



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

From left are Westfield student directors Catherine Crossett, Gabby Moses, Colin Edner, Hanna Soudah, Morgan Perigard and Julian Sanchez.

Comedy, Drama and a Musical

Westfield High presents Winter One-Act Play Festival.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Comedy, drama and even a full-length musical are all part of Westfield High's Winter One-Act Play Festival. The curtain rises this Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 13-15, at 7 p.m., in the school theater.

Tickets are \$10 for one night, \$18 for any two nights or \$25 for all three nights. Go to www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com. Here's what's on tap:

- ♦ Thursday, Feb. 13: "The Dance" and "Jared"
- ♦ Friday, Feb. 14: "13 Ways to Screw up Your College Interview" and "Suddenly Last Summer"
- ♦ Saturday, Feb. 15: "The Two-Character Play" and "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."

'The Dance'

Sophomore Catherine Crossett is directing "The Dance;" classmate Gabby Moses is assistant direc-

tor. A comedy about a high-school Valentine's Day dance, love and how things can change, it's an ensemble piece with 16 characters.

"There's the popular clique, the awkward couple and the boy-crazy girls," said Moses. The entire Theater II class chipped in story ideas and she wrote the script, which Crossett describes as "witty and heartwarming."

"It's realistic and people will be able to relate to it," said Moses. "These are things that actually do happen in high school."

Having a good time directing, Crossett said, "It's a new experience for me and it's fun. Instead of being an actor, it gives me a new perspective. And it's hard establishing a professional relationship with your peers. But seeing your ideas be put into action onstage is a really cool feeling. And it's interesting being the one giving the directions, instead of receiving them."

'Jared'

Westfield Theater Director Shannon Lynch is guiding "Jared" with help from Assistant Director Morgan Perigard, a sophomore. Featuring a cast of about 12, it focuses on three teens — portrayed by Misha Mullany, Jason Lucas and Keegan Garant — and a therapist, played by Perigard.

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'This School Was My Safe Place'

Mountain View High holds winter graduation.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Students attending Mountain View High aren't like others in Fairfax County. Besides those grappling with language barriers are students who've had to overcome a variety of obstacles to succeed in school.

But with help and guidance from their classmates, teachers, counselors and administrators, 61 of them donned caps and gowns, last Friday, Feb. 7, and filed into Centreville High's auditorium for their school's winter graduation.

"Seniors, it's been an absolute honor to be your principal," said Principal Dave Jagels. "We are so very proud of you."

Then, as is Mountain View's tradition, three students shared their personal stories with those who'd come to the ceremony. They were filled with emotion and left both them and the audience wiping away tears.

First to speak was Abby Fernald. She'd spent three years at her former high school, but things continually worsened for her. "Battling with depression, I began acting out," she said. "So in June, I attended an interest meeting at Mountain View. I was feeling hopeless, but I didn't want to risk failing my senior year."

Starting school in September 2013, Fernald was "frightened



BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Mountain View High School graduation speaker Aya Abdelhalim celebrates with (from left) her aunt, Linda Carter, and her mother, Maha Abdelhalim.

about the decision I'd made. I thought Mountain View was full of mean, rule-breaking students. But instead, I found people who showed me this school would support me and I began to enjoy myself."

She excelled beyond her own expectations and made the honor roll. "I'm now graduating and I owe a huge thanks to my teachers for helping, supporting and encouraging me," she said. "I'm happy for the opportunity to attend such an amazing school."

Gabby Linares had a tough time at her previous high school, too. Right from the start, she was bullied. "The other students called me fat and ugly, and some girls threatened to beat me up," she said. "I sat by myself during lunch, but food was thrown at me. As my jun-

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ROUNDUPS

Assault, Brandishing Firearm

Fairfax County police have charged a 15-year-old Centreville boy with assault by mob and brandishing a firearm. They say the incidents occurred last Saturday, Feb. 8, at 5:38 p.m. in the 14000 block of St. Germain Drive in Centreville.

According to police, a man was driving through a parking lot when someone stepped in front of the vehicle and displayed a gun. The suspect then approached the victim on the driver's side and pointed the weapon through the driver's-side window. The victim was able to wrestle the gun away from the suspect, who then began assaulting the victim.

The victim was able to exit his vehicle when he was additionally assaulted by three accomplices of the suspect. The three accomplices fled upon police arrival, but the victim was able to detain the suspect, the 15-year-old boy. The victim received non-life threatening injuries and didn't require transport to a hospital. Police say the gun was an Airsoft BB gun.

Two Charged: Driving Impaired

On Saturday, Feb. 8, police officers from the Sully District Station patrolled Fairfax County searching for drunk drivers. They charged two drivers with DWI/DUI and issued 12 summonses and four warning. They also levied four criminal charges.

WFCCA Land-Use Meeting

Child care and a cell tower are on tap for the next meeting of the West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee. It's slated for Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly. Agenda items are as follows:

- ❖ An application to provide child care at a home in Centreville's Sequoia Farms community. As proposed, there will be 12 children in the home day care facility.
- ❖ A review of the cell tower proposed on Route 29, near Gate Post Estates in Centreville. It's near the electric station and a variety of other structures are already on that site.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Feb. 13, 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. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Shelter Animals Need Homes

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter invites residents to make Valentine's Day happy for animals needing good homes. Visit the shelter Thursday, Feb. 13, through Saturday, Feb. 15, to enjoy free treats like candy and ice cream, hands-on fun with kittens and puppies and fee-waived adoptions on 10 of the shelter's animals.

The shelter, at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax, is open Tuesday through Friday, noon-7 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Attendees may also learn about opportunities to volunteer and to foster homeless pets.

Recycle During Electric Sunday

Residents may recycle old TVs, computers, peripheral electronic devices — such as keyboards, speakers, printers and scanners, as well as household hazardous wastes — including fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, for free, during Fairfax County's "Electric Sunday" events. The next one is slated for Sunday, Feb. 23, from 10

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NEWS

WHS Presents One-Act Plays

FROM PAGE 1

"The teenagers recently lost a friend to suicide and, by talking about it, they take the audience through their own, personal stories about depression," said Perigard. "It's a drama but, at the end, it gives people hope for the future."

She said it's relatable because "suicide and depression are tough to talk about in high school, but we handle it well. And I think everyone has had something in their lives that's hard to deal with, such as problems with parents, school or friends."

In addition, Westfield took third place in the Jan. 30 VHSL theater competition at Hendon High with this play. "There's a strong ensemble, and we also incorporated aspects of physical theater into it," said Perigard. "I helped do that and did the costumes, too." Regarding directing, she said, "I learned that you have to go with your instincts and do what the director thinks is best."

'College Interview'

A comedy, "13 Ways to Screw up Your College Interview" is directed by senior Colin Edner. "It's about two interviewers who need to get one more student to enroll in their college or they're fired," he said. "The dean still blames them for accepting the pyromaniac who burned down the science center."

There's a cast of about 13 and some roles are double-cast. Playing the interviewers are Selena Clyne-Galindo and Andrew Brockmeyer. Said Edner: "It's funny, fast-paced and farcical, so the audience will really enjoy watching it."

Calling directing challenging, he said, "At first, I had a hard time speaking out for what I wanted and explaining it to the actors. And directors have to keep track of every, single second of the play and how it's going to appear onstage."

'Suddenly Last Summer'

A drama by playwright Tennessee Williams, "Suddenly Last Summer" is directed by senior Hanna Soudah. "It's about a girl in her mid-20s, Catherine, who's been put into a mental asylum by her aunt," she said. "The aunt blames Catherine for her son's death while they were in a foreign country together."

There are seven people in the cast. Elizabeth Coo portrays Catherine; Jake Ehrlich, a doctor at the asylum; and Estella Massey, the aunt. "It's different from the other plays because of the dark subject matter and because the way Catherine describes her cousin's death isn't something anyone would believe," said Soudah. "I think the audience will like this play's oddity and its surprise twist."

Besides that, she added, "My cast is amazing. For example, Stephen Cox joined, the last minute, and picked up his character immediately."

As for directing, Soudah said, "I've absolutely loved it. We're all really good friends, which helps with

the process. And they understand what I mean when I say, 'I need you to do this,' which is fabulous. I also learned that directors have to be patient with people. I love acting, but I'd definitely try my hand at directing again."

'Two-Character Play'

Senior Julian Sanchez is directing Tennessee Williams's "The Two-Character Play," part comedy and part drama. "It's about a brother-and-sister acting duo abandoned in a theater by their acting troupe," said Sanchez. "So, left with an expectant audience, they decide to do an original play of their own, 'The Two-Character Play.'"

Portraying the duo are Brandon Sanchez as Felice and Olivia Witt as Claire. "Over the course of the play, reality and fiction start to blur," said Julian Sanchez. "So you never really know what's the truth and what's fiction onstage."

He said directing this show made him empathize with "the director's plight. You need to elicit the performance you want from your actors without telling them exactly what to do. You walk a fine line so their performance is both natural and structured. I've enjoyed it so

much; I like working closely with my friends and exploring vulnerable places with people I trust."

As for this play, Sanchez said, "I think the audience will enjoy it because it's not a traditional, Williams piece with Southern accents and set in New Orleans. Ours is set in a nonspecific place with high drama."

'Spelling Bee'

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is directed by senior Zack Walsh. "It's a musical and, unlike the other one-acts, we're doing the full, 90-minute show," he said. "It takes place in a school, and some spellers are scripted characters, but others are improvised by people we pull from the audience."

The play has a cast of nine and, during the course of the story, the audience learns about each character's life. "We're having so much fun with it," said Walsh. "The script is excellent and it's one of the funniest shows I've ever seen, but with a heart to it. The songs are entertaining and the improv makes it a constantly changing show."

He's also enjoyed directing. "I've never directed anything this long, or a musical, so it's different and new," he said. "And directing my friends is fun. I learned how much of the show is the director's responsibility and how much effort and time goes into it. I understand better some of the directions that were given to me as an actor, and I think I'll be a better actor now because I was a director."

Walsh noted that this play is "PG-13" because "it's fairly edgy in some of the language and subject matter," and he said the audience should really like it. "My cast is fantastic," said Walsh. "They're hysterically funny and excellent dramatic actors, as well. And they're completely committed to this play; it's really coming together and I couldn't be prouder."



Zack Walsh

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mountain View High Holds Winter Graduation

FROM PAGE 1

ior year began, I was afraid to attend school. That spring, I got beaten up, and a girl broke my glasses while the others laughed.”

By last summer, before her senior year, said Linares, “I was depressed and suicidal because of all the bullying. So I decided to come to Mountain View. I was nervous at first, but I felt welcomed by the staff and students — who were more mature than the students in my other school.”

Initially, Linares expected the bullying to continue at Mountain View, but eventually overcame that fear. “My counselors gave me advice and helped me deal with my problems,” she said. “I now have pride and confidence in myself. Here, the counselors, teachers and administrators take the time to listen to the students and help them.”

She then thanked her mother, Maria, and brother, Fernando, for being “the motivation to get me here today. Being at Mountain View gave me the strength to not give up and to continue school — thank you.”

The final speaker, Aya Abdelhalim, was a track star at her former high school and strived for perfection. “But like the box of a jigsaw puzzle, people only saw my cover,” she said. “They never saw the pieces on the inside.”

Her problems started much earlier, though. The aftermath of a tragedy propelled her into a downward, emotional spiral. “When I was 10 months old, my father was killed in a car accident,” said Abdelhalim. “As I grew up, I felt empty.”

Then, as tears spilled from her eyes, she fell silent, unable to speak. A classmate yelled out, “That’s OK; you can do it,” and the audience began clapping. Composing herself, she resumed. “Not a day goes by,” she said, “when I don’t imagine how my life would have been changed if he’d been here.”

As it was, said Abdelhalim, she started cutting class, lacked the motivation to succeed in school and had “little desire to live.” Making matters worse, she said, “I had seasonal depression. When the weather got colder and darker, I enclosed my depression in a bottle. But it didn’t take long for that bottle to break.”

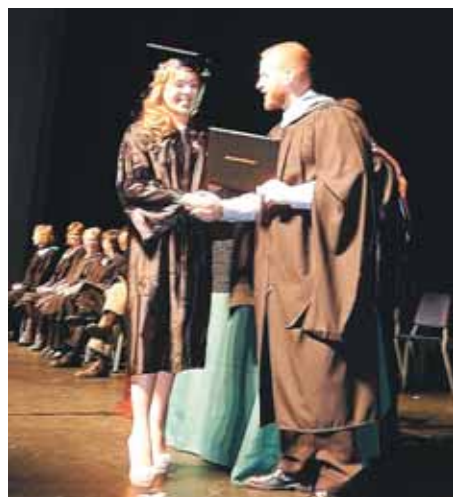


Social Studies Department Chair Pete Garvey presents the Citizenship Award to Abby Fernald.

But in May 2013, she came to Mountain View for a fresh start. “I was determined to do better for myself and in my father’s honor,” she said. “The teachers and administrators made me feel good about myself; this school was my safe place.”

Now, said Abdelhalim, “I’m trying to do better and make better choices.” She then encouraged teachers everywhere to realize that “all students have hopes and dreams, as well as strengths and weaknesses. Like a puzzle, help them put those pieces of themselves together.”

Stepping to the podium after her, Assis-



Grad speaker Gabby Linares receives her diploma from Principal Dave Jagels.

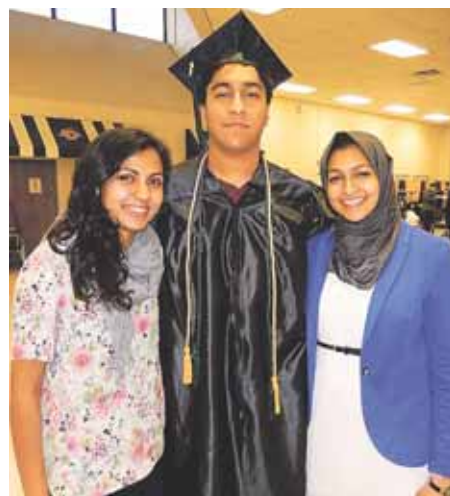


Elena “Chely” Cifuentes receives the Personal Achievement Award from math and social studies teacher Laura Leydon.

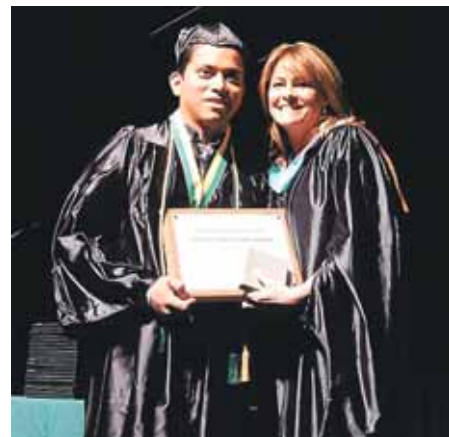
tant Principal Gary Morris choked up, too. “Now you know why we come to school every day,” he said. “To all the parents,



Grad Shamira Howell of Centreville celebrates with (from left) best friend Deja Preston, mom Nancy Palmer, cousin Janeen Sullivan, aunt Lena Sullivan and sister Alexis Palmer.



New grad Shareef Hussam of Sully Station II poses with (from left) cousin Somaiah Ahmed and sister Tasneem Hussam.



Cesar Chavez receives the Faculty Award from math teacher Anne Hoffman.

thank you for sharing your children with us. They’ve achieved so much after overcoming significant obstacles.”



Luis Amaya and his mom, Ana Vasquez, of Centreville’s Sully Station II community, after graduation.

‘Don’t Ever Give Up — Ever’

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Before Mountain View’s graduating seniors received their diplomas last week, Principal Dave Jagels shared some words of wisdom with them.

“As I look out at you, I am in awe of life’s obstacles that some of you overcame to be where you sit today,” he said. “When I look at you, I see courage.”

Jagels said author Malcolm Gladwell describes courage not as something people already have. According to Gladwell, “Courage is what you earn when you’ve been

through the tough times and you discover they aren’t so tough, after all.”

Jagels also quoted resiliency expert Nan Henderson who defined resiliency as “the capacity to spring back, rebound, successfully adapt in the face of adversity, and develop social and academic competence despite exposure to severe stress.” He further noted a large study done of at-risk children from birth to their mid-30s.

He said the ones that bounced back to lead happy and successful lives reported that someone along the way told them things such as, “You matter,” and “It doesn’t matter what you’ve done in the past.” They also

said the most helpful programs provided support similar to an extended family.

Henderson wrote that people rebound from seemingly insurmountable obstacles by drawing upon their own, internal resources and by encountering people, organizations and activities that provide them with conditions fostering the emergence of their resilience.

“I’ve been asked before, ‘How does Mountain View do it? How do we, the Mountain View staff, help students find success?’” said Jagels. “I believe a large part of our success lies within [the school’s motto], ‘Family, love, respect.’”

He told the seniors they’ve had the secrets to success inside them, all along. They just needed to be placed in the right atmosphere and around the right people to see their potential blossom.

“The power of Mountain View is all based on relationships — the ones we have with you and with one another,” said Jagels. “We’re all committed to helping you find success.” He then recognized the teachers.

“I’ve heard some of you seniors say that you wouldn’t be where you are without some of the teachers and staff that are here

Principal offers advice to graduating seniors.

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PEOPLE

She's Working To Build a School in Liberia

Novel to fund effort and raise awareness.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
CENTRE VIEW

Even though Centreville resident Angela Peabody moved to the U.S. from Liberia more than 30 years ago, her heart is still with the people of her birthright country.

Peabody and her sons started the Global Woman PEACE Foundation in 2010 to empower and provide education to young women all over the world, namely for women facing gender-based violence. Earlier this year, Peabody released her novel, "When the Games Froze," to benefit her non-profit organization.

"When the Games Froze" is a story following a young woman's journey from Ghana to an American university, where she copes with a past plagued by genital mutilation, an issue Peabody has always wanted to confront with her non-profit organization. The book hit Amazon.com in early January. All sales will benefit Global Woman, which is in the process of building its first school in Liberia, complete with a girl's dormitory.

"Education is the key to everything," Peabody said. "The only way to empower these girls is through education, even if it means teaching them a trade like hair design, sewing, designing, or gardening. They need something that will give them a career so they will not feel that the only way they can survive is through sex-trafficking."

A COUP D'ÉTAT in Liberia drove Peabody, her husband and two sons out of Liberia in 1980, when rebel forces overthrew the previously established republic.

"There was a bloody coup d'état in 1980, and both my father and father-in-law were government officials when they were alive," Peabody said. "They both had already passed away by 1980; however, [the rebels] were targeting family surnames, so my family was at risk on both ends."

The inspiration for Global Woman came when Peabody and her sons made the journey back to Liberia to bury her late husband. Both Peabody and her sons saw firsthand how war can destroy morality and how poverty specifically impacts women.

"We saw the ruins of the war, and the devastation to the infrastructure of the country," Peabody said. "There were so many girls that were out there on the



Angela Peabody

streets. They were either marketing their bodies, not in school, and if they were in school, their only means to do so was to sell their bodies to men two to three times their ages. We saw what was going on in the country and we decided we wanted to do something about it."

Peabody's eldest son, Albert DeShield, treasurer and co-founder of Global Woman, was 11 years old when the family to left Africa. He said his first trip back to Liberia in 2002 left him reeling and wanting to help the people in the aftermath of the civil war.

"That trip alone was an eye opener for me," DeShield said. "It was the tail end of the war. I saw what the country had come to. At that time, the way people lived is part of what we stand against, which is the exploitation of young people, and anything involving the sex trade."

He said his mother's first book, which was based on the family's experience in Liberia and moving to the U.S., began their involvement with global women's issues. It was published in 2005, and led the family to publish a magazine addressing certain issues.

"HER WRITING the book was therapy for all of us," DeShield said. "It opened up the door and, from that point on, she wanted to do more and we started a magazine, launching Global Women Magazine. We needed to have a foundation since we were already being approached as one. We were looking to shed light on gender-based vio-

lence, and female genital mutilation falls under that."

Global Woman officially became a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization in March of 2012. Peabody has since teamed up with two other likeminded non-profits, Hope 2 Liberia and Change Area Network, to construct a school in Marshall City, Liberia. The school, designed to be grade school through high school, is still in its planning stages.

While the school has yet to break ground, Peabody said she has already started thinking about a post-graduate option for their future students.

"We are collaborating in building this school in Liberia, and after we are done with that we are going to take them one step further," Peabody said. "We started asking ourselves, 'what happens after?' After we complete the school in Marshall, we will start building a university so these girls have a place to go for higher education."

"When the Games Froze" furthers two of Peabody's goals: to benefit Global Woman as well as raise awareness of genital mutilation. While Peabody herself was never a victim of the practice, she said she knew many girls in Liberia who did suffer.

"I am a writer, a journalist by profession," Peabody said. "If I had to stop writing my mind would cease to function. I decided to write the book because I wanted to write about a topic that is much unknown in the U.S."

She said this is her second book, but her first on a topic she has always wanted to address.

"As we speak now, 8,000 little girls around the world are being mutilated somewhere in some village," she said. "I decided to write about it and use the book as a tool to educate women as well as men about female genital mutation."

She said the timing of the book, with a plot also involving American football and Christianity, coincided perfectly with the planning of the school.

"All the proceeds will go to the non-profit," Peabody said. "As I wrote it, I realized that we are going to build this school. We started the foundation and I decided, since all the money from the book is going to be related to the organization, we should use it to build the school and furnish it so the girls have some place to go."

PEABODY SAID she has high hopes for both her book, Global Woman and the school the foundation is planning.

"It is my wish that that the book will be circulated all over, not only in the U.S., but also all over the world," Peabody said. "The main goal is to get it circulated enough and to raise awareness so that enough people will know what female genital mutilation is. I would like to see it become a household term, so boys will know about it and will not allow anyone to do that to their little girls."

She won't really be satisfied until she sees her school up and running, ideally by 2016. "The day I see the kids pile into the classrooms and the girls go into the dormitories and teach them to be ladies, I will feel like I have accomplished something great," Peabody said.

DeShield said the school in Liberia will be the first of many schools and safe places for victims of gender-based violence. In addition to building refuges, Global Women will also continue spreading awareness of female genital mutilation.

"It's not just Liberia," DeShield said. "Female genital mutilation does not just

affect Liberia. It is throughout Africa and so many difference parts of the world. What we want to do is bring awareness to the practice of female genital mutilation. There is a big push going on in Europe and we want to bring that to the United States' attention. The whole world needs to know what is going on. Egypt has outlawed the practice, and other countries need to get on board. The practice is based on old ideals that should be changed over time. We want

to be able to provide a safe haven for those who want to reverse or change it."

"When the Games Froze" is published by Xulon Press, a Christian publishing company. In the coming weeks, the book will appear on the shelves of Barnes and Noble stores as well as online.

Peabody will be signing copies of "When the Games Froze" at Gospel Spreading Bible Bookstore in Washington D.C. on March 15, 11 a.m. – 2 .pm.

It is now available to order on her website, www.globalwomanpeacefoundation.org, as well as on Xulon Press' official website, www.xulonpress.com/bookstore.



SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com.

The following Marymount University students are recognized in the 2014 Edition Of "Who's Who among Students": **Si-Jin Joo**, with a major in fashion design, from Centreville; **Jennifer Miller**, with a major in interior design, from Centreville; and

Gabriela Skura, with a major in fashion merchandising, from Centreville.

The following students made the dean's list at James Madison University: **Rebecca Baumgart**, **Laurel Brubaker**, **Francesca Castellano**, **Judy Choi**, **William Datta**, **Rachael Donnelly**, **Shannon Douglass**, **Emily Elcano**, **Brendan English**,

Joshua Erney and **Sarah Farooqi**.

Wicitra Mahotama, of Centreville, was named to the dean's list at Iowa State University. Wicitra is majoring in environmental science (AGLS).

Valeria Diaz, from Centreville, was named to the dean's list at the University of New Haven for the fall 2013

semester.

Payam Ferdowsyan Mehdi, from Centreville, was named to the University of Charleston's dean's list.

Ryan Christopher Branch, of Centreville, was named to the dean's list at The Citadel. Ryan is majoring in exercise science.

Nicholas Burroughs and **Nicole Gertenbach** were named to the fall 2013 dean's list at Wake Forest University.

John Eric Goins was recently honored for outstanding academic achievement at The Citadel. He is seeking a bachelor of arts degree in political science.

Principal Offers Advice to Grads

FROM PAGE 3

today,” said Jagels. “Teachers and staff of Mountain View, you’ve touched a number of these students sitting with you today. I want to thank you for the many hours you spent helping them, including Saturdays and Sundays where you gave up your own time to be with them.”

He also thanked them for “being the shoulder to cry on or the person there to give a hug when things were beyond bearable. Thank you for mentoring these students, calling home when they weren’t in school and giving so much of yourselves to help these students get to where they are right now.

“I see your efforts on a daily basis and can say I’m humbled to be part of such a giving staff. Students, I want you to remember the tenets of Mountain View. Our motto of ‘Family, Love and Respect’ [exemplifies] some of these protective factors that can help you overcome life’s obstacles.”

Then, in a takeoff on author Robert Fulghum’s book, “All I Really Needed to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten,” Jagels gave his own advice to the seniors, based on the school’s motto:

- ❖ “Life is about relationships; we learn from all of them, good and bad. Without them, we’re lost. We all need someone to lean on, from time to time.

- ❖ Everybody deserves a second chance –

some, a third, fourth or fifth chance.

- ❖ Laugh a little every day.

- ❖ View the world around you and [notice] how you interact in it. Pay attention and don’t miss the little things.

- ❖ Accept and celebrate people’s differences. This truly is what makes the world go around.

- ❖ Strive to be independent. Don’t let debt, drugs or other influences control you or your life.

- ❖ Have a positive view of your future, regardless of what life throws at you.

- ❖ Be Flexible: ‘When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.’

- ❖ Develop a love of learning; find your passions and learn as much as you can about them.

- ❖ Find your motivation; you’re in charge of where your life is headed. No one else can do it for you; life is what you make of it.

- ❖ Believe in something bigger than yourself.

- ❖ Be creative: Draw, invent, write and dance a little every day.

- ❖ Persevere: Even when life gets hard, don’t you dare give up.”

“Seniors, you have the resolve, character, courage and resiliency to be successful,” continued Jagels. “The stories you share about your lives and the obstacles you’ve overcome demonstrate, in a way, that you’ve already taken some of the first steps to being successful in life. Let ‘Family, Love and Respect’ be some of the guiding principles in your life. Don’t ever give up — ever.”

ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 2

a.m.-3 p.m., at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road in Fairfax. For more information, call 703-324-5052.

Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries’ food pantry urgently needs donations of spaghetti sauce, fruit juice, cooking oil; pancake mix and syrup, sugar, flour and canned fruit and meat. (Also needed are toothpaste, deodorant, baby wipes and shampoo). Bring all items to WFCM’S new food-pantry location, weekdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John’s Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly’s Sully Place Shopping Center.

Thrift-store needs include coats, fall and winter clothing, like-new houseware, plus Bibles in English and Spanish. The store is at 13939 Metrotech Drive. In addition, Thrift Store volunteers are needed for two- to four-hour shifts Fridays, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., and Saturdays, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

How to Hire CLRC Workers

The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) serves businesses and homeowners needing help with just about any home remodeling or maintenance project. And local residents who’d like to hire a worker from the CLRC may do so easily. Either call 703-543-6272 or go to www.centrevilleLRC.org and click on the “How to Hire” link. Tell what kind of work is required, how many workers are needed and when. The CLRC will match the needs to its registered workers’ skills and set up the job. The price for work will be negotiated. After the job is completed, employers are encouraged to provide the CLRC with feedback to ensure that the work was done well and to their satisfaction and to make sure the workers are fairly paid.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Fairfax County needs Meals on Wheels drivers in Chantilly and group Meals on Wheels coordinators in both Chantilly and Fairfax. Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 711, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm.

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OPINION

Addressing Mental Health

While the General Assembly is making progress in fixing some of the egregious shortcomings of the way Virginia provides emergency services to people in mental health crisis, many fewer people are receiving mental health services in Northern Virginia.

State Sen. Creigh Deeds' son died of suicide late last year after the limitations in both the law and local communication resulted in him being released while still in the midst of crisis.

Deeds reports the progress on the bill that has passed the State Senate: "The omnibus bill will require subjects be held up to 24 hours under an emergency custody order, create a database of available psychiatric beds, and ensure people in need of hospitalization cannot be 'streeted' by establishing state hospitals as providers of last resort."

These are important steps.

Services to people with mental illness are provided on the local level by community services boards, and in Fairfax County in particular, those services have been dramatically cut back.

Reporter Michael Pope reports this week that since 2009, the number of people receiving

mental health services in Fairfax County has declined by 39 percent. Alcohol and drug service have dropped 43 percent. Services for those with intellectual disability have declined 39 percent.

Officials quoted cite the recession and declining property tax revenues in explaining the reductions, along with some changes in the way services are counted.

No matter how services are counted, there is no question that they have been reduced significantly during a recession, a time when research shows the need for mental health services and alcohol and drug services actually increases.

In Arlington, the number of people who receive mental health services has declined by 6 percent. The number of people who receive substance abuse services has decreased by 13 percent.

"Stresses associated with rising unemployment, poverty and social insecurity will lead to upward trends in many national suicide rates, as well as to less readily charted increases in the prevalence of psychiatric illness, alcohol-related disorders and illicit drug use," according to a 2011 overview study on economic recession and mental health cited by the Na-

tional Institutes of Health. "At the same time, mental health services are being cut back as part of government austerity programs. Budget cuts will thus affect psychiatric services adversely just when economic stressors are raising the levels of need and demand in affected populations."

As for blaming the budget, it's hard to see from raw numbers why the most vulnerable should be suffering. In 2009, before the effects of the recession, Fairfax County's budget expenditures were \$5.36 billion. The adopted 2014 budget calls for expenditures of \$6.75 billion.

"Proactive fiscal and social policies could, however, help to mitigate the health consequences of recession," the overview study reports. "Economic mental health care could best be achieved, not by decimating services but by planning and deploying these to meet the needs of defined area populations."

Elected officials and others in county government who have signed off on a set of priorities that punishes the most vulnerable populations have some moral accounting to do.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

our schools at the level requested by Dr. Garza and the School Board.

Glenn M. Rife

German Teacher
Westfield High school

On Equality

To the Editor:

While supermarkets are clamoring to fill their shelves with chocolates, cards, and overpriced stuffed animals, February marks another important event besides the quintessential Valentine's Day. Black History Month is an annual celebration throughout the month of February for the commemoration of significant individuals and events in the history of the African Diaspora. Martin Luther King Jr. remains fresh in our minds as we recall his efforts towards brotherhood and equality during this month of remembrance.

Incidentally, I am reminded of another man who worked tirelessly for equality and brotherhood nearly 1400 years ago: the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be on him). Muhammad's life is the most iconic portrayal of his dedication to civil rights, whether it be raising the status of slaves, women, and orphans, or establishing racial equality amongst the mixed population of Arabia. In his Farewell Sermon (coincidentally in February), Muhammad left his followers with these final words: "A white has no superiority over a black nor a black has any superiority over a white except by piety and good action." It is this timeless advice that we can consider as we remember Martin Luther King Jr. and many other brave and tireless individuals who fought for racial and social equality that we honor during Black History Month.

Shumaila Ahmad

Chantilly

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fully Fund the Schools

To the Editor:

Regarding teacher pay and working conditions in Fairfax County:

As a 10-year resident of Fairfax County and employee of Fairfax County Public Schools, I have been around long enough to see the good and the bad. I've been paid well enough to buy my own home and start a family, but I've also seen budget woes shrink my class sizes and send me in search of classes to teach at other schools in order to remain full time. Currently we face another round of belt tightening, and before we go through that again, I feel the voices of our educators need to be heard.

For the first half of my career, my job just got easier and easier as I gained skill and mastered my presentation of the curriculum. To top it all off, I got paid progressively more and more. For the last five years, however, my job has gotten harder and harder, and I have been paid less and less. We have faced federal, state, and local pressure to increase testing of our students, which inherently takes away from the time we actually spend educating them. Our enrollment in Fairfax continues to increase, as our county is an economic engine for the state and our school system a model for the nation. However, having just prepared my 2013 taxes and comparing them to the figures from 2012, it is clear that I and my wife, also a teacher, made several thousand dollars less last year compared to the year before, largely due to the state-mandated changes to the Virginia Retirement System. We are literally doing more work for less money.

I do not intend to make this entirely an issue of pay. My family prepares a budget every year, and we always take into account the step increase printed on the salary scale for a given year. Even if we receive no adjustment for in-

creases in cost of living, I can make sure that my family will be provided for, as long as our step increase is guaranteed. As teachers, my wife and I are both well aware that our compensation, including benefits, will more than cover our basic needs. My primary concern is with the level of work we are being asked to do.

Next year we face another round of increased testing and increased class sizes, which shrink the number of classes we teach at our base schools and send us out searching for more classes to teach around the county. This is not only a disservice to us, as employees of FCPS, but above all to the students. In the darkest days of the last budget crunch, I taught a class with 38 students officially on the roster. Over 40 attempted to sign up, but rather than being split into two classes, several students were turned away, asked to take up study of another subject. I fear that this sort of travesty will play out again next year, not only for myself, but for countless other students and teachers across the county.

If FCPS wishes to maintain its stellar reputation as an educational model for our local area and the nation, it must make ensuring reasonable class sizes a priority. It seems that the Virginia General Assembly may finally be reducing the testing burden our students and educators face, which is encouraging. We may need to, if necessary, forgo cost of living increase for another year. Speaking for myself, this I can tolerate, so long as we receive our promised step increase. What we cannot do is pile more work on our teachers and continue to pay them less. We cannot pile more students into the classroom and expect the level of excellence in education to which we have become accustomed in Fairfax. Speaking for the average teacher in our schools, we must insist that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors fund

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NEWS

Fair Oaks Resident Charged With Setting Series of Fires

Occupants were home asleep at the time.

By BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Culminating months of work, investigators from the Fairfax County Fire Marshal's Office have charged a local man with two felonies for allegedly setting fires in homes while their occupants were asleep. He is Mergen Battulga, 37, of Fair Oaks.

He was charged with one count of maliciously burning an occupied dwelling and one count of maliciously setting a fire capable of spreading. His arrest was in connection with four fires on Mozart Brigade Lane and one blaze on Fairfield House Way in Fair Oaks.

Battulga was arrested last Friday, Feb. 7, shortly after noon. He was arraigned in court Monday, Feb. 10, and is currently being held without bond in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

"We believe this gentleman to be a serial arsonist," said Chief Fire Marshal Mike Reilly. "Over the last six months, we've had a series of five fires in the

Fair Oaks area. We've done exhaustive investigative work and developed him as a suspect. So far, he's only been charged with two offenses, but the investigation is still ongoing."

All the homes were near Monument Drive, within a half-mile radius of each other, and all were garden apartments. Reilly said a couple of the fires were started in areas that had sprinkler systems, so they were able to be extinguished early before major damage was done.

However, he noted that all the homes were occupied when their fires began.

"Many of the fires occurred between 2-5 a.m., when people are sleeping, so dire circumstances could have resulted," said Reilly. "These fires could have caused a significant loss of life and property had there not been fire-protection systems in place that caught them."

He said 15 or 16 investigators have been working on these cases and continue to do so. And he praised them for their hard work.

"I'm so proud of my investigators — they're an outstanding crew," said Reilly. "Arson fires are difficult to solve without an eyewitness or the perpetrator being caught in the act. But these investigators have put in an extensive amount of time and effort and, in the end, it paid off."

7 Things You Must Know Before Putting Your Home Up for Sale

Fairfax/Centreville – A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of home sellers don't get what they want for their homes, and become disillusioned – and worse – financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most

home sellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled **"The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar."**

To order a **FREE Special Report**, and hear a brief recorded message about how to order your **FREE copy of this report**, call toll-free **1-866-274-2234** and enter **1000**. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report **NOW** to find out how you can get the most money for your home.

This report is courtesy of Allene Murray, Broker, Keller Williams Realty, 14155 Newbrook Dr., Chantilly, VA 20151. Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale.



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Fairfax Station — \$1,050,000

7 10608 Kilcorma Way,
Fairfax Station — \$1,000,000

9 10509 Center Street,
Fairfax — \$965,000



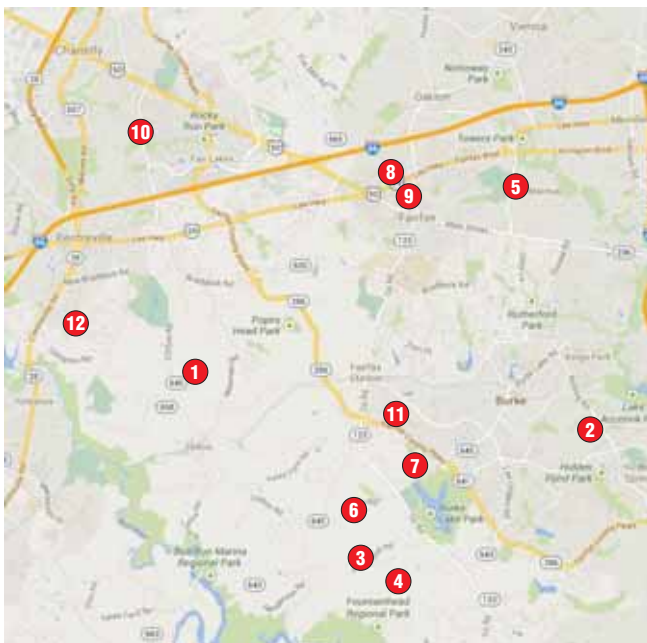
10 13554 Point Pleasant Drive,
Chantilly — \$675,000



11 5915 Clermont Landing Court,
Burke — \$635,011



12 6700 Bay Valley Lane,
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2 6512 STALLION RD	5	..	6	..	0	CLIFTON	\$1,850,000	Detached	5.27	20124	CLOVERLEAF FARM ESTATES	12/03/13
2 6151 REZA CT	6	..	4	..	2	SPRINGFIELD	\$1,392,649	Detached	0.35	22152	CARDINAL ESTATES	11/07/13
3 11100 DEVEREUX STATION LN ..	4	..	4	..	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,225,000	Detached	5.01	22039	DEVEREUX STATION	12/05/13
4 10600 SANDY RUN TRL	5	..	3	..	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,225,000	Detached	6.03	22039	SHADOWWALK	12/16/13
5 3442 PRESERVATION DR	5	..	4	..	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,180,000	Detached	0.17	22031	PICKETT'S RESERVE	11/27/13
6 11133 SANDY MANOR DR	5	..	4	..	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,050,000	Detached	5.00	22039	SANDY RUN FOREST ESTATES	11/20/13
7 10608 KILCORMAC WAY	5	..	5	..	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,000,000	Detached	5.00	22039	KILLARNEY	11/21/13
8 10707 SCOTT DR	4	..	3	..	1	FAIRFAX	\$974,900	Detached	0.51	22030	BFA MYERS	12/20/13
9 10509 CENTER ST	5	..	3	..	1	FAIRFAX	\$965,000	Detached	0.61	22030	CARRIAGE LANDING	11/05/13
10 13554 POINT PLEASANT DR	5	..	3	..	1	CHANTILLY	\$675,000	Detached	0.26	20151	POPLAR TREE ESTATES	11/22/13
11 5915 CLERMONT LANDING CT ..	4	..	2	..	1	BURKE	\$635,011	Detached	0.19	22015	BURKE CENTRE	11/08/13
12 6700 BAY VALLEY LN	5	..	4	..	0	CENTREVILLE	\$630,000	Detached	0.26	20121	GREEN TRAILS	11/15/13

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Home Design: What the Pros Know

A look inside the homes of some of the area's top builders.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
CENTRE VIEW

Remodeling industry professionals spend their days helping clients create dream homes, adding quartzite counter tops and outdoor, stacked stone fireplaces, turning ideas and photos into functional, chic living spaces.

But what about their homes? What materials do they choose for themselves? How do they make the most of their living spaces? Three local professionals from BOWA Builders, Inc. opened their doors and shared the secrets of their renovations.

When principal and owner George Hodges-Fulton and his wife, Alexandra, decided to remodel the galley kitchen in their Reston home, they decided to expand and change the flow of traffic, keeping the safety of their 6- and 10-year-old daughters in mind.

"We wanted to open the house up more," said George Hodges-Fulton. "We took out a wall between kitchen and the dining room."

Alexandra Hodges-Fulton, a serious cook, added, "The sink and the stove were across from each other. Now the sink and the stove are next to each other, so I don't have to walk across the kitchen carrying hot pasta."

The new kitchen also includes additional counter space. "I have more prep space," she said. "And everything I need is within arm's reach."

When it came to choosing finishes, "everything came from wanting to work with the [existing maple] floor," said George Hodges-Fulton. "We wanted to choose classic colors that weren't going to go out of style."

"I spent a huge amount of time looking



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOWA BUILDERS, INC.

When George Hodges-Fulton, principal at BOWA Builders, Inc., and his wife, Alexandra, decided to remodel the kitchen in their Reston home, they added white Carrara marble countertops and a marble backsplash in black, white and grey.

at pictures of kitchens," said Alexandra Hodges-Fulton. "We added white Carrara marble countertops. ... We added a marble backsplash in a black, white and grey circular mosaic. That's the thing that everybody comments on when they come into the kitchen."

The project took a mere five weeks to complete. "Everything happened perfectly," added George Hodges-Fulton. "Having on-site supervision and knowing the end goal helped."

He says that having undergone his own renovation project, he now has additional insight when advising clients. "It makes a significant difference," he said. "We can say 'In my house I did this.' or 'I did this wrong in my house, so you might consider this.'"

When principal and owner Steve Kirstein first moved into his Potomac, Md., home with his wife and three children, he spotted several missed design opportunities.

"We needed some of the spaces to do different things," said Kirstein. "We wanted a family gathering space and a display space upstairs."

The home had a two-story foyer, which Kirstein saw as the perfect location for a second floor family room. He added "flooring, sheetrock walls, built-in bookcases and display cases. Now it's a gathering space for the family upstairs and we still have a dramatic foyer downstairs."

Next, Kirstein turned what he called, "a big wasted space" adjacent to the garage into a mudroom. "We put a cubby and drawer for each child and a bench for taking off shoes. We added a half wall across from the cubbies so you can't see all of the cleats and lacrosse sticks all over the floor. We also added a powder room."

Kirstein also transformed his backyard into an oasis. "We added a pool and entertaining area," he said. "We redid every finish in the house."

I liked those small touches because they were simple and easy and changed the way the house looked."

Founder, cochairman and owner Josh Baker grew up in Great Falls and when it came time to raise his family, he remained there. He even built a custom home where he plans to live long-term. "A lot of planning went into the future," said Baker. "The concept behind it was we would create a fun space for our children that their children could eventually enjoy."

He advises his clients to similarly plan ahead and think about how their needs might evolve. "To make it a long-term home

is to not think about just what you need now, but what you might need in the future," he said. "We designed a guest suite on the first floor with the idea that my wife and I could live on one floor once we're empty nesters." There is enough space for friends and extended family.

Baker said each time he and his wife updated the house, they did so judiciously. "We made smart decisions about small things that make a big difference. For example, we changed tiles to make it up-to-date without a huge remodel," he said.

Baker's experience as a builder helped him decide on the room sizes and layout of the house. "In terms of design, a lot of our house has a focus on lines of sight, informality and lots of light. ... On our first floor, there are no partition walls in the common area."

The rooms in the house are generous and comfortable and space was used wisely, Baker said. "We focused on the feeling and functionality of the room rather than the size of the room," he said. "None of the rooms are oversized, but they are functional."

Wise use of space is another lesson he shares with clients. "At one time, bedrooms with sitting rooms were very popular," said Baker. "But ... a lot of our clients don't use them so we're repurposing those spaces. In our master bedroom, for example, we focused on walk-in closets. Even our master bathroom is spacious, but it is not vast."

The Bakers designed their outdoor landscape to accommodate their penchant for relaxed entertaining. "We're informal folks," said Baker. "We like to entertain, so we developed our landscaping to include an expansive entertaining area and a swimming pool. We have a lot of outdoor parties. We can accommodate a large group in our yard as well."



Hodges-Fulton



Kirstein



Baker



Steve Kirstein, principal at BOWA Builders, Inc. turned what he called "a big wasted space" into a mudroom complete with a cubby and drawer for each child.

School Board Votes for Longer SLEEP

Money saved from annual bus route review will be earmarked for implementation of later start times.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
CENTRE VIEW

According to SLEEP, a local group advocating for later high school start times in Fairfax County, 72 out of 92 counties in Virginia have a high school start time of 8 a.m. or later.

Many students and parents say that the 7:20 a.m. start time of high schools in Fairfax County is having a devastating effect on students' health and well-being.

"There is concrete evidence proving that teens with adequate sleep have improved learning, better memory, and a brighter outlook," said Beth Steel, who advocated for later start times on behalf of SLEEP at a recent school board hearing.

As a follow-up motion to approving the FY 2015 budget, the school board passed a motion recommending that Superintendent Karen Garza identify savings from the 2014 annual bus route review and earmarks those savings to offset the possible cost of implementing later high school start times.

THE MOTION was introduced by Mason District School Board member and SLEEP co-founder Sandy Evans.

"I offer this motion as a very modest approach to earmarking some transportation funds to help implement later high school start times," Evans said. "We find efficiencies in our bus service. If we find these efficiencies, it simply makes sense to recognize that these resources may soon be needed to implement improved bell schedules." Evans stressed that the motion does not change the transfer request of the FY 2015 proposed budget, and does not take money out of any other budgets.

"As we look at the best approach to make sure that all of our students, K through 12, have healthy schedules, it's important to



SLEEP advocate Beth Steel speaks in favor of later high school start times at a recent school board public hearing.



Fairfax County Public Schools student Stuart Orloff spoke in support of later high school start times at the public hearing on Jan. 27.

show that we're looking ahead and moving in the right direction," Evans said. "The community has been waiting a long time for this. This is a small way for us to say that we do indeed care about and are committed to the physical, emotional and academic health of our teen students."

Springfield District School Board member Elizabeth Schultz and Providence District School Board member Patty Reed referred to an April 2012 resolution adopted by the board, which aimed to start high schools after 8 a.m., as a reason to approve this motion.

"We have the opportunity right now to demonstrably put our foot down and say, as we identify savings, we are going to make strides to fulfilling the promise that the resolution set more than a year ago. We're not going to do it with no money. This is the time for us to say, we choose to take the next step," Schultz said.

SLEEP, which stands for Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal, has been advocating for later start times in Fairfax County since 2004.

"It was April 2012 that this board set the goal of later start times for high schoolers. This board has also established the goal of physical health and safety and well-being of our students. For those reasons, I feel that we need to be pursuing this with added haste and zest," Reed said.

SLEEP ADVOCATES voiced their concerns for implementing a later start time as soon as possible at the last public hearing on the budget on Jan. 27.

"In some respects, this is the longest running community engagement project that FCPS has ever had. Now, it is time to act," said SLEEP advocate Phyllis Payne.

Mount Vernon School Board member Dan Storck was among the supporters of Evans' motion.

"All we are asking for is that with any savings that we have, from now on in a sense, at least in this budget year, that we will invest that in the way that this board has already said that we should invest it, which is in our kids, giving them an opportunity to get a little more sleep at night, to be a little more rested and do better in school frankly," Storck said.

MATHCOUNTS Champions

The Northern Virginia Regional MATHCOUNTS competitions were held on Saturday, Feb. 1, at Lake Braddock Secondary School in Burke and at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Alexandria. This year, because of the exceptionally large number of students participating, the Regional competition had to be split between two venues. The one held at Lake Braddock was a combined competition for VSPE's Fairfax and George Washington Chapter Areas while the one at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office was for the Northern VA Chapter Area. These chapters include schools in Fairfax and Arlington counties as well as the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax City and Vienna.

More than 450 sixth through eighth grade students from 55 elementary and middle schools competed at the events. These students have been practicing since the fall and were selected to represent their respective schools at the competitions. Students compete as school teams and as individuals.

The winning teams are the following schools, team members and coach:

- ❖ Fairfax Chapter
 1. Nysmith School (Shwetark Patel, Shaan Bhandarkar, Akshaj Kadaveru, Ajit Kadaveru. coach: JoMarie Broccoli)
 2. Rocky Run Middle School (Jushua Lee, William Li, Minsuk Kang, Edward Sun. coach: Melanie Roller)
 3. Rachel Carson Middle School (Lillian Wang, Sujay Ratna, Kavya Kopparapu, Ruiran Xun. coach: Angie Cahill)
- ❖ George Washington Chapter
 1. Sangster Elementary School (Jerry Li, Jenny Li, David Sun, Joon Mun. coach: James Sun)
 2. Saint Bernadette School (Christopher Nguyen, Emily Shin, Sheridan Monroe, Danny McGarvey. coach: Lorraine Lichtenberger)
 3. Mark Twain Middle School (Vandana Subramanian, Ayman Slamani, Lydia You, Mekedas Belayneh. coach: Rachel Moneypenny)
- ❖ Northern VA Chapter
 1. Longfellow Middle School (Aaditya Singh,

Scott Becker, Franklyn Wang, William Sun, coach: Mary Jo Clark)

2. Luther Jackson Middle School (Wonwook Do, Spencer Durham, Joshua Sahaya Arul, Akrit Sinha. coach: Krystal Fung)

3. Haycock Elementary school (Sabrina Cai, Cathy Liang, Kathy Wu, Nicole Sim. coach: Mary Jo Clark)

The top scoring individuals in each chapter are the following:

❖ Fairfax Chapter

1. Shwetark Patel, Nysmith School, coach: JoMarie Boccoli

2. Neeyanth Kopparapu, Floris Elementary School, coach: Gail Porter

3. Kyle Gatesman, Frost Middle School, coach: Maura Sleeve

4. Joshua Lee, Rocky Run Middle School, coach: Melanie Roller

❖ George Washington Chapter

1. Jerry Li, Sangster Elementary School, coach: James Sun

2. Philip Phan, Holmes Middle School, coach: Pavan Krishnan

3. Jenny Li, Sangster Elementary School, coach:

James Sun

4. Christopher Nguyen, Saint Bernadette School, coach: Lorraine Lichtenberger

❖ Northern VA Chapter

1. Aaditya Singh, Longfellow Middle School, coach: Mary Jo Clark

2. Scott Becker, Longfellow Middle School, coach: Mary Jo Clark

3. Franklyn Wang, Longfellow Middle School, coach: Mary Jo Clark

4. Fred Zhang, Longfellow Middle School, coach: Mary Jo Clark

The top two teams and top four individuals that are not on the top two teams from the Fairfax Chapter, and the winning team and top two individuals that are not on the winning team each from George Washington and Northern Virginia Chapters will advance to compete at the Virginia State MATHCOUNTS competition to be held on March 15 at the Dominion Power facility in Glen Allen, Va.

Additional information on the national MATHCOUNTS program is available at www.mathcounts.org and local information at www.nova-mathcounts.org

ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos welcome.

ONGOING

The **Airbus IMAX Theater at National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center**, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, is showing movies including "Hubble," "Fighter Pilot," "Hidden Universe" and "The Dream is Alive". Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy/> or call 703-572-4118 for the movie schedule.

Super Science Saturdays. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. the second Saturday of each month at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy>.

Sully Historic Site. 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Enjoy guided tours of the 1794 home of Northern Virginia's first congressman, Richard Bland Lee. \$7/adult; \$6/student; \$5/senior and child. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 703-437-1794.

Art Exhibit. See "Songs of the Shore," archival inkjet prints by Chantilly resident Peter Toth in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, of the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Runs through March 16. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html.

Art Exhibit. Paintings by Centreville artist Rosemary Gallick will be on display Feb. 19-March 28 at the Atrium gallery at the Woodbridge Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 15200 Neabsco Mills Road. "Diversity in Music: Crossing Gender and Race" honors the talents of many artists. Free. E-mail rgallick@nvcc.edu, visit

nvcc.edu or 703-878-5797.

THURSDAY/FEB. 13

Magic and Mayhem. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Girls and boys in grades 6-8 can participate in this sci-fi/fantasy book group. Call for title. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Civil War Lecture. 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults and school age children can hear "How Grant Won and Lee Lost the Civil War," by author and historian Edward Bonekemper. Free. 703-830-2223.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/FEB. 13-15

Valentine's Day at the Animal Shelter. Visit the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 W. Ox Road, Fairfax, and enjoy free sweets, hands-on fun with kittens and puppies and fee-waived adoptions on 10 of the shelter's animals. Learn about the shelter, interact with the animals and learn how to become a volunteer or foster. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/adoption.htm or call 703-830-1100.

FRIDAY/FEB. 14

Have a Heart Hop. Lesson at 8:30 p.m., dancing from 9 p.m.-midnight at Dulles Hilton, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. There will be a silent auction to raise money for Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, and Honor Flight, live music, desserts and more. \$20/advance; \$25/door. \$5 of each ticket benefit the charities. Visit www.haveaheart.org for more.

Ready for School Storytime. 1:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library,

4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 4-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-502-3883.

Guided Tour. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Learn about couples in history, such as Richard Bland Lee and Elizabeth, Jacob and Amy Haight and others. \$7/adult; \$6/student; \$5/child, senior. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site or call 703-437-1794.

Music Performance. 5 p.m. in the Chantilly High School auditorium, 4201 Stringfellow Road. The University of Delaware Wind Ensemble will perform a free concert. Select students from the bands at Chantilly and Centreville high schools will be invited to perform with them on stage.

SATURDAY/FEB. 15


Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy rhymes, songs and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Bouncin' Babies. 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Babies up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes, songs, stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Lego Mania. 12:30 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. For children in grades K-2. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

Magic. Max Major will perform "THINK: An Evening of Mind Reading and Magic" at 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. For tickets, visit www.maxmajor.net.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16



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Westfield's Freix Wins Conference 5 All-Around Title

Robinson wins team championship, Oakton finishes second.

BY JON ROETMAN
CENTRE VIEW

Robinson won the team title and Oakton earned a region berth by finishing runner-up at the Conference 5 gymnastics meet on Feb. 6 at Centreville High School. But when it came to individual dominance, Westfield senior Katie Freix was in a class by herself.

Freix won the all-around championship, finishing with a score of 36.925. No other gymnast in the conference produced a score of 35.

Freix finished first on floor (9.525), vault (9.5) and bars (9.1), and tied for fifth on beam (8.8). She was the only gymnast to score in the 9s on bars.

"I had probably close to my best performances on all my events, except for beam," Freix said. "... I definitely had my best bar routine. I've been having trouble hitting bars recently, so it was really cool to actually hit the bar routine."

The top four all-around finishers qualify for regionals. Robinson freshman Caroline Burda placed second (34.9), and Herndon freshman Alexa Bradley and Robinson senior Sarah Gross tied for third (34.5).

The 6A North region meet was scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 12, but was postponed due to inclement weather.

"It would be cool if I could have a meet where I hit everything," Freix said when asked about her goals or expectations for regionals. "I've always had the goal of getting a 38 all-around [score]."

Westfield senior Frankie Barron qualified for regionals on bars and beam. She tied for seventh on bars with a score of 8.425 and placed eighth on beam with a score of 8.55.

The top eight individuals in each event, along with any other gymnastics who score at least a 9, qualify for regionals.



Westfield senior Katie Freix won the all-around championship at the Conference 5 gymnastics meet on Feb. 6 at Centreville High School.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Chantilly freshman Sophie Behrend placed second on floor with a score of 9.1. She also qualified on vault, tying for fifth with a score of 8.7. Sophomore Elise Mazzone placed fourth on beam (8.975) and tied for sixth on floor (8.3). Senior Lucy Klene took sixth on bars (8.45) and sophomore Sara Laiti tied for seventh (8.425).

Robinson captured the team championship. The Rams won, or tied for first, in each of the four events and produced a total score of 135.4. Oakton finished second with a score of 132.575, followed by Westfield (130.575), Chantilly (129.65), Herndon (122.45) and Centreville (105.375).

Robinson won the Concorde District championship in 2012. The six schools became Conference 5 after the VHS's six-class realignment prior to the 2013-14 school year.

"They definitely performed very well today," first-year Robinson head coach Charlotte Edwards said. "They were more consistent than they normally are. ... They're definitely peaking at the right time. Our first couple meets weren't that successful."

Burda, a freshman, finished first on beam

(9.15), third on bars (8.625), fourth on vault (8.75) and tied for eighth on floor (8.375).

"She is only a freshman and she did a great job," Edwards said, "but there's definitely some things we're going to work on before regionals, so when we look at their score sheets we'll see if we can make some more adjustments so she can get a couple more points on some event."

Burda said beam was her best event. She was one of just three gymnasts to score a 9 or better in the event.

"I thought that I did the best I could and I'm really proud of myself," Burda said between smiles after the meet. "This has been my best meet so far this season."

Gross placed third on floor (9) and vault (8.85), tied for fifth on beam (8.8) and finished 11th on bars (8).

"She performed very well," Edwards said. "Even on her [least]-favorite event, balance beam, she had a solid routine, so that was very exciting and I think that made a big difference in her all-around score."

Robinson freshman Emily Gross placed third on vault (8.85) and tied for sixth on

floor (8.4). Junior Bailey Young tied for second on beam with a score of 9.

Oakton advanced to regionals with a runner-up team finish despite having the smallest roster in the conference with just eight healthy competitors.

"We feel that's where we differ from a lot of teams, especially being the smallest squad in our conference," Oakton head coach Frankie Orbacz wrote in an email. "Everyone has a ton of talent and everyone contributed equally to our fantastic team score. Most other teams have a few standouts that lead the team and sweep the medals, but we really have so much talent in every girl. We are very well-rounded."

"I had probably close to my best performances on all my events, except for beam. ... I definitely had my best bar routine. I've been having trouble hitting bars recently, so it was really cool to actually hit the bar routine."

— Westfield senior Katie Freix

Standings-wise, four of our eight girls medaled and placed, which means half of our team would have advanced to regionals if we hadn't made it as a team. We were so impressed! That's a pretty fantastic showing."

The state meet is scheduled for Feb. 21-22 at Salem High School in Virginia Beach.

"It's amazing," Burda said of winning the Conference 5 championship. "We've worked so hard this season. It's just great to have it all come together."

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

MONDAY/MARCH 3

Application Deadline. Noon. The online application for the Military Officers Association of America Educational Assistance Programs for the 2014-2015 school year is now available online at <https://scholarship.moaa.org/login.aspx>. Students can apply for the interest-free loans and grants at www.moaa.org/education. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors or full-time college students working toward their first undergraduate degree. Visit www.moaa.org/scholarshipfund or e-mail edassist@MOAA.org.

Art Contest Deadline. American Disposal Services is holding a regional recycling themed art contest for all students grades 1-12 from Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, King George, Loudoun, Prince William, Stafford and Spotsylvania counties. Winning artwork will be displayed in American's

new, state of the art, recycling processing facility; The American Recycling Center. A monetary prize will also be awarded to all winners. The theme of the contest is 'The Impact of Recycling on the Environment.' For full contest details, information and guidelines visit www.americandisposal.com/site_images/pdfs/ADSArtContestGuidelines-Application.pdf.

THURSDAY/MARCH 6

Support Group. 7-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germaine Drive. For people who have lost a loved one within the past two years. Free. E-mail ktyner@capitalcaring.org or 703-396-6198.

FRIDAY/MARCH 7

Silent Auction. Navy Elementary School, 500 W. Ox Road, is sponsoring a silent auction with proceeds benefiting the school. Visit navyptto.org or 703-927-9606 to find out if you can donate items.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 12

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm for meeting materials, archives and more. For more information contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

MONDAY/MARCH 17

Meeting. 7 p.m. in the Cale Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road. The GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club, will host a presentation on "Intelligence in the Civil War" by Dr. David Robarge, Chief Historian of the Central Intelligence Agency. Free. Visit www.wfwc.org or e-mail westernfairfaxcountywc@gmail.com for more.

TUESDAY/MARCH 18

Sale Deadline. Sales have now begun for the Westfield High School Mulch Sale. Get double

shredded hardwood mulch delivered to help raise money for a safe and sober graduation party for the Class of 2014, as well as other vital PTSA programs. A WHS Athletic Team will even spread your mulch if you want, at only \$2 per bag. Free delivery or pick up is March 29. Visit <http://ptsa.westfieldhs.org>.

THURSDAY/MARCH 20

Support Group. 7-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germaine Drive. For people who have lost a loved one within the past two years. Free. E-mail ktyner@capitalcaring.org or 703-396-6198.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 26

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm for meeting materials, archives and more. For more information contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Fighting Hunger

Korean Central Presbyterian Church located at 15451 Lee Hwy, Centreville, held its first Stop Hunger Now meal packaging event on Jan. 25. Nearly 200 volunteers came out on the cold Saturday morning to package 20,000 meals to be delivered to hungry children and families. The church plans to make Stop Hunger Now meal packaging an annual event. The next event is tentatively scheduled for fall/winter of 2014. In future events, it plans to invite other groups and organizations in the Centreville community to join in packaging even more meals to fight hunger. If interested in participating in future events, email outreach@kcpc.org. Stop Hunger Now, www.stophungernow.org, is an international hunger relief agency that coordinates the distribution of food and other aid to children and families in countries all over the world.

June Vows Planned

Douglas and Candace Kennedy of Dublin, Ohio announce the engagement of their daughter, Kate to Ryan Wheelbarger, son of Lorraine Conlon and Douglas Wheelbarger.

The bride-to-be graduated from Dublin Coffman High School in 2006 and received a bachelor's degree in political science from James Madison University in 2010. She is a digital strategist at Revolution Messaging in Washington, D.C.

Her fiancé graduated from Centreville High School in 2006 and received a bachelor's degree with a double major in political



Kate Kennedy and Ryan Wheelbarger

science and history from Virginia Tech in 2010. He is a specialist in the U.S. Army.

The wedding will take place June 29 at the Dublin Community Church.

A reception will be held at the Athletic Club of Columbus.

CVHS Art Students Win 33 Awards

Centreville High students won a total of 33 awards in the recent Fairfax County Public Schools Regional Scholastic Art competition. Winners were announced Monday, Jan. 27. Their awards included 15 Gold Keys, the highest regional honor for artwork.

Gold Key (GK) Silver Key (SK) and Certificate of Merit (CM) recipients are listed below, as well as each student's name, grade level, art medium, title of work and teacher.

Claire Cho 12 GK Painting / Generation Gap Killinger
Alissa Damato 12 GK Sculpture / Religious Rifle Marcaccio
Mary Do 12 GK Art Port. / The Political Pig Marcaccio
Michelle Emsley 12 GK Photo / Train of Thought Dreon
Min Kyong Han 12 GK Art Port. / Nuts And Bolts Marcaccio
Heejoo Hong 12 GK Jewelry / I'm Not Junk! Marcaccio
Heejoo Hong 12 GK Sculpture / Through It All Marcaccio
Natalie Hopkins 12 GK Art Port. / Distorted Speech Marcaccio
Sue Jung 12 GK Photo Port. / Flipped Dreon
Kinley Miles 11 GK Sculpture / Heartless Marcaccio
Namisha Nangia 10 GK Photography / Views Dreon
Jeremiah Ok 12 GK Drawing / Chain of Predation Killinger
Jeremiah Ok 12 GK Drawing / City Chaos Killinger

Ye Ri Park 11 GK Painting / Time Is Irrelevant Killinger
Jordan Sims 12 GK Photography / Spaceman Dreon
Jordan Axelrod 12 SK Ceramics / Journey Marcaccio
Alissa Damato 12 SK Sculpture / Donkey Head Marcaccio
Michelle Emsley 12 SK Sculpture / Filial Piety Marcaccio
Min Kyong Han 12 SK Fashion / Hair Dress Marcaccio
Heejoo Hong 12 SK Sculpture / Man of War Marcaccio
Megan Muntean 9 SK Photography / Hostage Dreon
Jeremiah Ok 12 SK Drawing / The Stretch Killinger
Alexandra Busenitz 11 CM Ceramics / Mom's Kitchen Marcaccio

Claire Cho 12 CM Sculpture / Internal Glimpse Marcaccio
Elizabeth Graft 10 CM Digital Art / Text Portrait Hayes
Heejoo Hong 12 CM Digital Art / Nervous Hayes
Heejoo Hong 12 CM Art Portfolio / Greed Marcaccio
Min Joo Kim 11 CM Painting Unspoken Words Killinger
Ye Chee Lee 12 CM Painting Depression Killinger
Vanessa Martinez 10 CM Photography / Mala Dreon
Megan Muntean 9 CM Photography / Skeleton Dreon
Laura Sanchez 11 CM Photo. / World In Her Hands Dreon
Youngjin Shin 11 CM Sculpture / The Retired Bee Marcaccio

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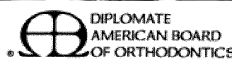
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An Unexpected Present

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Not that I minded it in the least (in fact, I appreciated it in the most), but I received my first senior discount the other day. I was fast-fooding at my local Roy Rogers restaurant when the unexpected kindness occurred. Considering that I'm not at the age yet when such discounts are typically available, I certainly did not (do not) presume that my appearance somehow reflects an age which I am not. In truth, I don't believe it does. So even though I didn't ask for the age-related discount, I was offered/given it nonetheless. As the cashier tallied my bill, she then spoke the price and adjusted it downward 10 percent for my surprise "senior" discount. On hearing the lower price and the reason for it, I immediately responded: "Oh, you're giving senior discounts to people over 40?" To which she replied, while looking me directly in the eye: "No. Over 30." Laughing at her quick-thinking quip, I thanked her again for the discount and commended her on her excellent answer/customer service.

Without making this too much a cancer column, a terminal diagnosis at age 54 and a half sort of means that certain realities, benefits and inevitabilities (if you live long enough, which after receiving my diagnosis/prognosis seemed unlikely) are off the table; heck they're likely on the floor waiting to be swept up and placed in the trash bin (been and gone, you might say). I refer generally to the kinds of things associated with turning 65: retirement, Social Security, Medicare, and of course, "senior discounts." After hearing what I heard, reaching age 55 seemed challenging enough.

To be honest though, and you regular readers know I'm honest, maybe painfully so; after receiving the incredibly discouraging and grim news concerning my diagnosis from my oncologist five years ago, I didn't really think about the parts of my life that I would be missing since my future was, at that point, seriously in doubt. If I recall, my mindset back then wasn't on the future I was losing because of my disease, it was more about the present that I was living and being as proactive as possible to try and live as long as I could. Moreover, given the rather morbid tone I was hearing from my oncologist, it sounded as if I'd be lucky to have a present, let alone a future. A "13-month to two-year prognosis" (out of the blue no less; I was asymptomatic and a life-long non-smoker) followed by an admission from my doctor that he can't "cure me, but he can treat me;" and a further reply to my wife Dina's query as to why there aren't any parades for lung cancer survivors, as there seem to be for breast cancer survivors: "Because there aren't any" (survivors that is) hardly reinforce a lung cancer patient's future prospects.

Yet here I write, nearly five years post-diagnosis, receiving the previously (given my life expectancy) unimaginable senior discount. And though there are likely fewer guarantees now and even less certainty for a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer survivor five years out and still living, I don't discount the significance of any discounts. At this juncture, I deserve any I can get. Besides, I think I've earned them.

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

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Rocky Run Middle School students and Auston O'Neill in front of his Spirit of '45 RV.

National Tour Starts at Rocky Run MS

Auston O'Neill, Jr. a bugler with the "Bugler's Across America" organization, kicked off a two-year national tour at Rocky Run Middle School on Friday, Feb. 7.

To be able to start this tour, O'Neill and his wife, Connie, had to sell their Centreville home. They then purchased an RV which they had decorated with information about him and the "Spirit of '45" program of which he is a member. Rocky Run was chosen as the site to kick off his tour because of the school's involvement in the "Spirit of '45" program that works to keep the memory of the heroes who died during World War II.

Students and staff members carry a poster-sized picture of a fallen soldier, sailor or airman in the annual Memorial Day Parade in D.C. Rocky Run also hosts an annual tribute to World War II veterans with its "World War II Oral History Day." This year marks the 14th year the school has put on this program in which more than 100 WW II veterans spend the day sharing their stories with Rocky Run's 7th grade history students. This year's WW II Day is scheduled for Friday, June 6, which is also the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings at Normandy.

O'Neill became involved with "Bugler's Across America" following his father's death and burial. His father, a World War II veteran was not given the traditional "Taps" ceremony at his funeral and this inspired O'Neill to join "Bugler's Across America" which performs at funerals and ceremonies all over the country.

Stops along their cross-country trip are planned at Bedford, Va. for a wreath-laying ceremony at the National D-Day Memorial; a performance of Taps in honor of the 66 Tuskegee Airmen who were killed in action; a media event at the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, honoring Audie Murphy and Latino WW II veterans; a "Spirit of '45" media event in Phoenix, Ariz., and a media event at San Diego's Balboa Park.

O'Neill will be returning to the D.C. area



Rocky Run Middle School students watch as Auston O'Neill plays Taps.



Rocky Run History teacher Jamie Sawatzky and Principal Anthony Terrell present a poster to Auston O'Neill.

in May in time for the annual Memorial Day parade and is planning to attend Rocky Run's World War II Day, where he will perform Taps as part of the opening ceremony to commemorate those veterans who have died. Before leaving Rocky Run, O'Neill received a poster-sized photo of last year's WW II Day which was autographed by the entire 7th grade, Rocky Run bumper stickers, and coffee cups. He had a chance to

address several classes of 7th and 8th graders and spoke of why he is taking on this trip and the importance to him and to the younger generation even in the middle of his radiation treatments for cancer.

Warren Hegg, national supervisor of the "Spirit of '45" introduced O'Neill, followed by a presentation from history teacher, Jamie Sawatzky, and students Ann Silva and Alex Hale.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 11

SUNDAY/FEB. 16

Magic. Max Major will perform "THINK: An Evening of Mind Reading and Magic" at 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. For tickets, visit www.maxmajor.net.

Music Performance. 7-9 p.m. at Centreville Baptist Church, 15100 Lee Highway, Centreville. Hear jazz classics performed by the 19-piece Franklin Park Big Band. Suggested donation \$10/person or \$30/family of three or more. Tickets at the door. Visit movinternational.org or 703-989-1792.

MONDAY/FEB. 17

Fairfax County Public Libraries Closed.

TUESDAY/FEB. 18

Toddlin' Twos. 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 2 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Storytime. 1:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 3-5 can enjoy songs, stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Ravenous Readers. 7 p.m. at

Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Students in grades 7-12 can discuss books. Drop-ins welcome. Free. 703-830-2223.

Pajama Storytime. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 1-6 can wear pjs and bring a cuddly friend and blanket and enjoy bedtime stories. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19

Read, Build, Play. Duplo Story

Time. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 3-5 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

Time for Tots. 11 a.m. at Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. 703-830-2223.

We Shall Not Be Moved. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Author M.J. O'Brien will discuss the 1963 Civil Rights sit-in at the lunch counter in Jackson, Mississippi. Special guest will be Joan Trumpauer Mulholland who was a participant in the sit-in. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Starlight Storytime. 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children of all ages can wear pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed friend and enjoy stories and fun. Free. Registration required. 703-830-2223.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. The high school band will perform. Visit www.fcps.edu/CentrevilleHS.

THURSDAY/FEB. 20

Toddlin' Twos. 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 2 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Storytime. 2 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 3-5 can enjoy songs, stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

The End (Or is It?) Book Club. 7:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Girls and boys in grades 5-6 can discuss a book. Call for title. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. The high school band will perform. Visit www.fcps.edu/CentrevilleHS.

FRIDAY/FEB. 21

Home + Garden Show. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Headlining the event is HGTV's "Curb Appeal" host John Gidding and "Design Star" Jennifer Bertrand.

More than 375 companies will showcase the latest products and services. \$10/adult; \$7/adult online; \$3/child age 6-12; free for children under 5. Visit www.capitalhomeandgardenshow.com. Also on Saturday, Feb. 22 and Sunday, Feb. 23.

Bouncin' Babies. 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Babies up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes, songs, stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Small Wonders. 4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy rhymes, songs and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Swing Dance. Lesson at 8:30 p.m., dancing from 9 p.m.-midnight at Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. Dance to music by Daryl Davis Band. \$15. Visit www.gottaswing.com or 703-359-9882.

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

Peaceful Paws. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children on the autism spectrum or other developmental challenges meet and read to Dakota. Reading is not required, but can read from a library book or an owned one. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

MONDAYS/JAN. 13-MARCH 31

Conversational English. 7:30-9 p.m. at Chantilly Bible Church, 4390 Pleasant Valley Road, Chantilly. There are four levels: beginning, basic, intermediate, and advanced. There is also a citizenship class. This is the eighth year church members have offered this free program. Childcare provided. Call 703-263-1188, ext. 15.

TUESDAY/FEB. 18

Presentation. 7 p.m. at Cale Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road. GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club (WFCWC) will host a presentation on "Library Update: Not the Library of Your Youth." Daria Parnes, branch manager of the Chantilly Regional Library, will discuss how libraries are changing to meet societal demands, and, specifically, the exciting things that the Chantilly Regional Library is doing for the community. Free. Visit www.wfcwc.org, call Marion at 703-631-7093, or e-mail us at westernfairfaxcountywvc@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 20

Support Group. 7-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. For people who have lost a loved one within the past two years. Free. E-mail ktyner@capitalcaring.org or 703-396-6198.

Information Meeting. Assistance League is looking for new members. Assistance League provides weekend food for elementary school children, new clothing for children, reading tutoring and comfort items to survivors of sexual assault. Food packing and information meeting from 10 a.m.-noon at Dominion Virginia Power, 3072 Centreville Road., Herndon. Email bethmaline@gmail.com, call 703-648-1822, or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 22

Free Parent Education Seminar. 9-1:30 a.m. at Montessori of Chantilly - Casa Dei Bambini, 4212F Technology Court, Chantilly. Learn about the impact of screen-time and technology on children. Visit www.mcdbc.com or 703-961-0211.

STEM-H Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road. Enjoy information sessions, exhibits and demonstrations from companies and groups in science, technology, engineering, math or medical and health sciences career. Register at www.surveymonkey.com/s/stem-h.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm for meeting materials, archives and more. For more information contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

THURSDAY/FEB. 27

Fall Registration Open House. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Clifton Children's Academy, 14315 Compton Road, Centreville. Bring your child and get a tour of the school. Register by calling 703-968-8455. Visit www.childrensacademy.com.

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