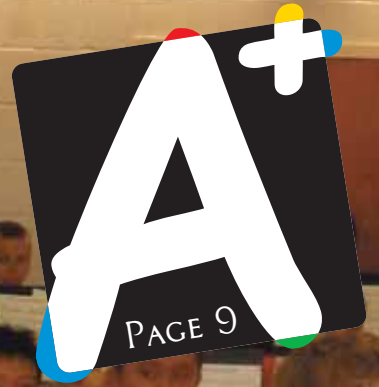


Chantilly CONNECTION

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Making a Joyful Noise

The Cadet band's woodwinds section rehearses during the 29th annual Band and Orchestra Camp at Franklin Middle School.

Getting Drenched To Help Others

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From left are violinists Shriya Ramaka and Sunny Park, who attend Greenbriar West and Centre Ridge elementary schools, respectively.



Students playing xylophone in a percussion class review what they've learned.



From left are Greenbriar West fourth-graders and violinists Rachel Lee and Ellia Kweon.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Making a Joyful Noise

Students enjoy Band and Orchestra Camp at Franklin Middle School.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Playing everything from trumpet to timpani, some 635 students attended the 29th annual Band and Orchestra Camp at Franklin Middle School. It was held June 30-July 24, and camp Director Lawrence Walker said everything went as smooth as jazz.

"The kids want to be here, and their parents send them here with a map for life," he said. "These kids know where they're headed."

The camp was four hours a day of focused and intensive instruction. And Walker said it's equivalent to two years of elementary-school band and orchestra and a year of

middle-school music education.

"It gives the students a fundamental music experience of working with a group and developing their personal music skills," he said. "They get an opportunity to express themselves musically and to measure where they were before they got here against where they are now. Many are preparing for auditions for the upcoming school year."

Comprising the 30 instructors were both FCPS and private music teachers, freelance musicians and military-band members, plus four high-school-student teaching assistants who attended the camp, themselves.

"Most of them have been with me a long time," said Walker. "And they know that, before that band or orchestra can sound the best it can be [at our concert on the last day], the sectional teachers must be on their marks. And the instrument teachers are like having a master class – a small group, private lesson."

Each day, band students had two ensemble classes, an instrument class and a sectional class – brass, woodwinds or percussion. Orchestra students took a music-theory class, an instrument class and two ensemble classes daily.

"We audition every kid, the first day of camp, to make sure they're in the right class at the right level for them," said Walker. "And as they improve, they can move up."

What gives him the most satisfaction, he said, is seeing students and teachers return to camp and hearing compliments from Franklin administrators and teachers about how much their students' musicianship has grown because of the camp. Also making him proud, said Walker, is "seeing how much progression the students have made from the beginning to the end of the camp."

Among them this summer was Greenbriar



Students play violins and cellos in the intermediate orchestra.



Flute players rehearse with the camp's Cadet band.



Having fun at camp are (from left) Rocky Run seventh-graders Ben Condemi and Tim Do, who play clarinet and alto sax, respectively.

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 4

Students Enjoy Band and Orchestra Camp

FROM PAGE 3

West Elementary (GBW) fourth-grader Rachel Lee, who's played violin about 18 months and attended camp for the first time. "I like violin and I wanted to practice over the summer, but my private teacher's on vacation," she said. "I learned a lot about posture, bow holds and how to play well. And I liked rehearsals the best. If anyone's having a hard time learning something about their instrument, they should come here."

Shriya Ramaka, also a first-time camper and GBW fourth-grader, said she enjoys playing violin because "you can play many different songs and I like high-pitched instruments. I especially liked the spirit days at camp. One day, for example, if we wore shirts with something musical on them, we got Popsicles."

She said she learned some new songs, as well as how to play different notes on each string. "The teachers give good learning techniques so you can become a better musician," said Shriya. "And they also make things fun; they make jokes while they're teaching."

Classmate Ellia Kweon also chose the violin. "It's unique because you can't just press a note and the sound comes," she said. "You have to be good at it to make music. At camp, I've learned the notes and how to play better."

Centre Ridge Elementary fourth-grader Sunny Park plays violin, too, and attended the camp so she could improve. "I like learning new stuff, like how to hold my instrument, and it's really fun here," she said. "I made a lot of new friends and the teachers are nice."

Zion Thornton, a Rocky Run Middle seventh-grader, plays the snare drum. "You're very loud and can be heard throughout the whole band," he said. "I'm going to be in percussion at Rocky Run, so I wanted to come to camp to improve my skills. You get to work individually with percussionists



Clarinet players during a rehearsal at the camp.



Trumpet players performing during a rehearsal.

who have the same interest. And you can learn how it feels and sounds to play in a whole band with other people."

Oak Hill Elementary sixth-grader Nathan Lamm plays the snare drum and bells. "They've got great pitches, you can make new songs and playing them inspires me," he said. "He's played them for three years and was attending camp for the first time. "I thought it would be cool, and I'd recommend it to people new to their instrument," said Nathan. "The most fun was playing music and eating lunch."

Timpani player Adam Denner, a Brookfield Elementary sixth-grader, said he's almost able to tune that instrument perfectly now and play many songs on it. "It's fun, but you can only play it at schools because it's so expensive," he said. "So I normally play snare drum. I liked camp because you get to meet new people, play music with them and meet band directors."

Also a percussionist, GBW sixth-grader Shouri Nallanagua mostly plays snare drum "because it's loud and sounds cool, like spring rain falling. It's my second time at

camp; it teaches you a lot and I learned how to play here last year. And I wanted to get better at playing mallet instruments like the bells, xylophone and marimba. My favorite part was just playing the instruments."

Ricky McGlothlin, a Franklin Middle seventh-grader, plays snare drum, too. He said it's fun to make the most noise in a band because "that makes you feel important. It's my first time here; I just finished band at Lees Corner elementary, so I wanted to have a little more time to play before being in

SEE MAKING, PAGE 5



Violinists perform in the intermediate orchestra.



Camp Director Lawrence Walker in Franklin Middle's music wing named after him.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left: Ricky McGlothlin, Adam Denner and Shouri Nallanagua play xylophone with the band.



With their flutes are (from left) Rocky Run eighth-grader Christopher Lin, teaching assistant Adrian Nguyen, Liberty Middle seventh-grader Lindsay Park and teaching assistant Madelyn Donnelly.

Making a Joyful Noise

FROM PAGE 4

Franklin's band."

At camp, he said, "I've learned more stick movements and how to play more songs. I especially liked learning new ways to hold and use the drum sticks and eating pizza at lunch. It's a great, new experience to be here, meet new people and try out new instruments and music."

One of the instructors was Daniel McCarthy, high-school orchestra director at Hayfield Secondary School. This was his first year teaching all four weeks of camp. "I'm one of the two directors for the intermediate group," he said. "We teach technique and the music we'll be performing and prepare the students for their next step in school."

"I love it; it's really fun," said McCarthy. "A lot of these kids are used to receiving just 30 minutes of music instruction a week in school. But we have them four hours a day, so the amount of progress they can make in a short amount of time is incredible."

Rocky Run Orchestra Director Stephen Matthie was teaching there for his seventh year, instructing the most advanced orchestra, comprised mainly of middle-school students. "Things have gone smoothly at camp," he said. "The kids are sweet and cooperative and really love to play, so it makes for a great working environment."

Usually during the summer, said Matthie, strings students don't play their instruments. "As musicians, we need something to prepare for to get us motivated to practice and work," he said. "So camp is a great venue for them to keep their skills going throughout the summer. That way, when they go back to school, they're ready to go and don't have to start from scratch."

Teaching flute sectionals was Chantilly High junior Madelyn Donnelly. "It's great to teach kids and

see how excited they are to learn," she said. "All of them are really enthusiastic. You can see they care a lot about music, and that's really inspiring for a musician."

Adrian Nguyen, who graduated from Chantilly in June and will major in biology at VCU, also taught flute sectionals. "The students are well-behaved, and I like teaching kids; they make things interesting," he said. "And this camp gets them well-prepared for the school year."

Liberty Middle eighth-grader Lindsay Park has played flute four years. "I liked how it looked and its sound," she said. "It's my third year at camp and I like playing with the full band. Everyone's nice here, including the teachers, and you get to hear instruments other than your own."

Christopher Lin, a Rocky Run eighth-grader, has also played flute for four years. "It gets easier to play," he said. "At camp, I get to practice new songs and perform with a

whole band. You get to meet kids from other schools who play the same instrument and you get a camp T-shirt."

Alto saxophone player Tim Do, a seventh-grader at Rocky Run, has played two years and came to camp because he wants to join his school's band. "So I needed to learn more about my instrument," he said. "I learned tonguing techniques and vibrato skills, and I had fun being at camp with my friends." Classmate Ben Condemi has played clarinet for two years and attended camp for his second time. "You can play many different types of music here, like jazz and classical," he said. "It's a year of learning packed into four weeks. It's kind of like school, so you can sit with your friends. And it gives you something to do during summer, other than read a book or watch TV."

'The kids are sweet and cooperative and really love to play, so it makes for a great working environment.'

— Rocky Run Orchestra Director Stephen Matthie

ROUNDUPS

Four Charged with DWI

Fairfax County police conducted a sobriety check Saturday night, Aug. 16, at the intersection of Route 28 and Old Mill Road in Centreville. Some 828 vehicles passed through the checkpoint and four drivers were charged with DWI. Police issued 18 summonses and made three criminal arrests.

Host a WFCM Food Drive

WFCM needs the community's help over the summer months when it has a critical shortage of food. Local residents can make a difference by hosting a food drive with their sports team, camp, swim team or place of employment. To arrange a food drive for WFCM, contact Annie Cecil, at intern@wfcmlva.org.

Helping Immigrant Children

The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) is collecting donations for the 70 immigrant children and 15 young mothers being housed at a secure facility in Bristow while awaiting hearings. The children need health and hygiene supplies, clothing and bedding. Donations may be brought to CLRC, 5956 Centreville Crest Lane in Centreville.

Especially needed are clothing and underwear for both boys and girls, ages 7-17; white towels, twin-sized blankets, sheets and bedspreads; new pillows and personal-hygiene products including shampoo, conditioner, hand soap, lotion, deodorant, hair brushes and accessories, tooth paste and toothbrushes, and disposable diapers. For more information call CLRC Director Roberto Fernández at 703-543-6272, Monday through Saturday, 6 a.m.-noon, or Foltz at 703-346-6030.

Neighborhood Speeding Problems?

Residents concerned about speeding in your neighborhood may take the Neighborhood Speeding Survey at: <http://svy.mk/1oef9WO>. The results will go to the Fairfax County Police Department so officers may deal with it.

Farmers Market on Thursdays

Each Thursday, from 3-7 p.m., the Fairfax County Government Center hosts a farmers market in its parking lot. The Government Center is at 12000 Government Center Pkwy. in Fair Oaks, and the next markets are slated for Aug. 21 and Aug. 28.

Enjoy Sully's Starlight Cinema

The 10th year of Sully District Starlight Cinema is already underway with free, family-friendly, drive-in movies. They're presented Saturday evenings in August at 5860 Trinity Parkway in Centreville. Gates open at 6 p.m. The fun includes music, food and children's activities provided by New Life Christian Church. Then, at dark, the movies will start. People may watch from their cars or may sit in a designated area in front of the screen.

Here's the schedule: Aug. 23, "Frozen," and Aug. 30, "The Lego Movie." If bad weather threatens, call 703-324-SHOW after 6 p.m. for cancellation updates. For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/.

Solid Waste Management Meeting

Fairfax County is currently updating its official, 20-Year Solid Waste Management Plan. So county staff is meeting with the public to provide a synopsis of the existing trash and recycling program and gather input and suggestions for the future.

Locally, a meeting is set for Tuesday, Aug. 26, from 7-9 p.m., at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Comments will be used to craft an updated plan that'll go to the county Board of Supervisors for approval and then to the state in June 2015. For more information, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trashplan2015.

OPINION

Accountability for Police in Northern Virginia

There is more transparency in the police shooting in Ferguson last week than in police shootings in Northern Virginia.

This is not Ferguson, and tanks do not roll down the streets of Northern Virginia driven by police officers pointing sniper rifles at residents.

But police departments here are engaged in serious and significant abuse of power. This is the perfect moment to do something about it.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.” But the legislation includes an exception that allows police to withhold “complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.”

Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should, whether the case is open or closed, whether they are about a “police-involved shooting” or information requested by a family about a homicide victim.

This isn’t about race; this is about abuse of

power. This is about lack of accountability and denying the public access to information that must be made public.

Consider:

Police shot and killed 46-year-old John Geer standing unarmed in the doorway of his home on Pebble Brook Court in Springfield on Aug. 29, 2013. Unlike in the case in Ferguson last week, the officer who shot him remains unnamed, and we have no official explanation of what happened or why.

EDITORIAL

In December, 2008, Fairfax County police officers chased 19-year-old Hailu Brook across the county line into Arlington and shot him dead. Brook, a senior at Yorktown High School, had reportedly robbed a BB&T in McLean. The autopsy report, one of the few documents his parents were able to obtain, shows that the teen was shot 20-25 times by three officers with large caliber handguns. Baffled by what happened to their son, the parents sought access to police reports and documents, but even now that the case is closed, their requests have been denied.

Other police-involved shootings include the November 2013 death of James Bryant, 28, a

resident at the Eleanor Kennedy homeless shelter in Mount Vernon, who assaulted other residents at the shelter and then police when they arrived, wrestling away the baton of one police officer; David Masters, an unarmed man with mental illness who was shot and killed by police in 2009 on Route 1 in Mount Vernon; there are many other examples.

Even for family members of crime victims, documents are routinely withheld by police agencies. One example is the 2009 murder of 19-year-old Kossi Djossou, who was shot at his workplace in Alexandria. After the murder, the Djossou family tried to find out what had happened, but their repeated attempts to get documents in the cases were denied. “How can something happen to your son, and you’re never going to know the facts?” asked Geoffrey Josseau.

Police wield power unlike any other entity — the power to detain and question, the power to arrest, the power to respond with force when necessary, the power to use deadly force.

With that power, comes responsibility — the responsibility to operate openly and with transparency, the responsibility to make available the greatest possible amount of information, especially the responsibility to provide the public with a full picture of what happened when something goes wrong.

It’s time for a change.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Moral Imperative?

To the Editor:

The following open letter was addressed to Del. Jim LeMunyon.

This letter is to confirm to you that SALT (over 1,200 members) is in solidarity with Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) and the Healthcare for All Virginians coalition (104 organizations) in supporting the expansion of Medicaid.

This letter is not to question your sincerity regarding your opposition to Medicaid expansion, but SALT does question your wisdom. You and like-minded Virginia legislators in the Virginia House of Delegates believe you have acted wisely under the leadership of Speaker William Howell in opposing Medicaid expansion. We do not.

What is the wisdom in excluding 400,000 Virginians, primarily working poor Virginians, from health care coverage by failing to expand Medicaid, especially when the costs of the expansion are 100 percent federally funded for 2014 through 2016, decreasing incrementally to 90 percent for 2020 and subsequent years for all newly eligible enrollees? After 2016, as you know, the state share increases gradually, and is capped at 10 percent by 2020.

You and many of your colleagues in the Virginia House have recently argued that your opposition is all about fiscal irresponsibility on the part of the federal government, and Virginia legislators are now responsible for exercising fiscal responsibility if the feds will not. An earlier argument used by Republicans in

the Virginia House of Delegates was similar: the feds will renege on the commitment to cover 90 percent of the cost of expansion after 2016, because of the debt and insufficient tax revenue to pay the bills, which requires excessive borrowing by the federal government. However, as the editorial board of the Washington Post noted: “But if Washington does renege, Virginia would have the option of dropping coverage and trimming its Medicaid rolls, as it has done in the past.”

If the arguments used by members of your party to oppose Medicaid expansion was followed to its logical conclusion, then Virginia should accept no federal grants for any program — e.g., education, transportation, Medicaid, TANF, etc.

Aside from the financial consideration, is there not a moral perspective — a perspective rooted in ethical principles articulated by the Hebrew prophets in ancient Israel when defending the most vulnerable and poorest in their community (for them, the orphans and widows) and which is now a perspective embraced by many other religions — being disregarded by legislators determined not to expand Medicare coverage to so many of Virginia’s poor?

As Jim Wallis, a New York Times bestselling

author, public theologian, speaker, and acclaimed commentator on ethics and public life, has frequently noted: “Budgets are moral documents.”

The moral dimensions of Virginia’s budget have been addressed by the various faith communities in the Commonwealth and have been persuasively enunciated by the Catholic bishops of Virginia in their statement (April 11, 2014) on expanding Medicaid: “Our advocacy is informed by ... teaching that, first, everyone has the right to life, and second, healthcare is a right — not a privilege — that flows from the right to life itself ... Virginia should start accepting federal money that can provide nearly 400,000 of its poorest residents the health insurance they currently lack and desperately need.”

Speaker Howell and you and your like-minded colleagues in the Virginia House have, unfortunately, acted unwisely from both a fiduciary perspective as well as a moral perspective. The citizens of Virginia, to date, have not been well served. We ask that you change course, change your mind on this matter, by supporting the expansion of Medicaid.

Robert Stewart

SALT Coordinator of Public Affairs

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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New Day in Old Dominion

Gay couples anticipate same-sex marriage in Virginia.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Dwayne and Rodney Byrum will be at the Fairfax County Courthouse long before it opens this Thursday on a civic mission decades in the making — to become one of the first same-sex couples to receive a marriage license in Virginia. The couple has already been married on reality television, appearing in the pilot episode of the TLC show “Wedding Island.” The marriage took place on Dec. 12, 2012 at 12:12 p.m. in Vieques, Puerto Rico.

That was reality television. This week, the marriage license will become a real-life reality.

“We’re bouncing off the walls happy,” said Dwayne Byrum, a native of Lumberton, N.C., who lives in Groveton. “It’s come along a lot faster than we ever dreamed than it would.”

Just a few short years ago, voters in Virginia approved a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Since that time, a dramatic shift has happened as public opinion polls have flipped. That has allowed elected officials more latitude to take actions that would have been unthinkable a few short years ago. Democratic Attorney General Mark Herring, for example, voted in favor of the amendment as a member of the General Assembly. But now that he’s the commonwealth’s chief law-enforcement officer, he says it’s unconstitutional. Now the Virginia courts have struck down that law, and same-sex marriage could become legal in the commonwealth as early as this week unless the U.S. Supreme Court intervenes.

“This is especially exciting because Virginia had to be dragged kicking and screaming into marriage equality for races,” said Liane Rozzell, an Arlington resident whose D.C. marriage to her longtime partner could become legal this week. “So I think it’s really exciting to have Virginia be one of the states where marriage equality will be happening and it won’t be the last one.”

LAST WEEK, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals declined to issue a stay of its ruling affirming that Virginia’s marriage ban is unconstitutional. Unless the U.S. Supreme Court issues its own stay, which it has done in nearly identical pending cases, Virginia’s marriage ban will end on Aug. 20. In a written statement outlining his action, the attorney general said he believes the case will prove compelling for the court because of the “stringent, dis-



Liane Rozzell, left, and Linda Kaufman exchange wedding vows in a 2010 District of Columbia service.

COURTESY PHOTO

criminatory nature of Virginia’s marriage ban.” He also drew attention to Virginia’s previous ban on interracial marriage, a legal precedent known as the Loving case.

“Virginia got that case wrong,” said Herring. “Now we have a chance to get it right and to help extend to all Americans the right to marry the person they love.”

Civil rights advocates across the commonwealth cheered the attorney general’s decision.

“There is no doubt that Virginia is ready for the freedom to marry,” said James Parrish, executive director of Equality Virginia in a written statement. “Marriage validates the commitment couples make to one another and, if the Supreme Court doesn’t intervene, achieving marriage equality in Virginia will be a tremendous step forward.”

FOR THOSE who have been fighting for marriage equality for years, recent events seem like a headlong rush into the future. Back in 2006, many advocates for civil rights believed they could beat back the push toward adding a new amendment to the Virginia Constitution excluding a gays and lesbians from the institution of marriage. But advocates for the Marshal-Newman

amendment won a decisive victory, winning with 57 percent of the vote.

“It was shocking,” said Kelly Young, a native of the Philippines who has lived in Ballston since 2001. “I was very surprised.”

It was much more decisive than I expected it would be.”

Herring is the first state attorney general to argue successfully at the federal district and appeals levels that a state marriage ban should be struck down.

Virginia had supported a previous request for a stay because of the uncertainty that families could face if marriages proceed in Virginia and neighboring states and the Supreme Court ultimately rules against marriage equality.

“Throughout this process, we have fought for the principle of equality, moving the case forward in a swift and orderly way,” said Herring.

“That is why I have asked the Supreme Court to review the case to quickly and definitively resolve the issue for the Commonwealth and all the states.”

“We’re bouncing off the walls happy. It’s come along a lot faster than we ever dreamed than it would.”

— Dwayne Byrum



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Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova gets drenched. From left are Jo Ormesher, Sharon Bulova, Scott Silverthorne, Chap Petersen and Beverly Myers. Petersen's daughter, Eva, a Fairfax High sophomore, had the honor of dousing her dad with ice water.



The aftermath: From left are Jo Ormesher, Sharon Bulova, Scott Silverthorne, Chap Petersen and Beverly Myers.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Getting Drenched To Help Others

The Ice Bucket Challenge has a simple premise, but it's doing a great deal of good. To raise money to fight ALS, people all over the country have been making videos of themselves getting buckets of ice water dumped on their heads.

They post them on social media and challenge others to do likewise within 24 hours or donate \$100 to the ALS Association, and many have done both. It's taken off since July 29 and, between then and Sunday, Aug.

17, the organization has received \$13.3 million because of this challenge.

On Sunday evening, five local leaders took the challenge outside Coyote Grille in Fairfax: Jo Ormesher, City of Fairfax Cultural Tourism and Marketing Manager; Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova; City of Fairfax Mayor Scott Silverthorne; state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) and Beverly Myers, City of Fairfax Fourth of July and Chocolate Festival chairman.

Before they were drenched, they held hands in solidarity – and to buck up their courage – and called out other people to take the challenge, too. Ormesher challenged City of Fairfax Police Chief Carl Pardiny and Fire Chief Dave Rohr and D.J. Makovich of the World Police and Fire Games.

Bulova challenged her son, Del. David Bulova (D-37); U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11); and Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid. And Silverthorne called out Ben-

jamin Tribbett, Billy Reilly and the female members of the Fairfax City Council – Janice Miller, Ellie Schmidt and Nancy Loftus.

Petersen challenged his law partner, Del. Scott Surovell (D-44), Town of Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco and county School Board member Ilryong Moon. And Myers singled out Fairfax City Manager Bob Sisson, John Horn, David Rodenberger and Victoria Montagano.

To donate, go to www.alsa.org.

— BONNIE HOBBS

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Residents can now "e-cycle" at the I-66 transfer station. It is free but residents may be asked to show proof of residency. Personal waste only. The I-66 station is located at 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax and open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. from Monday-Saturday and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sundays. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/electric-sunday.htm for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 21

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

SATURDAY/AUG. 23

ESL Book Club. 11 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Call 703-502-3883.

English Conversation Group. 3:30 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

SUNDAY/AUG. 24

Car Wash Fundraiser. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Colonnade Shell Station on Union Mill Road, Clifton. The Centreville High School Cross Country team is holding a car wash to fundraise for the new fall season.

Students Bring Home Grant for UPC

Eight members of the Unified Prevention Coalition (UPC) of Fairfax County's Youth Council recently attended the 30th annual Youth Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Project Leadership Conference. It was held at Longwood University, and the teens returned home with strategic plans for the coming school year, plus a \$250 grant to carry out their ideas. Participating were (back row, from left) Sam Ahmed (Centreville HS), Omar Elhaj (Lake Braddock HS), and Matthew Bocharnikov (Oakton HS); and (front row, from left) Kristen Talman (Centreville HS), Sakira Coleman (South County HS), Anastasia Slepukhova (Lake Braddock HS), Jocelyn Escobar (Lake Braddock HS), Sandra Bocharnikov (UPC Youth Council coordinator) and Jasmine Gibson (Stone Bridge HS and formerly Herndon HS).



Removing Barriers to College

Local services help students complete college paperwork, remove barriers.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

LaQuita King relocated across the state from Chesapeake, Va., to Alexandria in the summer of 2013, moving into an apartment with her aunt and three cousins. King had just graduated from high school and was looking forward to taking classes at Northern Virginia Community College. So far, that hasn't happened.

"There were a lot of financial aid forms that I needed to fill out," said King, who is one of six children in her family and the first to finish high school. "Everything is online and if you make one mistake you have to start over. There were a ton of registration forms that I had to fill out. It just got to be too much."

Finally, King got a job, although she still hopes to attend college one day. Her plight, say college officials, is not uncommon. In fact, the amount of paperwork that students must complete can overwhelm some students, particularly those with limited financial means and who might be the first in their families to seek higher education. A recent study by researchers at Stanford University showed that the stacks of forms that students must complete in order to enroll in college deter students from lower and working class backgrounds.

"Paperwork can sometimes hinder some students from attending because they may not know how to follow up in regards to what documents to submit, or may be afraid to do it and get discouraged if they do not have someone to help them figure out how to complete paperwork and requirements," said Laydy Reyes, program coordinator, Early Identification Program in George Mason University's Division of University Life.

However, programs, on college campuses and in the community can assist students. "There are counselors and programs available to help them," said Jennifer Gonzalez of the Public Information Office at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). "There are some students who don't know how to fill out forms and our counselors have a full range of tools to help those students." For example, NOVA's College Pathway Initiatives is a set of four programs that provides support and service to students from underrepresented populations. The initiatives help remove some barriers to higher education while helping increase the number of students who succeed in and graduate from college.

REYES HAS SEEN FIRSTHAND how a simple bit of assistance can mean the difference between attending college and not. "[There is] a Mason student who comes from a single parent household. ... The student was granted a scholarship through the Early Identification Program and Mason's financial aid services that has helped to pay for the student's college education," she said. "The student is currently a senior working on a degree in bioengineering."

Mason's Early Identification Program (EIP) has a long record of helping first generation students from low-income families cross some of the hurdles to a higher education. "Mason's Admissions Office plays an instrumental role of support in collaborating with EIP regarding the college application process so that it is more simple, and that our students receive advice and resources to complete the application and successfully transition to Mason," said Reyes.

Some of the services that George Mason University offers are college essay and resume workshops where students have access to a computer lab and assistance completing college entrance essays. Mason also has no-cost Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshops where students and their families meet in a computer lab and get assistance completing financial aid forms.

Reyes points to other programs on campus that are available to assist students:

- ❖ **College Prep** — For three weeks during the summer, students are introduced to financial aid advisors, academic advisors, and others who could be a resource to students once they are in college.

- ❖ **During Mason's Early Identification Program annual Summer Academy** at the Fairfax and Prince William campuses, they begin to work on the Mason admissions application so that it is ready to submit in the fall.

- ❖ **During their senior year of high school**, Mason officials work to make sure students in the Early Identification Program submit the online application and required documents such as the essay, recommendation letters, secondary school report, SAT/ACT scores.

AT MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY in Arlington, newly accepted students receive an acceptance package with detailed instructions on completing forms. The university hosts campus visit days where students can learn about the school and get assistance completing necessary paperwork. Financial aid officers are also available to help students identify available scholarships and ensure that all financial aid paperwork is complete. Services offered by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, including the Catholic Charities Education Program, can also assist students who might experience difficulty cutting through the college paperwork red tape.

"Christian Area Network and Hogar Immigrant Services are two programs that can help students complete paperwork necessary for college," said Maria Drule of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington.

Arlington County Public Libraries can also be a source of assistance. Local school counselors and other counseling professionals offer free or low-cost assistance.

"I ... am available for one-on-one assistance with an appointment," said Kathryn Oberg of Arlington County Public Libraries. "For quick help, patrons are encouraged to approach a professional librarian at any of our branch libraries for assistance finding information."

Meanwhile, King has a full-time job and is not sure when she will resume her efforts to get a college education. She is pleased to know that there are services in the City of Alexandria, as well as Arlington and Fairfax counties that can guide students through the maze of paperwork and lead them to a college classroom, and hopes to use them soon.

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SPORTS

All Write For Now

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



And so it goes, every three months or so; a CT Scan, a week or so of waiting, and then a face-to-face appointment with my oncologist to learn/discuss the results. Thankfully, the results continue to be amazing. My doctor has told me that I'm his third miracle; stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patients generally don't live beyond two years. I'm in year six. And though this CT cycle never gets easy, it does get familiar, and with that familiarity comes a certain predictability that creates its own peculiar sort of calm (it probably helps that I've been asymptomatic most of the time). Still, from the initial diagnosis/prognosis ("cancer," "13 months to two years") given to me in late February, 2009, I've been characterized as "terminal." As my oncologist said to me at that very first Team Lourie meeting: "I can treat you but I can't cure you." Unsettling and surreal doesn't begin to describe my/our reaction to his words. However, five and a half years later, I've become accustomed to the precarious and indeterminate nature of my future.

It's somewhere (and I'm happy to be anywhere, rather than you know where) between a rock and hard place. Nevertheless, receiving encouraging CT Scan results ("diminution," "stable," "no change") feels like a reprieve on the one hand and a reward for good behavior on the other. Certainly nothing is guaranteed going forward, other than my eventual demise that is, but since nothing else is new, no problem. And though I'm not exactly counting deceased chickens before they've hatched (or after for that matter), I am assessing and considering the unexpected survival of a terminal patient (yours truly) who has far outlived his original prognosis. Ergo my ongoing dilemma: Am I closer to the end of my life or simply further from the beginning?

As much as I don't want to focus (you'll note I didn't say obsess) on my disease and my presumptive, abbreviated life expectancy, given the change in my lifestyle as well as my daily anti-cancer routine (pills, smoothies, alkaline water, apple cider vinegar, etc.), the best I can do is compartmentalize. Put it in the vault, to invoke a Seinfeld reference. And usually, I can manage it. However, "vaulting" it gets a bit more challenging and complicated – and more difficult to ignore/pretend/deny when you're rolling in and out of a CT Scan and being told to "hold your breath," and "breathe out" as the tomography scans your lungs looking for potential trouble.

In spite of it all, my life is going on. My next scan is in three months. For the next two and a half months, I can sort of relax and bask in the glow of these most recent results. A few weeks before the next scan, anxiety will return, however, as the cancer reasserts its figurative control and starts to break down my emotional barriers. It's inevitable but it's nothing I haven't experienced before. No complaints though, just observations and admissions. I may be compromised, but I'm still living and breathing – and lucky as hell.

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



A member of the Chantilly football team dives in warm-ups prior to the Chargers' Purple and White Game on Aug. 16.

Football Season Openers

The Chantilly football team will scrimmage at home against Gar-Field on Aug. 21 (6 p.m.) and Stone Bridge on Aug. 27 (7 p.m.) before opening the season on the road against Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5. The Chargers' first home game is Sept. 12 against Madison.

Chantilly is coming off a 5-5 season in which the Chargers missed the playoffs after dropping their final three games

Centreville will open the season at home against Gonzaga at 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5. The Wildcats went undefeated in 2013, winning the 6A state championship.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Stephanie Feedback, of Oak Hill, has been named to the spring 2014 dean's honor roll at Oklahoma City University.

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen K. Garza has named **Kristen Michael**, who currently serves as director of budget services, as the new assistant superintendent of financial services, effective Aug. 1. Michael replaces Susan Quinn, who was recently promoted to chief operating officer.

Saint Mary's College named **Michaela Gaughan** of Oak Hill to the dean's list for the spring 2014 semester. Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Ind., is a four-year, Catholic, residential, women's liberal arts college offering five bachelor's degrees and more than 30 major areas of study

The following Virginia Tech students from Chantilly were among those honored at the university's spring commencement ceremony held May 16, in Lane Stadium: **Melaku Asmare** received a Bachelor of Science in Business degree in business information technology from the Pamplin College of Business. **John Duffy** received a Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering and Management degree in construction engineering and management from the College of Engineering. **Jacqueline Falatko** received a Bachelor of Science degree magna cum laude in computer science from the College of Engineering. **Vaishnav Krishnan** received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree in mechanical engineering from the College of Engineering. **Amy Nguyen** received a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science from the Col-



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Chantilly football coach Mike Lalli talks to players prior to the Purple and White Game on Aug. 16.

Westfield will scrimmage at home against DeMatha (7 p.m.) on Aug. 22 and Quince Orchard (7:30 p.m.) on Aug. 28 before opening its season at home against South Lakes at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5.

The Bulldogs went 11-3 last year and reached the region championship game for the third consecutive season.

Fall Sports Openers

The Chantilly field hockey team will travel to face South County at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 25. The volleyball team will host Madison at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 27. The girls' cross country team and the two-time defending state champion boys' cross country team will compete in the

Monroe Parker Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 6 at Burke Lake Park.

The defending state champion Westfield field hockey team will host South County at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 27. The volleyball team will participate in a showcase event Aug. 29-30, and will travel to face McLean at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 2. The cross country teams will participate in the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 6 at Burke Lake Park. The Centreville field hockey team will travel to face Annandale at 4 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 29 and will host McLean at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 2. The volleyball team will host Yorktown at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4. The cross country teams will compete at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 6 at Burke Lake Park.

lege of Engineering. **Caitlin Prior** received a Bachelor of Science degree in animal and poultry sciences from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. **Beau Rauch** received a Bachelor of Science in Business degree summa cum laude in business information technology from the Pamplin College of Business. **Shene Salih** received a Bachelor of Science degree summa cum laude in sociology from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. **Patrick Smith** received a Bach-

elor of Science in Civil Engineering degree in civil engineering from the College of Engineering. **Cammy Truong** received a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude in geography from the College of Natural Resources and Environment. **Christopher Vu** received a Bachelor of Science in Business degree in business information technology from the Pamplin College of Business. **Jennifer Withers** received a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from the College of Science.

College Baseball

James "Jimmy" Nicholas signed to play baseball with West Virginia Wesleyan College at Centreville High School on June 6. With him is **Scott Findley**, CVHS Head Varsity Baseball Coach. Jimmy has played baseball with the Wildcats since he was a freshman, with his high school career culminating with a selection to the All Concorde District 1st Team as third base, and selection to the All-Northern Region 2nd Team. He was selected as an alternate to the Virginia High School Coaches Association All-Star Team. He also was selected to the Washington Post All Met baseball team honorable mention. In addition, he played for the VHSL State Champion Centreville Football team.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Adopt a Dog. Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit aforeverhome.org for more information.

Evenings on the Ellipse Summer Concert Series. Thursdays through Aug. 28. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Whether you like jazz, big band, bluegrass, or Latin pop, there is sure to be something for everyone. Rain or shine. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/ellipse.htm for more.

Blue Star Museums. Through Sept. 1. at more than 2,000 locations. The program provides families an opportunity to enjoy the nation's cultural heritage and learn more about their new communities after a military move. Free for Military families. Visit <http://arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums>.

Fairways-Fore-FREEdom. Through Sept. 1. 3 p.m. at Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. Military golf program in honor of the armed forces. Only for those with valid with military ID. \$29 - \$69. Visit www.marriottgolf.com, or call 703-631-3300.

Registration for 2014 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Online registration for the 2014 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics is open now. Events will take place Sept. 13-

24 at 19 different venues throughout Northern Virginia. Registration forms are available at senior centers, community centers and senior residences or by calling 703 228-4721. Deadline to register is Aug. 29 by mail and Sept. 5 online. Adults 50 years of age by Dec. 30, 2014, residing in a sponsoring jurisdiction, are eligible to compete. Fee is \$12. Visit www.nvso.us for more.

The Airbus IMAX Theater at National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, is showing movies including "D-Day: Normandy 1944", "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 or to schedule an IMAX On Demand show for groups of 50 or more.

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.

D-Day: Normandy 1944. at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Pkwy., Chantilly. A movie about D-Day and those who gave their lives. Free. Visit www.si.edu/Imax/Movie/133.

Singing. 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires rehearse every Wednesday which includes training by an award-winning director. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaires.org for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 21

PJ Library Book Buddies. 2 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000

Stringfellow Road. Stories and crafts related to Jewish culture and traditions. Ages 2-5 with caregiver, siblings welcome. Call 703-502-3883 or contact Jennifer.DeAngelis@jccnv.org with questions.

Lego Block Party. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos provided; come show off building skills. For children in grades 3-6. Call 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY/AUG. 22

Dairy Days. 1, 2 or 3 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Make ice cream and butter the old-fashioned way. \$5 for in county, \$7 for out of county. Visit www.fairfax.gov/parks/sully.

AUG.22-SEPT.18

Experience Peru. 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. If Machu Picchu, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, is on your must-see list, take a side trip to Fair Oaks Mall for an interactive glimpse of Peru. The centerpiece of the interactive exhibit will feature a 20 x 30 foot exhibit of fabled Machu Picchu for shoppers to visit, photograph and enjoy. Free and open to the public during Fair Oaks business hours. Visit shopfairoaksmall.com for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 23

Plant Clinic. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Master gardeners provide horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Call 703-502-3883.

Peaceful Paws. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children can meet

and read to a trained therapy dog for a 15-minute session. Especially for children with developmental challenges meet and read to a trained therapy dog. Bring a book or choose one from the library. Call 703-502-3883.

Vintage#18 Performance. 2-5 p.m. 13041 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Dogfish Head Ale House. Vintage#18 is a high energy soul and blues band. Visit <http://vintage18.net>.

Paws for Reading. 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children can meet and read to a trained therapy dog for a 15-minute session. Especially for children with developmental challenges meet and read to a trained therapy dog. Bring a book or choose one from the library. Call 703-502-3883.

Drive-in Movie. Food and children's activities 6-8 p.m., movie begins at dark. Starlight Cinema, 5860 Trinity Parkway. "Frozen" plays at the drive-in. Watch from your car or bring blankets to lounge on. Bring a radio to listen outdoors. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances or call 703-324-8662 for more.

MONDAY/AUG. 25

Sully Book Club. 1 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. "A Certain Justice" by P.D. James. Call 703-830-2223.

TUESDAY/AUG. 26

Toddlin' Twos. 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with stories, songs and activities. Age 2 with adult. Call 703-

502-3883.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 27

Read, Build, Play Duplo Storytime. 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Duplo play storytime to help develop early literacy skills. Age 18-35 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Bouncin' Babies. 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for babies up to 11 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Small Wonders. 4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for children 12-23 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

A Novel Society. 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Book discussion group. "Life After Life" by Kate Atkinson. Call 703-830-2223.

Pajama Party. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Bring a stuffed animal and a blanket, wear pajamas. For ages 3-5 with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

THURSDAY/AUG. 28

Ask an Expert. 12:30-1 p.m. at Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Pkwy., Chantilly. A discussion about "The Luftwaffe Guided Missile Program," Presented by Dr. Michael Neufeld. Meet at the nose of the SR-71 in the Boeing Aviation Hangar. Free. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/events/ask-an-expert/#hazy> for more.

FRIDAY/AUG. 29

Dairy Days. 1, 2 or 3 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Make ice cream and butter the old-fashioned way. \$5 for in county, \$7 for out of county. Visit www.fairfax.gov/parks/sully for more.

Live Music: DrFameus with Definition of One. 10 p.m. at The Bungalow, 13891 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly. The two bands will be playing music for all fans 21 and up. Free. Visit www.facebook.com/events/683204568436540 for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 30

Plant Clinic. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Master gardeners provide horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Call 703-502-3883.

Drive-in Movie. Food and children's activities 6-8 p.m., movie begins at dark. Starlight Cinema, 5860 Trinity Parkway. "The Lego Movie" plays at the drive-in. Watch from your car or bring blankets to lounge on. Bring a radio to listen outdoors. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances or call 703-324-8662.

Live Music: Moogatu and Second Self. 9 p.m. at The Bungalow, 13891 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly. Show is 21 and older. Free. Visit www.facebook.com/events/303504293143060 for more.

SUNDAY/AUG. 31

Udvar-Hazy Center Summer Concert Series. 6-7 p.m. at Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Pkwy., Chantilly. The Quantico Marine Corps Rock Band will play a concert. Free. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/events/calendar/?month=7&year=2014> for more.

SUNDAY/AUG. 31-MONDAY/SEPT. 1

Labor Day Weekend. All branches of the Fairfax County Library are closed for the holiday.

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