan-amendments/non-office-building-repurposing) or contact Michael Lynskey, DPZ, at 703-324-1204.

**TUESDAY/JUNE 26**

**Rotary Club Meeting.** 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at Eggspectations, 5009 Westone Plaza, Chantilly. The Rotary Club of Centreville-Chantilly meets every Tuesday. Rotary is a service organization open to anyone in the

community with an interest in supporting local and international projects. Those who are interested in Rotary are invited any Tuesday as a guest. \$15. Call 703-966-6960, email [catherine@creativeread.com](mailto:catherine@creativeread.com) or visit [www.CentrevilleChantillyRotary.com](http://www.CentrevilleChantillyRotary.com) for more.

**WEDNESDAY/JUNE 27**

**Airport Aircraft Noise Contour Map Update.** 6-8 p.m. at Washington Dulles International Airport Office Building, 45045 Aviation Drive, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Sterling. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority will hold a public workshop regarding the Washington Dulles International Airport Aircraft noise contour map update. Visit [www.FlyDulles.com](http://www.FlyDulles.com).

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# Brito

FROM PAGE 3

are a student's volunteer/leadership service to the wider community. That day, you had to interview before a panel of 11 people.

The following month, Feb. 14, was a proud day for the Mountain View family. Principal Gary Morris drove us to Richmond to see the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Hon. Donald W. Lemons, award you the Byrd Scholarship and hand you a check for \$10,000. Two of your former teachers, Jude Welling and Richard Chinn; your mentor from George Mason University, engineering professor Art Poland; your community mentor, 'Mr. Chuck'; CIF President Alice Foltz and her husband Jerry, along with Mr. Morris and myself, were all there to see you receive this great honor. No other student from an alternative high school has ever won this scholarship. That day, you put Mountain View High School's name on the map.

As it turned out, one of the 11 panel members who interviewed you in Richmond was Tracy Fitzsimmons, president of Shenandoah University. Dr. Fitzsimmons was so impressed by your story that she contacted you and offered you a Presidential Scholarship of \$20,000 a year for four years — a possible total of \$80,000.

In August, you will go off to Shenandoah University to study one of your many major passions, Computer Science, Engineering or possibly International Relations. Since receiving the Byrd scholarship, you have been interviewed by National Public Radio, Fairfax County Public Schools has made a video about your story and, most recently, Univision of Miami came to Mountain View for two days to film your story.

You recently accepted an invitation to speak at Stone Middle School. A counselor there had read about your story and invited you to talk to their students. Many of their students had shared struggles similar to your own. You were touched by these students who told you that you had inspired them and given them hope. One student even asked for your autograph.

Brayan, you would be the first to give credit for your academic and emotional success to your Mountain View teachers who helped you negotiate, not only your classes, but also helped and supported you as who applied for and were granted asylum in the United States.

Please do not forget Mountain View. Come back when you can and talk with our students. Let them know that a young man who once asked the question, 'Does anyone here speak Spanish?' is now four years later realizing his dreams.

There is a repeating verse from the song, 'New York, New York,' that goes, 'If I can make it there, I'll make it anywhere.' Brayan, you have definitely made it here at Mountain View.

Twenty-five courses with an overall B-plus grade-point average and 10, SOL-verified credits later, here you are at the summit of the mountain. You are a Mountain View graduate. It is an honor, on behalf of the Mountain View faculty, to present to you with the Faculty Award. Go Timberwolf!"

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## Watching Some More and Wondering No Less



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently, I bought my wife, Dina, the "Limited Edition, Downton Abbey, The Complete Collector's Set." Twenty-two discs, all the episodes, bonus features, etc. Now we can finally delete the saved content off our DVR; that should open up about half the available storage. Storage that we've happily used and accessed many times.

In its prime though, we did not miss a Downton Abbey episode when it was first broadcast on PBS (starting Jan. 9, 2011 and ending Jan. 3, 2016) and we've been recording, saving and watching ever since. We are two, of millions, who couldn't get enough viewing time of this period drama then and still can't to this day.

Ergo, the purchase. Now we are in control. If anything happens to our cable box – and it needs to be replaced/upgraded, we will not – as previously happened, suffer a potentially tragic loss of content in the exchange. Eliminating that worry alone has made the purchase worth the very reasonable price we paid.

Having the complete set in hand, Dina and I have decided to re-watch the series from start to finish. Heretofore, we had watched episodes in sequence, but not necessarily in chronological order – meaning season one, episode one through the final episode of season six. As a result of this decision, we have gotten reacquainted with story lines which had somewhat faded over time as there are some episodes we hadn't seen in years. We had saved many, but not all (when it was free to do so; now, the there's a cost, \$2.99 per episode to buy, I believe).

So far, we're through season two and we've thoroughly enjoyed the people, places and things – and the many nuances we may have missed or forgotten. However, this passage of time has caused Dina and I to rethink some of our opinions of characters and story lines.

There are two primary reassessments that oddly enough, Dina and I share.

One concerns Dr. Clarkson, the local/family doctor who runs the Downton Cottage Hospital. The other concerns Patrick Crawley (the cousin/ original heir who was thought to have died when the Titanic sank in 1912) who reappears in season two as a convalescing Peter Gordon, a.k.a. P Gordon. As much as we like Dr. Clarkson, and are amused by his straddling the line between himself and the aristocracy, we have decided that we don't like some of his medical opinions: his hesitancy to even consider the treatment for dropsy for Mr. Drake that "cousin" Isobel (an experienced nurse) had proposed; his misjudgment of the possible psychological consequences of transferring the patient with gas blindness (with whom Thomas had developed a rapport) who subsequently killed himself – presumably rather than accept being transferred; and finally Matthew who suffered what Dr. Clarkson described as a transection of his spine when he and William were injured in battle which turned out to be a bruise.

An injury that he said would prevent Matthew from ever walking and – as later realized, fathering children either. In all three instances, Dr. Clarkson was proven to be wrong. As a consequence, if Dr. Clarkson was diagnosing my cancer, I'd ask for a second opinion.

As for Peter Gordon/P Gordon/Patrick Crawley and the story line concerning his reappearance as heir/heir pretender so many years after the family thought he had died – I would love to ask Julian Fellowes (writer and creator of "Downton Abbey") if this element was fact or fiction or simply a mere diversion for affect.

It all seemed so contrived, especially after "P" Gordon (who says he got his "name from a liquor bottle") leaves a note for the heartbroken Edith before there's any resolution. I mean, was he the heir or wasn't he? Did he leave because he felt the jig was up and the ruse was likely to fail? Or did he feel so betrayed and disrespected by his family (the Crawleys) that he felt his present and/or future could never be what he envisioned?

Consequently, there are two questions I'd like answered: was Peter Gordon actually Patrick Crawley and where did Dr. Clarkson get his medical training?

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



# ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Fitness for 50+.** Daytime hours, Monday-Friday at Sully Senior Center, 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Jazzercise Lite, Zumba Gold, Hot Hula Fitness (dancing Polynesian style), Strength Training, Qi Gong, Tai Chi and more. Membership is \$48 a year, and waivers are available. Email [lynne.lott@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:lynne.lott@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-322-4475 for more.

**History Volunteers Needed.** Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs history buffs. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Email [volunteers@fairfax-station.org](mailto:volunteers@fairfax-station.org) or call 703-945-7483 to explore opportunities. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. It is open every Sunday, except holidays, from 1-4 p.m. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), 703-425-9225.

**Art Guild of Clifton Exhibit.** 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call 703-409-0919 for more.

**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.

**Live After Five.** Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. 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.

**Mondays are Family Night.** 5-7 p.m. at Villagio, 7145 Main St. \$45 for a family of four. Call 703-543-2030 for more.

## 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



The Bull Run Park venue offers plenty of room for Bichons and their families.

## 2018 Bichon Bash

The Bichon Bash is a family friendly event where Bichons can play together in a safe outdoor area, and experts can provide advice on the breed. This is an annual fundraiser for the Bichon Frise Club of America rescue group, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Bichons only. Sunday, Sept. 16, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Bull Run Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. \$15 pre-register online; \$20 at gate; \$5 children under 12. Call 703-401-9551 or [www.bichonbash.org](http://www.bichonbash.org).

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.

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 20

**Finding Home: The Immigrant Experience.** 7-8 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Teen author Duaah Hammad will read excerpts from her book "Finding Home" and speak about the immigrant experience in America. Book signing to follow. Ages 13 and older. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/chantilly-regional](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/chantilly-regional) or call 703-502-3883; TTY 711.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 21

**Jacks are Wild.** 10:30-11:15 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Jack Russell Terriers, Mario and Bella, perform fun and amazing tricks. Ages 6-12. Call 703-830-2223 or TTY: 711 for more.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 22

**FrogHair Golf Tournament.** Noon at Twin Lakes Golf Course, 6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Enjoy the chance to be a winner at the upcoming FrogHair Golf Tournament presented jointly by Southwestern Youth Association and Chantilly Youth Association. A fun twist on the game is presented at each hole, providing both experienced and inexperienced golfers with an opportunity to win a prize. Golfers can sign up as a single, a twosome or a foursome. \$99 per person. Visit [www.froghairgolfclassic.com](http://www.froghairgolfclassic.com).

## SATURDAY/JUNE 23

**Dairy Days.** 1-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Head to Dairy Days where family members age 5-adult can churn butter, crank ice cream, milk a

fake cow and play 18<sup>th</sup> century games. It's a day to experience the products of a historic dairy at Sully Historic Site. \$7 per person. Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is recommended. Sign-up for times at 1, 2 or 3 p.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Tour the historic house for an additional fee. Call 703-437-1794 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 23-24

**Summer Celebration.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Whitehall Farms, 6080 Colchester Road, Fairfax. Whitehall Farms hosts a summer celebration with music, wagon rides, animal encounters, an inflatable obstacle course and yard games. \$10/person. Children 3 and under enter free. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Visit [www.whitehall.farm](http://www.whitehall.farm) for more.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 24

**35th Anniversary Celebration.** 10 a.m. at Oakton Baptist Church of Chantilly, 14001 Sullyfield Circle, Chantilly. Oakton Baptist Church of Chantilly will be celebrating their 35th Anniversary. Services start at 10 a.m. with The Old Time Gospel Singers. Pastor Ray Brock will be preaching at the 11 a.m. Service. Following the services, dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall. The community is welcome to join the celebration. Visit [www.sbcv.org/churches/oakton-baptist-church/](http://www.sbcv.org/churches/oakton-baptist-church/) for more.

**Colonial Games and Ice Cream.** 1-3 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Start summer with historic fun and games at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Join a tournament of hoop and stick, the game of graces and other childhood games of yesteryear. Take historic scavenger hunt challenges and race to buy cows for the historic Walney Farm. End your day relaxing with ice cream. The program runs from 1 to 3 p.m. and the cost is \$10 per person. \$10. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence) for registration information.

## JUNE 25-29

**CyberSecurity Camp.** Chantilly

Academy will partner with Northrop Grumman and the Volgenau School of Engineering at George Mason University (GMU) for its annual CyberSecurity summer camp. Students will learn cyber ethics, computer forensics, and cyber security fundamentals; they will also learn about cybersecurity internships and careers in the field. This camp is open to rising 7th-12th graders. \$225 for the week. Visit [chantillyacademy.fcps.edu/announcements/summer-camps-chantilly-academy](http://chantillyacademy.fcps.edu/announcements/summer-camps-chantilly-academy).

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 27

**What Flies and Croaks at Dusk.** 8-9 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. From fireflies to amphibians, there's a lot happening in county parks as night falls. Get a glimpse of park life after people go home for the day. Join the "Fireflies in the Meadow" program to watch the meadow light up with fireflies as dusk descends. Bring a plastic jar with a lid to catch and then release the lightning bugs. Dress in long pants, socks and closed shoes. Flashlights and insect repellent are useful. Age 2-adult. \$6 per person. Meet at Cabell's Mill. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

## THURSDAY/JUNE 28

**Wonder: The Movie.** 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Join for the movie version of the book "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio. Bring a blanket and/or a pillow to sit on. Light snacks and drinks provided or bring your own snacks. This movie is rated PG. Grades 4 and up. Call 703-830-2223 or TTY: 711 for more.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 30

**Stream Life.** 6-7 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Freshwater ecosystems are full of fascinating creatures. Search for stoneflies, hellgrammites, water pennies, and crayfish. Explore Big Rocky Run with a naturalist, use dip nets and kick nets to catch and release these creatures and learn about their role in the environment. Learn stream monitoring techniques and the impacts humans have on

these fragile ecosystems. Wear shoes that can get wet. Meet at the pond. Ages 4 and older. Cost \$6. Call 703-631-0013; TTY 711 or email [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## SUNDAY/JULY 1

**Crafts for the 4th of July.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Enjoy making railroad inspired, 4th of July crafts. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

## SUNDAY/JULY 8

**Hands On Activities.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Activities may include railroad inspired crafts, demonstrations of railroad artifacts with visitor participation as well as possible history challenges for the whole family. All craft supplies included with admission fees. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

## SUNDAY/JULY 15

**NTRAK Scale Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge model train show. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

## SUNDAY/JULY 22

**Reading Circle.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will host two 45-minute Reading Circle sessions of the Caldecott Medal winning book, "Locomotive." One session will begin at 1:15, the second at 2:30. All craft supplies included with admission fees. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 4

**Starlight Cinema: Little Mermaid.** Gates open at 6 p.m.; movie starts at dark at Trinity Centre, 5860 Trinity Parkway, Centreville. Starlight Drive-in Cinema brings the community together with features that appeal to both children and adults. The atmosphere is relaxed and informal. Bring your own lawn chairs, blankets and FM radio if you wish to sit outside. Children's games and rides. Free. To volunteer, call 703-814-7100.

## AUG. 6-10

**Girls in STEM Camp.** Chantilly Academy offers a new Girls in STEM camp, providing girls with an opportunity to experience the world of STEM with plenty of hands-on activities. For girls new to STEM, summer programs provide a fun way to explore unfamiliar subjects, and for girls already interested in STEM, these camps build on existing interests or knowledge. The camp is open to rising 5th-8th graders. \$225 for the week. Visit [chantillyacademy.fcps.edu/announcements/summer-camps-chantilly-academy](http://chantillyacademy.fcps.edu/announcements/summer-camps-chantilly-academy).