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Centreville ❖ Little Rocky Run

CENTRE VIEW

Senior Living

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APRIL 24-30, 2019 25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE

A confrontation during Centreville High's upcoming play, "Clue." From left are Savannah Lagana (Mrs. Peacock), Ben Stallard (Mr. Boddy) and Michael Crevoisier (Mr. Green).



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Contemporary, Romantic, Magic-Filled Comedy

Chantilly High presents 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Shakespeare comes to the local stage when Chantilly High presents the classic comedy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The cast and crew of 65 have been rehearsing since February, and Director Andy Shaw double-cast the play "because we had so many talented students who deserved to be in this show."

The curtain rises Wednesday-Saturday, May 1-4, at 7 p.m. Tickets at \$12, adults, and \$10, students, at the door or via chantillyhsdrama.com.

The story is about four misguided lovers. Lysander and Hermia want to marry, but Demetrius loves Hermia, too, and her parents approve of him and not Lysander. Meanwhile, Helena loves Demetrius, but it's unrequited.

THEY ALL GO into a forest, where the forest spirits put a love potion on their eyes and meddle with their relationships.

However, Shaw put his own twist on this play by placing it in post-modern, futuristic, Athens, Greece. "There's magic happening, but I wanted this to feel more contemporary and relevant to the audience," he said.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Rehearsing a volatile scene from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" are the lovers (from left) Cullen Kendrick (Demetrius), Haley Herman (Helena), Matthew Mendoza (Lysander) and Jenna Antonacci (Hermia).

So although the scenes take place in a palace and a forest, the costumes were inspired by "The Hunger Games" movies, "The Walking Dead" TV series, plus Steampunk. And the story's three main groups of people – the lovers, fairies and mechanicals (the

common workers) – are dressed accordingly.

"Things are going well, and the cast is having fun," said Shaw. "People who've only read Shakespeare will be surprised to see how active it is onstage. One of the hardest things for actors is to make sense of the language. But they've all put in the time – even outside of rehearsal – to really learn and understand what they're saying, and they're doing an amazing job."

"In the long history of Chantilly theater, it's the first time we've done Shakespeare as a mainstage production," continued Shaw. "The audience will enjoy all the physical comedy, the variety of different and interesting characters, plus the three different interwoven plots. There's a romance, bickering married fairies and a group of common, everyday people – the mechanicals – trying to put on a play."

Senior Jared Belsky portrays Lysander, a wealthy citizen of Athens. "He's lovey-dovey and respectful to Hermia and is a good guy, likeable, witty, friendly and a smooth talker," said Belsky. "This role is fun because I play Lysander – both when he's in his right mind, and after he's been possessed by the love potion – and show the difference. For example, when under the potion, he's a lot more over-the-top and comical."

Since this is a lighthearted comedy, Belsky

SEE SHAKESPEARE. PAGE 6

CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 26-28

Rock of Ages: High School Edition. Friday-Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Westfield High School in Chantilly. As the sun sets on the LA strip, Rock 'n' Roll comes alive inside the doors of the Bourbon Room. With impending demolitions and the struggles of young love, the people of the strip are still "looking for nothin' but a good time" in this electrifying tale of Rock of Ages. The cast and crew of Westfield Theatre's Rock of Ages will be collecting donations for Shelter House at each performance. Visit shelterhouse.org for a list of needed items. Tickets are \$10 at westfieldtheatre.com or \$12 at the door.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Springfest 2019. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Springfest is a once a year, environmental festival that strives to educate Northern Virginia residents, businesses and students on the benefits of helping our planet. Springfest strives to celebrate our planet and participate in the observance of Earth Day. Email ayleah@cleanfairfax.org or visit Springfestfairfax.org for more.

Home Collection Unveiling. 1-3 p.m. at Belfort Furniture, 22250 Shaw Road, Dulles. HGTV personalities, Erin and Ben Napier, will be on-site at Belfort Furniture to unveil their new home collections made



PHOTO BY ELYSABETH MUSCAT

Saaya Pikula and Emanuel Tavares, Principal Dancers of VNB rehearse for Carmen.

Ballet Performance

Virginia National Ballet presents the ballet Carmen and the premiere of Life In The Fast Lane, a rock ballet to the music of The Eagles. Sunday, April 28, 3-4:30 at Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas. \$40. Call 703-753-5005 or visit hylton.calendar.gmu.edu/virginia-national-ballet-carmen-and-life-in-the-fast-lane.

in Virginia. Guests will have the opportunity to meet Erin and Ben Napier, and register for a chance to win furniture giveaways, plus other prizes. No purchase is necessary. Customers will enjoy live music and

refreshments throughout the afternoon. Call 703-406-7600 or visit www.belfortfurniture.com/ grandopening for more.

Fundraiser: VFW Post 8469. 1-5 p.m. at Bowl America, 5615 Guinea

Road, Burke. VFW Post 8469 will host a public bowling event to raise funds to help support veterans' needs. The cost is \$20 for three games and shoes, plus a raffle ticket to win either a decorative Flags of Valor Flag, a guided day hike in the Shenandoah, two tickets to Amy Grant at the Birchmere or a bowling ball. There will also be a Certified Service Offices on site to help with Veteran benefit issues.

"Enchanted Forest" Joy Prom. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Baptist Church, 15100 Lee Hwy, Centreville. Similar to Tim Tebow's "Night to Shine," this is a free event for all who register and intended to be a night of fun for the special needs community as well as a time of respite for families and caregivers. Local youth are volunteering to be coupled with participants as "buddies" throughout the night's activities. Registration to participate is open to all ages 13 and up, but not limited to high school students. Visit www.cbcva.org/joyprom.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 27-28

LEGO Model Train Show. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area LEGO Train Club (WamaLTC) members will hold a two day LEGO-based train show. All trains, buildings and scenery in the display are built from LEGO blocks and shapes. Donations of unwanted LEGO pieces and sets are appreciated to help support WamaLTC's efforts to bring fun and education to all ages through

its activities. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27-FRIDAY/MAY 3

"7 Divine Laws for Happiness & Fulfillment." Saturday-Sunday; 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Monday-Friday, 6-9 p.m. at Rajdhani Mandir, 4525 Pleasant Valley Road, Chantilly. Swami Mukundananda is a renowned teacher of Spirituality, Yoga and Meditation. He is the founder of the yogic system JKYog also known as Yoga for Body, Mind and Soul. Free. Visit www.jkyog.org/events/7-divine-laws-happiness-fulfillment-chantilly-va or call 703-901-3731.

SUNDAY/APRIL 28

Echoes of the Past - History Comes to Life. 1-4 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park Meeting House, 2739 West Ox Hill Road, Herndon. Return to 18th century Fairfax County. Learn about the religious freedom movement, the role the meeting house played in that movement, and the role of the church in the lives of people within the community. Reenactors, special guests speak, 18th century games and exhibits will bring the history to life. Event is free. Call 703-437-9101.

Ballet: Carmen. 3-4:30 at Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas. Virginia National Ballet presents the ballet Carmen and the premiere of Life In The Fast Lane. SEE CALENDAR. PAGE 6

'They're Really Making These Characters Live'

Centreville High performs the murder mystery, 'Clue.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Was it Col. Mustard in the study with a wrench? Or Miss Scarlett in the library with a rope? These questions and others will be answered when Centreville High presents the comic, murder mystery, "Clue."

Based on both the classic game and the 1985 movie, the play is set for Friday, May 3, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 4, at 3 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, May 5, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door and via www.theatrecentreville.com.

In the story, a group of people are invited to a dinner party – and each person is being blackmailed by the host. He then asks each guest to kill his butler for him – but instead, he ends up the victim. Then they all try to solve his murder before the police arrive.

There's a cast and crew of about 25, and Director Mike Hudson says it's going to be "a hysterical show. As soon as it became available for high schools to perform, I was jumping up and down because the movie, 'Clue,' came out about the same time as the movie, 'Murder by Death,' which I loved, but which had no screenplay for staging."

"I thought it would be great for high schools because it's a satire of the murder-mystery genre, it's funny, is full of action and energy, and should be enjoyable for all ages," he explained. "We have a lot of exciting talent in this show. I'm fortunate to have had these students available to cast in these parts because they're really making these characters live."

WITH THE STORY set in 1959 in a dark, gothic mansion on top of a hill in the Massachusetts countryside, anything can happen. The party guests will be dressed in suits and cocktail dresses as the mystery deepens and the comedy unfurls. As for the audience, said Hudson, "I just think they're going to have a rip-roaring time."

Senior Maxwell Leitch portrays Wadsworth, the butler. "He's British, very attentive and clever, with a witty, dry sense of humor," said Leitch. "He's also the driving force of the story and moves everything along."

Leitch is enjoying his role because Wadsworth "has a lot of energy and is an explosive character. He yells and can get very dramatic in a funny way." He said the audience will like the show because "It's really funny and a good time. And the set will be really cool. We'll have a turntable where different rooms will rotate on and off."

"We also have lots of hilarious characters and talented actors," he continued. "And the story has many twists and turns and a lot of surprises that'll keep people in suspense."

Playing party guest Col. Mustard is senior Ricky Mu-oz. "He's a retired colonel and a



A scene from the upcoming "Clue," complete with party guests, police and two victims.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

A confrontation during Centreville High's upcoming play, "Clue." (From left) are Savannah Lagana (Mrs. Peacock), Ben Stallard (Mr. Boddy) and Michael Crevoisier (Mr. Green).



bit of a blowhard," said Mu-oz. "He's not very intelligent, but he has strong convictions and is stubborn. When he interacts with the other guests, he's often confused about what's happening. So he spends some time trying to orient himself to protect himself from the fallout that could come as a result of him being blackmailed."

Mu-oz, too, likes his part because he enjoys portraying comedic characters. "And after being in theater here for four years,

it's nice to go out with such a fun role and something that just lets me be stupid," he said. "And Col. Mustard gives me a unique opportunity to be out there in a way I haven't been before. He really borders on the ridiculous."

Mu-oz describes the show as "a classic, murder mystery and very engaging. People are always in conflict, throughout the show, and groups of people are constantly butting heads. This show is absolutely hysteri-

cal, and I'm excited to see it come to life onstage."

SOPHOMORE Lydia Buono portrays party guest Miss Scarlett. "She's a madam and owns a brothel," said Buono. "But she's not ashamed of what she does and is very elegant, but also a little tawdry. She's also snooty and wants to know other people's secrets so she'll have power over them and be above them."

She said this role is a little out of her comfort zone. "But that's what I love about playing her," said Buono. "She's so different from me, so I get to stretch myself as an actor. I also like that she's so cunning and confident in herself, and I aspire to be like that."

Buono said audiences will love this show because "Both the plot and the set are intricately designed. And each character is unique in their own way – and that's what makes it super fun to perform and to watch."

"I thought it would be great for high schools because it's a satire of the murder-mystery genre, it's funny, is full of action and energy, and should be enjoyable for all ages,"

—Director Mike Hudson

Playing Professor Plum, also a party guest and a college psychology professor, is senior Nick Mazzi. "He's a smarmy character, intelligent, clever and witty," said Mazzi. "He gets along with Scarlett and is definitely a ladies' man. He's more of an outsider than the other guests, but he also enjoys smoking, drinking and being at parties."

Mazzi is having fun with his part. "I like his smirkiness," he said. "He's thinking, 'HmmmHow many women are here? Are there drinks? And how can I get close to you, get your number and take you home?' He thinks he's smooth, but he comes off as more of a creep. I've never played a character like this before, and it's fun because you don't see characters like him, all the time."

"The audience will like the relationships and chemistry we're able to show onstage," he said. "The play is complex, but not confusing. It's actually very engaging and really gets the audience thinking. As soon as you think you know what's going on, something happens and changes your perception."

Senior Living

Sharing Wisdom of Positive Aging

Positive Aging and Wellness Fair draws crowd for education, information – and fun!

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The 2019 Northern Virginia Positive Aging and Wellness Fair on April 8, powered by the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (JCCNV) and Celebrate Fairfax, Inc., has grown dramatically over the years, requiring more and more space to spread its wings.

This year, for its ninth edition and for the first time, the event was held at the Fairfax County Government Center at 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. Even that impressive structure started to look more like Union Station than the halls of government. Some 600 registered fair attendees, 75 exhibitors, with more than 20 workshops in session, along with the staff, volunteers, facilitators and sponsors created an air of organized chaos as they mingled with the regular business of the county at work. Before the actual event-day, the event's website apologetically announced that walk-ins were no longer being accepted, such was the response received.

Pam Wiener, Director of Adult Services at event co-host JCCNV, officially opened the fair and was followed by opening remarks from Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), who chairs the county's 50+ Committee. Tisha Deeghan, Deputy Executive Director, Fairfax County, also took a brief turn at the podium before handing things over to the keynote speaker Pat Collins, the long-time general assignment reporter for News4.

"I'm one of you. I'm 72. I belong here," said Collins, as he stood to address the packed theatre with his signature "snow stick" in hand.

For the next hour, Collins kept his audience enthralled – when they weren't laughing at his hilarious descriptions of "coming up in the old days," trained by "grizzled old men with typewriters – and no degrees."

The Emmy award-winning Collins ranged far and wide in his remarks, from his own history and how he "accidentally became a reporter at age 15" to stories across the timeline of his career. Starting as a print journalist with the Washington Daily News, then the Washington Star, his first foray into television news reporting didn't go quite as expected.

"On my first day, first thing in the morning, they told me I wouldn't actually go on air until I was ready, and until they thought I was ready," recalled Collins. "Guess when I did my first on-air broadcast? You guessed it! On the 5 p.m. news that same day!"

After stints at WJLA and WDVM (Now WUSA-TV) in D.C. and WLS-TV in Chicago, Collins found his home at News4 in 1986.

The veteran newsman says he has the best gig these days. "I can cover everything from murders to snow storms," all while work-



There were more than 20 workshops and panel discussions at the Positive Aging and Wellness Fair on topics from memory care to avoiding scammers.



The 2019 Northern Virginia Positive Aging and Wellness Fair drew some 600 registered attendees to the event that packed the Fairfax County Government Center.

ing three days a week.

While he may now have transitioned to "part-timer," Collins insists he's "not done, yet" saying that older adults have a lot still to offer in experience and life lessons learned that they can share.

"And what else can we older adults do? What other power do we hold? That's right, we vote," he noted to enthusiastic applause. "So keep going, keep active, use your knowledge and your skills. We have plenty left to do."

THE WORKSHOPS were held in three sessions, with topics like "Better Brain

Healthy: Save Your Memory and Your Mind," "The Street Smart Senior: How to Avoid Getting Scammed," "Reaching Your Financial Goals," "Finding a Meaningful Encore Career," "Looking for a Meaningful Volunteer Experience," and "Gadgets and Gizmos for Your Health and Happiness."

The teachers were engaging experts in their fields. Among them were Patricia Rohrer, Long Term Care Program Manager with the county's Health Department, Carrie Brill, Caregiver Specialist and Management Analyst, Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging, Cathy Turner, Director of Senior Health at Virginia Hospital Center, Cherie

Lejeune, Age+Tech Innovator, and even a staffer from the Office of the Attorney General.

More experts manned the exhibitor booths.

There were representatives from numerous home care resources and senior living communities, and other sponsors displaying medical and health-related offerings, and other businesses that provide services and products aimed at making the life of older adults easier and more comfortable, help residents age in place, and keep up with today's technologies.

Rebuilding Together Arlington/Fairfax/Falls Church was just one of those offering much-needed assistance. The nonprofit uses expert volunteers to make critical home repairs or construct disability and/or accessibility improvements at no cost for qualified homeowners on a limited income.

Allegra Joffe, who represented PRS CrisisLink's CareRing Program, was on duty, introducing visitors to the program that provides daily phone calls to help those individuals living alone or disabled or with chronic illness.

"It's a great free service," said Joffe. Clients are provided with screening upon intake and periodically during their time with the program, "so we can better know them and best serve them," Joffe added.

CareRing provides a daily friendly chat, but also can assist clients with reminders about medications or appointments, checking on general well-being and even helping ensure that clients are eating regularly.

Among the booths that lined much of the lower level of Government Center, there were even some opportunities for job and volunteer-seekers, like the Fairfax County Auxiliary Police Officer program, there to hunt for a few new "rookies" to join their ranks.

The Grandinvolve organization was also on hand, hoping to entice a volunteer or two into sharing skills, hobbies, interests and talents with elementary school kids.

THE LIST of services, products, and potential opportunities goes on. If you missed the 2019 Positive Aging and Wellness Fair, here is a way to get connected.

Check out the county's website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults. While you are there, subscribe to the monthly Golden Gazette for information and a calendar of events. There is even a phone number – one number – to reach knowledgeable folks who can get you started or even help you navigate to the information or services that you are seeking.

Call 703 – 324 – 7948, TTY 711, 8 a.m. – 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday for help with services for older Fairfax County adults. And one more piece of advice: don't miss out when the next Positive Aging and Wellness Fair comes around again.

SPORTS

Recognizing Volunteers of the Year

Thirty-nine Centreville and Clifton area residents were honored recently by the Southwestern Youth Association (SYA) for their efforts during 2018 on behalf of the organization's 13,000 registrants and their families. The volunteer-honorees were nominated by the Commissioners of each of SYA's thirteen sports programs. SYA has more than 2800 volunteers.

Attending the reception were Supervisors Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and Kathy Smith (D-Sully District). SYA awarded plaques to both recognizing their continued support of youth sports programs. Also in attendance was Michael Frey, retired Sully District Supervisor and long time supporter of SYA and the SYA Sports Park.

Gary Flather presented the annual Presidents Award to Tom Healy, former SYA Football Commissioner, in recognition of his dedication to SYA and his years of volunteer service.

The 2018 honorees were Elizabeth Drake, Babe Ruth; Anthony Himelright, Babe Ruth; Brian Seeley, Babe Ruth; Cindy Kim, Basketball; Kristi Purdy, Basketball; Leo Resquin, Basketball; Virginia Anderson, Cheer; Crystal Jordan, Cheer; Alexa Wodack, Cheer; Tracey Barrett, Field Hockey; Susan Malkus, Field Hockey; Katie Manning, Field Hockey; Tom Healy, Football; Jason Mullins, Football; Robert Foster, Lacrosse; DeAnna Hughes, Lacrosse; Alison Neun, Lacrosse; Tim Bowman, Little League Baseball; Jeff

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Little League Baseball and Softball Award winners Larry Novak, Jeff Raymond, Brad Soules, and Commissioner Bob Woodruff (not pictured: Brandon Vickers and In Memoriam Coach Ryan Massimo)

Raymond, Little League Baseball; Brad Soules, Little League Baseball; Brandon Vickers, Little League Baseball; in Memoriam Coach Ryan Massimo, Little League Baseball; Larry Novack, Little League Softball; Ross Lemke, Rugby; Tom Phipps, Rugby; Brian Robinson, Rugby; Kimberly Bramhall, Soccer; Toni Garcia, Soccer; Tara Harkins, Soccer; Dorothy Owen, Soccer; Anthony McGhee, Track & Field; Victoria McGhee, Track & Field; Mike McLenigan, Track & Field; Steve Bartolutti, Volleyball; Natalia Yu, Volleyball; James Martin, Volleyball; Tyler Andersen, Wrestling; Will Baxter, Wrestling; and Dante Winslow, Wrestling.

For more information, visit www.syasports.org



Soccer Award winners Tara Harkins, Toni Garcia and Dorothy Owen and Commissioner Erich Wiemann (not pictured: Kimberly Bramhall)



Track & Field Award winner Mike McLenigan and SYA President Gary Flather (not pictured: Victoria McGhee, Anthony McGhee and Commissioner Alonzo Davis)



Field Hockey Award winner Katie Manning, Commissioner Molly Gift and Award Winner Susan Malkus (not pictured: Tracey Barrett)



Cheer Award winner Virginia Anderson (not pictured: Crystal Jordan, Alexa Wodack and Commissioner Tammy McCarron)



Babe Ruth Award winners Anthony Himelright and Elizabeth Drake and SYA President Gary Flather (not pictured: Commissioner and Award Winner Brian Seeley)



Supervisors Kathy Smith (D-Sully District) and Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) receiving recognition plaques from SYA President Gary Flather, for their support to the children and members of SYA

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ENTERTAINMENT

Shakespeare at Chantilly High

FROM PAGE 2

said, "It's fun seeing how the characters interact onstage. And the audience will enjoy the hilarity that ensues as the lovers are toyed with by the spirits and the magic in the forest."

Playing Titania, the Queen Fairy, is junior Molly Marsh. "She bounces around the world looking for whatever will help her and her husband Oberon, the King Fairy [played by David Porter], keep nature in balance," said Marsh.

"She likes to have things go her way," continued Marsh. "And when she doesn't get what she wants, she'll do whatever it takes to get it - even manipulate and seduce people. She's aware of the power she has over men and nature and often uses that to her advantage."

She, too, likes her role. "Titania doesn't care what anyone thinks, and she can be headstrong with Oberon," explained Marsh. "But when she's under a spell and falls in love with a donkey, she becomes giggly, but is still confident. So it's funny to see this strong woman fawning all over this donkey - who has no idea what's going on."

Marsh said the audience will like Chantilly's different take on this Shakespeare classic. "The scenery is unusual because the show's set in a post-apocalyptic world," she said. "There are broken-down buildings with overgrown weeds and muted colors. So it'll have a magical atmosphere, but will also

be grungy. And people will appreciate our ability to interact with the set in a high-energy way."

Senior Anna Rhodes portrays Helena. "She's insecure and unsure of herself," she said. "She struggles with self-confidence because she's in love with Demetrius, but he doesn't share her feelings. And although everyone else sees her beauty, she thinks she's less beautiful than her best friend, Hermia, who Demetrius loves. She's also kind and caring and, like me, puts others above herself."

Rhodes said her part's challenging, but she likes it. "The amount of lines and scenes I'm memorizing in Shakespeare's English makes it difficult," she said. "But I'm acting with many of my close friends."

And the character has made me think about my own self-esteem and confidence, and I'm learning not to compare myself as much to others."

She said the audience will particularly love this production's technical elements. "The set is very detailed and interesting to look at," said Rhodes. "And the costumes are beautiful. When I first saw the designs, I was instantly in love with them. My costume is burgundy jeans, tall brown boots, a flowy white blouse and a burgundy corset."

SENIOR Mallory Bedford plays Puck. "He's a creature of mischief

- a sprite that's part of the fairy world," she said. "He lives in the forest, but can travel around the world and mess with people's lives - and not just those who venture into the woods, but average people, too."

She said Puck is charismatic, playful and energetic and likes pulling pranks on people for his own entertainment. "But he messes up and accidentally puts the love potion on the wrong person's eyes," said Bedford. "He can't help but cause things to go wrong, even when trying to help."

Enjoying her role "immensely," she said, "It's been fun working with Mr. Shaw on ideas for the character and production. Before auditioning, I created a presentation and told him how these things could fit in. And playing Puck allows me to explore this onstage." A rule-follower in real life, Bedford said acting lets her "make the stage my own. I get to play around with my character and castmates in a way I'm not able to, normally."

Overall, she said, "When you think about high-school, Shakespearean productions, you picture kids standing in stiff costumes and saying words they don't understand. But in this one, we've focused on what Shakespeare's trying to say, and why and how the words inform the characters' personalities. Instead of just spewing monologues, we know why we're saying these things."

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 2

a rock ballet to the music of The Eagles. \$40. Call 703-753-5005 or visit hilton.calendar.gmu.edu/virginia-national-ballet-carmen-and-life-in-the-fast-lane.

TUESDAY/APRIL 30

Introduction to Drawdown. 6:30-9 p.m. at Centreville Library 14200 St Germain Drive, Centreville. Project Drawdown is a coalition of more than 200 researchers and other experts from 22 countries led by author, environmentalist, and entrepreneur, Paul Hawken. Over the

course of five years of rigorous scientific research, they identified and modeled the 100 most substantive, already existing solutions for addressing global warming and revealed astounding news: It is possible not just to slow global warming but to actually reverse it by 2050. Workshop material is provided by the Pachamama Alliance and includes video clips of Paul Hawken. The presenter will be Lore Rosenthal, a volunteer with the Pachamama Alliance - a global community working to create a sustainable future. RSVP at 703-655-5069 or act.sierraclub.org/events/

details?formcampaignid=701020000027PUPQA2

WEDNESDAY/MAY 1

Charity Knitting Party. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Sully Government Center, McDonnell Community Room, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Come and knit or crochet a blue hat as part of the #HatNotHate Campaign. Bring blue yarn, needles or crochet hook and hat pattern and join the Craftivist Movement. There will be snacks, participants are welcome to bring a lunch and drink. Choose a familiar hat pattern or choose one from www.lionbrand.com/blog/end-bullying-hat-not-hate/. Email Luv2knit14@aol.com for more.

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.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Scam Jam and ShredFest. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Silver Shield Task Force and AARP Virginia are hosting a free fraud prevention and shredding event. There will be numerous speakers discussing

how to be aware of scams and how to prevent being scammed or defrauded. Scam Jam runs 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; ShredFest runs 8 a.m.-noon.
Spring Forward. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Colgan Hall, George Mason University Science and Technology Campus, 10900 University Blvd., Manassas. Spring Forward Family Fun Day offers adoptive, foster and kinship families a day of fun and learning about tools and solutions. Found Families Forward is partnering with NewFound Families, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), and VDOE's Training and Technical Assistance

Center. While the kids enjoy activities, parents, caregivers and professionals will be treated to keynote Family Strong: Five Ways to Fight the Fear, Beat the Burnout, and Stay Focused for the Long Haul by presenter Wendy Besmann. Following the keynote, parents and caregivers choose from a variety of breakout sessions. \$0-\$40. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-forward-family-fun-day-and-regional-conference-tickets-54145770457 for tickets.

Public Information Meeting. 10- SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

ROUNDUPS

Meeting Saturday Re I-66 Trail

Fairfax County and VDOT will hold a public-information meeting on plans for the I-66 Outside the Beltway Trail, this Saturday, April 27, from 10-11:30 a.m. It will be in the cafeteria of Centreville Elementary, 14330 Green Trails Blvd. in Centreville. There'll be a review of the proposed trail along the I-66 Corridor, including the off-Corridor segments being funded by the county.

Attendees may also suggest names for this new, parallel trail.

Walney Road Is Closing

As part of the I-66 Outside the Beltway improvement project, the Route 28 interchange is being reconstructed to improve traffic flow and safety and to provide new connectivity to and from I-66 and the express lanes.

These improvements include the removal of traffic lights from this portion of Route 28 by the end of 2020 and will require a series of traffic-pattern changes during construction. Meanwhile, starting on or about May 1, Walney Road will be closed between Route 28 and Cabells Mill Road, with no access to or from Route 28. Drivers will be detoured to Westfields Boulevard. However, when Route 28 construction is complete, Walney Road will be reconnected with Braddock Road by a new overpass over Route 28. This overpass will connect to and from the I-66 express and general-purpose lanes, as well as to Route 28 to and from the south.

Native Plant Society Speaker

The Cub Run Stream Valley Park Volunteer Team will meet Thursday, May 2, from 7:30-9 p.m., in the Centreville Regional Library's meeting room No. 1. A representative from the NOVA Native Plant Society will be the guest speaker, and the team will be updated on its successful turnout to clean up the watershed.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

11:30 a.m. at Centreville Elementary School (cafeteria), 14330 Green Trails Blvd., Centreville. Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will hold a public information meeting on the planning and implementation of the off-corridor portions of the I-66 Outside the Beltway Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail. Attendees will be asked to submit names and weigh in on a sampling of names that have been suggested. FCDOT will narrow the list and host an online survey of names and invite the public to vote for their choices. Visit outside.transform66.org/default.asp for more.

Volunteers Needed. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Springfest is a once a year, environmental festival. This day-long event attracts nearly 5,000 people from around the region, and help is needed with event set-up, parking and kid's activities. Volunteers can also fill roles as costumed characters, rovers and more. Email ayleah@cleanfairfax.org or visit Springfestfairfax.org for more.

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Label Me Determined



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Like anyone with a name and an address, no doubt over the years, you readers have received unsolicited gifts/inducements in a kind of presumptive exchange for charitable contributions from many organizations with which you are probably familiar. And among the many good deeds they offer are the manufacture and subsequent mailing at no cost or obligation to the recipient, of self-adhesive, return-address labels.

I have, over the years, made a below-average level of contribution despite having maintained an above-average level of use. Still the labels arrive, regularly. And given their accumulation in my home office, I have become ever more determined to not die until I have used every one of those labels. In a manner of speaking/referencing, this pursuit has sort of become my white whale. I'm sure Captain Ahab could relate.

Years ago, around the time of my diagnosis, I was likewise determined, given where I live in Montgomery County, to not die until the Inter County Connector (a long-planned-for, cross-county highway connecting Interstate 270 in Montgomery County to Route 1 in Prince George's County) was completed. I never thought, given my "13 month to two-year" prognosis in 2009, that I'd live to see its completion and to attach its transponder and pay its tolls. But I have.

And though I am not a regular driver on this road, I am nonetheless emotionally connected to it. It's as if we both overcame something.

Which brings me back to the other emotional connection I've mentioned: the return-address labels.

It's not because of the specific charities or the design of the labels or anything in particular (they all tend to blend together after a while), it's that they all have my name and almost always have it spelled correctly, which is not always the case in mail addressed to Lourie. And below that correctly-spelled name, is an equally correct return address.

All combined on a label which doesn't require any licking or stamping or writing. All of which when combined creates a certain functionality which for a non-millennial, baby-boomer like myself who actually mails envelopes rather than types them online, provides an incredibly helpful asset.

And as a cancer patient, any asset that simplifies my life is an asset worth mentioning.

There are many mailers of a certain age who live, almost thrive in a non-paper-free environment. We still write our own checks, hand-address our own envelopes, buy and stick our own stamps and finally go to the Post Office to mail our correspondence.

I can't say whether many of us "balance our checkbooks," but as for myself, I do review the various entries in my check register with my paper statements to confirm their familiarity and accuracy. If this all sounds a bit antiquated to some of you younger readers, some of what you do sounds far-fetched and sort of redundant to me, which probably minimizes your appreciation for something as mundane as a correctly-spelled and properly-addressed return-address label.

I imagine there's a path down the middle somewhere, but it's not important that we all correspond.

But for those of you who do correspond with hard copies instead of computerized soft copies, these return address labels can be a vital cog in the mailing machine. Intended recipients are not always where you thought they were and mail that you thought you had properly addressed stands a better chance of being returned to sender.

A properly-affixed and accurate return address label might not save the sender time or money, but it might do so for the recipient; and let's be honest: who doesn't like to receive mail?

And what's the first thing you look at? The return address. If it were not for the return address, label or otherwise, the reason for its delivery might lose some of its appeal.

For me, living beyond the correspondence on which that final label will be affixed is very appealing. Because considering the number of labels I still have at home, I'm going to be living for a long time. Cancer be damned.

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

Never Losing Sight of Ending Homelessness

BY JOE FAY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/FACETS

When Richard lost his sight, his long career as a handyman came to an end. What began was a journey into homelessness.

Despite his skills and dedication, blindness prevented him from continuing in the building maintenance field. As his funds ran low, Richard, who is now 58, struggled and found himself moving from shelter to shelter around the county and sleeping in other places not meant for habitation. Then he was referred to FACETS, a Fairfax nonprofit working to prevent homelessness, and resided for some time at FACETS' Linda's Gateway Woodbine House with five other men



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

One of the homes used for transitional housing.

who were medically and physically vulnerable.

Linda's Gateway is a program meant to help people transition to permanent housing. Working with a FACETS case manager, residents receive budget counseling, housing location services, connection to community resources, basic needs and transportation assistance. All FACETS programs operate using a "Housing First" approach, focusing on first getting people into housing and then working with a case

manager to address barriers to housing stability, career development, child care, medical assistance and other basic needs.

Working with his case manager Ruben, Richard pulled his life back together and now lives independently in his own apartment through FACETS' permanent supportive housing program. He is still helped by Ruben who checks in with him and makes sure he can get to medical appointments and is hopeful and

more confident.

With the second largest homeless population in the region, homelessness is a real problem in the Fairfax County-Falls Church community where nearly 1,000 people are homeless. A majority of these are in working families with children. Some like Richard are single and also facing challenges. FACETS connected nearly 400 single adults with life-saving services last year.

Richard will be joining several other FACETS' clients to share his courageous story about overcoming homelessness at FACETS' Hope in Bloom Breakfast. The free event on April 25 at 7 a.m. at Fairview Park Marriott provides an opportunity to learn more about neighbors in need and meet fellow community mem-

bers who are helping end homelessness in the region. Attendees will be uplifted and inspired and discover how we can ensure everyone has a place to call home in our county.

If you have an interest in learning more about the effects of poverty in Fairfax County, we encourage you to join us along with other community, business and political leaders at this 8th annual breakfast. Register at www.FACETSCares.org.

Tornado Warning

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

There was both shock and amazement on the part of many Restonians to hear last Friday evening that our community was under a tornado warning by the National Weather Service (NWS). These warnings occur all the time, especially in the Midwest and earlier that day across the deep South. For us the weather is relatively mild, although the winds do seem to blow harder these days, and the rains this spring seem to have brought a lot of local flooding. The amount of snow varies from winter to winter.

About 8:30 p.m. on Friday the National Weather Service found that an approaching squall line ahead of a larger storm's cold front distorted into an S shape across Northern Virginia. Gusts along the bow were significant until the bow broke up into a rotating storm. Doppler radar revealed a counterclockwise circulation known as a mesocyclone over Reston that developed into a cyclone.

Technically the National Weather Service recorded that on Friday, April 19, there was a tornado event in Reston beginning at 8:55 p.m. estimated time with estimated maximum wind speed of 70 mph, with a maximum path width of 100 yards and a path length of 4 miles. The NWS uses the Fujita Scale to classify tornadoes into one of six categories—EF0 (weak) to EF5 (violent). The tornado in our community was rated at the lowest ranking, EF0.

For professional weather people who deal with bad weather all the time, the tornado in our community that lasted an estimated five minutes may



COMMENTARY

have seemed weak. But for those who sought refuge in their basements and heard the wind whipping around their homes and saw the trees swaying in their yards the storm was anything but weak. Fortunately, no one was killed or reported hurt. Lots of trees and branches were downed and several cars were damaged with one townhouse being severely damaged. Everyone is left to wonder if we will be as lucky if the flukes of weather send their wrath on us again.

Weather refers to what happens in the atmosphere around us with rain, snow, wind, and thunderstorms as examples. For many of us weather conditions seem to have become more severe. Only scientific recordings of weather events over a long period of time will provide evidence needed to confirm or deny our hunches. All the weather events of temperature, humidity and rainfall patterns averaged over seasons, years or longer creates our climate. There is ample evidence to demonstrate that climate is changing and that human behavior especially in releasing more heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere is a leading cause. Completing the circle of what is happening in our world is that climate change is bringing about more extreme weather events.

While extreme weather, climate change and global warming may be controversial topics to some, many of us are deeply concerned. This week's celebration of Earth Day was a global experience. Our local weather event while relatively mild reminds us that we need to be serious about the subject and serious about our response to it.

LETTERS

Clarification on Salaries

To the Editor:

I want to thank the Connection for the fair and generally accurate reporting on my comments at the April 9 Board of Supervisors budget hearing.

However, there is an important correction.

According to the article, I said, "school and other county employees earn more than the average private sector worker in the region."

What I actually said was, "half of private-sector jobs in Fairfax County have salaries of \$77K or less." The average salary for teachers and public safety employees is \$77K or higher. The average salary for county non-public-safety employees is \$66K.

Arthur Purves
President
Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance

Write The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. Send to:

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