

February 20-26, 2014

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News

'To Be Graceful and Fast'

Westfield student competing in synchronized ice skating Nationals.

> By Bonnie Hobbs THE CONNECTION

estfield 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 Assciation's 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



SEE BACHMAN, PAGE 13 Nicole Bachman skating.



Prevention and Treatment of Sports Injuries

Learn about state-of-the-art treatments for your condition from one of the area's leading orthopedic surgeons.

This physician lecture will help you by suggesting ways to improve mobility and live a more active lifestyle with less pain and discomfort and at the same time provide information on the latest techniques in the field of Sports Medicine.



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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 $$\operatorname{\textsc{See}}$$ Roundups. Page 4

News



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



A Fair Oaks dad stands beside his car buried in the snow, Feb. 13, while his child begins to play.

Just Chillin' in the Snow Two snowstorms, Fel 14 inches of snow in more inches later, to

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



Liz Blankenship clearing the snow from her car in Fair Oaks.



A Bobcat does its best to clear a snowy street in this Fair Oaks neighborhood.



Shunta Tomioka, 8, of Penderbrook, building a snow fort in his yard.



Penderbrook resident Justin Rinaldi shovels snow from around his car.

Roundups

From Page 3

p.m., at Fast Eddie's in the Newgate Shopping Center, at Routes 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, week-days, 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, likenew 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

Checking Out Library Funding

"How are we going

to get books on the

— Charles Fegan, vice chair-

man, Fairfax County Public

Library Board of Trustees

shelves? How are

we going to get

hours?"

Northern Virginia jurisdictions take a variety of approaches to support libraries.

By Michael Lee Pope
The Connection

hat is the future of the neighborhood library? That's an open question as jurisdictions across America are rethinking

their library system, a revaluation brought on by tight budgets and technological change. Here in Northern Virginia, jurisdictions have taken a variety of approaches to funding libraries. Some, such as Arlington, have restored almost all the funding cut during the recession. Others, such as Fairfax County, lag behind the statewide average.

"We are very concerned about this because our funding is far down behind the rest of the state of Virginia and in the entire met-

ropolitan area as well," said Charles Fegan, vice chairman of the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees. "How are we going to get books on the shelves? How are we going to get hours?'

Supporters of pubic libraries are concerned that elected officials who control funding don't seem as committed to the idea of public libraries as they once were. Some of that change is technological. In an era when bookstores are vanishing and books are available for download, some are questioning the logic behind having public libraries at all. That's why libraries across Northern Virginia took massive hits when budgets became tighter because of the recession

"The libraries are a convenient target because a lot of people look at the libraries relative to many other things and decide they are not as important," said Alexandria City Councilman Justin Wilson. "I don't

necessarily always come to that conclusion, but I do think libraries are changing. They're definitely changing."

BACK IN FISCAL YEAR 2009,

before the recession hit, the Fairfax County Public Library system had a budget of \$33.1 million. Since that time, members of the Board of Supervisors have slashed about 20 percent out of budget for the library system, which has reduced the numbers of hours libraries are open and the collections available

on the shelves. As a result, library officials have had to get creative to stretch their limited budget as far See Checking Out. Page 15

27 Quick and Easy Fix Ups to Sell Your Home Fast and for Top Dollar

Chantilly – Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you'll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market, here's a way to help you to be as prepared as possible.

To assist home sellers, a new industry report has just been released called "27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar." It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today's tough, aggressive marketplace.

Through these 27 tips you will discover

how to protect and capitalize on your most important investment, reduce stress, be in control of your situation, and make the best profit possible. In this report, you'll discover how to avoid financial disappointment, or worse, a financial disaster when selling your home. Using a common-sense approach, you will get the straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home.

You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the most amount of money.

To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-800-358-6410 and enter 4066. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your FREE special report NOW.

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News

'It's Important to Lay the Foundation'

Local women discuss ways to achieve world peace.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

oncerned 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."o

representing Ahmadiyya Muslims 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."

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 Mus-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 nerable."

RELATED STORY, PAGE 7

from each other and benefit from

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 WWIII. "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 lim women's association called 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 vul-

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."



Bonnie Hobbs/The Connection **Mary Beth Style**

People Notes

Email announcements to centreview@

David Steigler, LA, AICP, LEED Green Associate, has been promoted to office director at Pennoni Associates in Chantilly. Steigler's responsibilities will include client services and business development efforts for the Chantilly office, and managing the success and growth of the northern Virginia staff and projects. He is a professional landscape architect and land planner with more than 30 years of experience.

Amy Burke, of Chantilly, has been named board vice chair of the Children's

MILITARY NOTE

Air Force Airman Megan M. Drechsler graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Drechsler earned distinction as an honor graduate. She is the daughter of Pamela Drechsler of Centreville and granddaughter of Robert Cooke of Fairfax. The airman is a 2013 graduate of Westfield High School.



OPINION

Fundamental Freedom To Choose To Marry

Virginia is historically slow in extending rights.

n 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 oneyear prison sentence. On June 12, 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Lov-EDITORIAL ing v. Virginia, overturned the convictions of Mildred and Richard Loving, declaring the ban on interracial marriage un-

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.

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 pre-

cious 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

Judge Arenda Wright Allen last week on 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 www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/ 2014/feb/13/letter-correcting-error-mentalhealth-services/.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supporting Mental Health

To the Editor:

constitutional.

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.



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News

Bulova Addresses Women's Peace Conference

Recalls the start of faith groups working together.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

haring 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."

Related Story, Page 5

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 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 refuge 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 Amielia 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 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



Bonnie Hobbs/The Connection **Amielia Mitchell**

/The Connection Bonnie Hobbs/
ell Sharon Bulova

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 confer-



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

ence 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."

Man Charged with Setting Home Fire

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 approximately 10 minutes. Four

Centreville man has 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.° 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





2008: Hayfield High wrestling

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



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

Education Learning Fun

Envisioning a Launch Pad for Young Adults

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

more than 80 percent are unable to support leads. Like the social workers before them, these

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 him-

lieved in, why couldn't he believe in himself?

self? Why didn't he see that he had to step up

But Tyrell represents so many young adults

who have grown up in the system. They are fo-

cused on survival, food and shelter. They don't

trust. They have seen only failure, despite their

Paws4people develops pilot for former foster children, others.

By Joan R. Brady THE CONNECTION

magine 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

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 fos-

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-

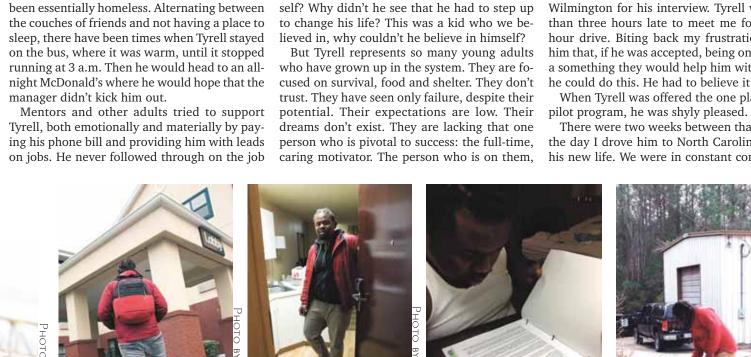
Many former foster children can't meet the requirements to stay in the system, and even those sleep, there have been times when Tyrell stayed who made it through until 21 did not gain the on the bus, where it was warm, until it stopped skills needed to be successful.

NOW 22, TYRELL IS one of the 26,000 young manager didn't kick him out. adults who age out of the foster care system each year in the U.S. without family and the emochildren 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



themselves, according to an Association of Small

Despite his winning smile, good nature and

potential, Tyrell was living precariously. He has

Foundations/Annie E. Casey report.

of paws4people.org.

Feb 1, 2014 Tyrell arrives at his housing for the pilot program



Feb. 1, 2014, Tyrell practices welcoming guests into his new home.



Feb 2, 2014 - Tyrell's selfie, pouring over his job Tyrell working with a manual before his first official day of work.



young dog at paws4potential

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

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, cofounder 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 tion, talking through the what-ifs, me constantly magic that happens when you bring together dogs and people with emotional and physical needs. Many lives have been forever changed **TWO DAYS BEFORE** we were to drive down by paws4people's work.

Kyria's proposal had the right ingredients to create success. The program frees participants He couldn't leave his friends. from the stresses of seeking shelter and job. These emerging adults have stability inside a learn marketable skills, among them dog grooming motivator.

Tyrell said he was ready to get his life on track. stadium's worth of hurdles had been cleared. He agreed that if he was accepted into the prowell-meaning adults, myself included, became gram, he would leave friends and family behind care system are in now prison, living on the here to move to Wilmington, N.C. for the three-street and/or are parents. There are very few 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-ceed if given the right opportunity. These were hour drive. Biting back my frustration, I told him that, if he was accepted, being on time was to be loved, taken care of and supported. They a something they would help him with. I knew didn't get those things as children. They deserve he could do this. He had to believe it too.

There were two weeks between that day and tional and economic support that often come ing his phone bill and providing him with leads person who is pivotal to success: the full-time, the day I drove him to North Carolina to start stay hotel which would be his home for the next with family. In Fairfax County in 2012, 49 foster on jobs. He never followed through on the job caring motivator. The person who is on them, his new life. We were in constant communica-

Tyrell, selfie with writer and photographer Joan Brady

prisons by inmates. I have seen firsthand the reassuring him that he could do it. And he reminding himself that it was only three months.

> to Wilmington, I got a text from Tyrell. He couldn't do it, he wrote. He wasn't going to go.

My heart fell. The statistics were already against him. He had to really want this in order supportive community of staff, volunteers, stu- for him to have a chance of succeeding. In my dents, clients and the dogs themselves. They opinion, this pilot program would give him the best chance of having a successful life. We texted ing, care and training as well as facility mainte- for about 15 minutes when he texted, "I new I nance skills. The boss becomes the full-time, carwould get u. Haha. U fell for it. See you at 10:30am on Saturday." Another hurdle in a

The kids I have watched grow up in the foster 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 suconce babies who entered the world expecting the opportunity to get them now. Nothing about When Tyrell was offered the one place in the this is easy. It will take commitment, caring support and not giving up.

Tyrell texted me after I left him at the extended 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 longterm 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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BULLETIN BOARD

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 middleincome 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-

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

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 for

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 interestfree 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 email 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

Centreville

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8:45 and 11am

15450 Lee Highway Centreville, VA 20120

703.830.0098

www.CentrevillePres.com

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 navypto.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

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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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. 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-

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.capitalhomeand gardenshow.com for more.

Rouncin' 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.capitalhomeand gardenshow.com for more.

gardenshow.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, 703502-3883.

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.capitalhomeand gardenshow.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.fairfax-station.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.





SPORTS

Centreville Grappler Love Wins 195-Pound Region Title

Chantilly's Carlson wins 145-pound title.

By Jon Roetman THE CONNECTION

entreville junior Tyler Love put on a show for Wildcat fans during the 6A North region wrestling meet. Love won the 195pound 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."

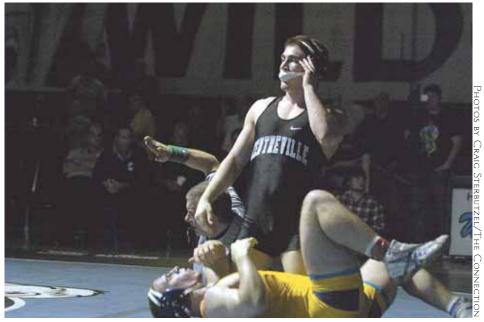
During the fall, Love was a linebacker on the Centreville football team that went undefeated and captured the 6A state championship. Love will have an opportunity to win a state championship in a second sport when he competes at the state wrestling meet Feb. 21-22 at Robinson Secondary

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."

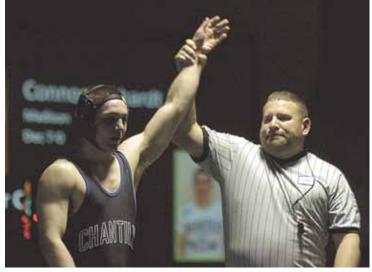
Walter Carlson, Chantilly's all-time wins leader, captured the 145-pound championship, beating Madison senior Connor Eckhardt via 10-4 decision in the final. Carlson credited his success to offseason

"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 145pound 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 120pound bracket, losing to Lake Braddock's Ryan Haskett via 4-3 decision. Junior Justin Yorkdale finished

runner-up at 126 pounds, losing Robinson's Mason Rockman via 3-2 decision. Sophomore Jay Aiello placed second at 170 pounds, losing Daniel Mika by

9-4 decision. Robinson won its third team title in four seasons. The Rams had nine grapplers reach the finals, championships. aspect Robinson scored 257.5 points, followed Battlefield (147.5),Osbourn Park (136.5), Lake Braddock (129.5) and Hayfield

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

> — Centreville junior **Tyler Love**

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

Westfield's Freix Qualifies for States in All-Around

estfield's Katie Freix placed third in the all-around com petition 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

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 allaround during the 6A North region gymnastics meet on Feb. 18 at Lake Braddock.



News

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



Photos Courtesy of Jerothe Photography

Bachman Competes in Nationals

From Page 2

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

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 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 par-



Nicole Bachman on the ice.

in fifth grade then, so it'll be exciting to go back ticular 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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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 anout-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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(Ryan) Donovan and Jamey McClendon.

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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,

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

to thank Dr. Anthony Felice and Reston

teacher for 35 years. The family would like

Hematology and Oncology for their contin-

ued compassion and care during her long

and courageous battle, and her colleagues

for their unending support, especially those

Family and friends may call on Wednes-

day, February 19th, 2014, from 4-8 p.m. at

Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032. Funeral

Mass will be Thursday, February 20th, 2014,

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Loudoun	\$11,854,503	\$36.55	129.32 percent
Fauquier	\$2,051,735	\$31.19	110.36 percent
Manassas Park	\$511,095	\$35.15	108.56 percent
Manassas	\$1,356,148	\$34.72	107.23 percent
Prince William	\$11,798,000	\$28.46	100.7 percent
Fairfax City	\$690,751	\$30.21	93.29 percent
Fairfax County	\$28,626,359	\$26.12	92.41 percent
•			

Checking Out Library Funding

From Page 4 as they can.

"As an example, there are some days that we don't answer the telephone," said Mary Mulrenan, marketing director with the Fairfax County Public Libraries. "We just don't have the staffing."

When the recession hit, all Northern Virginia jurisdictions cut back on library funding. Some have made efforts to restore funding, while others have lagged behind. Arlington had led the way in restoring almost all the hours that were cut in their neighborhood libraries, although the Central Library still opens an hour later than it used to and closes an hour earlier than it used to. But overall, Arlington's library system remains one of the best in the region. Earlier this month, the Library Journal named the Arlington Public Library one of six "star" libraries in Virginia.

"The library is the only place you can get face-to-face personalized research assistance that you would never get online," said Peter Golkin, public information officer for Arlington Public Library. "Librarians are a professionally trained group of experts. They're kind of like concierges for all sorts of life issues."

LIBRARIES REMAIN a budget target, even as jurisdictions emerge from the re-

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to centreview@connection newspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

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 were named to the dean's list at The University of Mary Washington: Rebecca M. Arm, a junior from Herndon; Kristen A. Callahan, a senior from Oak Hill; Katherine M. Diemer, a senior from Oak Hill; Shibani L. Gautam, a sophomore from Chantilly; Julia P. Hanes, a senior from Chantilly; **Lauren N. Johnson**, a senior from Chantilly; Aaron S. Kalman, a senior from Herndon; **Elizabeth A. Kapfer**, a sophomore from Chantilly; **Upma Kapoor**, a senior from Oak Hill; Alison Litvin, a sophomore from Oak Hill; **Tara K. McCrone**. a senior from Herndon: Jenna M. Randall, a senior from Herndon; Rachel M. Rogers, a freshman from Fairfax; Brittany L. Simmons, a senior from Chantilly; and Yoshinori Takeda, a senior from Herndon.

The following area students made the dean's list at James Madison University for the fall 2013 semester: Hiu Tai Lam of Herndon, a senior;

cession. Last year, for example, Alexandria City Manager Rashad Young's proposed budget included a proposal to reduce hours at three libraries as well as the materials budget at the central library and services to the visually impaired. The proposal would have eliminated three employee positions and slashed about \$240,000 out of the operating budget, but members of the Alexandria City Council restored funding when they voted on a final budget.

"The citizens really turned out and said no. The City Council responded, and the cuts were restored," said Oscar Fitzgerald, vice chairman of the Alexandria Library Board. "We're facing the same thing again this year because the city is facing a substantial downturn in their income, and they are looking for cuts across the board."

Nowhere will the battle be more pitched than Fairfax County, where libraries are still working with reduced staffing and reduced collections. Members of the library's board of trustees say they are ready to make a pitch to the Board of Supervisors that it's time to restore the hours that were reduced and add back the funding for the collections.

"A library is the heart of a community," said Fegan. "I've spoken to a number of people who have come into this country, and the first thing they did was get a library

Olivia Landrum of Fairfax, a senior; Shelby **Lemmon** of Chantilly, a junior; **Heather Maher** of Herndon, a freshman; Ryan McWeeny of Fairfax, a senior: Kristina Michallas of Oak Hill, a senior: Joseph Molnar of Herndon, a sophomore; Laura Morales of Fairfax, a sophomore; Bradley Mundt of Chantilly, a freshman; Ryan Murakami of Herndon, a senior; Brian O'Neil of Oak Hill, a senior; Anh Pham of Fairfax, a senior; Lauren Phillips of Fairfax, a senior; Julie Pociask of Oak Hill, a sophomore; Katherine Poe of Fairfax, a senior; Madison Ray of Fairfax, a junior; Rylie Rizzo of Herndon, a sophomore; Ciara Robinson of Fairfax, a senior; Lauren Schulte of Chantilly, a senior; Candice Shedd-Thompson of Chantilly, a senior; Madelaine Stanley of Chantilly, a junior; Christine Stevens of Oak Hill, a senior; Kayla Sweeney of Herndon, a freshman; Gianna Tulino of Chantilly, a sophomore; Amanda Walker of Fairfax, a senior; Christina Wetzler of Chantilly, a junior; Anne Wilkinson of Oak Hill, a senior; Hannah Winfrey of Herndon, a junior; and Alice Woodward of Fairfax, a senior.

James Douglas of Oak Hill was named to the dean's list at the University of Delaware.

Andrew Ledbetter, a senior accounting major, was named to the dean's list at Grove City College. Andrew is a 2010 graduate of Oakton High School and is the son of James and Nancy Ledbetter

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