

Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ❖ Fair Lakes

Mia Rickenbach, the honor graduate speaker for Chantilly High School, addresses her fellow classmates. Mia is going on to study theatre design and production at University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Moving On

NEWS, PAGE 3

'Always a Part of the Family'

NEWS, PAGE 5

Westfield Graduates Look Forward

NEWS, PAGE 4

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652 Students Graduate from Chantilly High

110 students had 4.0 GPAs or higher; receive \$4.9 million in scholarships.

Despite a power outage and rain storm, Chantilly High's spirited graduation ceremony at GMU's Patriot Center carried on last Thursday, June 18 without a hitch. Keynote speakers were Barbara Clougherty and Matthew Miles and the honor graduate speaker was Mia Rickenbach, who also received the Charger Award. Of the 652 graduates, some 110 students had 4.0 GPAs or higher and the class received \$4.9 million in scholarships. Sixty-seven percent of the class will be attending four-year colleges.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Chantilly High senior officers (front row, from left): Amanda Lewe, Secretary; Ryan Rickard, Vice President; Gillian Kelly, Graduation Chair; Akin Abisogun, President. (Back row, from left): Jessica Reeves, Treasurer; Justine Clougherty, Historian; Morgan Bedford, Graduation Chair; and Jeffrey Li, Graduation Chair.



Chantilly seniors Dennis Ahn and Yaseen Ahmed

PHOTOS BY
STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION



From left: Shemila Fasihi, Grace Farrell, and Madalyn Farmer



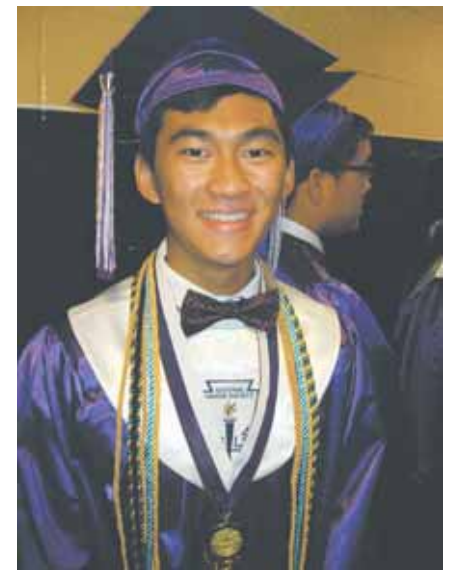
(From left): Chantilly seniors Jae Noh, Kaylee Noble, and Ben Nicoll



Chantilly seniors Lauren Brunner and Monica Brown



From left: Chantilly seniors Emily Chen, Priya Chandrasekaran, and Jisoo Cha



Alex Tsai



Students celebrate their hard work by throwing their caps in the air



Evan Ayars directs "Pomp and Circumstance" during the processional.

Farewell to Chantilly High

PHOTOS BY
CONNOR ORTMAN
THE CONNECTION



Joseph Rahnama reflects on his time at Chantilly High School during the class slideshow.



Riley Holman smiles while looking for family members in the crowd at The Patriot Center. Riley is attending James Madison University next fall.



Aspen Nelson ponders the questions posed at the Class of 2015 by the graduation speakers.



Jason Saitta flashes some personality during graduation. Jason will be attending Belmont University next fall.



The Chantilly Chamber Chorale sings "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

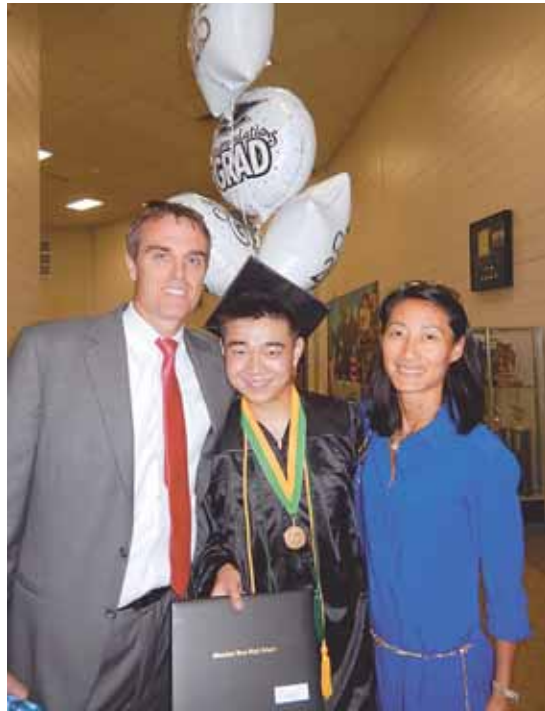


Chantilly High School held its graduation on June 18 in the George Mason University Patriot Center.

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION



Aura Guerra and son Josue after the ceremony.



Ethan Xu with his uncle and aunt, Taylor and Connie McGowan.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

‘Always a Part of the Family’

Students graduate from Mountain View High.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Mountain View High graduations always tug at the heartstrings. That’s because the students have had to overcome so much to reach that finish line.

Many times, they’ve come here from another country and had to learn a new language. Often, they’ve run into problems at a previous high school or gotten involved with the wrong people. Sometimes, they’ve had a turbulent home life or are already parents, themselves.

But instead of giving up, they worked harder. And last Tuesday, June 16, at Centreville High, they were rewarded with high-school diplomas. And Assistant Principal Gary Morris — newly named as Mountain View’s next principal — couldn’t have been happier.

“We consider this the best high school in Fairfax County,” he said.



New Principal Gary Morris at the podium.

“We are Timberwolves and we are proud.”

When Morris coached high-school and college athletes, he said, the head coach would relate a motivational story “to get our athletes ready for battle. But I believe we all should serve as motivational storytellers to others in our lifetimes, telling someone, for example, why they should stay in school.”

He then noted a couple examples at Mountain View. Despite having no transportation, one boy took a bus and rode a bicycle to get to school; and a girl with a child made it to class every day.

“You didn’t give up — you grew up,” said Morris. “You became students and leaders and finished what you started.”

At Mountain View, he said, “You found people who called you at home and said, ‘Come to school,’ and people you could cry to. And you could come to a place every day that felt like home. Our promise to you wasn’t getting a piece of paper, but having a path to get there.”

While jokingly saying the Class of 2015 seniors are

SEE MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH. PAGE 10



Assim Shammo receives a Citizenship Award from teacher Cathy Collins.

Gary Kramer, D.D.S.
Sara Bunin, D.D.S.
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Safe Planning for Independence

Talking and planning about celebrating July 4, and throughout the summer months.

Independence Day is a national celebration, and for many, that celebration includes alcohol. The summer overall and July 4 in particular are times of greater risk for drinking and driving.

This is true for the young adults over 21 living with you, and unfortunately also for many teens who are under 21. More on that below.

For all revelers in independence: Make a plan. Plan to celebrate with access to public transportation. Plan to have a designated driver. Plan to celebrate in a place safe and comfortable to spend the night.

But in case those plans go awry, here is an

alternative safety net.

On the night of Saturday, July 4, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program will offer free taxi rides home (up to \$30), beginning at 10 p.m. for six hours until 4 a.m. the morning of July 5. Participants must be at least 21. Call 1-800-200-TAXI.

On July 4, 2014, more than 150 people used WRAP's SoberRide service rather than possibly driving home impaired.

In summer, 44 percent of all U.S. traffic deaths are caused by alcohol-impaired drivers, according to statistics provided by WRAP. SoberRide is a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

EDITORIAL

On July 4, historically, nearly 40 percent of traffic deaths in the U.S. are caused by drunk drivers; more than 20 percent of the drunk drivers involved in those deaths during the 2013 July 4 holiday had blood alcohol concentrations of nearly twice the legal limit, said Kurt Erickson of WRAP.

For parents of young adults who may be living at home and parents of those under 21, this is time to talk. Ask about plans, ask specifically about getting home. Remind those over 21 to take the WRAP phone number with them.

While you hope that young adults under 21 aren't drinking — because there are lots of dangers to binge drinking beyond drinking and driving — you know that many of them will be drinking. Talk with your teens about the problems of binge drinking. Let your younger family members know that you would much rather pay for a cab or come get them yourself than run the risk of losing them.

This is a message important for the tail end of graduation season and good for the whole summer, which is the time of the highest risk for teen drivers.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided more than 62,500 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area. Visit www.soberride.com.

COMMENTARY

I-66: Who Pays the Price for a Bad Plan?

VDOT plan makes Fairfax commuters and neighbors pay for I-66 construction.

By CHAP PETERSEN
STATE SENATOR (D-34)

Over the past weekends, I've been knocking on doors in Vienna, next to the I-66 sound walls. A few quiet. Tall maple trees stand over top traditional ranch-style houses. Kids ride bikes down the street.

Welcome to the I-66 corridor.

Sixteen years ago, I was a freshman Councilman representing Fairfax City at the NOVA Regional Commission. I was young, oblivious and surrounded by the leading minds in local government.

One day, we were reviewing the issue of I-66. VDOT had an ambitious plan for adding four new lanes from the Beltway to Gainesville. I listened to the presentation, then asked a question befitting my lack of sophistication:

"What's the point in widening I-66 outside the Beltway, if it's still four lanes inside the Beltway? Where will these cars go?"

Sixteen years later and I'm still waiting for that answer.

The latest VDOT I-66 plan adds more pavement from Dunn Loring to Centreville but again fails to add capacity inside the Beltway.

What's even more grating is the idea — apparently originating in Richmond — that this plan, including "multi-modal" improvements, will be financed by lucrative new tolls inside the Beltway. (This may be the motivating force behind VDOT funding the project itself rather than bringing in a private investor).

In other words, my Fairfax County constituents will be paying \$10 a trip to the District, so there can be new bike racks in Clarendon.

Last week, I talked to a VDOT representative about this tolling plan — and when it would

be matched with inner Beltway capacity.

I was told that those new lanes were planned for 2040. Yes, that's correct, 25 years from now.

This is a bad idea and it's time to start calling it out publicly.

Nobody in Fairfax County supports the tolling of a highway that's currently free to the public. If you want to create tolls inside the Beltway, then create new lanes. Don't take away the existing lanes which are open to the public.

All friendly kidding aside, I am in awe of my Arlington colleagues who have lobbied to keep I-66 narrowed to four lanes inside their jurisdiction. Why are Fairfax County homeowners not given the same deference? Why do we have to accommodate ten lanes, plus a bike lane?

We need to get I-66 right. Yes, the solution should be multi-modal, with buses and trains playing a major role. But we have to drop the mindset of ONLY making improvements outside the Beltway. Otherwise, to cite David Byrne and the Talking Heads, we will truly be on a Road to Nowhere.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Praising Effort For Screening

To the Editor:

I would like to graciously thank everyone involved in making The Commonwealth of Virginia the 30th state to screen all newborns for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID), commonly known as the bubble boy disease. Babies with SCID appear healthy at birth, but without early treatment, most often by bone marrow transplant from a healthy donor, these infants

cannot survive. It has taken the efforts of many to finally reach this historic moment for the Commonwealth, and all those who have been involved richly deserve to be applauded.

The Virginia Genetic Advisory Committee and its subcommittee, the Virginia Newborn Screening Committee, approved the addition of SCID in 2011, subsequently sending the recommendation to the Commissioner of Health. A SCID Planning Workgroup began preparing all additional facts required by the Commissioner in

2012 after which a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) was signed by the Commissioner and approved by the Board of Health. The progression for the NOIRA was, by statute, a lengthy and arduous process which required that it be reviewed by the Offices of Planning and Budget, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health, the Cabinet Secretary and the Governor on three different occasions.

During this time, the NOIRA had to cross the desks of two different governors, requiring a new ap-

proval each time.

Mandating screening for SCID will prevent infant fatalities and avoid potential expensive lifelong care that places an enormous burden on families and society. This law takes a huge step forward for Virginia healthcare policies, and I am grateful that all Virginia babies will now have the chance at a healthy life. It is my hope that every state includes SCID on their newborn screening panel immediately to save lives.

Barbara L. Ballard
Clifton

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Sully District Council Takes Stand on I-66 Project

Supports Alternative 2A I-66 cross section option.

The Sully District Council would like to take this opportunity to offer its comments on the proposed alternative actions associated with the Tier 2 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway project. As one of the Fairfax County District Council areas whose member communities would be most directly impacted by any of the proposed “action” alternatives currently under consideration, we offer these comments in a spirit of cooperation and coordination with all of the involved federal, state, and local public agencies and the residents of Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties who regularly use the I-66 transportation corridor.

First, the Sully District Council would like to formally express its strong support for the continuing planning, design, and implementation of an integrated system of major, multimodal transportation facility improvements within the I-66 corridor limits of I-495 on the east and US Route 15 / Haymarket on the west. Given the observed increases in travel demand in this corridor over the past 20 years, and the projected continuing increases in travel demand over the next 20-25 years, an appropriate scale of physical and operational system improvements to this corridor is essential.

We believe that such improvements should include an appropriate mix of general use highway lanes, managed travel

lanes, public transit services, and bicycle and pedestrian system elements.

We further acknowledge that these improvements will require the expenditure of substantial public funds, both in terms of capital construction costs and continuing operations and maintenance costs.

We also acknowledge that the implementation of any of the proposed action alternative system improvement elements currently under consideration will result in some level of physical impacts to a number of communities over the length of the I-66 corridor. While never a desirable outcome of any transportation system improvement action, such impacts must, on occasion, be accepted as inevitable in order to obtain an appropriate level of safety and mobility benefits for the larger regional community.

With that said, the Sully District Council would like to formally go on record as supporting only the Alternative 2A I-66 cross section option.

As described on the “Alternative Typical Sections” page of the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway web site, this concept would consist of a “Flexible Barrier with Buffer and Median for Future Center Transit.” In the opinion of the Sully District Council, the Alternative 2B cross section option of a “Flexible Barrier with Buffer and No Median” is totally unacceptable and most definitely should not be considered to be the “Preferred Alternative” proposed by the EIS process. We base our support for the Alternative 2A (“Median for Future Center Transit”) concept on the following factors:

❖ The “Existing and Proposed Transit Service in the I-66 Corridor” page of the project website states that “Potential Future Transit” in the I-66 Corridor could include: Bus Rapid Transit, Light Rail Transit, Metrorail

Extension, or VRE Extension. It is further noted that these “Potential Future Transit” services “Could be advanced as part of future projects, separate from the I-66 Corridor Improvement Project.” While this is technically a true statement, it is the considered opinion of the Sully District Council that adoption of the I-66 cross section Alternative 2B (the “No Median” option) would essentially preclude from future serious consideration the Bus Rapid Transit, Light Rail Transit, or Metrorail Extension options in the I-66 Corridor. If the existing I-66 median area is converted into “Express Lanes” and shoulder area as is proposed by cross section improvement Alternative 2B, the Sully District Council does not believe that any future federal, state or local agencies would support the demolition of this portion of the facility to allow for the implementation of any type of fixed guideway transit service.

Moreover, if such an action were to be taken, the entire I-66 corridor would have to once again be widened, further impacting those communities which would be affected by Alternative 2B in order to create the Alternative 2A basic facility cross section.

❖ The Transportation Element of the currently adopted Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan has, since at least the early 1970s, included a recommendation for the extension of the Metrorail Orange Line service from the current terminus station at Vienna/Fairfax/GMU to the Centreville area west of the I-66/Route 28 interchange. Given this long term transportation policy commitment by the Fairfax County government to an extension of the current Metrorail Orange Line service, the adoption of cross section Alternative 2A is the only reasonable

option to pursue.

❖ The “Locally Preferred Alternative” (LPA) recommendation developed by the I-66 Corridor Major Investment Study which was jointly conducted by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in the late 1990s further validated and explicitly included the Metrorail Orange Line Extension called for in the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan as a fundamental element of the LPA.

❖ Over the intervening 15-plus years since the completion of the I-66 Major Investment Study, travel demand in the corridor has continued to grow and projections call for continuing growth in the future. On what reasonable basis can it be justified to exclude the potential implementation of some type of fixed guideway transit option in the I-66 corridor west of the Vienna Metrorail Station?

For these reasons, the Sully District Council wishes to formally go on record as supporting only the Alternative 2A I-66 cross section improvement option, as described on the “Alternative Typical Sections” page of the Transform 66 Outside of the Beltway web site to be a “Flexible Barrier with Buffer and Median for Future Center Transit.”

The Sully District Council appreciates having this opportunity to comment on the proposed “action” alternatives currently under consideration as associated with the Tier 2 EIS for the I-66 corridor outside of the Capital Beltway.

Approved by the Board of the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations

Submitted by Lewis G. Grimm
Second Vice President
2ndVP2015@SullyDistrict.org

Learning from Journalism at Chantilly High School

Chantilly High School journalism students earned the 2015 First Amendment Press Freedom Award from the Journalism Education Association.

“It’s a very prestigious award,” said Supervisor Michael R. Frey.

Frey and the Board of Supervisors recognized Chantilly’s program Tuesday, June 2 at the Fairfax County government center.

“I’ve learned more from journalism than I have in any traditional classroom. For that, I am eternally grateful,” said Rachel Palmer, editor in chief of the high school yearbook.

“Although I am honored to be acknowledged for this prestigious award, I find it troubling that such an award even exists,” she said.

“The fact that so few schools are being recognized for such basic rights and necessities of journalism is disconcerting.

“Journalism unfortunately seems to be fading within the educational system and places where it is not fading, students are being banned and punished for doing what real journalists do: seek and report the

truth.”

Student journalists at Chantilly “have the responsibility for the final decisions about content that actively supports, teaches and protects First Amendment rights and responsibilities for students and teachers,” said Frey.

Palmer described a project the yearbook engaged on to “seek out students we didn’t know” and that “reflected our diverse population at Chantilly High School.”

“There were stories of success: a girl who won the world dance championship and a freshman already taking A.P. classes; there were stories of passion: a world traveler and a teacher who spends his after school time performing on stage; there were stories of struggle: a boy facing criticism after coming out and a refugee from the middle east,” Palmer told the Board of Supervisors.

“The forum gave us new found insight about our peers that we never expected,” said Palmer.

“Congratulations to the students for the tremendous job they do,” said Frey.



Chantilly High School journalism students earned the 2015 First Amendment Press Freedom Award from the Journalism Education Association.

ENTERTAINMENT

Email community 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.

ONGOING

Book Sales. Through June 30 at all regional libraries except George Mason and Tysons-Pimmit. Prices vary. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ for locations and more information.

Internet & Microsoft Office

Tutoring. Through June 30 at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Get one-on-one help with computers, basic Microsoft Office applications and navigating the internet. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to schedule appointment.

Book-A-Librarian. Through June 30 at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Reserve a 30-minute session with a librarian for personalized research help. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to schedule appointment.

English Conversation Practice.

Through June 30 at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with an ESL volunteer. Register in person. Free. Call 703-502-3883 with questions.

Summer Reading Program.

Through Sept. 5 at all regional libraries. Come to the library for books and other fun events. All ages welcome. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ for locations and information.

Adult Summer Reading Program.

Through June 30 at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Read books with a group of other adults. Free. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

Kid/Teen Summer Reading Program.

Through Sept. 5 at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Summer reading program aimed at children and teens. All ages. Free. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

Toddlin' Twos. Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Storytime for Three to Fives.

Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children aged 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

English Conversation Group.

Thursdays, 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

English Conversation Group.

Saturdays, 3 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

English Conversation Group.

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

Plant Clinic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

ESL Book Club. Mondays, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Meet and discuss a book chosen by group. Free.

Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

ESL Book Club. Every other Saturday, starting June 27, 11 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults learning English are welcome to meet and discuss a book chosen by the group. To find out book title, call 703-502-3883.

Lego Block Party. Every other Tuesday, starting June 30, 3 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Duplo Storytime. Every other Wednesday, starting July 1, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Ladies Day. Thursdays starting at 11 a.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Women get 50 percent off a first glass of wine and select menu items. Free to attend. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for more.

Live After Five. Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Every Friday night a band plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for a full schedule.

Family Fridays Movie Series.

Fridays at sunset through June 26, at The Manassas Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 6901 Sudley Road, Manassas. Admission is \$3, free with NOVA ID. Visit www.novamanassas.wix.com/ movies.

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.

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.

Art Exhibit. Through June 30, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Art Guild of Clifton presents Davi D'Agostino, Artist of the Month Exhibit, Includes classic fine art oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call 703-830-8466 for more.

"Creating Across the City."

Through July at Dulles International Airport. Three organizations; Critical Exposure, The National Building Museum and ARTLAB+ have teamed up for "Creating Across the City: A Teen Art Showcase," which provides an outlet through art and design for creative local teens.

Legos Kids Club. Every other Tuesday starting July 14, 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Thousands of Legos for children to play with. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a space.

Starlight Storytime. Every other Wednesday starting July 15, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories and fun under the stars for ages 4-8. Wear pajamas and bring stuffed friends. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a space.

PET ADOPTIONS

Adopt a Cat or Dog. Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at

Camps, Classes & Workshops

❖ **Young Actors' Workshop.** Rising students in grades 2-6 may participate in a workshop 9 a.m.-12 p.m., July 20-24 at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly. The fee is \$125. Visit www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com.

❖ **FCPS 2015 Summer Programs.** Registration is now open for the following Fairfax County Public Schools summer camps. Students should register for programs based on the grade they are in during the current 2014-15 school year. Visit www.fcps.edu.

❖ **Tech Adventure Camp** will be held July 20-31 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. for students currently in grades 5-7. This camp allows students to explore careers and technology by rotating through eight areas including graphic design, automotive technology, culinary arts, television production, robotics, and computer technology.

❖ **STEM Camp.** Held in two sessions at Robinson Secondary School: July 6-10 and July 13-17 both from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., daily. STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Camp is a one-week camp for students currently in grades 3-5 to explore careers and technology as they rotate through activities focused on science.

❖ **Elementary Institute for the Arts.** Held July 13-24 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Designed for students currently in grades 3-5, E-IFTA offers participants a total immersion in the arts as they rotate through classes in dance, drama, music, and visual art.

❖ **Institute for the Arts.** Held July 6-30 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Designed for students currently in grades 6-11, IFTA allows students to create, perform, experiment, and explore—all in various music, dance, visual art, and theatre venues.

❖ **Robinson Extended Day Adult and Community Education Enrichment.** Programs will be held July 6-31 at Robinson Secondary School and will begin after Tech Adventure Camp, STEM Camp, IFTA and E-IFTA end. These programs are for students currently in grades 1-11 and will provide a continuum of activities for students who want additional programs and activities. Programs will include the Foreign Language Experience Program (FLEX), Culinary Adventure Camp, Language Immersion Camp, Creative Writing, Computer Graphics, and Chess.

Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit hart90.org for more.

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.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 26

Sipping & Painting. 6:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Drink wine and decorate your own wine glass. Tickets are \$39. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 25

The Kindercise Show. 2:30 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Sing and dance with Wolf Trap teaching artist John Taylor. School age children. Free. Please reserve a spot for each child and adult separately. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

SATURDAY/JUNE 27

Motorcycle Rodeo. 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. The Mid-Atlantic Police Motorcycle Riding Committee, Inc. sponsors an event in which participants take on a series of courses. Free for spectators. Visit www.mapmrc.com for more.

The Ice Cream Race. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park Special Events Center, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. The Ice Cream Race is a fundraiser for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in the form of an ice cream-themed obstacle course.

❖ **Credit Recovery Academy.** This program will be held at Fairfax High School for students seeking credit for high school level courses. Students will be able to take one course during each of the two sessions from June 29-July 16 and July 20-Aug. 4.

❖ **Online Campus.** For credit recovery, acceleration, and enrichment for middle school and high school students. Health, Physical Education, and Geometry Honors run June 29-Aug. 4; all other courses run July 6-Aug. 4.

❖ **SOL Remediation.** For FCPS high school students who passed an SOL course but did not pass the SOL test. Held at Fairfax High School.

❖ **SOL Test Only.** This program is for FCPS seniors who plan to graduate by Aug. 28 and passed an SOL course but failed the SOL test.

❖ **ESOL Numeracy and Literacy.** The ESOL Numeracy and Literacy class provides currently enrolled FCPS high school ELP Level 1 students with the opportunity to develop their numeracy and literacy skills. Students will meet face-to-face with their teachers daily. This is a noncredit class. Held at Fairfax High School July 6-24.

❖ **Online ESOL.** Through this three-week class, students will continue developing their academic and reading and writing skills in an online discussion with an ESOL teacher. This is a noncredit class. Held July 6-24.

❖ **Extended School Year Learning Communities.** Services for identified students with disabilities in accordance with their individualized education programs.

❖ **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Summer Technology Institute.** The Institute will be held July 13-Aug. 7 at Woodson High School. Students currently in grades 7 and 8 will be introduced to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through week-long sessions that allow them to explore a STEM topic of interest.

❖ **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Academic Summer School.** This program will be held July 6-Aug. 6 at Woodson High School. Current TJHSST students and incoming freshmen choose from a variety of courses for academic credit.

❖ **Adult and Community Education.** Programs include Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology admissions test prep, SAT test prep, study skills, and driver education.

❖ **ACE Driver Education.** For students in grades 9-12.

Find Chocolate Syrup Water Slide, Whipped Cream Foam, Sticky Steeplechases and more. Registration starts at \$49 for individuals. Visit www.theicecreamrace.com for more.

Thriving Three to Fives: Jungle Beat. 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories and activities for those aged 3-5 and an adult. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

Read to a Dog. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children on the autism spectrum or with other developmental challenges read to a trained therapy dog. Free for all ages. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

SUNDAY/JUNE 28

Vino Vinyasa. 12:30 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Attend an outdoor yoga session on the lawn at Paradise Springs, then partake in a special wine-tasting and catered lunch. Tickets are \$60 per person. Visit www.ggyoga.co for more.

Summer Concert. 5 p.m. at The National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. The U.S. Air Force Band's Max Impact will perform. Free. Visit www.airandspace.si.edu.

MONDAY/JUNE 29

Community Merit Badge. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are invited to earn the "Citizenship in the Community Badge." There is a \$28 fee. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Kindercise Show. 2:30 p.m. at the

Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Sing and dance with Wolf Trap teaching artist John Taylor. School age children. Free. Reserve a spot for each child and adult at 703-502-3883.

TUESDAY/JUNE 30

Thriving Three to Fives: Jungle Beat. 11 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories and activities for those aged 3-5 with an adult. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

THURSDAY/JULY 2

Jewish Culture Buddies Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and fun that relate to Jewish culture, traditions, and holidays. Free, for all ages. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Time for Tots. 11 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories and activities for those aged 2-3 with an adult. Free. Call 703-830-2223.

FRIDAY/JULY 3

Ice Cream and Butter Making. 1-2 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Churn butter, crank ice cream and play historic games. There is a \$7 fee. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

SUNDAY/JULY 5

"Celebrating Community." 11 a.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Brownie Girl Scouts are invited to earn the Legacy Citizenship Badge. There is an \$8 fee.

ENTERTAINMENT

Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

MONDAY/JULY 6

Writers Workshop. 6:45 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Share writing, as well as give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Free. Call 703-502-3883.

TUESDAY/JULY 7

Thriving Three to Fives: Jungle Beat. 11 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories and activities for those aged 3-5 with an adult. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

Teen Book Club. 4:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Book discussion group for teens in grades 7-10. Free. Call 703-502-3883 with questions, to find out book title, and to reserve a space.

Robin and His Merry Band Performance. 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Musical story of Robin Hood. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 8

Magic Book Club. 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Magic, music, and fun with magician Brian Curry. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

Chantilly Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Join other adults in a book discussion. Call to ask for title. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

THURSDAY/JULY 9

Book Swap and Board Games. 5 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Swap out unwanted books and challenge others to a favorite board game. Light snacks provided. Rising grades 7-12. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

Civil War Lecture. 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Lecture by authors and historians from the Mosby Panel. All ages. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

FRIDAY/JULY 10

Sipping & Painting. 6-8 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Drink wine and paint on a canvas to take home. Admission is \$45. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 10-12

Collectors' Showcase of America. 2-8 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday at Dulles Expo & Conference Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center Drive, Chantilly. Find sports collectibles for show and for sale. A weekend pass is \$15, regular tickets are \$8 for adults and free for children 12 and under. Visit www.csashows.com for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 11

Sheep Dog Detectives Puppet Show. 2:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Puppet show where Dudley Dog and friends solve crimes in a fun and fast paced manner. All ages. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 11-12

World War II Living History. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m.-

3 p.m. on Sunday at 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Sully Historic Site hosts Allied and Axis reenactors for a weekend of demonstrations. Get a look at what life was like for soldiers and civilians throughout the war and talk to them about their jobs, living quarters, food and life in the 1940s. House tour included. This event is free for veterans and active duty military, \$8 for adults and \$6 for seniors and children. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

MONDAY/JULY 13

Robin and His Merry Band. 2:30 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Musical story of Robin Hood. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a space.

Fireflies Musical Yoga. 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Join Kira Willey for yoga, songs, and movement. Age 2-8 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 15

Bouncin' Babies. 3 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories, and other activities for 1 year olds and caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Small Wonders. 4 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories, and other activities for 2 year olds and caregiver. Build an early literacy foundation. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

THURSDAY/JULY 16

Hunger Games Kit. 2 p.m. at the

Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Make a Mockingjay necklace, armband/cuff, keychain, arrow pillow and even a fiery cupcake with Shannyn Snyder. Teens. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a space.

FRIDAY/JULY 17

Ready For School Storytime. 2 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Get preschool-aged children ready to be on their own with this early literacy storytime program. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

SATURDAY/JULY 18

Uno, Dos, Tres Sing and Dance. 2:30 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Sing and move with music and dance with Andres Salguero. All ages. Free. Call 703-830-2223.

MONDAY/JULY 20

Preschool Science. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Fun and amazing experiments for ages 3-6 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Book Nerds Club. 3:30 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. A book club for fifth and sixth graders. Copies of book available. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

Writers Workshop. 6:45 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Share writing, as well as give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

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Students Graduate from Mountain View High

FROM PAGE 5

responsible for half the gray hairs on his head, Morris also told them, "There's more for you to do, and I know you can do it. You've been challenged and battle-tested and you've overcome. We love and respect you, and you will always be a part of the family."

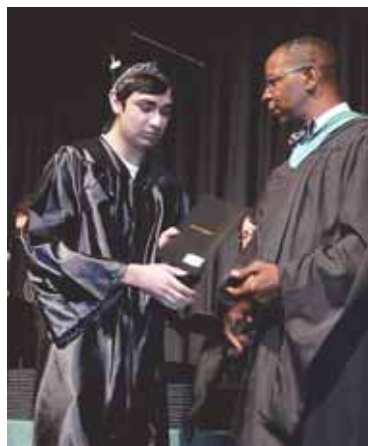
Next came the two student speakers who embodied the grit and courage it often takes for Mountain View students to just make it through the day, let alone study, work hard and graduate. Both of their stories were filled with emotion and difficult for them to get through, but they did it — and received thunderous applause afterward.

"I was 12 when I started putting myself on the wrong track," said Mariela Martinez. "I had no structure in my life. I had low self-esteem and hung out with people who were bad influences on me. I was sent to [juvenile detention] three times and ended up in a residential [substance-abuse] treatment program."

By age 14, she was expecting a baby and was placed into foster care. "I felt like my world had ended when I was taken from my mother," said Martinez. "I had to take my son Matthew into consideration, but I didn't want to stay in foster care."

Gradually, though, she said, "I realized my foster parents, Rebecca and Mark, were a blessing in my life. They pushed me into taking school seriously because they could see the potential in me that I didn't. For the first time, I had a curfew and ate dinner with a family. They encouraged me to stay on my feet and do my best, and now I consider them my family."

For a long time, said Martinez, "I felt I wasn't smart enough or



Ayub Amiri gets his diploma from Principal Gary Morris.

good enough to do anything good at school. But when I started Mountain View, I decided to make education my number-one priority — and this school kept me on the right track to reach my goal."

"When I wanted to give up, I remembered my son was depending on me," she continued. "[At first], I didn't have anyone to steer me in the right direction, like I want to do for him. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be graduating. He's my motivation and will be, forever. Because of him, I've grown into the person I am today, and we will continue to grow together."

Eden Tekola's story was equally compelling. "For most of my life, my teachers didn't support me," she said. "Everyone didn't think I would succeed. My dad put his work before his family and was verbally and physically abusive to my mother and me. He criticized and degraded me."

However, her mother was her role model. "As a single mom, she was stronger underneath her broken façade," said Tekola. "When my father said I was weak and helpless, she said I was valuable."

At age 15, she dropped out of



Yaw Owusu receives a Citizenship Award from Cathy Collins.

school, but her mother was still there for her. "In my depression, my mother and my youth pastor reached out to help me. I couldn't understand why they had so much faith in me and I kept pushing them away — and then it clicked."

Tekola came to Mountain View two years ago and took advantage of the opportunities it offered her. "The teachers made me feel important and valued and treated me like an individual," she said. "I realized, maybe I wasn't destined for failure and that I could conquer my traumatic past. And for the first time, my voice was heard. People told me I'd never make it past high school, and here I am graduating at 17."

So, she told her classmates, "Don't ever let other people's opinions define you."

The way you overcome the obstacles you face is how you should define yourself. This is my mother's work and this diploma is for her; it proves that everything we've worked for came true. I am smart, strong, valuable and impor-

tant. I do have a voice and I made it through."

Assistant Principal Susan Lee said students' stories such as these "explain what drives the Mountain View staff to come to school every day and work so hard. We all refuse to quit."

Then four students received special awards. English teacher Cecilia Carr presented the Personal Achievement Award to Juan Colis. "Like many of our students, Juan's overcome a multitude of obstacles," she said. "He's had to deal with a difficult immigration process, the death of a parent and abandonment by another parent, as well as extrication from a gang. But he's now on his way to becoming a U.S. citizen. Felicidades, m' hijo, [congratulations, my son] and happy birthday."

Both Yaw Owusu and Assim Shammo received the Citizenship Award, given to students who help build a positive school community through their example and work with others. "Assim has a full-time job, but helps people here and in other countries," said Social Studies teacher Cathy Collins. "He also



Shaking hands with Principal Morris is Vera Kuehne.

won the Fairfax County Student Peace Award. Yaw also balances school and a full-time job. And he volunteers with his church and the school newspaper."

Like the Personal Achievement Award, the Faculty Award goes to a student who's achieved academic and personal success, despite significant hurdles. That person must also have earned the admiration and respect of the faculty and maintained a 3.5 or higher GPA. And this year, it went to Milton Lemus.

"He worked diligently, in and out of school, and is dedicated to his family, his church and his wife," said math teacher Jude Welling. "It took a great deal for him to be here today, but we're so proud of you, Milton, and we're blessed that you're part of our Mountain View family."

Then came the diplomas and, afterward, the new graduates celebrated with family, teachers and friends before walking outside, ready to face whatever the world has in store for them next.



Graduate Rosale Bundu and Principal Gary Morris.



Graduation speaker Mariela Martinez and son Matthew, 2.



Grad speaker Eden Tekola bedazzled her cap.



Cindy Daegele and daughter Shelby.



Receiving his diploma is Juan Colis, who won the Personal Achievement Award.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

In Jail: Don't Confuse Mental Health Services with Treatment

14 mental health service members at the disposal of 1060 inmates.

BY SAMANTHA TKAC
THE CONNECTION

A young man with ruffled hair and tired eyes peers out through the rectangular window of his single cell door. His gaze drifts across the green-tiled dayroom of the acute mental health facility in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center.

The high ceiling of the dayroom reveals a second floor of single cells, the entire facility currently occupied by 45 incarcerated men. The young man's eyes catch an observer's and he nods in greeting. Besides this subtle gesture, the dayroom is quiet and still. The tiny cell windows above and below are brightly lit and faceless.

The women's acute mental health facility is structurally similar yet compressed, holding 19 inmates. Both spaces contain central open spaces filled with metal tables and attached chairs. This is where supervisor Steve Weiss, the director of jail-based behavioral services within the ADC and his 14 team members of the Community Service Board sit down with each of the current 64 inmates to provide mental health services. But along with serving those in acute care, the 14 CSB team members provide mental health services to the jail's general population, serving a total of 1073 inmates within the last six months, according to CSB Communications Director Belinda Buescher. During that time, the jail held an average of 1060 inmates.

"In a perfect world we would have a much larger staff and we would have a presence 24/7. If we did that with the existing staff that we have now we would be spread so thin and services would be so diluted that we couldn't respond effectively when we are here," Weiss said.

Sheriff Deputy J. Perkins who works in the facilities explains the Sheriff Department's involvement with the facility's mental health care. He points to "Ob-Logs" short for "Observation Logs." "These are 15 minute checks because it's high observation ..." Perkins said. "It's just another piece of the puzzle in reference to their mental health status." Some of the check ups documented in the logs include whether or not an inmate takes their medication, what meals they're eating and when they're sleeping. "This gives you a real good picture in reference to how well they're doing or if they're deteriorating."

Checking on these individuals frequently and extensively is a necessity when servicing mental health issues, because a state of mind can alter drastically even over the course of a few minutes. Weiss explains that these circumstances mean that the inmates who are prioritized for care changes daily. "We come up with a list every day of who we must see based on the severity of need, and then what we do from that point on depends upon the urgency of the situation."

Weiss has worked in the Fairfax Adult

Detention Center for 11 years, and before that, in other mental health facilities. When Weiss retires in a few weeks, no one will be hired to fill his position, reducing the CSB staff from a total of 14 to 13. Psychology textbooks, behavioral therapy manuals and other informational texts about the human mind line the shelves of his office. Despite Weiss's knowledge and sensitivity toward mental health, he is adamant about referring to the services that his team provides as just that — services, not as treatment.

"I hate using the word treatment," Weiss said. "... People often believe, it's surprising — lawyers, police, family members especially, think 'Boy, I hate to see this person go to jail but at least they'll get treatment over there.' I don't really like to leave the impression that there is any equivalency between what we do here and what the person should receive or what they might receive in a hospital or in proper mental health treatment we want to do as much as we can for as many people as possible, but our objective is really not to provide primary treatment, it's rather to engage, stabilize, and to transition."

The CSB staff consists of social workers, psychologists, or psychiatrists who engage inmates by providing therapeutic group and individual sessions. Some of these sessions include goal-specific outcomes, such as substance abuse therapy. Other sessions may begin with confronting the most basic and important of mental health issues — figuring out what's wrong, and the needs of the individual. Weiss says that a benefit these services within the jail is that "There's no such thing as a no-show in jail for an appointment ... there's 100 percent show rate, that doesn't mean that people are always cooperative. ... There are instances where this is the first time when you're [the CSB staff] able to get a clear picture of what's going on. As crappy as life is in jail, it's the most stable that somebody has been."

Stabilization doesn't always occur.

"**ONE OF THE FIRST** stumbling blocks is the fact that often when people have an ill-



Single cell in the women's acute mental health facility in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center

PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA TKAC/THE CONNECTION
Men's dayroom of the Acute Mental Health Facility in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center.

ness, whether it involves substance use or mental illness or both the illness itself prevents them from understanding that they're ill," he said.

Weiss describes this condition as "anosognosia" or "lack of awareness" which according to the Treatment Advocacy Center, is a condition that affects 50 percent of individuals with schizophrenia and 40 percent of individuals with bipolar disorder. "Because of what's wrong with you, you don't see anything wrong with you," Weiss said.

This among other untreated symptoms of mental illness may result in the inability to pursue treatment after being released from jail, despite the Jail Diversion programs in place for continuing care. This increases the chances of individuals with mental illness repeating offenses and being placed right back within the limits of the Adult Detention Center's CSB services, to which Weiss describes as a "catch all."

In Weiss's perfect world, people with mental illness wouldn't end up in jail. Yet besides the fact that there aren't enough beds available in state hospitals, there are also civil liberties that prevent a person with mental illness to be placed forcibly within a mental treatment facility. "For a lot of different reasons, people come to jail when the problem really isn't criminal activity," Weiss said.

He provides a hypothetical situation, "If I know that Sam can't make good decisions for himself, and can't care for himself, I can't just say, 'I'm putting Sam in a hospital.' There are laws that protect people." So when Sam starts to act out of control and

the police are called, he can't be taken to a hospital, but he can be taken to jail.

"It is not about this chunk or that chunk, all of them are equally important, the chain is only as strong as its weakest link," Weiss said. These "chunks" or services include the utilization of Crisis Intervention Training on behalf of the Fairfax County Police, the availability of Jail Diversion options such as substance abuse treatment and outpatient programs, and increasing the support of post-incarceration options, such as housing,

and placement within mental health treatment facilities.

"What we need to do is understand that this is a systemic issue ... there needs to be seamless movement," Weiss said. "I am in favor of more service in the jail — but that is a reflection of the failure of everything else." He reiterates that the issue of mental health treatment

within the community is, "A single problem with different pieces." Weiss can only work to improve one.

WEISS SPENDS his days not only with the inmates, but with family members and friends who are also affected by this system. On the upside, these interactions make up his favorite part of the job. "It's always being able to make something a little bit better for the person who is incarcerated or for the person that cares about them ... always, there's never any question about that."

But with love comes heartbreak, as Weiss describes the difficulty in seeing individuals whose, "only crime really is being mentally ill." He spoke to one such individual, a young man who was refusing therapy or medication "due to severe paranoia."

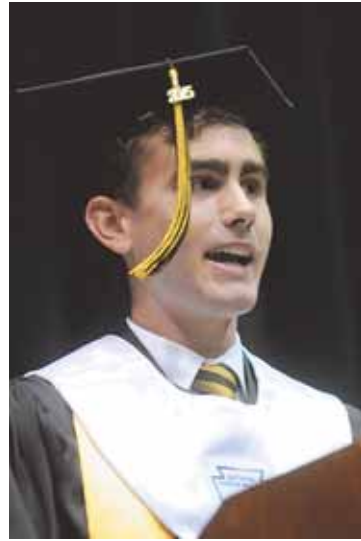
Weiss was trying to convince him to apply to receive disability checks. After lots of time and persistence Weiss received, "the smallest sliver of a maybe" from the man "which I'm sure by today is going to be a no." Weiss sighs, "But — it's not always a no."

Back in the lobby of the Adult Detention Center, a woman sits in the one of the plastic chairs and bounces a baby on her knee. Besides thumping the heel of her clog, she holds her body stiff as she looks above the baby's bobbing head and through the doors leading into the Detention Center. Weiss said, "When people come here, whether they're in the lobby worrying about the person inside or whether it's the person inside the jail — they're at the worst point in their life, and sometimes the smallest thing can make a very big difference sometimes it's saying to a mother — 'I promise you your son is going to be OK, we're watching him.'"

Westfield High Graduates Move Forward



Westfield High School principal Timothy Thomas presents diplomas to the graduates during ceremonies June 19 at George Mason University Patriot Center.



Senior class president Johnny Pace welcomes all to the 2015 Westfield commencement exercises. Pace was also honored with the "Leader of the Pack" faculty award and the student award.



Class secretary Gregory Ziegler was presented with the faculty "Pride Award."

PHOTOS BY
LOUISE KRAFFT



Class historian Samantha Strauss leads the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.



Anirwin Sridhar was selected to deliver the student speech.



The Westfield High School Chamber Singers directed by Katie Pierce sing the National Anthem.



Graduates look over their diplomas.



Principal Timothy Thomas presents Emma Catherine Afferton with a diploma.

61 Sports Events over 10 Days

Fairfax County hosting the 2015 World Police & Fire Games.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A huge event on a scale Fairfax County has never before seen — that's the 2015 World Police & Fire Games. It'll run June 26-July 5 and promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for area residents.

"We expect over 12,000 first responders from more than 70 countries," said county police Maj. Rich Perez, who's heading up security. "There'll be 61 sporting events spanning 10 days, and with more athletes than the summer Olympic Games."

Perez is in charge of bringing together 37 different federal, local and state entities to provide security for the events. These groups include the county Fire and Rescue Department, Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the TSA, ATF, and Department of State.

The World Police & Fire Games started in San Diego, Calif., in 1985 and are held every two years. "We're celebrating the camaraderie, honor, courage and athleticism of first responders from around the world," said MPO Michelle DuBois, one of the county Police Department's athletic outreach ambassadors.

Both active and retired fire and law-en-



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Police officers Rich Perez and Michelle DuBois discuss the upcoming World Police & Fire Games.

forcement personnel will be competing. "This is the 30th anniversary of the games, so there'll be dignitaries here, too," said DuBois. "And it's also the 75th anniversary of the Fairfax County Police Department."

THE OFFICIAL website is Fairfax2015.com and, said Perez, "It's getting 9 million hits a day. The local, economic impact is expected to be \$70 million to \$80 million for those 10 days." That's because, in addition to the athletes, themselves, an estimated 30,000 visitors are also expected to attend the games here.

Some 80 county firefighters and 50 county police officers are registered to par-

ticipate, including Police Chief Ed Roessler Jr. "He registered for the triathlon and has been diligently working out and preparing for it," said Perez.

Some other local first-responders will be defending their awards won previously. Fire Department Battalion Chief Jerome Williams won a gold medal in stair climbing in the last games, held in New York. And county police officer, Lt. Mark Kidd, is the current gold-medal holder in darts.

But all the participants are special, said Bill Knight, president of the World Police & Fire Games. "These athletes are truly heroes from around the world," he said. "And they deserve to be treated like Olympians."

The various athletic competitions will be held at 53 different venues, but more than 70 percent of the games will take place in Fairfax County. Athletes will participate in events including archery, badminton, baseball, beach volleyball, bench press, billiards, body building, bowling, boxing, cross country, cycling, darts, dodge ball, flag football, golf, hockey, judo, karate, lacrosse, half marathon, motocross, motorcycle and mountain biking. They'll also vie in orienteering, paintball, pistol and rifle competitions, police service dogs, rowing, rugby, skeet shooting, soccer, softball, swimming, table tennis, tae kwon do, tennis, track and

field, triathlon, ultimate firefighter, volleyball, wrestling and wrist wrestling.

Several of the events will be held in the local communities. There'll be baseball at Westfield High; Toughest Competitor Alive at the Cub Run Rec Center; clays, skeet and trap shooting, Bull Run Regional Park; cycling, police driving track in Chantilly; darts, Fairfax County Police Association Hall in Fairfax; and lacrosse, Centreville High.

GMU will also host baseball games, as well as basketball, bodybuilding, boxing, swimming, tennis, and track and field. At the Reston Town Center will be the athlete village and check-in, plus the half marathon and honor guard competitions.

Martial arts will be held at NOVA's Ernst Center, and weightlifting will be at the Herndon Community Center. Meanwhile, archery, cycling, mountain biking and orienteering will take place in Fairfax Station's Fountainhead Regional Park. And Tysons Corner will host dodge ball and stair racing.

Mass transit will be used as much as possible to transport the athletes to and from each venue.

"There's no cost to attend and view any of the events," said DuBois. "So we encourage people to bring their families and friends to them and enjoy."

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Gone But Always Remembered

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



As Father's Day approaches, (written Thursday, June 18th) I am reminded of one of my father's standard lines which characterize his positive attitude on life, for which I am eternally grateful – because I inherited it. My father would say that every morning that he woke up was a good day. Ultimately, my father would die a few months past his 87th birthday, having lived longer than either of his parents and his seven siblings. A child of the Depression, born in 1919, he spent his formative years not playing Little League baseball as I did, but rather selling newspapers and hot dogs at Fenway Park in Boston. Upon his return home, his mother would hold out her apron, into which my father would pour his day's earnings. At that time, life was not so much an adventure as it was finding a job/way to make money so the family could eat. His mother/my grandmother worked for a caterer, and at the end of her day, she would bring home remnants of her day's/evening's work: food that was discarded before the meal (chicken wings were not so highly regarded then as they are now.) My father/the Lourie family ate chicken wings often. And throughout his life, my father was happiest when eating chicken wings. The experience did not weaken him; it seemed to make him stronger and more grateful for what good fortune fell upon him later in life. In fact, all he ever wanted in life – aside from the obvious things, was "a hot meal and clean sheets." His upbringing and the hardships he endured seemed to simplify his life.

Another story he would tell – with a smile – was concerning the bathroom in the tenement building where he lived with his nine other family members: it was down the hall, outside of the apartment in which he lived. There was no toilet paper; toilet paper cost money, money which they didn't have. There were, however, catalogues (Sears, Montgomery Ward, etc.) that were mailed and thus were free. Tenants would cut the pages into squares and hang them in the bathroom on a nail convenient to the commode. My father never complained about this; they were too poor to complain. Occasionally though, staples were not removed from all the squares. Unfortunately, my father, like many other residents I'm sure, found out a bit too late. I imagine there was some pain and suffering, but my father always laughed when he told this story, as much for others' benefit no doubt as it was for his.

And so too do I try to make people laugh when I am asked to share my cancer stories. I do this because my father always found the humor in things. And before I realized what I was doing and/or why I was doing it, it became clear that unbeknownst to me, I had been following a family tradition and one I am most proud to be continuing. This is not to say that being diagnosed with "terminal" cancer is a wonderful opportunity to find humor and attempt to make people laugh. Nevertheless, I'm not going to be negative. After all, I am my father's son. Of that I'm positive.

One of the other things I'm super-positive about was how helpful my father would have been had he lived to see me diagnosed with cancer. He would have been my biggest booster, my 24-7 support staff, my unwavering source of encouragement, my inspiration, my up whenever I was down; a man anyone would be lucky to call dad; although I actually called him "Beez," the nickname given to him by his fellow knothole gang members (Benet was his given name). Whatever good fortune I'm able to experience going forward though, I'll do so with gratitude and the acknowledgment that none of it would have happened without having had the father I did and hearing about the life he led. Thanks for everything, "Beez." I'll see you Sunday.

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

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ROUNDUPS

Accident Fundraiser

Centreville High School Special Needs teacher Kelly Hennessa was in a car crash on June 1 while taking her 12-year-old son out for ice cream. She is in a coma with several traumatic brain injuries. A fundraiser will be held June 27 at Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, by some of the area's stars of musical theatre as they perform Broadway show tunes and a few contemporary songs as well. Coffee and desserts will be served included with the admission. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. and proceeds will go directly to the family. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for children and can obtain them at <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=zuddmeab&oeidk=a07eb5knziff5b22dc9> Contact baileymanassas@aol.com

Unattended Cooking Causes Fire

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue units responded to a garden apartment fire on Saturday, June 13, at approximately 10 a.m., at 5852 Post Corners Trail in Centreville. Firefighters encountered light smoke in the four-story apartment upon arrival. The fire was extinguished by the sprinkler system prior to firefighters arriving.

Ten occupants have been displaced and were alerted by smoke alarms. Red Cross support is being provided to the occupants. One occupant was transported to the Washington Hospital Burn Center by ambulance with non-life threatening injuries. Damage is estimated at \$23,000. According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. Unattended food left on the stove caused the fire.

Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, July 16, 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.

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.

WFCM Donations

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry needs donations of Cooking oil, canned fruit (all types), sugar, canned meats (tuna, ham and chicken), hot cereals, pasta sauce, canned tomatoes, flour, and canned or dry beans.

Toiletries needed, which WFCM clients cannot purchase with food stamps, include facial tissues, toothpaste, shampoo and solid deodorant.

Bring all items to WFCM'S food pantry, weekdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 13888 Metrotech Drive.

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Chantilly Qualifies for 7on7 National Championship

After part-time duty as a junior, Chantilly rising senior David Tammaro is preparing to be the Chargers' full-time starting quarterback during the 2015 season.

On June 21, Tammaro showed off and sharpened his passing skills during the 7on7 University Bulldog Classic. Chantilly came from behind to beat Lake Braddock in the semifinals before falling to John Champe in the championship game.

"It's good to get your timing down with these," Tammaro said about competing in 7on7, which focuses on the passing game with no pads and no linemen. "We made it really far.

It's not really about winning and losing, it's really about getting your timing and chemistry [and knowing] where guys are going to be so in the regular season, you

know." After beating Hayfield in the quarterfinals, Chantilly earned a trip to the 7on7 University National Championship Tournament on July 10 and 11 at Oakton High School.

The Chargers went 2-1 in pool play during Sunday's action, outscoring opponents 49-40.

Twenty teams competed Sunday. John Champe, Chantilly, Lake Braddock and Oakton each earned a trip to the national tournament.

— JON ROETMAN

Rising senior quarterback David Tammaro led Chantilly to the championship game of the 7on7 University Bulldog Classic on June 21 at Westfield High School.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Westfield's Scanlon, Johnson Splitting QB Reps

The Westfield football program, which has played in four consecutive region championship games, will need to replace a two-year starter at quarterback for the 2015 season.

Rising senior Tyler Scanlon and rising junior Rehman Johnson split reps during Sunday's 7on7 University Bulldog Classic at Westfield High School. With the Bulldogs needing to replace the graduated Mason Scoville, Scanlon, a standout receiver last season, talked to coaches about potentially making the move to quarterback.

"Right after the [2014] football season ended, I talked with the quarterbacks coach about the possibility of moving to quarterback," Scanlon wrote in an email. "With a lot of good receivers progressing from JV to varsity, there was a good feeling that we would be fairly stable at receiver even if I

wasn't split out wide."

The 6-foot-6 Scanlon last played quarterback as a freshman for the Paul VI junior varsity team. He transferred from Paul VI to Westfield as a junior, helping the Bulldog football team reach the 6A North region championship game, and the boys' basketball team finish state runner-up.

"Playing receiver [last season] was easier as the new kid on the block because all you had to do was jump up and catch the ball," Scanlon wrote. "As I've adopted more of a leadership role, the quarterback position naturally became a possibility. Especially after the success we had in basketball, I feel like the leadership skills I picked up during that season prepared me very well for running a team."

Westfield went 3-0 during pool play on Sunday, outscoring opponents 62-18, but



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL

Westfield rising junior Rehman Johnson, with ball, and rising senior Tyler Scanlon split reps at quarterback during 7on7 Sunday.

lost to Hayfield early in the single-elimination tournament.

Scanlon said the Bulldogs, who are implementing a hurry-up offense, showed signs of progress Sunday.

"We felt that there were a lot of good things we saw, like the way we handled the hurry-up offense without the aid of our coaches standing behind us," Scanlon wrote. "Players that haven't really established themselves at the varsity level proved they were making steps in the right direction, but we realize there's a lot to work on as we didn't win the championship."

Scanlon said he plans to play college basketball and is likely to narrow his search for a school in the fall.

— JON ROETMAN

SWIMMING ROUNDUP

Poplar Tree Pirates Boarded by Langley Wild Things

In a world where hordes of Wild Things from Langley invaded the Pirates of Poplar Tree Lagoon, the outnumbered and outgunned Pirates valiantly fought to their last shipmate in their NVSL Division 4 season opener on June 20.

There were 50 best times, exciting finishes, and two team records set:

Emily Radcliffe broke the 2003 Girls 6 & Under 25 Free record with a time of 19.56, and Blake Madsen broke the 1999 Boys 8 & Under 25 Breast record with a time of 24.47.

Ben Farello started the meet off with a fast first place finish in Freestyle. Emily Radcliffe took first in the Girls 8U Freestyle and set the aforementioned 6 & Under record. Adrian Coray placed second in the Boys 9-10 and Lauren Radcliffe did the same for the Girls 9-10. Tai Kaft brought home the first' in the 11-12 Boys, while Sara Radcliffe took second place for the Girls. In



Blake Madsen broke the 1999 Boys 8 & Under Breast Record with a time of 24.47.



Emily Radcliffe broke the 2003 Girls 6 & Under 25 Free record with a time of 19.56

the 13-14 age group, Nick David finished first' and Mary Kominski took second place.

Blake Madsen kicked off the Backstroke

with the top spot and Kathy Nie took second for the girls. Elena Benson finished first for the Girls 9-10 and Sara Radcliffe took second place for the 11-12 Girls. Ted Ellis finished third in the Boys 13-14 and Mary Kominski took second place for the girls. Hannah Warnick took first place for the 15-19 Girls.

Blake Madsen started off the Breastroke races strong with the top spot in his record-breaking performance. Sara Small and Kathy Nie continued the Pirate run with the top two spots for the 7-8 Girls. The 9-10 Girls shone brightly with Neha Balaji and JoJo Ellis taking first and third. Kellen Nie took third for the 11-12 Boys while Natalie Farello finished strong in first' place. In 13-14 Sam Brunner took third for the boys and Julia Young took second for the girls. Jonathan Wen and Corrine Kominski both took the top spots for the 15-18s and Julia Brunner took third.

Ben Farello flew away with the first place finish in Butterfly. Sara Small and Emily Radcliffe paced the Pirates with second and third place.

For the 9-10 Boys Adrian Coray placed third then Neha Balaji and Elena Benson finished 2-3 for the girls. Kai Taft took first' for the 11-12 Boys and Natalie Farello finished second for the girls. Nick David and Julia Young both took first for the 13-14 age group. Corrine Kominski placed first for the 15-18 Girls.

In the penultimate event the Boys Freestyle Mixed Age Relay of Kai Taft, Adrian Coray, Nick David and Jonathan Wen finished first.

The Pirates put forth a valiant effort, so with 50 personal bests and 2 records there was much to applaud. The final tally was Langley 278, Pirates 142. Next Saturday the Pirates will invade the Pinecrest Piranhas in Herndon.