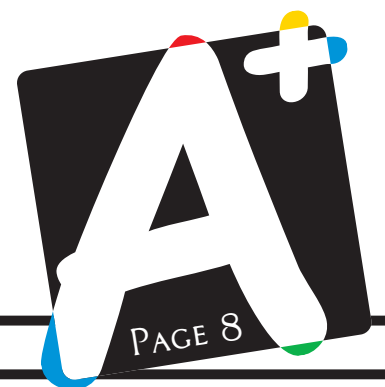


Centreville ♦ Little Rocky Run CENTRE VIEW

FEBRUARY 20-26, 2014

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE



Fun with friends: Enjoying the snow in Centreville's Country Club Manor community are (from left) Nick Watkins, Jacob Dietz, Caleb Picard and Thomas Ratliff.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TAMMY RATLIFF

Just Chillin' in the Snow

Two snowstorms, Feb. 12-13, brought 14 inches of snow initially, plus 4 more inches later, to the local area, bringing dogs and people out to play.
MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 5.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TAMMY RATLIFF

Coal, the 1-year-old Labradoodle of Centreville's Steve and Tammy Ratliff, loves frolicking in the snow.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DONNA NETSCHERT

Centreville veterinarian Jamie Netschert holds his standard poodle Molly, almost 15, in his snowy yard.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIE BUSH

Westfield High freshman Allie Bush sleds down the hill across from the Stone House on Route 29.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIE BUSH

Westfield High junior Sydney Bush spends Valentine's Day sledding on the snowy hill across from the historic Stone House on Route 29.

Laying the Foundation

Local women discuss ways to achieve world peace.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Concerned about unrest in the world and wanting to do something about it, the Women's Auxiliary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community hosted an interfaith event. Held Feb. 8 at the Mubarak Mosque in Chantilly, it gave women from different walks of life the chance to discuss their perspectives on peace.

The event was called "World Crisis and the Pathway to Peace." And during its course, the women presented their ideas on:

- ♦ How to save the world from destruction,
- ♦ How to create true peace and harmony in the world, and
- ♦ What's the role of religion in promoting justice, freedom, human rights and peace?

The motto of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is "Love for all, hatred for none." And that community's Sobia Bushra began the meeting by reading a verse from the Quran. It urged people to "let not a people's enmity incite you to act otherwise than with justice" and reminded them that "Allah is aware of what you do."

Also representing the Ahmadiyya Muslims was Mubarika Shah, who wished peace upon those attending the all-female event. "War and poverty have created turmoil that is getting out of control," she said. "We will share and discuss what role our religion can play and what individuals can do to help humanity." °°



BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Mary Beth Style

RELATED
STORY, PAGE 7

She explained that the Muslim religion of Islam means peace and submission and that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a "dynamic, fast-growing, international revival movement within Islam. Founded in 1889, it spans over 200 countries with membership exceeding tens of millions."

Shah said Ahmadiyya Muslims have a central spiritual leader and promote a message of peace and tolerance. They've also helped people worldwide via its independent charitable organization, Humanity First.

"The ladies of our community are members of the Ahmadi Muslim women's association called Lajna Imaillah," she said. "[We're] working for the betterment of our members [and] the society we live in. Today's program is toward this goal; we truly hope we will learn

SEE PEACE, PAGE 4

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Thank you to these businesses, organizations and individuals in our community for their contributions to Jeans Day and for their commitment to ending homelessness in Fairfax County and Falls Church. The \$60,000 raised will make a difference for the more than 3,000 children, women and men facing homelessness and the threat of severe temperatures and hunger today in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. The awareness raised by Jeans Day will help in the continued efforts to end homelessness in our community by 2018.

Our Jeans Day 2013 goal was to partner with our Fairfax-Falls Church community and raise \$25,000 to meet the Philip L. Graham Fund Challenge for a \$25,000 match and together we did it.

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This list includes donations of \$25 or more.

ROUNDUPS

House Fire: \$100,000 Damage

A house fire over the weekend caused an estimated \$100,000 damage to a single-family home in Centreville. Fire investigators say the blaze was accidental. They blamed it on an electrical anomaly in the air-conditioning wall unit in the garage that had been converted into a daycare center.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded Sunday, Feb. 16, around 2:15 p.m. to 7105 Ordway Road. First-arriving firefighters saw smoke and fire coming from the garage. They brought the fire under control in approximately 10 minutes.

Working smoke alarms provided early warning and allowed the home's occupants to escape unharmed before the firefighters arrived. No one was injured, but the fire displaced four adults and three children.

Therapy, Play Center Opening

Wings to Fly Therapy and Play Center, a treatment facility for special-needs children from birth to 18 years old, is opening in Chantilly. And it's holding an open house this Saturday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., with fun and refreshments for the whole family. It's at 4530 Walney Road, Suite 203; phone 703-466-5533.

Established by Centreville resident Donna Shank, this 2,300-square-foot clinic has two occupational/sensory-exploration rooms, several individual therapy rooms and a trained staff. The goal is to provide an integrated, all-in-one, therapy and recreational center empowering families to become their own experts about their children's potential. For more information, go to <http://www.wingstoflytherapy.com>.

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

Fair Oaks CAC to Meet

The Citizens Advisory Council of the Fair Oaks District Police Station will meet Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m., in the roll-call room of the police station. It's at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway in Chantilly.

Sully District Council Meeting

The Sully District Council of Citizens Associations and its Land-Use Committee will meet Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Discussed will be Fairfax Forward updates and the Fairfax Forward study of the Fairfax Center area. Call Jeff Parnes, evenings, at 703-904-0131.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Feb. 27, 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.

St. Baldrick's Sign-Ups

A St. Baldrick's Day event is slated for Sunday, March 23, at 4 p.m., at Fast Eddie's in the Newgate Shopping Center, at Routes

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 4

NEWS



Team Ashburn after qualifying for nationals. Westfield's Nicole Bachman is in the front row, middle.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JERO THE PHOTOGRAPHY

'To Be Graceful And Fast'

Westfield student competing in synchronized ice skating Nationals.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Westfield High freshman Nicole Bachman isn't an Olympian, but she is an accomplished ice skater. And on Feb. 27, she and Team Ashburn will compete in the Synchronized Skating National Competition in Colorado Springs.

A resident of Centreville's Virginia Run community, Bachman's among five girls from Fairfax County on the 15-member team. They skate at the Intermediate Level — the U.S. Figure Skating Association's



SEE BACHMAN, PAGE 15 **Nicole Bachman skating.**

Man Charged with Setting Home Fire

A Centreville man has been charged with arson in connection with a fire at the home where he was a renter. He is Giancarlo Deleon, 25, and the fire was at a single-family home on Scotch Run Court.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded there last Thursday, Feb. 13, around 12:30 a.m. And despite heavy snow and "dangerous" driving conditions, firefighters arrived at the scene quickly. They encountered flames coming from the basement of the three-story house and spreading to a neighboring home.

A second alarm was immediately requested, bringing more than 60 firefighters to the scene. Besides units from both Centreville stations 17 and 38, firefighters and equipment responded from the Chantilly, Fair Oaks, Fairfax and Oakton stations.

Firefighters conducted an interior attack and were able to bring the blaze under control in approxi-

mately 10 minutes.^o Four occupants of the home were displaced and are receiving help from the American Red Cross.

The residents were home when the fire began, but were able to safely escape. No one was injured; however, fire officials estimated the damage to the home at \$100,000. In addition, the adjacent home received approximately \$5,000 damage.

Deleon was arrested at the scene and charged with two felonies.^o Fire officials say he allegedly intentionally set fire to clothes that were saturated with an ignitable liquid. According to Fire Department spokesman Dan Schmidt, "Conversations with him and with other witnesses led to him being charged."

Deleon was charged with arson of an occupied dwelling and maliciously setting a fire to wood/grass. He was scheduled for arraignment Wednesday morning in General District Court.

— BONNIE HOBBS

ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 3

28/29 in Centreville.

The event raises funds for childhood cancer research. People volunteer to have their heads shaved and raise money in advance for the privilege. Then all those being shaved get it done together while others cheer them on. Sign up at <http://www.stbaldricks.org/events/mypage/149/2014>.

Learn about Parkland Plan

The Fairfax County Park Authority has a new comprehensive plan for parkland in the local area. And it's hosting a community meeting Wednesday, March 5, at 7 p.m., at Bull Run Elementary, 15301 Lee Highway in Centreville, to discuss the details.

The plan includes the parkland north of Route 29 on the west side of Virginia Run, parkland along Bull Run Post Office Road, the Bull Run stream and parkland along Pleasant Valley Road up to the Loudoun County border.

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.

NEWS

Women of Faith Discuss Peace

FROM PAGE 1

from each other and benefit from it."

Speaking next, Mary Beth Style of St. Timothy Catholic Church called Mary "the perfect model of womanhood because she said yes to God when he asked her to bring Jesus into the world. And whenever I have something important to do, I start with a prayer to Mary to be my guide. We can't save the world from destruction, but we know who can — God — and we have to ask him."

She said peace isn't defined by being without conflict, but by being in perfect harmony with God and others. "Love your brother as you," said Style. "It's simple and it's hard. God made us to love Him and love each other. It's in our hearts, but we need to speak out about it when we're silenced."

"Do we want to manage anger or — if we're going to have a peaceful world — resolve it?" she asked. "We assume we know what's in someone's heart and mind through their behavior. But if we can forgive that person, the anger dissipates. We have to pray to God — He always brings good from evil."

Akavish Khan from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community also spoke. She said that if uprisings, poverty and economic injustice are left unchecked, they could lead to world destruction or WWII. "So it's important to lay the foundation for peace," said Khan. "Ahmadiyya Muslims have been trying to do this for years."

She said their worldwide spiritual leader, Mirza Masrood Ahmad, the fifth successor to their promised messiah, champions the need for universal human rights. He also initiated a national peace campaign and urged world leaders to resolve their differences peacefully. Khan said Ahmad believes peace must first be established "within the home and then in society, the country and the world, recognizing the Creator leads us to [revere and care for] His creation, the world."

For a peaceful society, said Khan, "Peace and justice are inseparable and justice demands religious tolerance. Ahmadi Muslims believe all humans have equal rights and freedoms. We should act fairly with everyone, even our enemies, and not tolerate injustice to others. And we should help those in need — the poor, weak and vulnerable."

She said God forbids all forms of treachery or rebellion because they threaten a nation's peace. "This applies to Muslims, no matter where they live," said Khan. "Wherever Ahmadi Muslims go, they will love their country and be absolutely loyal and devoted to it."

So how may world peace be achieved? "Greed and envy increase restlessness," said Khan. "No country should seek to unjustly appropriate or take over the resources of another country. The Holy Quran forbids terrorism and promotes humility, justice, truth and righteousness. Our task is to take the first step toward a just and peaceful world where everyone lives in harmony."

SCHOOL NOTES

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

The following area students made the dean's list at James Madison University for the fall 2013 semester: **Katherine Fiely**, of Centreville; **John Gullette**, of Centreville; **Meaghan Heinecke**, of Centreville; **Brittany Houhoulis**, of Centreville; and **Alexandra Kriss**, of Centreville.

The following local students were chosen as National Youth Correspondents for the 2014 Washington Journalism and Media Conference at George Mason University: **Meagan Branch**, a student at Westfield High School has been selected to represent Centreville. **Matthew Scherger**, a student at Westfield High School has been selected to represent Herndon.

The following students from Centreville were named to the dean's list at The University of Mary Washington: **Alan L. Anderson**, a sophomore; **Gabrielle D. DeVincenzo**, a senior; **Mary C. Fesak**, a junior; **Caroline E. Filippone**, a senior; **Eun-Mi K. Ju**, a senior; **Jordan A. Shea**, a freshman; **Alexandra C. Tenney**, a junior; and **Kelsey L. Trumble**, a senior.

The following Centreville residents have been named to the University of Delaware's dean's list for the 2013 fall semester: **Mollie Berner**, **Brigid Deely** and **Meghan Winesett**.

Correction

In "She's Working To Build a School in Liberia" [Centre View, Feb. 13-19, 2014], the name of Angela Peabod's son was incorrect. His name is Arnold DeShield.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KARLA RUPP



Tina Dempsey's playful, 7-year-old Golden Retriever, Buddy is enjoying the snow. The family lives in Centreville's Sequoia Farms community.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LINA DEMPSEY

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OPINION

Fundamental Freedom To Choose To Marry

Virginia is historically slow in extending rights.

In 1967, Virginia was one of 16 states that banned interracial marriage and had criminal penalties for violators. Mildred Jeter, an African-American woman, and Richard Loving a white man, married in 1958, were convicted and banished from living in Virginia for 25 years to avoid serving a one-year prison sentence. On June 12, 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Loving v. Virginia*, overturned the convictions of Mildred and Richard Loving, declaring the ban on interracial marriage unconstitutional.

Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote the opinion: "Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival. ... To deny this fundamental freedom on so unsupportable a basis as the racial classifications embodied in these statutes, classifications so directly subversive of the principle of equality at the heart of the Fourteenth Amendment, is surely to deprive all the State's citizens of liberty without due process of law. The Fourteenth Amendment requires that the freedom of choice to marry not be restricted by invidious racial discriminations. Under our Constitution, the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual, and cannot be infringed by the State."

Less than 50 years ago, it was still illegal in Virginia, punishable by prison time, for a white person to marry someone of another race.

EDITORIAL

Judge Arenda Wright Allen last week on Valentine's Day, ruled that Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. In the opening of her order, Allen quotes Mildred Loving in a statement she made in 2007 on the 40th anniversary of *Loving v. Virginia*:

"We made a commitment to each other in our love and lives, and now had the legal commitment, called marriage, to match. Isn't that what marriage is? ... Today's young people realize that if someone loves someone they have a right to marry. Surrounded as I am now by wonderful children and grandchildren, not a day goes by that I don't think of Richard and our love, our right to marry, and how much it meant to me to have that freedom to marry the person precious to me, even if others thought he was the 'wrong kind of person' for me to marry. I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no matter their sexual orientation, should have that same freedom to marry. Government has no business imposing some people's religious beliefs over others. ... I support the freedom to marry for all. That's what Loving, and loving, are all about."

Judge Allen's written decision is compelling and well worth reading. You can find a copy of it on the Connection website.

It begins:

"A spirited and controversial debate is underway regarding who may enjoy the right to marry in the United States of America. America has pursued a journey to make and keep our citizens free. This journey has never been easy, and at times has been painful and poignant. The ultimate exercise of our freedom is choice. Our Declaration of Independence recognizes that 'all men' are created equal. Surely this

means all of us. While ever-vigilant for the wisdom that can come from the voices of our voting public, our courts have never long tolerated the perpetuation of laws rooted in unlawful prejudice. One of the judiciary's noblest endeavors is to scrutinize laws that emerge from such roots.

"Plaintiffs assert that the restriction on their freedom to choose to marry the person they love infringes on the rights to due process and equal protection guaranteed to them under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. These challenges are well-taken. ...

"The Court is compelled to conclude that Virginia's Marriage Laws unconstitutionally deny Virginia's gay and lesbian citizens the fundamental freedom to choose to marry."

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Correction

"Mental Health Crisis," a story appearing in the Feb. 12-18 Connection Newspapers, and the related editorial, "Addressing Mental Health," posit an incorrect premise based on an error in interpretation of data. The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) served more individuals in FY2013 than in previous fiscal years; there was not a double-digit decrease in services provided. For more information, see the letter from George Braunstein, Executive Director, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2014/feb/13/letter-correcting-error-mental-health-services/.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supporting Mental Health

To the Editor:

The editorial by Mary Kimm ["On Mental Health," Connection, Feb. 12-18, 2014], referencing reporting by Michael Pope, makes an incorrect assertion that our services to people with mental illness in Fairfax County have been "dramatically cut back."

In fact, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) served more individuals in FY2013 than in previous fiscal years, thanks to the generous and consistent support of Fairfax County government and the taxpayers of Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. The bulk of our budget comes from local, rather than state, dollars. This enables our CSB to provide services that many other Virginia jurisdictions are not able to have, including a mobile crisis unit, crisis stabilization, and many other services. To suggest that our local government has dramatically cut back mental health services is simply not true and needs to be corrected for the record.

Here are the numbers (total number of individuals served by the CSB, which includes those with mental illness and/or substance use disorders, intellectual disability, and infants and toddlers with developmental delays):

FY 2013:	20,988
FY 2012:	20,446
FY 2011:	20,058

What appeared to the reporter as a dramatic drop in the number of individuals served was the result of a change in the way we define the categories of individuals served. The county's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) he referenced does not include an entire category (that we are now required by the state to count separately) of individuals who receive "Services Outside of Program Area," including emergency services, assessment and monitoring. Prior to FY2012, those individuals were included in either "mental health services," "alcohol and drug services," or "intellectual disability services." The county's CAFR has retained the old categories but has not added this new one. Therefore, there is an appearance that services have been reduced, when in reality we are just more narrowly defining who is categorized as receiving a service defined by a particular disability. The number of individuals served who are not counted in the CAFR is large: in FY2013, there were 13,249 individuals who received CSB services that were not categorized in those three disability area categories.

If you actually compare apples to apples, our numbers have remained consistent, and have even increased slightly, despite the economic

difficulties of recent years. For this, we can thank our county leaders and our community who recognize, as you do, the importance of supporting these critical CSB services.

Thank you very much for your support.

George Braunstein

Executive Director
Fairfax-Falls Church
Community Services Board



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Enjoying the Day

Wes Riester of Virginia Run and his dog Ruby enjoy the snow day last week.

CENTREVIEW

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Bulova Addresses Women's Peace Conference

Recalls the start of faith groups working together.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Sharing her views on peace, faith and helping one's fellow man, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova participated recently in a peace event at a Chantilly mosque.

She was a guest speaker invited by the Women's Auxiliary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, and she said she's pleased to be in local government where she can have direct involvement with and impact upon her constituents.

When a recession hit the area in 1995, she represented the Braddock District and she and some others were brainstorming for ideas on making do with less money. "We were discussing human-services redesign and how best to help the poor with less federal dollars," said Bulova. "And a woman from Lord of Life Lutheran Church asked if the churches and county government talked with each other."



Sharon Bulova

The woman also asked if the churches talked to other churches. So, said Bulova, "We decided the churches and synagogues in the Braddock District could partner. We created Faith Communities in Action." And as Fairfax County became more diverse, places of worship representing other faiths



Amiella Mitchell

besides Christian and Jewish joined, as well. "We knew we had domestic-violence and affordable-housing issues," said Bulova. "So then we created an Office of Community Interfaith Services so we could work together on things of mutual concern to us." Then came Sept. 11, 2001. "People were

frightened," said Bulova. "They put flags in front of their houses and had strong feelings of patriotism. But a Lutheran pastor was concerned about a possible backlash against Muslims in Fairfax County. So we held an interfaith forum; we held hands and it created a bond between us all."

Later on, she said, "We learned that people in Syrian refugee camps in Turkey needed blankets. So we mobilized the faith communities to collect them. In the end, via Faith Communities in Action, 25,000 blankets were collected."

"Little things make a difference," she told the Ahmadi Muslim women. "I think the work you do is great and I look forward to working with you. We love and respect all of our neighbors and their religions."

Stone Middle School Principal Amiella Mitchell also stepped to the podium to share her thoughts. "How do we teach love for all and hatred for none in the schools?" she asked. "We teach children about building strong relationships and being critical thinkers. We're in this fight with you. It's a big picture that starts in the

SEE WORKING TOWARD, PAGE 13

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known



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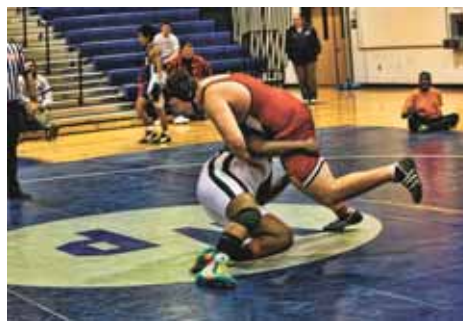


www.nvfs.org

Envisioning a Launch Pad for Young Adults

Paws4people develops pilot for former foster children, others.

By JOAN R. BRADY
CENTRE VIEW



2008: Hayfield High wrestling



2008: Tyrell as a young photographer, Lake Accotink Park during the annual 5K to benefit kids in foster care.



2008: Voices for Change arts competition for Virginia foster kids. Tyrell won 2nd place awarded at the Governor's mansion



2009: Tyrell's high school graduation selfie which he combined with an image of the Fairfax Families4kids group, winning 3rd place in the 2009 Voices for Change competition



2009: After graduation, Tyrell played for the Northern Riverneck semi-pro football team

Imagine if in your childhood, it was normal for a social worker to show up unexpectedly, hand you a big black garbage bag and tell you to pack your things.

That's what happened to Tyrell in the first quarter of his senior year of high school. Left behind were Tyrell's friends, the football and wrestling teams he had played on and the security he had finally found after nine years in foster care.

Tyrell, a resident of Fairfax County, was once among the 500,000 kids who are in foster care across the United States. He struggled to earn his high school diploma in his new school but succeeded, thanks in part to a mentor from Fairfax Families4Kids.

Earning that high-school diploma put Tyrell ahead of more than 50 percent of kids who have been in foster care, according to a report by the Association of Small Foundations/Annie E. Casey Foundation.

In Fairfax County, foster kids can choose to stay in foster care until they are 21, rather than aging out at 18. The extra years of services come with requirements that are designed to prepare kids for adulthood. They must go to school or work with little oversight. Imagine young adults who, in many cases in foster care, were housed more than they were raised. Kids whose caregivers did not work to instill ambition, confidence, self-esteem, work ethic or core social skills. What are their chances for becoming self-reliant?

Many former foster children can't meet the requirements to stay in the system, and even those who made it through until 21 did not gain the skills needed to be successful.

NOW 22, TYRELL IS one of the 26,000 young adults who age out of the foster care system each year in the U.S. without family and the emotional and economic support that often come with family. In Fairfax County in 2012, 49 foster children aged out.

Nationwide, four years after aging out of foster care, 25 percent have been homeless and



2013: Tyrell was living precariously, without prospects for a better future



Tyrell with his new boss April Cook (left), Terry Henry, co-founder of paws4people.org, Claire, a psychiatric service dog, and Kyria Henry, co-founder of paws4people.org.

more than 80 percent are unable to support themselves, according to an Association of Small Foundations/Annie E. Casey report.

Despite his winning smile, good nature and potential, Tyrell was living precariously. He has been essentially homeless. Alternating between the couches of friends and not having a place to sleep, there have been times when Tyrell stayed on the bus, where it was warm, until it stopped running at 3 a.m. Then he would head to an all-night McDonald's where he would hope that the manager didn't kick him out.

Mentors and other adults tried to support Tyrell, both emotionally and materially by paying his phone bill and providing him with leads on jobs. He never followed through on the job

leads. Like the social workers before them, these well-meaning adults, myself included, became frustrated. For an adult who was raised with caring parents, it was mind-boggling. How could he not make one single phone call to help himself? Why didn't he see that he had to step up to change his life? This was a kid who we believed in, why couldn't he believe in himself?

But Tyrell represents so many young adults who have grown up in the system. They are focused on survival, food and shelter. They don't trust. They have seen only failure, despite their potential. Their expectations are low. Their dreams don't exist. They are lacking that one person who is pivotal to success: the full-time, caring motivator. The person who is on them,

as emerging adults, every waking minute to get out of bed, to follow up on job leads, not to give up.

I was working to develop a plan for Tyrell and others that would incorporate this "caring motivator," that could include housing and maybe even employment, when Kyria Henry, co-founder of paws4people.org, contacted me. Understanding the human and actual price tag that comes along with foster care's failures, Kyria wanted discuss developing a program for young adults, paws4potential.

The non-profit that Kyria Henry founded with her parents, paws4people.org, has a mission to enhance the lives of those living with serious illnesses or disabilities by utilizing highly trained assistance dogs for children, veterans and civilians. The bulk of the dog training is done in prisons by inmates. I have seen firsthand the magic that happens when you bring together dogs and people with emotional and physical needs. Many lives have been forever changed by paws4people's work.

Kyria's proposal had the right ingredients to create success. The program frees participants from the stresses of seeking shelter and job. These emerging adults have stability inside a supportive community of staff, volunteers, students, clients and the dogs themselves. They learn marketable skills, among them dog grooming, care and training as well as facility maintenance skills. The boss becomes the full-time, caring motivator.

Tyrell said he was ready to get his life on track. He agreed that if he was accepted into the program, he would leave friends and family behind here to move to Wilmington, N.C. for the three-month pilot program.

The first hurdle was getting him down to Wilmington for his interview. Tyrell was more than three hours late to meet me for the six-hour drive. Biting back my frustration, I told him that, if he was accepted, being on time was a something they would help him with. I knew he could do this. He had to believe it too.

When Tyrell was offered the one place in the pilot program, he was shyly pleased.

There were two weeks between that day and the day I drove him to North Carolina to start his new life. We were in constant communica-



Tyrell, selfie with writer and photographer Joan Brady

tion, talking through the what-ifs, me constantly reassuring him that he could do it. And he reminding himself that it was only three months.

TWO DAYS BEFORE we were to drive down to Wilmington, I got a text from Tyrell. He couldn't do it, he wrote. He wasn't going to go. He couldn't leave his friends.

My heart fell. The statistics were already against him. He had to really want this in order for him to have a chance of succeeding. In my opinion, this pilot program would give him the best chance of having a successful life. We texted for about 15 minutes when he texted, "I new I would get u. Haha. U fell for it. See you at 10:30am on Saturday." Another hurdle in a stadium's worth of hurdles had been cleared.

The kids I have watched grow up in the foster care system are in now prison, living on the street and/or are parents. There are very few success stories. I firmly believe that the many young adults who have been let down by both their families and the foster care system can succeed if given the right opportunity. These were once babies who entered the world expecting to be loved, taken care of and supported. They didn't get those things as children. They deserve the opportunity to get them now. Nothing about this is easy. It will take commitment, caring support and not giving up.

Tyrell texted me after I left him at the extended stay hotel which would be his home for the next three months, "I am going to do my best to complete the program. [This] is what I'm starving for. I know it'll all work out for me. I just have to leave everything in the past and I will be ok."

Paws4potential isn't going to be the right fit for everyone, but I firmly believe that paws4people.org is on the right track to change outcomes for kids who have aged out of foster care and others similarly at risk. According to a study by the Jim Casey Youth Initiative, every person who gets his or her life on track, saves society an average lifetime cost of \$300,000. Getting ex-foster kids successfully launched makes for a better society and a better world.

If you are interested in finding out more and/or would like to help turn this pilot into a long-term program, please contact me at joan@joanbradyphotography.com. Or go to paws4people.org and click on the paws4potential program page.

Joan Brady is a professional photographer; mentor and advocate for current and former foster children; volunteer with Paws4People; and a Great Falls resident.

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

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE

Tax Help. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive will hold free tax help hosted by AARP Tax-Aide on Tuesdays from 4-8:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 1-5 p.m. Free. For taxpayers with low- and middle-income and special attention to those age 60 and older. Bring photo ID, social security card and prior year's tax return.

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.

THURSDAY/FEB. 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.

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.mcdcb.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 for more.

MONDAY/MARCH 3

Application Deadline. 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, which are awarded annually for up to five years of undergraduate study (or until a student graduates.) Applicants must

be graduating high school seniors or full-time college students working toward their first undergraduate degree. Students may apply online at www.moaa.org/education. The application deadline is Monday, March 3 at noon. 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. A monetary prize will also be awarded to all winners. The theme of the contest is "The Impact of Recycling on the Environment." Visit www.americandisposal.com/site_images/pdfs/ADSArtContestGuidelines-Application.pdf for more.

TUESDAY/MARCH 4

Financial Planning Workshop. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, 3701 Pender Drive, suite 400, Fairfax. Hosted by the Alzheimer's Association. Free.

Register at 800-272-3900.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 5

Sully Woodlands Planning Open House. 7 p.m. at Bull Run Elementary School, 15301 Lee Highway, Centreville. Help plan the future of five large parks in Sully Woodlands. Draft conceptual development plans have been created for these four parks as well as a Sully Woodlands Trail Plan and are available for public review and comment at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/sullywoodlands.htm. Free. 703-324-8662.

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.

TUESDAY/MARCH 11

Living With Alzheimer's: For Middle-Stage Caregivers. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, 3701 Pender Drive, suite 400, Fairfax. Discuss helpful strategies to provide safe, effective and comfortable care in the middle stage of Alzheimer's. Hosted by the Alzheimer's Association. Free. Register at 800-272-3900.

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.wfcwc.org or e-mail westernfairfaxcountywc@gmail.com for more.

TUESDAY/MARCH 18

Sale Deadline. Sales have 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> to learn more or submit an order.

Living With Alzheimer's: For Middle-Stage Caregivers. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, 3701 Pender Drive, suite 400, Fairfax. Discuss helpful strategies to provide safe, effective and comfortable care in the middle stage of Alzheimer's. Hosted by the Alzheimer's Association. Free. Register at 800-272-3900.

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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. 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 for more.

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

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 for more.

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

Paws for Reading. 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 5-12 can meet and read to a trained therapy dog. They can read from a library book or already owned one. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

SUNDAY/FEB. 23

Home + Garden Show. 10 a.m.-6 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 for more.

Hands-On Workshop. 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Learn how to make authentic scenery and displays for model train layouts of different sizes. Participants can bring something to work on, like model buildings that need to be painted. Included in admission. \$4/adult; \$2/child; free for member and children under 5. Visit www.fairfaxstation.org or 703-425-9225.

MONDAY/FEB. 24

Bouncin' Babies. 10:30 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.

Small Wonders. 11:30 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.

Sully Book Club. 1 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Discuss "Flight Behavior" by Barbara Kingsolver. Free. 703-830-2223.

Book Buddies. 2:15 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in grades 1-2 can discuss a book. Free. 703-502-3883 for title.

Writers of Chantilly. 6:45 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can share their work and receive feedback. Free. 703-502-3883.

TUESDAY/FEB. 25

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

Wheee! 11 a.m. at Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy a high octane story time. Registration required 703-830-2223.

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

Teen Knitting. 7 p.m. at Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Teens age 12-18 can learn how to knit, get help with a specific project. Materials will be provided, but if you have a project in mind, bring own materials. Free. Registration required, 703-830-2223.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

Read, Build, Play. Duplo Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 18-36 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

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.

A Novel Society. 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults can discuss "Defending Jacob" by William Landay. Free. 703-830-2223.

THURSDAY/FEB. 27

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.

FRIDAY/FEB. 28

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.

SATURDAY/MARCH 1

Kaleidoscope Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. All ages can enjoy a sensory story time focusing on the strengths and adapting to children on the autism spectrum and with other developmental disabilities. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

MONDAY/MARCH 3

Bouncin' Babies. 10:30 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.

Small Wonders. 11:30 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.

Frying Pan Farm. 2 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in grades K-6 can learn about a small farm animal, hear a story and take home a craft. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

TUESDAY/MARCH 4

Dr. Seuss Reads: Toddlin' Twos. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 2 can enjoy stories and activities in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

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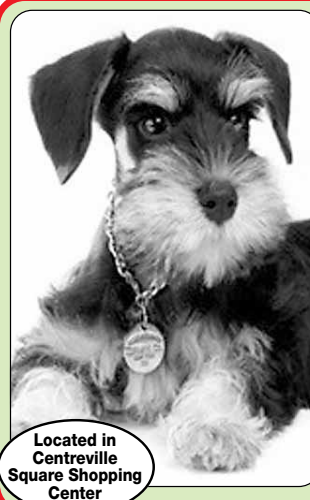
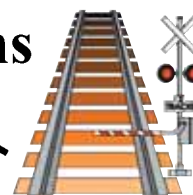
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Centreville Grappler Love Wins 195-Pound Region Title

Chantilly's Carlson wins 145-pound title.

BY JON ROETMAN
CENTRE VIEW

Centreville junior Tyler Love put on a show for Wildcat fans during the 6A North region wrestling meet. Love won the 195-pound region championship on Feb. 16 at Centreville High School, pinning Lake Braddock's Ian Reilly 3 minutes, 28 seconds into the match. Love, who is committed to the University of Virginia, pinned each of his four opponents during the two-day event and was named Most Outstanding Wrestler.

"All my friends got to come here and cheer me on," Love said. "All my football coaches were here running it. It was pretty sweet."

During the fall, Love was a linebacker on the Centreville football team that went undefeated and captured the 6A state championship. Love will have an opportunity to win a state championship in a second sport when he competes at the state wrestling meet Feb. 21-22 at Robinson Secondary School.

What is the difference between competing in a team sport like football and an individual sport like wrestling?

"I would say wrestling is less pressure because that's only you," Love said. "If you're playing football, if you miss a tackle, you let down your team. I like the whole individual aspect because if you mess up or you do great, it's all on you."

Walter Carlson, Chantilly's all-time wins leader, captured the 145-pound championship, beating Madison senior Connor Eckhardt via 10-4 decision in the final. Carlson credited his success to offseason work.

"In the offseason is where you can pass



Centreville junior Tyler Love pinned Lake Braddock's Ian Reilly to win the 195-pound championship at the 6A North region wrestling meet on Feb. 16 at Centreville High School.

Chantilly senior Walter Carlson won the 145-pound championship at the 6A North region wrestling meet on Feb. 16 at Centreville High School.



people," he said. "Everyone works hard during the season, so it's the offseason [that

makes a difference]."

Westfield had three grapplers reach the

finals, but each fell short. Senior Gabe Ryan finished runner-up in the 120-pound bracket, losing to Lake Braddock's Ryan Haskett via 4-3 decision. Junior Justin Yorkdale finished runner-up at 126 pounds, losing to Robinson's Mason Rockman via 3-2 decision. Sophomore Jay Aiello placed second at 170 pounds, losing to Robinson's Daniel Mika by 9-4 decision.

Robinson won its third team title in four seasons. The Rams had nine grapplers reach the finals, with seven winning championships. Robinson scored 257.5 points, followed by Battlefield (147.5), Osbourn Park (136.5), Lake Braddock (129.5) and Hayfield (128).

Westfield finished sixth with 119 points, followed by Centreville and Chantilly, which tied for seventh with 89 points.

"I would say wrestling is less pressure because that's only you. If you're playing football, if you miss a tackle, you let down your team. I like the whole individual aspect because if you mess up or you do great, it's all on you."

— Centreville junior Tyler Love

Westfield's Freix Qualifies for States in All-Around

Westfield's Katie Freix placed third in the all-around competition during the 6A North region gymnastics meet on Feb. 18 at Lake Braddock, earning her a berth in the state meet.

Freix finished with a score of 37.425. South County's Collea Burgess won the all-around with a total of 38.234, and Fairfax's Rachel Barborek (37.967) finished runner-up.

Freix finished first on beam (9.433), third on vault (9.625), fifth on floor (9.317) and sixth on bars (9.05).

The top five finishers in each event advanced to states, along with the top three in the all-around and the top two teams.

Washington-Lee won its third consecutive region championship with a score

of 140.449. McLean finished runner-up for the third straight year with a total of 140.077. T.C. Williams placed third with a score of 138.459, followed by Robinson (128.766), Oakton (127.8) and Woodson (123.19).

Burgess finished first on floor (9.517), Hayfield's Molly Overstreet took first on bars (9.75) and T.C. Williams' Holland Cathey won vault (9.775).

Westfield's Katie Freix placed third in the all-around during the 6A North region gymnastics meet on Feb. 18 at Lake Braddock.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

NEWS

Working Toward World Peace

FROM PAGE 7

home and moves into society.”

The women also discussed justice. To Bulova, it means “fairness and respect for people’s points of view and backgrounds.”

Mary Beth Style of St. Timothy Catholic Church said it’s “recognizing that people have a dignity just because we are. Love has to be a part of justice and charity, or else these things are tyranny.”

Event moderator Mubarika Shah defined justice this way: “What you want for your brother, you want for yourself.”

Before closing the peace conference with a silent prayer by everyone, Farhana Fouzia, president of the auxiliary’s Northern Virginia chapter, thanked the guest speakers. She said their participation showed their “love and passion for humanity and peace.” And, she added, “We hope this bond of sistership continues to strengthen.”

BUSINESS NOTES

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com.

Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative and NOVI Energy announce that the NOVEC Energy Production, Halifax County Biomass plant that the two companies have been working on together near South Boston, Va., generated its first electricity and connected to the PJM regional electric transmission grid on Sept. 11, 2013, at 11:11 a.m.

during testing.

The \$170+ million station will generate up to 49.9 megawatts of renewable electricity for NOVEC customers. The plant will use waste-wood left over from logging operations in Southside Virginia as fuel. NOVEC, headquartered in Manassas, is a not-for-profit corporation that distributes electricity and energy services to more than 150,000 customers in Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William,

Stafford and Clarke counties, the City of Manassas Park, and the Town of Clifton. It is one of the largest electric distribution cooperatives in the nation.

Staybridge Suites Chantilly/Fairfax hotel received the InterContinental Hotels Group 2013 Quality Excellence Award, given to hotels achieving distinction in all aspects of their hotels in recognition of overall quality excellence.

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Until Further Notice

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Not to state the obvious (which I readily admit I do), but to be given a terminal diagnosis: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, along with a rather disappointing prognosis: "13 months to two years" is a challenging set of extremely unexpected (given my immediate family's medical history) circumstances. I don't want to say that I live under a dark cloud – because I don't like the negative implication or reaction it conjures, but I definitely feel as if I have a metaphorical sword of Damocles hanging over my head; which I only refer to as an out-of-context Three Stooges reference wherein a non-Stooge was innocently standing under a pie which Moe had thrown to the ceiling and there it stuck, hanging precariously over the character's head. Now I still don't know the proper historical context of the sword of Damocles, I only know the Three Stooges version, but there was some imminent danger involved (not death, mind you), but rather a falling pie which ultimately landed flush on the character's face as she looked up to make further inquiries.

Nevertheless, pie issues/references notwithstanding, having seen my oncologist today while being infused and receiving a big smile/ "you're going great"/thumbs-up set of gestures/reactions while reclining in my Barcalounger with a chemotherapy I.V. dripping medicine into my right arm, is the kind of super-positive feedback with which I can live. Along with my every-three-week pre-chemotherapy lab work and my every-three-month CT Scan followed by my every-three-month face-to-face appointment with my oncologist, this is how I roll. Worrying about upcoming tests, waiting anxiously for results, trying not to anticipate good, bad or indifferent; living day to day and trying to appreciate my good fortune and the unexpected above-average quality of life with which I've been blessed – for a terminal cancer patient, that is.

Ergo, the title of this column: "Until Further Notice." Whenever I'm asked by those in my know how I'm doing, I typically respond: "I'm doing fine, until further notice." And "further notice" is my way of lightening the emotional load under which I live and thankfully still breathe; any port in a storm, you might say. Moreover, even though there's relative calm right now, given my diagnosis/prognosis, there's likely to be some inevitable unpleasantness down the road – as I'm semi-fond of saying/joking. And as many changes as I've already made to diet and lifestyle since I was diagnosed, I don't suppose I'll know what turns I've taken until my oncologist advises me after my miscellaneous test results have been analyzed. As much as I'm doing internally, I still feel as if the news will come externally. As a result, I feel pressure every day; self-assessing, analyzing, introspecting; it's a constant battle of mind over what may or not matter yet. And of course, I can never forget the pie.

The great Satchel Page joked to not look back because you never know who's chasing you. And though I'm certainly mindful of death and what's chasing me (figuratively speaking), ignoring certain facts as they were presented to me by my oncologist is much easier said than done. When I first learned about my medical situation/diagnosis/prognosis, it certainly sounded like a death sentence; now, five years later, it has evolved into more of a life sentence. And though it's unlikely I'll ever make parole, it is life nonetheless, and though there are some days when it's not very pretty, these are days I didn't anticipate having. And so far, there's been no pie or sword to diminish them – all things considered.

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

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Maria McClendon

On February 17th, 2014, Maria McClendon of Haymarket, VA passed away at her home peacefully surrounded by her family. She was a beloved wife of Bob McClendon for 27 years and a devoted mother of Ashley (Ryan) Donovan and Jamey McClendon. She is survived by a brother and sister Peter Marzocca and Ann Marie Little; brothers and sister-in-law Mike and Debbie Barefoot and Chuck McClendon; parents-in-law Jimmy and Frances McClendon; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins, and a special cousin Mary Lynne Lubinger. Pre-deceased by her parents Joe and Grace Marzocca and brother-in-law Ted Little of Endicott, NY.

She was an admired Fairfax County teacher for 35 years. The family would like to thank Dr. Anthony Felice and Reston Hematology and Oncology for their continued compassion and care during her long and courageous battle, and her colleagues for their unending support, especially those present for the last few months.

Family and friends may call on Wednesday, February 19th, 2014, from 4-8 p.m. at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home, 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032. Funeral Mass will be Thursday, February 20th, 2014, 11 a.m. Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 8213 Linton Hall Road, Gainesville, VA 20155. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a charity of your choice or to the family for a pending scholarship fund in her honor.

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Synchronicity: The team ice skating in unison during a competition.

Bachman Competes in Nationals

FROM PAGE 3

most competitive level. And this is the first time an Intermediate team from the Washington Metropolitan area has made Nationals.

"I thought we had a chance," she said. "We had a really good season, medaled at just about every competition and got great reports from the judges and other people watching."

In synchronized skating, team members skate to music in unison while demonstrating their teamwork, speed and ability to perform intricate formations and challenging step sequences. Comprised of girls ages 13-18, this Intermediate-level team is the top group at Ashburn. To compete on it, members typically have more than six years skating experience and have passed various tests set by U.S. Figure Skating.

The season goes from June-February, but competitions began in November. Team Ashburn competed in three Massachusetts venues, but it was a Jan. 31 competition in Hershey, Pa., that sent it to Nationals. "I was really happy," said Bachman, 14. "It's nice to be on a national team and know you're going to a competition against the best teams in the whole country."

Actually, it's her second national event. "I went with another team from Arlington, four years ago," she said. "But I was only in fifth grade then, so it'll be exciting to go back again."

She's been skating 10 years and likes "the gracefulness of it and how pretty the skaters look on the ice. The unity of synchronized skating is really cool, and skating with your friends is nice. We all have a common goal and it's fun to achieve it together."

The team practices four hours on Saturdays and four hours on Sundays and takes weekly ballet and strength classes. Bachman also skates three days a week, both before and after school, at either the Ashburn Ice House or the Fairfax Ice Arena. She does her homework in class, at home or at competitions, while waiting to perform.

The toughest part of synchronized skating, she said, is that, "When you skate with



Nicole Bachman on the ice.

others, if someone trips you, it may look like it's your fault, but it isn't. It's also a lot of pressure. You don't want to let the team down, so you have to look out for the others. But we're a fun team; we're like a big family and our three coaches are really nice."

Synchronized skaters must also possess some particular talents. "You have to be graceful and have good posture," said Bachman. "And you've got to be fast on the ice and develop the skill of properly holding onto the next person in line without bringing them down or forward."

But they're judged on their skating skills. "It's important how your elements look — how clean your circles and lines are — plus your creativity and how fast you are," she said. "It's also about your overall presentation — how you look as a team and how well you do things in unison."

At Nationals, the top four teams from each of the Eastern, Midwest and Pacific sections of the U.S. will be vying for the title. Team Ashburn will perform a three-and-a-half-minute routine to a medley from the TV show, "So You Think You Can Dance." The girls will skate to a swing song, a sway song and to Jennifer Lopez's "On the Floor."

"I think we have a shot at getting into the top half of the teams," said Bachman. "But every time we skate, we just want to improve our score. We made it to nationals and we want to do the best we can."

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Welcoming curb appeal with large flat lot and charming front porch. Interior smartly refreshed throughout with paint and

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