

Today's Calendar

MUSIC

» The Communion Tour is at 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E. Vienna. Call 703-255-1566 or visit www.jamminjava.com.

» Shelby Lynne performs at 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

» The Writers of Children's Literature Group meets at 7 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Library, 8051 Ashton Ave., Manassas. This forum allows writers to share their works and helps those who wish to write get started. Encouragement and constructive criticism are welcome. Registration is not required, and new members are welcome. Call 703-792-4500.

Police Briefs

Man charged with stabbing woman

A Woodbridge man was arrested Sunday morning after police said he stabbed a woman in the chest with a kitchen knife.

The 37-year-old victim, of Woodbridge, told police

that she was in a heated argument with Shanquito Monzelle Carpenter, a known acquaintance, at a home in the 2500 block of Caton Hill Road in Woodbridge, at 1:02 a.m. when he stabbed her, according to Prince William police spokesman Jonathan Perok.

The victim and another family member at the scene got away and called police, officers said.

Carpenter, 39, of 2500 block of Caton Hill Road, was charged with malicious wounding, Perok said.

He was arrested without incident and held without bond.

Police did not have Carpenter's court date available.

The victim was taken to a nearby hospital with non-life threatening injuries, police said.

Man charged with stalking, burglary

A Manassas-area man faces burglary and stalking charges after officers said he tried to break into his ex-girlfriend's Manassas home Thursday, police said.

The victim accused her ex-boyfriend and father of her children, Quentin Renald Hopkins, of trying to break into her home in the 9100 block of

Wharton Court, in the Bristoe Station neighborhood, Manassas police Sgt. Eddie Rivera said.

Police said that Hopkins tried to get into the woman's home while yelling through the door, and left after a relative of his came up to him and told him to leave, Rivera said.

Hopkins, 29, of 10101 Henry Court, in the Sudley Manor neighborhood, was found a short time later and was charged with attempted burglary and stalking, Rivera said.

He was held in lieu of a \$3,000 bond, and has a court date of Jan. 4.

The victim said Hopkins had been sending her intimidating emails that put her in fear for her life, police said.

She reportedly moved into the Wharton Court home in an attempt to escape Hopkins, police said.

From staff reports



Kathryn O'Sullivan (left) poses with the cast of her web series "Thurston" on location in Virginia City.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

NVCC professor releases Western drama Web series

Draws on Virginia's 'wealth of historic properties'

A theater professor at the Manassas Campus of Northern Virginia Community College has written and produced an online Western drama series.

Kathryn O'Sullivan's "Thurston" tells the story of residents of a remote mining town in the Kansas Ozarks and their struggle for survival.

"Doing a Western web series intrigued me because the genre lends itself to an infinite variety of stories and web series are the new frontier of entertainment. I'm interested in the men and women that inhabited the "Wild West," how they survived harsh frontier life and what that says about the human spirit," O'Sullivan said.

O'Sullivan shot some of the scenes at the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre in

Bristow.

"Virginia has a wealth of historic properties. When I discovered the beautifully restored cabin at the Center, I knew it would be perfect for the series," she said. "It also gave the actors and crew a taste of roughing it because we had to shoot without electricity or heat."

Several people with NVCC connections were involved in the production.

Adjunct professors Lisa Nanni-Messegee and Todd Messeggee served as production manager and assistant director/photographer, respectively.

One of O'Sullivan's current students, Nicholas Barry, of Fairfax, was a production assistant, and two former students, Bob Martin, of Sterling, and Garry Westcott, of Alexandria, have roles in the series.

Martin plays Garrett Thur-

ston. He has served in acting and directing capacities for several productions at the Manassas campus, including "The Man Who Came to Dinner," "Dracula," "The Birds," "Alice in Wonderland" and "Strange Boarders."

Westcott plays Marshal Perry Robinson. He began performing in radio commercials at the age of 7.

His stage credits include "Hamlet," "The Apple Tree," "The Allegation" and "The Age of Aquarius." Film credits include "Call to Danger," a Peter Graves made-for-television movie; "Don't Drink the Water," a Woody Allen film adaptation of his play; and "F.I.S.T.," a Sylvester Stallone film.

The first two episodes of "Thurston" are available at www.thurstons-series.com. To learn more, contact kosullivan@nvcc.edu.

Submitted release



JOHN BOAL/NEWS & MESSENGER

Getting ready for the big day

Charles Davis (from left), Gary Wilson and Walter Sauls, of Atlantic Election Services, unload their last group of voting machines to Coles Elementary School in preparation for the local elections on Nov. 7. The machines will remain locked up until election officials set up the voting location on Tuesday morning.

National EAS test coming Wednesday

BY DAVID PIERCE
dpierce@insidenova.com

Local residents might be surprised Wednesday at 2 p.m. if they are watching television or listening to the radio.

A 30-second Emergency Alert System message will play on every television and radio station.

But it is only a test.

The Federal Communications Commission and Federal Emergency Management Agency are holding the first national EAS test to see how well their 17-year-old system operates, according to the FCC.

Officials said they will send a 'live code' — the same code sent during an actual emergency — along with the EAS message. Because of this, text and images seen on television during the test might not indicate that it is just an exercise, FCC officials said. Audio messages for both radio and television, according to the FCC, will say it will be a test.

The exercise will appear to be similar to periodic, monthly local and regional EAS tests, officials said.

Prince William officials are trying to make people aware of the upcoming test, according to county spokesman Jason Grant.

He expects that the county communications center — which han-

dles dispatch calls for Prince William police, as well as fire and rescue calls for the county, Manassas and Manassas Park — might receive some calls from residents wondering what is going on during the test.

But he believes that employees will ease concerns and tell the public that it is not a real emergency.

"We're ready," Grant said of county officials' preparedness.

Prince William County has a free crisis alert system, known as the Prince William Community Alert Network, or PWCAN.

The system sends messages of weather warnings, watches, and other emergencies to subscribers through emails, text messages and other methods, according to the county government website.

Grant believed that even with such a network, the need for a national EAS system, and the Wednesday test, is important.

"People may not subscribe to [PWCAN] or know about it, so you have to make sure [government officials] get crisis information out to the public," Grant said.

The national EAS test was originally planned to be three minutes long. FCC officials said in a press release Thursday that the shorter 30-second duration would still allow authorities to do the required test

“Sometimes, people have the tendency to hear the EAS message, not think too much about it and then continue about their daily routine.”

— Jason Grant,
county spokesperson

with a minimal amount of disruption to the public.

The mid-day timing of the test, according to Grant, will also have less impact on the public than, for example, holding it during primetime when more people could see it.

Grant still hopes residents pay attention, even if they are not facing danger during the test.

"Sometimes, people have the tendency to hear the EAS message, not think too much about it and then continue about their daily routine,"

Grant said, using weather alerts as an example. Grant suggested residents to heed the messages' advice to ensure their safety and security.

Residents can go to alert.pwcgov.org to sign up for PWCAN.

Staff writer David Pierce can be reached at 703-530-3905.

FYI: For your information

Registration opens for conference

The fifth annual City of Manassas Neighborhood Conference will take place Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Manassas Boys & Girls Club, 9501 Dean Park Lane, Manassas.

This year's theme, presented by the City of Manassas Neighborhood Services, is "Healthy Neighborhoods: Connecting People, Ideas & Resources."

Those attending can register for one morning and one afternoon workshop among four choices of: "Get Out of Operating in the Red-HOAs Financial Tips," "It's Easy Being Green-Organic Community Landscaping," "Volunteer Power!" or "Lead by Example: Understanding Code Enforcement."

Register by calling Christen Zenich at 703-257-8315 or online at www.manassascity.org/neighconf.

Band set for Christmas concert

The Prince William Community Band will play a Christmas Concert at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3 at Potomac Senior High School 3401 Panther Pride Drive, Dumfries.

Admission is free and for more information call 703-791-4119.

Barefoot Puppets put on show

The Barefoot Puppets will present "Little Red and the Gingerbread Man" at the Chinn Park Regional Library at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

No tickets are required.

The annual program honors the memory of Ethel Harvey Georges, a distinguished local educator and retired elementary school principal.

For more information call 703-792-4800.

Sorority to host Bowling for Literacy

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority will host its annual "Bowling for Literacy" at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

The event will be at the Bowl America, 13409 Occoquan Road, Woodbridge.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

For more information contact Kanika Spruill at firstprepkz@yahoo.com.

Submitted releases

Briefly

Naked man spotted in Dulles terminal

CHANTILLY — A man has been taken to a hospital for evaluation after he was spotted walking naked around Washington Dulles International Airport.

Airport spokeswoman Kimberly Gibbs said the adult male was walking around the main terminal Monday morning and was not wearing clothing or underwear. Airport police took him into custody without incident and determined that he needed medical attention. He was taken to a local hospital.

Cadets to lead Fort Lee ethics lesson

PETERSBURG — West Point cadets will lead an ethics conference at Fort Lee for more than 100 high school students.

Cadets will lead a lesson on ethics this week on the Petersburg military base. They'll convene discussions of ethical situations and values such as respect and honesty.

The lesson is aimed at students from more than 20 schools in the greater Richmond area.

From wire reports