



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CENTRE VIEW

Celebrating Chantilly's Graduates

Chantilly High School principal Teresa Johnson recognizes the honor students in the class of 2012 during ceremonies June 18 at the Patriot Center. Seated behind the principal are class officers: Diana Ho, Michael Jacob, Taylor Poe, Mary Zillberfarb and honor graduate speaker Rachel Carle. More photos, page 4.

Overcoming Obstacles

Mountain View grads share their stories.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

The highlights of any Mountain View High graduation are the speeches by the student speakers. They're heartfelt, riveting and intensely honest, and the ones given last Friday, June 15, were no exception.

First at the podium was slender, dark-haired Sarah Khaliq who, since age 6, struggled with her weight. As a result, she was bullied and made fun of in middle school and at her former high school.

"Name calling and jokes were an everyday event at school," she said. "I got prank phone calls and phony invitations to parties, and someone even made a false Facebook page about me. I had a broken heart and, sometimes, I wished I was dead."



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

Daniela Pimentel Carpio smiles from the stage as Mountain View Alternative High School ESOL teacher Michelle Ohanian describes the qualities that led the school's faculty to nominate her for the Citizenship Award.

Khaliq said all these things made her feel worthless, although she knew she wasn't. "I tried dieting, hypnosis and a personal trainer,

SEE OVERCOMING, PAGE 3

Westfield ESOL Student Thrives

Juan Castro receives board's Character Award.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

When Juan Castro came to the U.S. from El Salvador, six years ago, he only spoke a few words of English and was a stranger in a strange place. But he adapted well, learned quickly and worked hard at school and in his community.

It all paid off. Last Thursday, June 7, the Westfield High senior received the 2012 Character Award from the Fairfax County School Board. He was honored for demonstrating "high moral values, strong integrity and good character" and for being a role model for his peers.

"He's one of the most dynamic, nicest kids ever," said Dan Harris, Castro's counselor at Westfield.



Juan Castro with his 2012 Character Award.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE SANDOVAL

"Juan's the kind of kid you hope your son grows up like. He's mature, humble, intelligent, honest and charismatic, and he has a great future in front of him."

Harris nominated Castro, 20, as Westfield's candidate for this award. And ESOL teachers Merrily Friedlander and Patty Skiffington wrote letters about him to the School Board when it was weighing him against the contenders from all the other FCPS high schools.

Because he had to take so many ESOL classes, this is Castro's fifth year at Westfield. But this year, he only needed to take English 11 and 12, plus government. He's also

aided other ESOL students there.

"Juan's helpful with them when they come here with no English," said Harris. "He interprets for them, shows them around the school and helps them with their English in their [beginning] ESOL classes."

To compete for the character award, Castro had to write about five activities he does daily that mean the most to him. He wrote about church, clubs,

SEE WESTFIELD ESOL, PAGE 5

Principal Jagels: Words of Advice

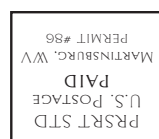
BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

At the start of Mountain View High's graduation ceremony, last Friday, June 15, Assistant Principal Gary Morris told the seniors, "Do not follow where the path may lead. Instead, go where there is no path

and leave a trail."

At the ceremony's end, 83 students held their diplomas, turned the tassels on their caps and celebrated with family and friends. Soon, they'd make their way in the world as high-school graduates. But first, Principal Dave Jagels reviewed the hurdles they'd already

SEE PRINCIPAL JAGELS, PAGE 7



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NEWS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

From left are former SYA player Sara Berrios, RulyScapes Operations Manager Marco Lavayen, SYA President Gary Flather and RulyScapes General Manager Raul Berrios with RulyScapes field-crew members.

Local Businesses Build Playground

Children may now play in a brand-new playground at the SYA youth sports complex, "Fields of Dreams," off Bull Run Post Office Road in Centreville. It was built by RulyScapes Inc. of Centreville, Denison Landscaping, JK Enterprises and John Deere Landscapes, which all sponsored a recent National Hispanic Landscape Alliance National Day of Service there.

The nonprofit SYA is comprised of youth athletes, coaches, parents, grandparents and young siblings, many of whom are Hispanics. And NHLA members, RulyScapes and Denison Landscaping, took the lead in donating materials and organizing the project.

They each contributed more than \$3,000 in materials, plus labor, to construct a 40x60-foot playground with swings and slides, plus low-ground-level activities, such as a balance beam, tunnel and see-saw to provide entertainment for children of various ages.

In addition, John Deere Landscapes contributed 260 50-pound bags of lime, valued at \$1,425, and JK Enterprises donated \$462 worth of wood chips. Total value of all the contribution was more than \$8,000. Besides helping SYA provide another recreational outlet for area children, NHLA also participated to draw attention to the environmental and health benefits of the roughly seven acres of natural-grass fields.

"We feel very proud that we could have accom-

plished this project in such a short period of time," said RulyScapes General Manager Raul Berrios. "We are grateful to the other landscape companies that have supported this event to make it happen for the benefit of the youth in our area."

— BONNIE HOBBS



From left are Sara Berrios, Gary Flather, Raul Berrios and Marco Lavayen.

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Overcoming Obstacles To Achieve Success

FROM PAGE 1

but nothing worked," she said. "I still weighed over 400 pounds."

So in October 2008, she had gastric-bypass surgery – followed by severe complications. She couldn't attend school for four months and fell behind in her schoolwork. "The anger I had from being obese was still in me, and I needed to turn it into motivation and drive," she said. "I wanted to graduate on time, so I came to Mountain View."

Khaliq had her family's support and, at Mountain View, she found a whole community that believed in her, as well. "The entire faculty showed me I could do it," she said. Then in 2010, she joined the Fairfax County Police Department's Explorer Program to train for "what I want to do as a career — help and defend people in need. I know I can make a difference." She received a 2011-12 FCPS Leadership and Peace Award.

"Every one of us at Mountain View has obstacles," said Khaliq. "We either work long hours, have children to care for or struggle with the language. But many have made honor roll, passed the SOLs, participated in school activities and achieved academic success. Our teachers cared about us and we made friends who did not judge us."

The school's motto is "Family, love and respect." And Khaliq said the respect comes from "all of us knowing we could face obstacles and work to achieve something positive in our lives. As we go through life, we'll face other challenges; but if we respect ourselves and others, we'll be able to overcome them because of our experience at Mountain View."

The next speaker, Maria Hernandez, is originally from El Salvador, where she grew up on a farm. "For most people, fighting is considered negative, but I had to fight for success," she said. "And as a child, I just had to fight — I had 11 brothers and sis-



All smiles after Mountain View's graduation are (from left) Nancy Abbott and daughter Stephanie with Zack Hansen and his mother Amy. All Chantilly residents, the Abbotts live in Brookfield and the Hansens live in Hunters Run. Friends Stephanie and Zack attended Rocky Run Middle School together.

ters."

At age 10, she'd rise early to cook breakfast for her siblings so they could work in the fields with her father. Then, she said, "I'd do laundry, catch a chicken and wring its neck so we could have lunch." But she wanted more out of life. When she was 16, one of her sisters had already moved to the U.S., and Hernandez wanted to go, too.

"My mother didn't want me to leave," she said. "But she supported my dream and, finally, she said she believed in me. So I moved to Virginia to live with my sister and her husband." But Hernandez spoke no English and worked 10 hours a day cleaning huge homes with movie theaters and swimming pools.

"I told myself I'd have a house like that someday if I worked hard and got a good education," she said. "So when I was 18, I moved to Herndon to attend Mountain View." Hernandez worked in a restaurant in Reston and, today, has risen to an administrative position there.

"It was a challenge to go to school and work at the same time," she said. "But I read my books and studied and made All-A Honor Roll; I received two awards and was happy and proud of myself."

Hernandez had been afraid to speak in front of large groups of people, but Principal Dave Jagels and Assistant Principal Gary Morris encouraged her. "They believed in me and told me I could do it," she said. "And



Sarah Michelle Khaliq, graduating senior from Mountain View Alternative High School, describes some of the obstacles she overcame to earn her diploma during the school's commencement ceremony on June 15, held in the Oakton High School auditorium.

whenever a teacher or student needed my help, I said yes."

"I was able to use my knowledge and work ethic to achieve my goal — a high-school education — and I'm the first of all my siblings to get one," she continued. "If I was still in El Salvador, I'd be milking cows and fighting to stay safe from the gangs. Instead, I'm graduating from high school and have transformed from a shy, simple girl to a professional woman with a bright future."

After the two speeches, five students received special awards from the Mountain View faculty and staff. Honored with Personal Achievement Awards were Julio Ceto, David Hernandez (no relation to Maria) and Gelber Contreras. Daniella Carpio received the Citizenship Award.

Then counselor Ellen Fay presented the Faculty Award to Maria Hernandez. In little

SEE GRADUATES SHARE. PAGE 7



Gelber Contreras Garcia, Julio Ceto Velasco and David Hernandez (in no particular order) are presented with Personal Achievement Awards by Mountain View Alternative High School English teacher Mary Gray.



Mountain View Alternative High School Assistant Principal gives Faculty Excellence Award recipient, Maria Hernandez Menjivar, a tissue and a grin as Hernandez Menjivar's tears up during the speech that lists her accomplishments at the high school's June 15 commencement held at Oakton High School.

ROUNDUPS

Pellet Gun Injures Students

A boy, 14, and a girl, 13, were struck by shots from a pellet gun last Friday, June 15, outside on the grounds of Rocky Run Middle School. The incident occurred around 10 a.m., and the students were taken to Inova Fair Oaks Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Fairfax County police and school officials immediately secured the school and searched the area. Within 30 minutes, police apprehended four teenagers they believe were involved. They're continuing to investigate and charges are pending. The suspects are juveniles who did not attend Rocky Run.

Police have recovered the pellet gun believed to have been used in the incident. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call police at 703-691-2131.

Low-Cost Rabies Clinic

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter will host a low-cost rabies clinic Sunday, June 24, from 2-4 p.m., at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Cost for rabies shots will be \$12 per dog or cat. All pets will receive a one-year rabies vaccine. To obtain a three-year vaccine, residents must bring their pet's rabies certificate showing the animal's current rabies vaccination and vaccination expiration date.

Rabies certificates will be issued, no tags. All dogs should be on leashes and all cats should be in carriers. Vaccines for ferrets are no longer available at this clinic. Fairfax County 2012 dog licenses will be sold separately at the clinic and cost \$10 per dog. Cash or checks only will be accepted at the clinic, no credit cards.

The clinic is a partnership with the office of Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) and is being hosted by the animal shelter and Deepwood Veterinary Hospital. For more information, call 703-830-1100.

Help Plan Centreville Day

A Centreville Day planning meeting is set for Monday, June 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Local residents are encouraged to help create this fun-filled community event on Saturday, Oct. 20. Help is needed with entertainment, publicity, historical activities and more. Contact Cheryl Repetti at ccf@centrevilleva.org.

Frey at Sully District Council

The Sully District Council of Citizens Associations and its Land-Use Committee will meet Wednesday, June 27, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Call Jeff Parnes, evenings, at 703-904-0131.

Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) will discuss the state of the Sully District. The panel will also learn about a proposed, independent-living development with medical-care facilities. It would be on Centreville Road next to Rachel Carson Middle School.

Park Authority to Meet

The Fairfax County Park Authority will meet Wednesday, June 27, at 7:30 p.m., in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 900 in Fairfax. Call Judy Pedersen at 703-324-8662.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, June 28, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

However, because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

GRADUATION '12



Centreville scholar Young A. Shin leads a column of her classmates into the Patriot Center.



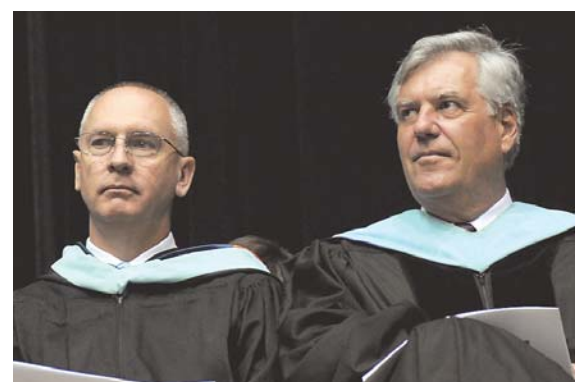
Chris Padgett gives the commencement address in his favorite sports attire, golfing attire.

Centreville Grads Bid Farewell

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CENTRE VIEW



Sage Coury and Jessica Peltier sing a musical selection from the musical *Wicked*, "For Good."



Centreville Principal Michael S. Campbell and Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Dale.



Taking their places on the stadium floor, seniors look up to the monitors to watch their classmates enter the arena.



Director of student services Dave Paganin announces the student chosen for the 2012 Centreville High School Faculty award, Chantelle Avery Tait.

SCHOOLS

Westfield ESOL Student Thrives and Succeeds

FROM PAGE 1

school, family and community.

His church is Asambleas de Dios Vida in Manassas. He started attending there five years ago and works with the youth group and plays drums with the band during Saturday and Sunday services. He also goes to Tuesday Bible study.

At school, Castro works with the Edge Club, a Christian club that meets Mondays after school. The 20-25 student members sing, play games and have Bible study and guest speakers. "I founded it two years ago so students could develop a connection with Jesus," he said. "They go to their own churches and, if they have problems, we all talk about them and give them help and support."

And when Principal Tim Thomas implemented a program whereby Hispanic seniors helped underachieving Hispanic freshmen, Castro was a mentor. "I told them I also struggled, my freshman year, but now I'm doing well," he said. "It made me feel good to be able to help them, and now they're doing better and want to be mentors, too." He also mentored ESOL students in Friedlander's class in his free time.

"When I first came from El Salvador to California, where my father lives, someone helped me, so I wanted to help others," said Castro. "I tell them not to give up because, even if you fail, at least you've tried. It makes you stronger and, next time, you might succeed." When learning English, he said, "The best thing for me was practicing and asking my English-speaking friends how to say things correctly."

Castro also tries to be a role model for his younger siblings. For example, he said, "I don't just tell them — I show them, 'Don't smoke or skip classes.'" He lives with his mother, stepfather, three brothers and one sister in Centreville's London Towne community. He's the oldest, and his brothers are

19, 14 and 11; his sister is 16.

"My two youngest brothers just came here two months ago from El Salvador," said Castro. "They were living with my grandmother for 10 years; and before they came, my mom was saving money to bring them here."

So to help her out, Castro sold his iPad and gave her the proceeds. "She was surprised and really happy and emotional; she started crying," he said. "Then my oldest brother did the same thing, and that helped, too."

He's a good neighbor, too. Every Thursday afternoon, he helps his 80-year-old neighbor carry in her groceries and do various chores. This year, he also revamped her garden; he cleaned it, mulched, planted flowers, grass and bushes and transformed it from overgrown to attractive.

As if all that weren't enough, Castro's a student at two schools. Besides attending classes at Westfield, he's taking Auto Tech I and is in his third year of carpentry at The Chantilly Academy. He's also learning electrical work and plumbing and would like to someday be a carpenter and own his own company.

School Board Chairman Janie Strauss called him personally to tell him he'd won the character award. "I was so happy and surprised," he said. "I'm thankful, but I believe God has control of everything. I have a close relationship with God and I believe I won because He's in my life."

Castro said there were many gangs in El Salvador when he lived there and he figured he'd join one. "My best friend did, and someone from another gang killed him," he said. "I was 13 then; my parents were in the U.S. and I was living with my grandmother. I went to school in the afternoon and worked in a supermarket in the morning."

One day, the gang members called his

"Juan's the kind of kid you hope your son grows up like."

— Dan Harris



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSE SANDOVAL

The proud family (from left): stepfather Jose Rivera, brother Armando Castillo, Juan Castro, brother Javier Castillo and mother Carmen Rivera.

house, demanding \$7,000. Since his parents were in America, explained Castro, they thought he could get the money from them. Instead, his parents brought him, his sister and oldest brother to the U.S. to remove them from the danger.

"Once I started going to church, I could

see there's a plan and a purpose to everything," he said. "That's because, if I'd stayed in El Salvador, I could be dead. And once I accepted Jesus in my heart, I began changing and good things started happening. I saw things differently, and now I can help other students."


Turbok Wins TurnAround Life Award

At MountainView Alternative High School's senior luncheon on June 13, Casey Turbok won the \$1,000 TurnAround Life Award. "This financial award can give the student a jumpstart on the next leg of their life's journey," said Lauren Kirby, TurnAround, LLC, president. "It's intended to recognize their graduation achievement and help the student enroll in further education, pay on a debt, or get into a car or apartment. With Casey's award, TurnAround Life has awarded \$10,000 to MountainView seniors." Casey plans to use the funds to enroll at Northern Virginia Community College for the fall semester. To learn more about TurnAround Life, visit www.turnaroundllc.com and click on TurnAround Life



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OPINION

Summer Projects

Reader input needed for community guides, Pet Centre View.

The summer is in full swing at the Centre View, with many interns and staff members focused on some light and some more serious summer projects.

At the end of July, we'll print our summer "Pet Centre View," and we invite readers to send in stories and photos of your pets, and any story ideas you might have. We love to have photos of you or other family members with your pets. Please include your name, pet's name, town name and contact phone number, and identify the people in any photos.

Email centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Through July we will be working on our annual Insider's Edition: Newcomers and Community Guide, which will publish Aug. 22. We need input from our readers on many aspects of this guide.

Through narrative, tips from readers, listings, viewpoints and photographs, we endeavor to capture what it means to live here. We'll compile highlights of places to visit and things to do, a snapshot of local history, help finding community resources and tips on lesser known wonders in our communities.

EDITORIAL

As a local, weekly newspaper, the Centre View's mission is to bring the news you need about your community, to give you the information you need to enjoy the best things in and near your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

We invite newcomers to the area and long-time residents alike to be a part of providing more reader input.

We appreciate readers' ideas. If you see something that you think might be a story, or something you have a question about, give us a call, or drop us a line. If you know of a person or an organization doing important work, something that might make a good feature story, let us know.

For our Insider's Guide, we are looking for your tips. What is one place you think is a "must see" for newcomers? What's your suggestion for ways to get involved in the community?

What are you most concerned about in your community? What do you think the top news stories will be in the coming months?

We also need input from community organizations to update listings and upcoming events. Send information by Aug. 1 to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com.



The students at Centre Ridge Elementary School School Age Child Care build a juice box boat for the 23rd Cardboard Boat Regatta at Lake Accotink Park on June 3.

Ship Shape?

Fifty boats competed in the 23rd Cardboard Boat Regatta at Lake Accotink Park on June 3 as part of the Springfield Days Celebration. All shapes and sizes, the boats had to be made entirely of cardboard, only glued or taped at the seams. The judging panel included Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay and Braddock District Supervisor John Cook. Awards were given for: Pride of the Regatta, Best Costume, Team Spirit, Most Likely To Float and the Titanic.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW



Team Lees Corner Elementary School SACC (School Age Child Care) prepares to launch their "California Rollin'" cardboard boat. They spent two months building the boat — and practicing their paddling techniques on the couch in the SACC room-in preparation for the event.

CENTREVIEW

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
centreview@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter, 703-778-9438
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Steve Hibbard
Associate Editor, 703-778-9412
shibbard@connectionnewspapers.com

Rich Sanders
Sports Editor, 703-224-3031
rsanders@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
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Karen Washburn
Display Advertising, 703-778-9422
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Janis Swanson
Display Advertising, 703-778-9423
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Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
John Smith
Production Manager:
Jean Card
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Linda Pecqueux
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper

GRADUATION '12

Graduates Share Their Stories

FROM PAGE 3

more than five years, said Fay, Hernandez “completely mastered” a new language and a new culture, while working almost full time, volunteering in her church and maintaining a nearly straight-A average.

“These achievements would be admirable, in and of themselves,” said Fay. “But they’re truly remarkable when one realizes the many obstacles she’s overcome — including, at times, being homeless and finding transportation to and from work and school, since she doesn’t have a car.”

Now Hernandez hopes to become a doctor and, said Fay, “She tells me she wants to work in the inner city where so many children and adults go without medical care.” She applied for and won almost \$18,000 in college scholarships, and our faculty unanimously selected her to be the 2012 Faculty Award winner.”

Then, as several audience members wiped tears from their eyes, they all rose and gave Hernandez a standing ovation. Said Fay: “Maria, we are all so proud of you.”



Diego Gonzalez Cedillo reaches out to shake Mountain View Alternative High School Principal Dave Jagels' hand and receive his diploma.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW



Maria Hernandez Menjivar tears up as Mountain View Alternative High School guidance counselor Ellen Fay describes why the faculty chose Hernandez Menjivar to receive the Faculty Excellence award.

Principal Jagels: Words of Advice

FROM PAGE 1

overcome to reach that point.

Noting Wounded Warrior Justine Constantine, who addressed Mountain View government classes this spring, Jagels said that – despite being severely injured in the Iraq war – Constantine overcame his challenges to help others. He did so, said Jagels, because of his grit, or indomitable spirit.

Similarly, said the principal, “Mountain View is a place where students with grit find success and overcome obstacles so overwhelming, one would think success would never be possible. Some [students here] today came to this country a few short years ago with little schooling, without parents and with little English.”

Others, he said, juggled parenthood with school-work. Others overcame addiction, homelessness and

other obstacles. Yet because of their grit and that of the faculty, they’re graduating. “I see grit in a staff willing to pick up students at home to make sure they have a ride to school,” said Jagels. “I see staff providing food so students can eat, visiting homes to make sure everything’s OK, driving students to college placement tests and mentoring them ‘just because it’s the right thing to do.’”

Passion for the mission and dedication to achieve it make Mountain View what it is, said Jagels. “Students, take your determination and grit and go do amazing things with your life,” he said. “Let our motto of Family, Love and Respect be character traits you carry with you.

Class of 2012, we’re proud of you and your grit and of what you’ve accomplished and overcome to be here today.”



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CENTRE VIEW SOUTH ♦ JUNE 21-27, 2012 ♦ 7

SCHOOLS

Family Science Night At London Towne Elementary



Gunalan Senthil participated in one of the most popular activities, creating “Slime” which taught students about polymers and elastomers.

Children’s Science Center brought “Museum Without Walls/Mobile Labs” to London Towne Elementary School in April as a Family Science Night.

The London Towne staff, teachers, PTA and parents volunteered their time to work at stations for hands-on activities: “Great Shakes!” Our Unstable Planet: Understanding Earthquake Basics; Autumn Leaves: Why Do Leaves Change Color in the Fall?; Aviation: Engineering and Flight; Balloon Rocket Cars; Chemical Reactions: CO2 Balloons; Drink This, Not That!; Engineer a Lunar Lander; Fossils; Saltwater Density; Slime!, and Strong Bubbles.

CSC’s community partner, the Junior League of Northern Virginia, assisted with the evening’s program. The 11 different stations were designed for volunteers to self-guide their students through the activities.



Gabriel and Maria Franco along with Deurim Lee created paper airplanes at the “Aviation: Engineering and Flight” station.



Anna Baylock and her mom Maria create the propulsion for a “Balloon Rocket Car.”



Teachers Penni Skiba and Mayra Olmeda along with a representative from the Children’s Science Museum blew bubbles at the “Strong Bubbles” station.



Sixth grade teacher Jennifer Reynolds demonstrates the “Great Shakes” activity to Takumi and Nao Ishibashi. The station used a slinky and other visual aids along to provide an understanding of earthquake basics.



The Lucas Family along with Sophia Nortz participate in a “Fossils” activity that demonstrates how archeologists and paleontologists uncover bones and fossil imprints from earth.



Teachers Kaleigh Klemm and Diane Stevens along with a representative from the Children’s Science Center worked at the “Drink This Not That” station. This activity taught the children about the pH levels in drinks and demonstrated the effect they have on teeth and oral health.

Middle school science teacher Robert Davis teaches campers during a "Physics is Fun" camp at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School's SummerTimes program. "Specialty camps provide an opportunity for campers to explore particular areas of interest and foster discovery, adventure and learning," said Jim Supple, director of summer programs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. STEPHEN'S & ST. AGNES SCHOOL

Making the Most of Summer

Advice for planning warm weather activities for children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
CENTRE VIEW

"I'm bored, there's nothing to do," is a phrase often uttered by children during the summer. The end of the school year leaves many parents scrambling for activities to keep their young ones active and stimulated. Experts say it is important to plan activities to keep children safe and out of trouble.

"Adult supervision is important, especially for the younger age groups. Make sure there is a good balance between fun and learning in the activities chosen," said Chantilly resident Maria Londono, a mental health therapist for Fairfax County Community Health Care Network and Molina Health Care in Falls Church, Alexandria and Reston. "Children should also have some down time, so don't kill yourself trying to fill every minute of the day with activities."

WHEN IT COMES TO CAMPS, think outside the box. While traditional day camps often fill as soon as registration opens, specialty camps such as cooking camps, yoga camps, sports camps and art camps frequently offer more availability.

"With specialty camps you can have a clear idea of what your child will be doing and your child will know what to expect," said Linda Feldman, director of Budding Yogis camp. "Like traditional camps, specialty camps usually include crafts and outdoor activities."

"Specialty camps provide an opportunity for campers to explore particular areas of interest and foster discovery, adventure and learning," said Jim Supple, director of summer programs at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria.

George Mason University's Summer Camps and Youth Programs 2012 offers a variety of activities ranging from sports to academics.

"Each of [our] camps is run individually and all of the camps are listed on our website," said Angelique LeBlanc, an event coordinator at the school's office of University Information. "One of the most popular of our camps is the George Mason University Forensics Camp. Also popular are all of the camps that are held at the aquatics center, and our performing arts

and music camps."

KEEP LEARNING IN THE MIX. The National Summer Learning Association reports that most students fall more than two months behind in math skills during the summer.

Susan Goldberg, principal of Potomac Elementary School in Potomac, says that educational tools are all around. "Make math a part of everyday experiences. There are interesting and fun websites, games and problem solving activities that can insure that your child continues their love of learning," she said.

Don't forget literature. Experts say that children should read every day. "If you take time to read alongside or to your children, they will make it a life-long habit, and they'll enrich their lives at the same time," said Goldberg.

Take advantage of summer programs at local libraries. "Check your local libraries for story times and arts-and-crafts-related activities. Most libraries and community recreational centers have programs full of stimulating and age-appropriate activities for children and their families during the summer," said Londono.

LEAVE TIME FOR FAMILY ACTIVITIES. "Keep in mind that summer is a time for fun and a break from the routine," said Susan DeLaurentis, director of counseling at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School. "Whatever activities parents plan for their children, they should be enjoyable and stress-free. When it's too hot outside, or on a rainy day, pitch a tent in the living room and go 'camping' indoors. Have a bag ready, filled with new board games and books."

Summer fun doesn't have to be expensive. "There are always low cost or free activities for children during the summer," said Londono. "[Many] area museums are free of cost. [Planning] a picnic at a park and having children involved in the preparation of the picnic basket can be fun. A family bike ride, fishing, camping can be all fun family-oriented activities that don't necessarily involve a lot of spending. Including children in the preparation of meals can be a fun and helpful activity year-round because it gets them interested in food and keeps them involved in helping around the house."



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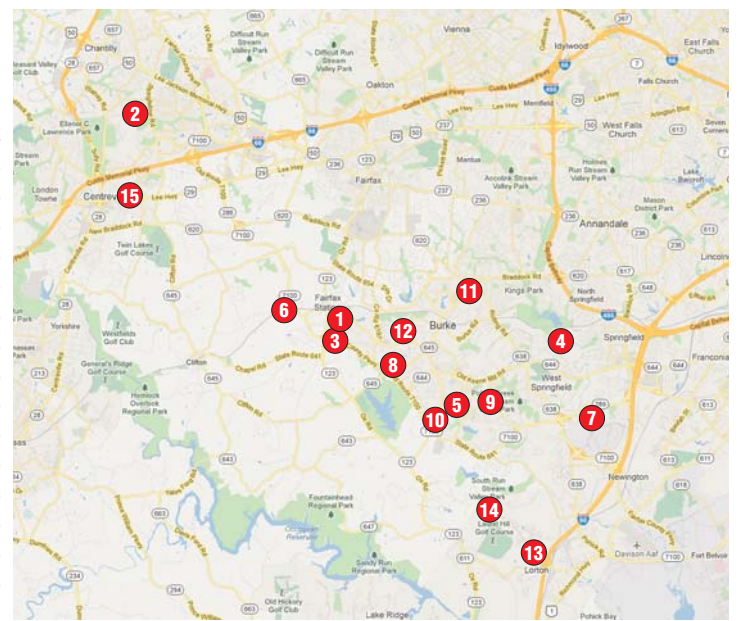
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PEOPLE



Lacrosse Champions

The SYA 5th/6th Girls B team captured the Northern Virginia Youth Lacrosse League Championship on Sunday, June 10 vs. Fort Hunt. The Lady Warriors are coached by Jeff Marciano, assisted by Holly Richbourg and Bob Monroe. The team was comprised of Alison Carbaugh, Carolyn Carbaugh, Carly Duncan, Alexis Everitt, Elizabeth Fox, Delaney Golian, Callie Grimes, Kelly Hyde, Mmackanzie Karl, Emily Marciano, Nicole McNamara, Maggie Monroe, Jaimi Pollack, Madison Purvis, Paige Richbourg and Catherine Sullivan.



MILITARY NOTES

U.S. Navy Ensign **Sean A. Cruz** of Clifton, son of Captain Paul A. Cruz, USN (Ret.) and Lieutenant Commander Tricia K. Cruz, USN (Ret.), graduated with merit from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. on May 29 and was commissioned as an Officer in the U.S. Navy.

Cruz successfully completed four years of academic, physical, and professional training, resulting in a bachelor of science degree with honors with a major in systems engineering.

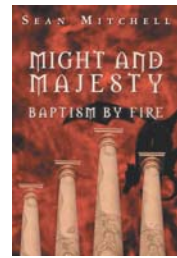
As a graduate of the Naval Academy, Cruz completed a four-year, immersion program focused on the educational needs of the Navy and Marine Corps in a military training environment emphasizing the development of leadership skills.

Cruz served as the drum major of the U.S. Naval Academy Drum and Bugle Corps, among other leadership positions within the Brigade of Midshipmen. Following graduation, Cruz has been assigned to Charleston, S.C. where he will attend Nuclear Power school.

Cruz is a 2008 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria.

Local Author Publishes Novel

“Might and Majesty: Baptism by Fire” is the first book of a new trilogy by Sean Mitchell, a 22-year-old Centreville resident who published the fantasy novel earlier this year through the self-publishing company, CreateSpace. His book, which he wrote while attending Virginia Commonwealth University, centers on the character, Lloyd, a small-town fisherman who gets involved in the evil doings of a power-hungry kingdom.



With his desire to fight against those who threaten his home and the help he receives from three friends from different lands and backgrounds, Lloyd travels the world to fight the evil forces of the kingdom Thundria. “Might and Majesty” is available for purchase on Amazon.com, Kindle and exclusively online at Barnes and Noble. Mitchell is currently finishing his degree in sociology at VCU and continuing to market his book.

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SCHOOLS



These students are representing the Best Orchestra nomination.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Westfield's nominees for Critics Team; Graduating Critic, **Joey Biagini**; and Rising Critic, **Julian Sanchez**. (Not pictured, **Serena Emanuel**).

Westfield Thespians Receive Cappie Medallions

Westfield High received 20 Cappie nominations for its musical, "Crazy for You." On Wednesday, May 30, school Principal Tim Thomas and Director Susie Pike presented the Cappie medallions to the nominees.



From left are **Bryan Pitt**, **Erica Schmidt**, **Allie Koenigsberg** and **Alex Mann**. Schmidt is one of Director Susie Pike's Cappie Commendees; the others (not pictured) are **John McGuigan**, **Elizabeth Coo** and **Jordan Vollenweider**. Pitt, Koenighberg and Mann are representing Westfield's Best Musical nomination.



Acting, dancing and choreography award nominees are (from left) **Mitchell Buckley**; **Madeleine Bloxam**; **Corinne Holland**, **Featured Dancer**; **Colby Dezelick**, **Lead Actor in a Musical and Choreography**; **Sarah Schweit**, and **Joey Biagini**.



Lights, Sound and Props nominees are (back row, from left) **Robert Palack**, **Ben Nelms**, **Elizabeth Ross** and **Dieter Stach** and (front row) **Nate Schrader** and **Sophia Alam**. (Not pictured, **Sarah Dickenson** and **Arianna Willis**).

Follies and Cowboys, Westfield's Cappie nominees for Ensemble in a Musical.



From left: **Costumes nominees Zoe Hawryluk** and **Bayleigh Aschenbrenner** with **Sets nominees Brandon Sanchez**, **Olivia Witt** and **Colby Dezelick**.



Stage Crew nominees (from left) Shannon Douglass, **Ally Engelbrecht** and **Olivia Witt**. (Not pictured, **Serena Emanuel**).



PHOTO COURTESY OF CENTREVILLE HIGH

The digging begins! From left to right, Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully); Centreville High Principal Mike Campbell; Kyle McDaniel, legislative aide to Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield); parent Tom Healy; Tom Culleiton of the CVHS Wildcat Booster Club (red shirt); and Richard Simmons of Money Mailer, Inc.

Artificial Turf Fields Underway at CVHS

Six months after winning the VHSL Northern Region Div. 6 football championship, and returning to the VHSL AAA Div. 6 Virginia State Championship for the first time in 12 years, Centreville High School celebrated an exciting sports milestone — the beginning of installation of two new artificial turf fields — by holding a ground-breaking ceremony on Monday afternoon, June 11, on the current high school football field.

Hosted by Director of Student Activities Jimmy Sanabria and head football coach Chris Haddock, and attended by Centreville High students, six distinguished gentlemen, all instrumental in the successful fundraising to procure the two fields at a cost of \$1.2 million, were handed golden shovels and invited to dig up part of the grass field that will soon be replaced by state-of-the-art turf material.

The six who participated in the groundbreaking were: Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully); Centreville High School Principal Mike Campbell; Kyle McDaniel, legislative aide to Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield); parent Tom Healy; Richard Simmons of Money Mailer, Inc.; and Tom Culleiton of the CVHS Wildcat Booster Club.

Although unable to attend, Supervisor Herry issued this statement regarding the construction:

"This is a great day for Centreville High School. A new turf field will be an asset to the students that go there, as well as others in the sporting community. Supervisor Frey and I were happy to be able to help find the funds to help make this great day a reality. I look forward to coming back in a few months to see the new field in action.

"It will encourage kids to get outside and get in-

involved in sports whether it be through the school or with a local club, helping to promote both a healthy lifestyle and also the values of teamwork, courage and discipline that go hand in hand with team sports. As a former youth sports coach of rugby, ice hockey, and swimming I fully understand the importance of youth sports and supported this initiative right from the start."

The groundbreaking for the two new turf fields is the culmination of a successful fundraising campaign throughout the 2011-2012 school year, which has included two major fundraising initiatives by the Centreville High Student Activities Department and tireless efforts of many volunteers from the high school community.

The fields will be used by the Centreville Wildcats sports programs, but are also expected to be a help to the Southwest Youth Association (SYA) and other groups throughout the Clifton/Centreville area. The dearth of artificial fields, usable no matter how many rain events occur in short order, has caused numerous instances of athletic directors, soccer coordinators, and myriad other personnel scrambling to find available time on non-grass surfaces.

This issue was particularly troublesome in mid-September last year when a torrent of rain from the remnants of Hurricane Irene in late August were succeeded by a deluge on Sept. 8 that left the region drowning and sports schedules turned upside down.

Construction is expected to commence immediately on the fields, and the grand-opening ceremony is slated for Friday, Aug. 31, at 6:15 p.m. as the Wildcats begin the Fall 2012 football season defending their Div. 6 region title.

SPORTS NOTES

The Brookfield Breakers are looking forward to an exciting swim season as they prepare to compete in NVSL Div. 10. More than 180 swimmers have joined the team, with many new families participating in swim team for the first time.

Mary Kate Kenna returns this season as head coach and is work-

ing with assistant coaches William Schulte and Mikayla Lynn. Stephanie Proctor has also been selected as coach to the Mini-Breakers program. Each of the coaches is a current Breakers or alumni. They are excited to continue many Breaker traditions on the team.

Sue Proctor and Paula

Shervanick are the Breakers Team Representatives and they are working to make it an enjoyable season for all.

The Breakers will travel to Villa Aquatic for their first NVSL meet on June 23. On June 24, Brookfield will be hosting their

SEE SPORTS, PAGE 15

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Where To Begin?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I realize this admission may sound weird, but having cancer is boring. Don't get me wrong, I'm lucky to be alive, and quite happy about it, too. But waiting for the other shoe to drop, i.e. some bad cancer news to appear (lab work, scan, advisory from my oncologist), is tiresome because it's always so worrisome. Since I've been told by my oncologist that he "can't cure me, he can only treat me," in spite of what above-average and atypical results and life expectancy I've experienced diagnosis-to-date (three years and three months, approximately), I don't, nor have I ever, enjoyed the luxury of time, even though I was diagnosed at a relatively early age: 54 and five months.

As much as I have assimilated this new reality into my current and future plans, its severity is difficult to ignore, despite my best efforts. The "inescapability" of the diagnosis and prognosis wears on me. Though relatively asymptomatic, there are still daily reminders, and recurring responsibilities: appointments, lab work, diagnostic scans, pills, diet, lifestyle changes, etc., which reinforce the facts of my case: though I have now outlived my original "13-month to two-year" prognosis by a substantial amount of time, the percentage of stage IV lung cancer patients who survive beyond five years (from date of diagnosis) is hardly worth mentioning, because it's extremely discouraging (quite a bit less in fact than those who are fortunate enough to outlive their original diagnosis). And so whatever luxury of time I may have naively felt 39 months ago when first diagnosed, I no longer feel, naively or otherwise. The other shoe has not exactly dropped, nor is it fitting comfortably, if you know what I mean.

And grateful as I am that life goes on, so too do all the associated fears and anxieties. Outliving your prognosis is one thing; managing all the emotions that come with exceeding that prognosis is quite another. It's impossible – for me, to leave well enough alone. Surviving for as long as I have creates a sort of inevitability; at some point, sooner rather than later presumably, a metaphorical fan is going to be involved and I'll be in a great deal more trouble than I've been in diagnosis-to-date. Understanding and expecting it are the currency I've utilized in a never-ending effort to not cash-in my chips prematurely. However, there are certain forces at work here that are likely out of my control, and probably even uncontrollable on my best day, despite my most vigorous efforts and intentions, that are likely greasing the skids on which every day I try to stand and deliver. There's only so much I can do, though.

Accepting my limitations and not worrying about them makes for a perplexing existence. Giving it to them may be a sign of weakness or submission, but not doing so might be a sign of stupidity. Either way, my goal should be about limiting the stress brought on by all this cancer-related/cancer-driven emotional churning. If only it were that simple.

Of late though, for the first part of year four post-diagnosis, focusing on the future without considering the present – as it relates to my original prognosis, seems irresponsible somehow. I can't ignore the facts all the time, can I? Cancer is a serious, often times terminal business (don't I know it) and pretending that life goes merrily along without any wear, especially wear that's been worn for three-plus years, seems a fool's errand. But maybe not? Who knows? I certainly don't. And that's what really worries me.

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

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PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURI HILBURGER

Brookfield Breakers coaches, from left: William Schulte, Mikayla Lynn and Mary Kate Kenna.

FROM PAGE 13

annual Swim-A-Thon, with Breakers and their families swimming laps to raise funds in the fight against breast cancer.

Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax has announced that **Bob Waters** is the new boys' lacrosse head coach. Waters has been coaching in Northern Virginia since 1990 and most recently served as the assistant varsity head coach at Chantilly High School where, over the past six years, he helped lead the Chargers to four VHSL state finals appearances, a state championship in 2008, and an overall record of 86-14. Coach Waters played collegiately at the University of Delaware, where he was named All-Conference on three occasions and served as the team captain for the Blue Hens. Waters recently took early retirement from Northrop Grumman, where he was employed in a variety of management and leadership roles. He is also the Executive Director of the FuZe Lacrosse Club and has successfully helped numerous student-athletes with the college recruiting process for over seven years.

"We are extremely excited about having Coach Waters lead our program to the next level," remarked Paul VI Athletic Director Billy Emerson. "We were looking for someone with a strong background in lacrosse, leadership and management. He has all three. Coach Waters' belief in multisport athletes, his knowledge of the game and his track record of success made him the perfect fit for our program."

Zack Sikora, a senior at Centreville High School, recently gained All-American recognition in high school boys' lacrosse. A Centreville High team captain, Sikora finished this past spring season with 44 goals and 50 assists in only 15 games and was also named to both the First Team All-Concorde District and First Team All-Northern Region squads. He also was named Offensive Player of the Year for the Concorde District.

Sikora played on the Centreville varsity team for four years. He was named the Wildcats' Offensive MVP for his sophomore, and earned Team MVP honors in both his junior and senior years.

Sikora has committed to play college lacrosse at Rutgers University this fall.

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Summer Camp. For ages 3 to rising 9th graders. Teen Camp for rising 10th graders to rising 12th graders. At Mount Olive Baptist Church, 6600 Old Centreville Road, Centreville.

FRIDAY/JUNE 22

Benefit Concert. 7:30-9 p.m. New York Philharmonic Cellist Wei Yu in Concert to benefit Sudan Sunrise, www.sudansunrise.org. Tickets not required, a freewill offering will be taken with net proceeds to benefit Sudan Sunrise. Truro Anglican

Church is located at 10520 Main Street, Fairfax. Call 703-273-1300.
Swing Dance. With the bee-hived and polka-dotted Fabulettes. 8:30-9 p.m. drop-in beginner swing lesson; 9 p.m.-midnight dance, \$15. Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon.

SATURDAY/JUNE 23

Pink Day. Meadows Farms will be hosting a fundraiser for the Breast Cancer Research foundation at all locations. They will be selling "Invincible Spirit" Hydrangeas, chosen to represent the cause by Proven Winners, which is donating \$1 for each of the signature hydrangeas sold. Visit www.meadowsfarms.com.

TUESDAY/JUNE 26

Needlework. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Centreville Stitchers welcome adults who enjoy knitting, crocheting, or other needlework crafts and conversation. Join us at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville. Admission is free. Contact Jo at 703-803-0595 or joknitter@verizon.net.

SATURDAY/JULY 7

The Great Zucchini. 10 a.m. Free.

Children's show at E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater, Centreville.

SATURDAY/JULY 14

Obon Festival. 5:30 p.m. Ekoji Buddhist Temple is celebrating its 31st Obon Festival with a full-evening of activities including traditional Japanese folk dancing, a memorial candle ceremony, children's games and a taiko performance by Nen Daiko. On Sunday, July 15, a joint service will be held at 11 a.m. and will be officiated by Rev. Brian Nagata, of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai — America (BDK) visiting from Berkeley, Calif., who will also serve as the guest speaker. Contact information@ekoji.org or www.ekoji.org.

THURSDAY/JULY 19

John McCutcheon. 7:30 p.m. Folk musician at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon.

SUNDAY/JULY 22

Music of the Civil War. 7:30 p.m. Sully Historic Site and Frying Pan Farm Park join together to host a concert of period music in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. At

Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Call 703-437-1794.

SATURDAY/AUG. 4

"The Muppets." 6 p.m. At the Starlight Cinema Drive-in Movies at Trinity Centre in Centreville.

SATURDAY/AUG. 4 & SUNDAY/AUG. 5

Expo. Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax, will present a Women and Children's Expo for professional women in the Grand Court of the center. The Fair Oaks Women and Children's Expo will feature such showcased services as continuing education, women's health care and career opportunities for women, along with enrichment programs for children including private schools, gymnastics, and arts and performance schools. Free and open to the public. Visit www.ShopFair.Oaks.Mall.com or call 703-359-8302.

FRIDAY/AUG. 24 TO SUNDAY/AUG. 26

Conference. Rebuilding Christendom: Towards a Vision of Reconstruction Amidst the Ruins. The Conference will include presentations by 10 speakers, a Friday reception,

Continental breakfast on Saturday, Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, full breakfast on Sunday, Mass on Saturday and Sunday. Early Bird registration of \$150. At the Dulles Marriott Hotel. Visit www.rebuildingchristendom.com to register.

SATURDAY/AUG. 25 & SUNDAY/AUG. 26

Civil War Reenactment. Commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Medical Evacuation of wounded soldiers will be held at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum honoring Clara Barton, "Angel of the Battle Field" and Founder of the Red Cross. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Outside activities are free. Museum fee is \$5 adults; \$1 children 5-10. Under 5 are free. Call 703-425-9225 or visit www.fairfax-station.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 26

Open House. Caring Hands Animal Hospital of Centreville is holding their 16th Annual Open House and Dog Wash from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Open to the public, proceeds will be donated to local animal rescues. 5659 Stone Road, Centreville. Call 703-830-5700.

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Youth Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
(Rev. Bobby J. Ford Jr., Youth Minister)
Holy Communion (Third Sunday) 10:00 AM
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study
and Spiritual Development Courses: 7:00 PM
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