

HomeLifeStyle
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Chantilly
CONNECTION
Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes

Grad Helen Berhe celebrates after Mountain View's winter graduation with friends (from left) Abonesh Tadese and Meseret Mitku.

Mountain View Graduates
Share Their Stories

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'You'll Go Forward
To Do Great Things'
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Living with 'Living Coral'
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'Living Coral' Named 2019 Color of the Year

“... can help to brighten a space lacking natural light.”

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

A breeze of warm air to heat the winter chill is how some designers are describing one of the trendiest colors on tap for this year. “Living Coral” was selected as the 2019 Color of the Year by the Pantone Color Institute, the self-described global authority of color. It’s a shade that is expected to have a prominent presence in interior design, home accessories and fashion this year.

“It works well with most of the foundation colors everyone has in their homes including white, taupe, gray, and brown,” said designer Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria. “If you choose to paint, it can help to brighten a space lacking natural light.”

Described as a nurturing color that can be found in nature, Living Coral is a shade of orange with a golden undertone. “It can be used as a wonderful accent color,” said Mertins. “Introduce it with artwork, toss pillows, rugs and throws.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS AND BATHS

Life-affirming and reminiscent of coral reefs, Living Coral is credited with the ability to breathe life into any space in one’s home. “[It’s] is vibrant, energizing shade ... that can be incorporated as a light accent or bold statement in both a kitchen or bath,” said designer Natalia Fabisiak of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths in Springfield. “As the timeless trend of white kitchens continues, Living Coral offers the perfect pop of color an all-white kitchen may need.”

“Coffee mugs, dish towels, trays and trivets are an easy and inexpensive way to introduce the trending color of the year into your kitchen,” added Fabisiak.

Home accent pieces are the way that de-

signer Julie Ackerman of Home Polish in Bethesda recommends using the Pantone pick. “Dishware, serveware or decorative accent pieces and porcelain figurines, like those by Herend are a great way to incorporate Living Coral into your home,” she said.

For a more long-term commitment, Fabisiak says, “In a bathroom, Living Coral can be used as a wall color that can be easily paired with neutral tile and fixtures. If painting the walls is too drastic, bath accents like coral towels or a rug can brighten up the space beautifully as well.

In announcing the selection, Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute, said, “Color is an equaliz-

When used on a wall in a kitchen or bathroom, Living Coral can make a bold statement, says designer Natalia Fabisiak of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATINA POLISHED LIVING
Living Coral can be introduced into one’s home through art, says designer Amanda Mertins.

ing lens through which we experience our natural and digital realities and this is particularly true for Living Coral. With consumers craving human interaction and social connection, the humanizing and heartening qualities displayed by the convivial Pantone Living Coral hit a responsive chord.”

Each year, the Pantone Color Institute makes a prediction about the color that will be on trend for the upcoming year. The selection process, which takes about nine months, has color gurus at Pantone spanning the globe, taking note of the trends in industries that run the gamut from ranging from film and entertainment to art and interior design.

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'Mountain View Was So Welcoming to Me'

Students share their stories of struggles and success.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

Mountain View High graduation ceremonies always tug at the heartstrings – and with good reason. Students there have received second chances to make something of themselves, and they do so eagerly.

In fact, Mountain View holds two graduation ceremonies a year. And last Wednesday, Feb. 6, it held its winter graduation at Centreville High before family, friends, teachers, counselors, administrators and School Board officials.

"It's the school's 45th commencement ceremony," said Assistant Principal Claudia Pirouzan-Jones at the outset. She then told the students, "You share the common bond of being part of the Mountain View family and displaying the traits of perseverance, strength, grit, drive and resilience."

Next, Principal Joe Thompson presented his commencement speech (see below), and then two student speakers shared their stories of hardship, courage and, ultimately, achievement. First was 21-year-old Keny Salvador, who grew up without her parents.

"I was raised by my grandmother in El Salvador," she said. "And between ages 7 and 11, I lived with a friend." But, knowing that wasn't the way things should be, she was unhappy and despondent. And, she said, "When I felt overwhelmed, I cut myself."

When Salvador was 14, her grandmother died, so she went to the U.S. to live with her father and his new family. "They were people I'd never met before, and I had to cook, clean and care for my younger siblings," she said. "Then shortly after my 16th



Keny Salvador receives the Personal Achievement Award from social studies teacher Pete Garvey.

birthday, my father said I was a woman now and I had to move out."

Three years later, she became pregnant. "But I was excited because I'd finally have someone in my life," said Salvador. She lived in New York for a while, but eventually moved to Virginia with her son. Wanting to set a good example for him, she was determined to return to high school.

"At Mountain View, everyone was very nice and kind, like a family," she said. "And I liked the support and encouragement they gave me. I learned that my childhood didn't define me – and that, if we're kind, people respond to us kindly. And now, I feel hopeful about the future."

The second student speaker, Ashley Martinez, is also a young mother. "My parents separated when I was little and, when I became pregnant at age 16, my siblings stopped talking to me," she said. "My mom and I weren't talking, and my family said I'd ruined my whole future and would never graduate from high school."



Celebrating with grad Marcus Smith are (from left) Marshall Kregg, Melissa Alberto, Donna Imadi and Yareli Arellano, all with the Invest in Youth mentoring program.



New grad and student speaker Ashley Martinez with school librarian Becca Ferrick.

Eventually, though, she and her mother bonded again, and Martinez made an important decision. "I never liked people telling me I couldn't do things," she said. "I knew I was capable of finishing school, and I became determined to prove everyone wrong."

Like Salvador, Martinez's son motivated
SEE MOUNTAIN VIEW, PAGE 4



Julia Cruz Henriquez receives the Citizenship Award from physics teacher Jeff Jones.

'You'll Go Forward to Do Great Things'

Mountain View High holds its winter graduation.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

As Mountain View's new principal, Joe Thompson gave his first commencement speech to the graduating seniors, last Wednesday, Feb. 6. Yet it was as heartfelt and passionate as if he'd been part of that school for years.

He said he first became aware of Mountain View, more than 20 years ago, as a young teacher at

Oakton High. He had a female student who was bright, had goals and a great attitude. "But she was struggling with school," said Thompson. "There always seemed to be roadblocks that got in her way of progress."

She was ready to quit school but, once she toured Mountain View, she realized it was the place for her, transferred there and graduated. Since then, said Thompson, he wanted to come to Mountain View, too. And his dream became reality when he took over the reins in November.

"So it's a genuinely great honor for me to be here with you today," he told the students. "I'm proud to be part of this celebration of

SEE 'YOU'LL GO, PAGE 4



Marcus Smith with his diploma.



Erick Asencio Valenzuela receives his diploma from Principal Joe Thompson.

Mountain View Grads Share Their Stories

FROM PAGE 3

her to better herself, so she enrolled in Mountain View. “I wanted him to know that you can accomplish what you want,” she said. “Mountain View was so welcoming to me, and I was and still am so grateful.”

She, too, said the school became her “family, even during the difficult times. It’s a place where you’re accepted, no matter who you are. The teachers are so supportive, and the students are there for each other. Many times, I wanted to give up, but I’m so glad I didn’t – I’m proud of me.”

Martinez then advised her classmates to “Never give up on yourself and your dreams. There’s no timeline that’s right; life is messy. I started my family first, then finished school and now will go after my career. It’s your decision to go after your future. I’m not Superwoman; I’m just a normal person. So if I can do it, you can do it.”

After the speeches, awards were presented to three, outstanding seniors. The Citizenship Award is given to students who’ve helped build a positive, school community. And physics teacher Jeff Jones gave it to Julia Cruz Henriquez. Said Jones: “She brings people



Keny Salvador was one of the two student speakers.

together to achieve a common goal and makes learning more enjoyable for her fellow students and teachers.”

The Personal Achievement Award, given to students who succeed while, at the same time, dealing with family, job and other adult commitments. Social studies teacher Pete Garvey presented this honor to Salvador.

The Faculty Award goes to students achieving the greatest academic and personal success, despite significant obstacles. And Science Department Chair Susan Culik presented it to Charles Valiente.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS

Mountain View grad Saied Elalem with (from left) family friend Tariq Oun and father Ahmed Elalem

“His teachers describe him as a joy to have in the classroom,” she said. “They also called him a stellar student with a kind heart and a giving spirit, and someone driven by natural curiosity and a passion to learn. At Mountain View, he earned a 3.9 GPA and won multiple scholarships.”

But besides that, said Culik, Valiente is also an “outstanding person who works toward class goals with students of all different backgrounds. As a person of Filipino heritage who was raised in Italy and came to the U.S., he

says we must learn to connect to each other, and we’re so proud of him.”

Then Chuck Woodruff, president of the nonprofit Mountain View Foundation, noted that, over the years, this organization has awarded more than \$700,000 in post-secondary-school scholarships to Mountain View students. At the recent awards ceremony, he said, “Students received early \$23,000 in scholarships.” And, he added, “What makes this school great are the faculty members, both past and current.”

‘You’ll Go Forward to Do Great Things’

FROM PAGE 3

your accomplishments and proud to be part of the Mountain View tradition. As graduates, you represent the best Fairfax County has to offer, and I’m confident you’ll go forward to do great things.”

Recalling how a traffic accident on his first day as principal forced him to find a new route to the school, Thompson said he realized then that, for many years, “rerouting” wasn’t an option for students. He said they all had to follow the same path, deal with obstacles on their own – and, if they couldn’t, many dropped out of school and gave up on ever reaching their goals. But Mountain View, said Thompson, has “a tradition of helping students find a path to success,” and each graduating senior “had to change the path you were on, in order to arrive at graduation.” Nowadays, he said, alternative routes are celebrated, and people realize that not everyone has to follow the same path.

And while the grads won’t miss the school food, long bus rides or tests, he said they will miss “the comfort of knowing you were im-



Bebellyng Ugarte Parrales and Principal Joe Thompson.

portant, that you belonged, that staff supported you and worked – to not just teach you the curriculum – but to also build lasting relationships with you.”

Thompson then advised them that, while the road ahead will contain twists and turns – and, at times, require them to reroute – they should remember their graduation. “Remember that you had the resiliency and intelligence to find a different path,” he said. “And that alternative path led you to a major success in your life.”

So no matter the struggles they

may face, he said they shouldn’t forget to search for alternative ways of reaching their goals and should never give up. He also assured them that their school will always be there for them.

“At Mountain View, we try hard to embody our motto of Family, Love and Respect,” said Thompson. “There’s no path you should have to go down alone, and we at Mountain View are your family. If you find yourself alone or helplessly lost in your journey, call us. It will be our honor to help you.”

“I’m confident you’ll take the



Kiyarash Rooholfada with Principal Joe Thompson.

lessons learned here and go forward to positively impact our community and others,” he continued. “You’ll spread the ideas of Family, Love and Respect that have helped shape the success we celebrate today.”

Thompson also urged the graduating students to thank all those who helped them reach this point. “Congratulations to all of you from the Mountain View faculty and staff,” he said. “We can’t wait ’til you return someday with stories of your successes. Go, Timberwolves.”

SPORTS



Marshall Reed #3 elevated Westfield over Madison in a 1st round Concorde District Tournament.



Gavin Kiley #5 was a large part of Westfield's 48-42 win over Madison. Kiley had 11 points.

PHOTOS BY WILL PALESCAR

Westfield Ends Madison's Season

The Westfield Bulldogs traveled to Vienna to take on the Madison Warhawks in the 1st round of the Concorde District. The Bulldogs lost both regular season games to the Warhawks, 66-56 and 61-44.

In the opening quarter, the Bulldogs narrowly outscored the Warhawks 13-10 behind Tahj Summey's 6 points and Gavin Kiley's 4 points. Madison was led by TJ Ulrich and John Finney who each connected from long range for 3 points each in the quarter.

In the 2nd quarter, Westfield again outscored Madison, this time 8-7 giving the visiting Bulldogs a 21-17 halftime advantage. Marshall Reed scored on a traditional 3 pointer while Tahj Summey scored his 3 points from long range. Madison was led by TJ Ulrich who connected on his second 3 pointer of the game.

The 3rd quarter belonged to the Warhawks outscoring the Bulldogs 14-8 overcoming a deficit to take a 31-29 heading into the final eight minutes. Madison was led by Aaron Thompson's 5 points and teammate AJ Arnolie's 4 points. Westfield had four players score two points, Trent Reimonenq, Marshall Reed, Tahj Summey and Sam Johnson.

The Bulldogs would not be phased, having their most productive quarter in the 4th. The Bulldogs got to the charity stripe 12 times making 7, Taylor Morin going 4-4, Gavin Kiley 3-6, and Marshall Reed 2-4. Marshall Reed paced the Bulldogs in the quarter with 6 points, while Kiley added 5 points and Morin added 4. Madison was led by Harrison Patel who



Westfield's Taylor Morin #2 takes the ball from Madison's Aaron Thompson #5 before a fast break.



Westfield's Tahj Summey #11 dribbles the ball between his legs as Madison's John Finney #4 guards him closely.

converted a 3 pointer.

Westfield was led by Tahj Summey's 13 points and Gavin Kiley's 11. Madison was led AJ Arnolie's 10 points, and teammate

TJ Ulrich added 8. With the 48-42 win Westfield (3-19) will play at Centreville (19-5) on Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. Madison's season ends at 11-13.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Obituary

Debra Sue Maurer (née Lattig), 50, of Chantilly, died at home on February 5, 2019 following a long illness. She is survived by an adored family that includes her husband, Carl Maurer; her four children, Evan, Samuel, Jackson and Amelia; her mother, Joyce McKelvey Lattig; siblings Dr. Sharon Lattig, Eric Lattig, Beth Lattig and Christopher Lattig; sister-in-law Natalie Lattig, nephews Nathan Lattig, Joseph Lattig and Matthew Lattig; and niece Sophie Roberts, as well as her beloved Maurer in-laws. Deb's father, Gerald Lattig, predeceased her.

Born in Morristown, New Jersey, Deb grew up in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where she graduated from Central Dauphin East High School. A lifelong Nittany Lions fan, she earned a B.S. from Penn State University and went on to work as a finance manager, first for Logicon and then for Northrop Grumman.

Deb was the most generous of souls who lived all the days of her life putting others before herself. A model of competence and personal responsibility,



she was a true friend to many, a guardian of this earth, and a benefactress to those less fortunate than she. Her favorite activities included spending time in nature, studying history, reading, and watching romantic movies. She was an expert at crossword and Sudoku puzzles, often completing them in pen.

More than anything, Deb loved raising the children it broke her heart to leave behind. She attended their every soccer and football game, gymnastics and ballet recital, and school performance until she was unable to do so. In the final years of her life, she took each of her children on a trip to the place of his or her choice. She loved to travel the world and looked forward to milestone anniversary vacations with her husband

and the "sisters weekends" that took her to regions near and far. Deb was especially proud of having set foot in every state in the union except Alaska.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in her memory to the Colorectal Cancer Alliance, Penn State THON, or So Others Might Eat.

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Announcements

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 13

Pop-up Valentine. 7-8 p.m. at The Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Enjoy a Valentine story and make a pop-up Valentine for that special someone. Grades 1-6. Call 703-830-2223 or email libCE@fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/FEB. 14

Make Art Inspired by History. 10 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. This Valentine's Day, gather friends and family together at the park to create art inspired by history. The artwork created will reflect the season or month, and the projects are designed for artists age 6-adult. The park will be offering two, one-hour sessions. \$8 per person. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

SUNDAY/FEB. 17

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 Display at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfaxstation.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

TUESDAY/FEB. 19

Knit 2Gether. 7-8 p.m. at The Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Learn the basics of knitting or share expertise. Needles provided along with some yarn. Smooth worsted weight yarn is recommended for beginners. Featured project: mug cozy. Teens to adult. Call 703-830-2223 or email libCE@fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 22-24

Capital Remodel + Garden Show. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. With emphasis on gardening and landscaping, this show will feature four large gardens showcasing garden design, landscaping, patios, water feature and furniture. Additionally, more than 300 companies will exhibit the latest products and services in home remodeling, renovation, home décor, landscape and garden design. HGTV's "Fixer Upper" star Clint Harp to headlines the Capital Remodel + Garden Show. Federal workforce employee with government ID will receive free admission throughout the show. Single tickets valid for one day of show: adults, \$12 at box office (\$9 online); children 6-12, \$3; 5 and younger, free. Visit capitalremodelandgarden.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 23

Choral Cabaret. 6:30-10 p.m. at Centreville High School Cafe, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. The Choral Cabaret is a highlight of the calendar and the biggest fundraiser for the Centreville High School Choral Boosters. The night is packed with student performances, silent auction items, desserts served by chorus-member waiters, raffles, and more. \$10. Visit www.facebook.com/Cvhs-Choral-Boosters-890773407795787/



HGTV's "Fixer Upper" star Clint Harp to headlines the Capital Remodel + Garden Show.

Capital Remodel + Garden Show

HGTV's "Fixer Upper" star Clint Harp to headlines the Capital Remodel + Garden Show. With emphasis on gardening and landscaping, this show will feature four large gardens showcasing garden design, landscaping, patios, water feature and furniture. Additionally, more than 300 companies will exhibit the latest products and services in home remodeling, renovation, home décor, landscape and garden design. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 22-23, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 24, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Federal workforce employee with government ID will receive free admission throughout the show. Single tickets valid for one day of show: adults, \$12 at box office (\$9 online); children 6-12, \$3; 5 and

for more.

SUNDAY/FEB. 24

Candle Dipping at Sully. 1 and 2 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Learn about early lighting techniques through a hands-on display and a lesson in candle-dipping. Discover how a candle mold, betty lamp, beeswax and wicking were used in the olden days. End the session by making a hand-dipped candle to take home. 45-minute program is \$5 per person. Add a guided tour of the historic site for \$5 per person. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

Hands On Activity Day. 1-4 p.m. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Crafts and activities often in a railroad or historical theme will be offered for visitors to enjoy. Cost of supplies is included in the admission. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Fire Building and S'mores. 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Learn the science and art of fire building at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Discover what it takes to build a fire, and then test new abilities with primitive fire bows and modern fire-making techniques and then roast s'mores. \$8 per person, and children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

Live Music: Nothin' Fancy. 7 p.m. (doors open at 6) at Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Make plans to "hitch up the team" and head to Frying Pan Farm Park this season for Bluegrass Barn. Food and beverages available for purchase. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Purchase tickets online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/bluegrass-barn or by phone at 703-222-4664 or 703-437-9101.

The Capitol Steps Benefit Performance. 7 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run Road, Fairfax. Join in for a SILLYarious evening as the Capitol Steps political satire comedy troupe performs a show to benefit high school theatre for the Cappies of the National Capitol Area. Free parking. Adults, \$30; students/senior citizens, \$20; children 12 and under, \$10; and groups of 10 or more, \$15. Contact Amy.Young@cappies.com or visit www.cappies.com/nca.

MONDAY/FEB. 25

Little Hands Work on the Farm at Frying Pan. 9:45 a.m. (2-3 year olds); 11 a.m. (3-5 year olds) at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Discover what happens on a farm during the winter. Children will learn about animals, farm chores and how farm life changes with the season with activities such as stories, crafts or games. \$8 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 1

Registration Deadline: Fairfax Adult Softball. Experience firsthand the enjoyment that only FAS softball offers with play for adult men and women in a number of different leagues across Fairfax County: Men, Women, Coed, Modified Coed, Social Coed, Fast Pitch, Men's 35+, Men's 50+ and Church. Team and individual registration now open. Visit us and register online at www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 24

Live Music: Valerie Smith & Liberty Pike. 7 p.m. (doors open at 6) at Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Make plans to "hitch up the team" and head to Frying Pan Farm Park this season for Bluegrass Barn. Food and beverages available for purchase. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Purchase tickets online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/bluegrass-barn or by phone at 703-222-4664 or 703-437-9101.

SUNDAY/APRIL 7

Author Event: Missy Sheldrake. Noon-2 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Fair Lakes. Missy Sheldrake, of Centreville, is the author/illustrator of the "Keepers of the Wellsprings" young adult fantasy series and will be signing books. Visit www.missysheldrake.com for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 14

Live Music: Becky Buller Band. 7 p.m. (doors open at 6) at Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Make plans to "hitch up the team" and head to Frying Pan Farm Park this season for Bluegrass Barn. Food and beverages available for purchase. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Purchase tickets online at fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/bluegrass-barn or by phone at 703-222-4664 or 703-437-9101.

CRIME

The following incidents were reported by the Sully District Police Station

ROBBERY: 13825 Lee Highway (Exxon), Feb. 10, 10:16 p.m. A man entered the Exxon, with a knife and demanded money from the register. The man took cash and left on foot. The man is described as black, 6', 180, wearing a dark sweatshirt and jacket, jeans and athletic shoes.

ROBBERY: 1650 Union Mill Road (Panera Bread), Feb. 7, 6:36 p.m. The juvenile victim was approached by three suspects inside the store. The victim and the suspects went outside behind the store where the victim was assaulted and his personal items were taken. There were no injuries reported. The suspects are also juveniles.

ROBBERY: Upperridge Drive and Janlar Drive, Feb. 7, 7:49 p.m. A woman was walking along Upperridge Drive when she was assaulted by three unknown men who yelled at her to give them money. There was a struggle and the men ran off with the woman's backpack. No one was injured.

ROBBERY: 13305 Lee Highway (7-Eleven), Feb. 8, 1:47 a.m. A man entered the store wearing a mask and gloves. He walked behind the counter, assaulted the clerk and demanded money from the register. The clerk reached for the panic button, the man cut the clerk before running out of the store. The clerk was taken to the hospital with injuries that were not life threatening.

FEB. 11 LARCENIES
14300 block of Chantilly Crossing Lane, cell phone from business
13600 block of Lee Highway, tire and rim from vehicle
5900 block of Trinity Parkway, cash from location
13900 block of Willard Road, gun from vehicle

FEB. 8 LARCENIES
14700 block of Green Park Way, property from vehicle
13200 block of Yates Ford Road, wallet from location
14700 block of Wycombe Street, property from vehicle

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WINTER SHELTERS

Find homeless and cold weather drop-in centers and shelters that serve Northern Virginia at www.novaregion.org/174/Homeless-Shelter-Lists.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30, 2019, are eligible to attend kindergarten. Find the correct neighborhood school by entering your address at boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/. Complete a packet of registration forms found at www.fcps.edu/it/forms/enroll.pdf or in the school office. Gather supporting documents: proof of residence in the school boundary, a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, and any custody orders. Certificate of physical exam and immunization will be required before the student may start school, but is not required for registration. Parents who choose to delay enrollment in kindergarten by one year are required to notify the school in writing of their intent. Learn more at www.fcps.edu/registration/general-registration-requirements.

Colin Powell Elementary School in Centreville will conduct their Kindergarten registration on Friday, April 5, 9 a.m.-noon; parents may also call 571-522-6008 to schedule an appointment. Due to the time required to register a child, they request that only parents come to school for registration.

Greenbriar West Elementary School is now accepting information for next year's Kindergarten classes. Families within the school's boundaries should call the school office at 703-633-6700 as soon as possible.

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So Far, So Good



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

This column will be the definition of premature.

After subjecting you regular readers to multiple columns discussing my anxiety – and fear – about the potential/presumptive and possibly debilitating and life-changing/life-ending side effects of immunotherapy, I am here to say that after my first pair of bi-weekly infusions – occurring over the past three weeks, I am no worse for the experience.

I'm feeling better than I felt while undergoing chemotherapy: No eating issues, less fatigue, less shortness of breath and more energy. The only caveat to this empor is whether the infusions are actually shrinking my Adam's Apple tumor, which was the primary reason for making the medicine change we did.

Now whether the side effects are still coming; I certainly don't know, but should they still be on the way, I can't help but wonder: Will they change the quality of my life – for the worse? Because, for the bi-weekly moment, I am less impacted by my treatment than I have been for years.

I can't say with any degree of certainty however, or recall what my oncologist might have said concerning the likely onset of the "over 30 percent report some side effects" as the reprint from "chemocare.com" indicated. Generally speaking, my oncologist would rather not discuss future scenarios: What happens when? What do we do if? When do we do what? And so I don't ask nearly as many questions as I used to.

It's not that I'm less curious, it's that I'm more experienced. And I have learned through my experience, that part of being a cancer patient is unfortunately, waiting and seeing – and of course, hoping. Talking/anticipating/being told what to expect is helpful – up to a point.

The point which is most helpful is when something actually happens. Knowing what to expect is less important than knowing what to do/how to manage expectations should they manifest. It may be something or it may be nothing. Trying not to make matters worse is the key.

Being a cancer patient/survivor is a series of challenges – both emotional and physical. Finding a stride in which you can take the ups and downs and all-arounds will help you live life in the cancer lane. And just because the road is bumpy, doesn't preclude you from smoothing it out.

Actions and reactions, plan "A" and plan "B" are par for the course. So be grateful for today because tomorrow the course may play much more difficult. Being positive about the negative offers the path of least resistance.

Today, I am not experiencing any side effects, thankfully.

"Tomorrow" however, as Scarlet O'Hara said at the end of "Gone With The Wind," "is another day." Worrying, as I had been admitting to in previous columns, about something which as yet had not happened, is especially unhelpful and wastes precious time.

As a cancer patient, there's plenty of actual bad news, generally, so there's no benefit in rushing it along. Let it happen naturally, or not at all; and occasionally, you might be pleasantly surprised, as three weeks into my new immunotherapy regimen, I am, as what side effects I anticipated/feared have not affected.

I realize I'm probably early in assessing the likely side effects of my treatment but, for the time being, I can find some peace and quiet; and when you're a cancer patient diagnosed originally as "terminal," "peace and quiet" is never to be taken for granted.

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

Promoting Early Learning

Volcansek heads Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children with 1,100 members.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

Diane Volcansek, 47, of Herndon is the new executive director of the Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children, which has 1,100 members and covers Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun counties as well as the city of Fairfax and Alexandria. She also works as the director of Christ Presbyterian Preschool, which has 110 students, along Route 50 near Fairfax/Chantilly.

Her new position is important, she says, because the early childhood education world is so varied. It includes in-home daycares where the employees have a high school diplomas all the way up to private schools where the teachers have upper-level graduate degrees, but they all affect the world of a young child.

"NVAEYC hopes to standardize the continuity of care and professional development for these educators. We also hope to be a voice for those who work in the early child education field as policy and local and state laws are developed," she said. Up until about a year ago, the organization was all-volunteer.

She said her mission is to promote high-quality early learning for every child from birth to age 8. "We connect practice, policy and research to support all who care for, educate, and work on behalf of young chil-

dren in Northern Virginia," she said. They are an affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

"My job is to coordinate with the volunteer board of directors to make sure that we have an outreach program to those who serve young children in the Northern Virginia area — to meet and collaborate with local elected officials, School Board officials, early childhood education professionals — to help them grow and learn in early childhood concepts," she said.

She added: "We train early childhood professionals on best practices based on the latest research and we advocate at the local and state level for the policy to best benefit young children."

They provide professional development workshops to early childhood professionals in the area. "We offer training on different concepts teachers can take into their classroom — behavior management, math and science curriculum, mental health and other current topics," she said.

Part of her job is also community engagement. They conduct family events where

they help educate parents to engage them in developmentally appropriate activities. They hold arty parties where they engage young children in creative art processes in libraries and other settings. They've also hosted book clubs and book stores with guest readers. The Week of the Young Child held in April is where they explore different areas of child development and celebrate what young children are capable of doing.

They also help in the preschool accreditation process. The National Association for

to have Diane Volcansek as our new executive director. She brings to the job enthusiasm, experience in a variety of early care and education settings, and an understanding of the importance of teamwork and involving new partners. NVAEYC currently provides professional development and scholarships to early childhood educators in Northern Virginia. We also advocate for local, state, and federal efforts to promote high-quality early learning for every child birth through age 8. Her leadership will help NVAEYC continue its work in all these areas."



Diane Volcansek is the new executive director of Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children.

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD

Appreciative

Last fall, 168 students and staff at Chantilly High School took part in the annual Asha-Jyothi 5K in Fairfax and raised \$1,750 to help others in need. Chantilly High decided to donate the money to Generation Yuva, a non-governmental social services organization in India that serves abandoned children. The donation and the matching money provided by Asha-Jyothi purchased food, clothing, and school supplies for the children pictured at right.



FCPS PHOTOS



Speaker for Black History Month

Chantilly High School is celebrating Black History Month with daily trivia for students, a speaker series, and a dance. Nate Barfield, president of FedQuest Solutions, a financial management firm, kicked off the month speaking to students about his experiences as a self-starter, owner, and chief operating officer. With him, above, is Assistant Principal Karla Hogan. Also planned for the month is a stepping demonstration from a local fraternity and sorority, when students will have the opportunity to gain insight about college life, the importance of service, and scholarship in the African American community.

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Fair Oaks District Police Station.

DWI / PURSUIT: Stringfellow Rd/ Lee Highway, Feb. 9, 1:29 a.m. Officers attempted to make contact with an unresponsive driver stopped at an intersection.

When the driver woke up she drove off before stopping for officers a short distance later. The driver was arrested for driving while intoxicated and eluding.

BURGLARY: 11000 block of Stoneledge Court, Feb. 1, 7:06 p.m. Officers responded to a burglary alarm at the location and found a broken glass door. A room was ransacked and personal items were taken.

FEB. 11 LARCENIES

10900 block of Berryland Court, medication from residence

2900 block of Centreville Road, cell phone from residence

12500 block of Fair Lakes Circle, merchandise from business

13000 block of Fair Lakes Shopping Center, headphones from business

13700 block of Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, property from vehicle

3300 block of Lees Corner Road, purse from vehicle

11600 block of Monument Drive, cash from business

3900 block of Royal Lytham Drive, sunglasses and cash from vehicles

3800 block of Zelkova Court, sunglasses from vehicle

FEB. 8 LARCENIES

Fair Ridge Drive/Meadow Field Drive, bookbags from vehicle

2900 block of Centreville Road, cell phone and jacket from location

4500 block of Market Commons Drive, wallet from location

3900 block of Penderview Drive, license plate from vehicle

FEB. 7 LARCENIES

12000 block of Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, wallet from location

12300 block of Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, earrings from residence

3000 block of White Birch Court, earrings from residence

FEB. 6 LARCENIES

3200 block of Arrowhead Circle, document from residence

FEB. 5 LARCENIES

2700 block of Chain Bridge Road, cell phones, cash and backpacks from vehicles

FEB. 4 LARCENIES

9500 block of Blake Lane, beer from business

2500 block of Chain Bridge Road, laptop computer from location

11700 block of Fair Oaks Shopping Center, wallet from location

3600 block of Joseph Siewick Drive, medical supplies from business

FEB. 1 LARCENIES

3800 block of Centerview Drive, package from residence

JAN. 31 LARCENIES

11900 block of Market Street, merchandise from business

JAN. 30 LARCENIES

10000 block of Arrowhead Drive, purse from location

JAN. 29 LARCENIES

4000 block of Legato Road, wallet from locker room

3200 block of Jermantown Road, laptop and cell phone from locker room

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