

Centreville ♦ Little Rocky Run CENTRE VIEW

FAMILY
CONNECTION
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JUNE 28 - JULY 4, 2017

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE

Carmen Ramirez Martinez
receives her diploma from
Mountain View Principal
Gary Morris.

Principal to Graduates: 'Go Change the World'

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Fourth of July

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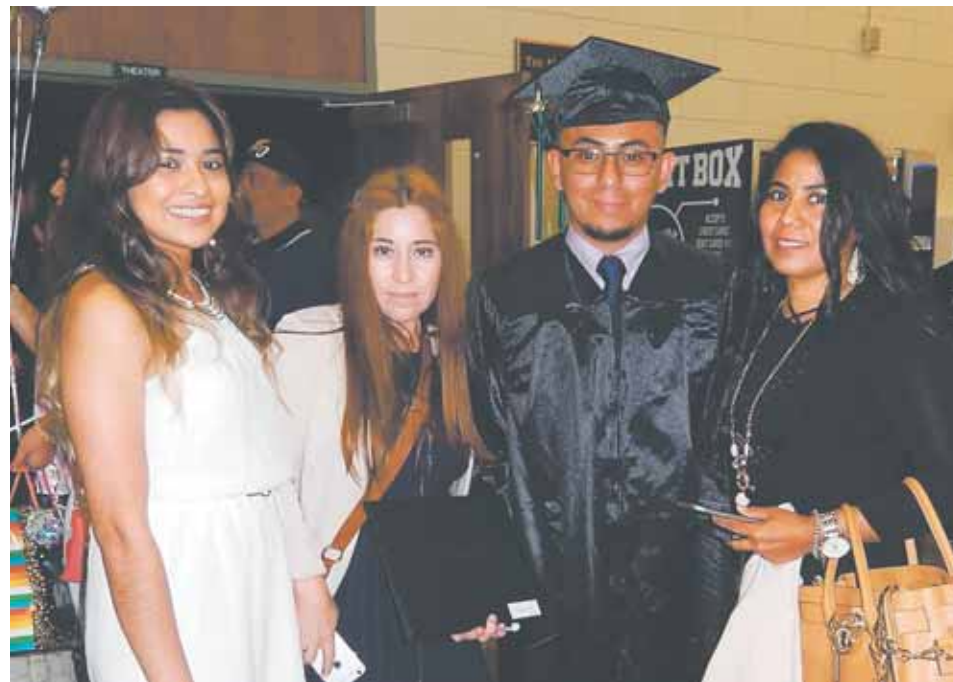
PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

GRADUATION 2017

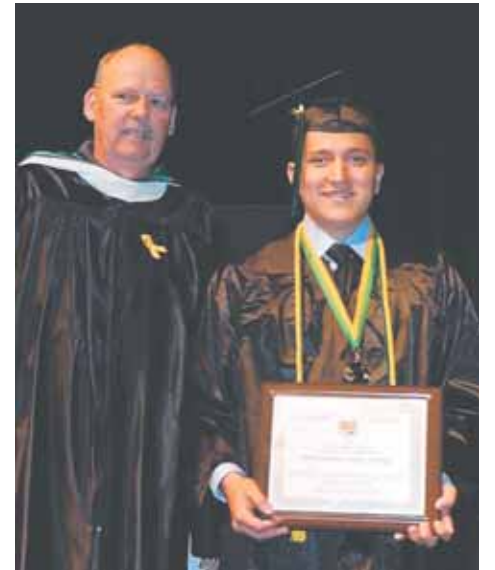
PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS



Saira Gomez receives the Personal Achievement Award from Social Studies teacher Mike Hardy.



Grad Jordan Diaz Zuniga with (from left) his cousin, Nubia Zuniga; aunt, Mariza Zuniga; and mom, Albertina Biddle.



English teacher Tim Harris gives the Faculty Award to Misael Arias Maradiaga.

Principal to Graduates: 'Go Change the World'

Mountain View High holds spring commencement.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

Mountain View High Principal Gary Morris believes there's nothing his school's June graduates can't achieve in the future. That's because he's seen firsthand how much they've already accomplished, despite great adversity.

Addressing them during their graduation ceremony on Tuesday, June 20, at Centreville High, he said they were about to be set free to make their marks on the world.

"You've been on this journey for some time and, today, it's here," said Morris. "Go change the world. I'm serious; you can do it. I believe in you; I have faith in you."

Giving examples of a few people who've done it, he mentioned Mahatma Gandhi, who led nonviolent protests for independence in India. He also noted American Civil Rights leader Rosa Parks, who showed that "Ordinary people can do anything if they stick to their beliefs, regardless of the circumstances." And he praised farmworker and activist Cesar Chavez who inspired people with his motto, "Yes, it can be done."

So, Morris asked the students, "Why can't you go change the world? You've defied the odds before. Some of you have done it because you've believed what your teachers said you could do. You put your head down and forged on until you reached your goals. You didn't quit; you believed you could because that was the only option."

Detailing what they've changed about themselves, Morris said that, initially, many of them didn't want to be at school. "But you were hungry for that education and



Graduate Mayli Ortega with husband, Melvin Portillo, and their daughter Zoe, 14 months.

wanted to work toward graduation," he said. "That's inspiring — you changed hearts and showed us you were ready for this."

He said the students also changed their values from wanting to stay home in bed to becoming eager to attend classes. And, he added, "You changed your peers; they wanted to succeed because they saw you succeed — and that's an impact."

Furthermore, said Morris, "You've made us change the way we deliver education to you — and that's innovation. Inspiration, impact and innovation — you've got to have them to change the world — and you do. We've seen what you can do and others have seen it, too."

Quoting Gandhi's famous words, "Be the change you wish to see in the world," Mor-



Graduate Jesus Ramirez with (from left) sister, Britany, 10, and niece, Camila, 10 months.

ris told the seniors, "I've already seen that capability in you, just by being you. And I and the rest of the faculty will be here to see you through, just the way we always have."

"Be the best you can be, every single day," he continued. "You don't have to be perfect, but aim for it. Follow the motto that's gotten you here today — [Mountain View's motto of] 'Family, love, respect.' Now, go out and change the world. #GoTimberwolves."

Then, after a school alumnus and two seniors shared their individual success stories, several students received Mountain View's highest awards. They were recognized not just for their academic accomplishments, but also for their per-



Grad Delia Nolasco and friend Edgar Escalante.

sonal character.

CITIZENSHIP AWARD

The Citizenship Award is given to those students who have helped build a positive school community through their example and their work with others. Social Studies Department Chair Pete Garvey presented these awards to Junior Zevallos and Sharon Chavarria.

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Personal Achievement Award recognizes those students who've succeeded academically and personally, despite adult pres-

SEE PRINCIPAL, PAGE 3

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GRADUATION 2017

'Mountain View Was a Blessing for Me'

Two seniors, one alumnus, share their stories.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

The highlight of any Mountain View graduation isn't watching the seniors receive their diplomas, but listening to the student speakers share their personal stories. And this year's speakers were no exception.

First up was Marcel Wells, who attended the school when Jim Oliver was principal (2003-10). Current principal, Gary Morris, told the seniors Wells was there to "bridge the gap between where you are today and where you can be."

When Wells first came to Mountain View, math teacher Anne Hoffman became his mentor. But, he said, "I eventually became complacent, skipped school and my grades slipped. But Ms. Hoffman called me and yelled at me and said, 'Get your butt to school.' I'd never heard her raise her voice before, and it was a defining moment for me. A woman I'd only known for a few months cared about me — and it felt like I was surrounded by family, love and respect."

Later, just the algebra SOL stood between Wells and graduation. He hated math and had previously failed that SOL, so he knew he had to work his hardest to overcome this last hurdle — and he did. Said Wells: "I got one, last chance, and I passed the test."

Before coming to Mountain View, he said, "I was kicked out of every other school for fighting. But now I'm self-sufficient. I've been married for five years, have a 4-year-



Mountain View alumnus Marcel Wells addresses the seniors.



Graduation speaker Jostien Sky



Graduation speaker Saira Gomez

old son and a 2-year-old daughter, own my own house and car and have a decent job. Thanks, again, and congratulations, graduates."

The next speaker was senior Jostien Sky, originally from Alexandria, Egypt. "Coming to the U.S., school wasn't my priority," he said. "I was at Centreville High, but I skipped school so much that the administrators there said I wasn't going to graduate — and I didn't want to let my parents down."

So he enrolled in Mountain View and found "a great staff and great students who work together to get the job done. The teachers want us to earn our diplomas as much as we do. They make difficult subjects easy to understand. And if I miss a day of class, someone calls me."

Basically, said Sky, "They care about me, so now I go to school every day. I've never seen such strong relationships between students and teachers at any other school. I thank the staff at Mountain View and, especially, Ms. [Ellen] Fay, my counselor. We've learned we need skills and knowledge to move forward. And now that we're graduating, we need to keep moving and

keep learning."

Then senior Saira Gomez came to the podium. "When I came to this country three years ago, I couldn't see myself someday standing on this stage," she said. "I was pregnant at 17 with two, beautiful twin daughters. It was a high-risk pregnancy, so I was on bedrest for three months and couldn't go to school."

But in December 2016, she returned to classes at Mountain View. "My babies were 5 months old and only 5 pounds each," she said. "They were born premature, and it was so hard to leave them. But now that I'm here, graduating, I know all the sacrifices were worth it."

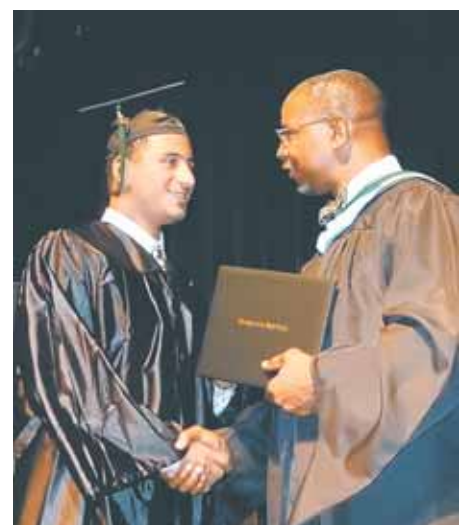
"This is more than a school, said Gomez. "Coming to Mountain View was a blessing for me. It helped me become a better person and a better mom. My personal-finance teacher helped me so much and supported me, even after I finished her class. The staff here has become my family. They, my babies and my family were my motivations to reach my goals and graduate. And I know that someday my children will be proud of me."

She also thanked her daughters' father for



Jabria Merriweather receives her diploma from Principal Gary Morris.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS



Alexander Toosi receives his diploma from Mountain View Principal Gary Morris.

"being there beside me and being a wonderful father to his little girls." And she advised her classmates to not be hesitant to "Look for help. There's always somebody there to help you accomplish your goals. I hope I've made my mom proud; thank you."

Principal to Graduates: 'Go Change the World'

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS

FROM PAGE 2

sure and obstacles, such as raising a child and holding down a full-time job while attending school. Social Studies teacher Mike Hardy presented this honor to Saira Gomez.

FACULTY AWARD

Faculty Award recipients are students who've earned the faculty's respect and admiration by exemplifying the spirit of the school's motto, "Family, love, respect," while earning a 3.4 GPA or higher. English teacher Tim Harris gave one of these awards to Misael Maradiaga. Harris said Maradiaga didn't speak English when he first came to Mountain View, but learned quickly. He also achieved an "A" average in his classes while working full-time.

The other Faculty Award was given to Bailey Kim by social worker Cynthia Crisafulli. "Bailey completed 10 classes this



Pete Garvey with Citizenship Award winner Sharon Chavarria

year, earned a 3.8 GPA and is graduating one year early," said Crisafulli. "She gave birth to her son at age 14 and had to learn



Bailey Kim (left) receives the Faculty Award from social worker Cynthia Crisafulli.

to cope with her emotions in more mature ways. She also won three scholarships and plans a career in the sciences."



From left are teacher Pete Garvey and Citizenship Award winner Junior Zevallos.

GRADUATION 2017

Graduates Bid Farewell to Chantilly High

Chantilly High School held its graduation on June 21, 2017, at EagleBank Arena on the campus of George Mason University. The National Honor Society ushered the ceremony that was presided over by outgoing Principal Teresa Johnson. Johnson has been the principal for the past six years but will be leaving soon to take on the position of assistant superintendent for the Department of Special Services for Fairfax County Public Schools. There were 663 graduating seniors.



Senior Class Board members (from left) Hannah Reeves and Emerson Moon.

From left: McKenzie Ahmadi, Jeanine Acierto, and Atit Acharya take in the graduation atmosphere as they wait for the ceremony to start.



Introducing the 2017 Chantilly High School graduates.



Principal Teresa Johnson, and School Board members Elizabeth Schultz, Tom Wilson, and Ryan McElveen listen to the commencement speaker.



Chantilly graduates smile as the commencement ceremony concludes.



Graduate Hung Ho stands with a large group of family and friends after the commencement ceremony. He will attend VCU in the fall and plans to study biology.

GRADUATION 2017



Nick Givens, Regional Engineering Inspiration Award winner, smiles during the commencement program.



Mary Clougherty, Senior Class Board member, addresses the crowd with the welcome address.



Senior Class Board and sponsors Karlie Hale (front row, left) and Sarah Travis (back row, right).

PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING



From left: Senior Class Board members Calvin Yuan, Joshua Melnyk, and Sofia Wainwright Quinones.



Shantell Martin with her Great Aunt, Mary Young.



From left: Graduates and friends, Jeffrey Rhoads, Alice Wang, and Alex Armintrout outside after the ceremony.

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OPINION

Killing the Poor to Pay Millionaires

Even employer provided insurance would suffer; coverage caps and exclusions of pre-existing conditions could return.

The U.S. Senate bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act would take more than \$600 billion (yes with a B) from poor children, poor elders and people with disabilities to give a tax cut to people who make more than \$200,000 a year. Households with income of \$1 million, would gain \$50,000 in tax cuts per year. It is a massive transfer of wealth to the wealthiest households in America taken from the most vulnerable and neediest people.

EDITORIAL

It would lead to more sick people and thousands of preventable deaths every year.

While much of the damage is done by massive cuts to Medicaid, affecting poor children, people with disabilities and most people in nursing homes, some of the changes will result in damage to the quality of insurance for those who get their insurance from their employers as well.

What could go wrong?

❖ Millions of people lose their health insurance — 22 million fewer would have health insurance by 2026 according to the Congressional Budget Office analysis.

❖ Loss of coverage for pre-existing conditions, including cancer survivors, people who had transplants, people with asthma, arthritis, high cholesterol, hypertension, obesity, mental health issues, ADD, etc.

❖ States could opt out of the law's essential health benefits measure, which requires insurers to cover 10 main benefits, including hospitalization, prescription drugs and other services. That is, companies could sell health insurance that wouldn't actually be health insurance. Would Virginia be a state that opts out? Quite likely.

❖ Ending annual and lifetime coverage caps would also impact people who get health insurance from their employers and the private insurance market. For example, a serious accident or an illness that requires repeated surgeries or bone marrow transplants could put any one of us over the coverage cap.

❖ Medicaid pays public schools for many services for special education students, but the Senate bill removes schools from eligible Medicaid providers, costing Virginia an estimated \$40 million annually; \$3 million in Fairfax County; \$2 million in the City of Alexandria.

❖ \$800 billion plus in cuts to Medicaid puts the funding for most people who are currently in nursing homes at risk. Many of these are people who were middle class and but outlived their savings and coverage.

❖ In Virginia, the proposed changes to Medicaid would cost the state \$1.4 billion over seven years.

❖ Medicaid pays for much of the fight against opioid addiction, including treatment. Cuts would be devastating to efforts to counter the

wave of overdose deaths and other effects of addiction.

❖ Coverage for mental health treatment, including addiction treatment, is threatened both by cuts to Medicaid and by changes in the private insurance market.

❖ There will be greater need for Medicaid over time. More seniors will be poor, as fewer people who are retiring have pensions or adequate retirement savings. The demand for nursing home beds will be increasing as the population ages.

(This is by no means a comprehensive list of problems.)

If a version of the Senate bill were to pass, the results will be harmful to tens of millions of Americans. Call your senators. Virginia's U.S. Senators, Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, are both Democrats in the forefront of pushing back against this bill. But let them know you expect them to do the extraordinary to hold this up. Call the senators listed below and tell them to vote against it.

Ask family and friends to call their senators today.

If you have family or friends who live in West Virginia, Louisiana, Maine, Nevada, Alaska or Ohio, their calls are especially important. Senators Shelley Capito (R-WV); Bill Cassidy (R-LA); Susan Collins (R-ME); Dean Heller (R-NV); Lisa Murkowski (R-AK); Rob Portman (R-OH) are among those reported to be possible opponents of this proposal.

The U.S. Capitol Switchboard number is 202-224-3121, and a switchboard operator will connect you directly with the Senate office you request.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

In Defense of Learning

BY ARKO MAZUMDER

Everyone has their own needs. It's a common cliché at this point, but it makes sense that we know when the needs of one person are different than the needs of another. But that is not the case with proficiency in our schools, where needs of the many do outweigh the needs of the few, and not in an effective way. And though our community is OK with that, I'm not.

This issue cannot remain unnoticed in our classes where the problems continue to persist. It has come to the point of increased stress on our community on what

COMMENTARY

they are doing wrong. For example, it has come to the point where an AP language and composition teacher worries about things being "overly quantified" in his class, because percentages are compared to writing skills. And yet the community seems to blame those kinds of students or teachers for having that mindset. One reason has gone unnoticed, and that is the implementation and impact of the Student Information System, or SIS, into our academic community.

SIS is a new way of allowing students to have "instant access" to their grades. With anything

that allows people to see it instantly however, there is always abuse. Both the students and teachers agree that SIS has put an emphasis on grades and GPA rather than learning. With the instant access of grades, SIS has consumed the lives of students and parents. This mentality of putting individual grades or numbers over mastery is even more harmful when those students transition into college, where having a "grades first" mindset may get a student into a good college, but that does not mean that he or she will do well in college.

Unfortunately, this behavior is only perpetuated in high school, where the "grade grubber" mindset is completely acceptable. In fact, it's exactly what our community is going for. Allowing students to constantly check their grade is certainly a double-edged sword. Every time a teacher puts a test score on SIS and some students do not perform well, those students panic as if it was Monday morning in the NYSE and the Dow Jones fell 500 points. At times, the panic is justified. What worries me is that those people who underperformed on a test do not usually try to improve their understanding of that subject. Instead, these students usually conclude that the teacher is "unfair" or "mean." Like the stock market, there is constant speculation on whether a group of

numbers goes up or down. This is not just idiotic. It's dangerously idiotic.

Surely this social stigma did not arrive overnight, as the root cause of this kind of behavior comes from the community itself. Because parents want the very best for their kids, they are mostly responsible to substantial changes to the grading system, such as the 50 percent rule and the 80 percent retake rule. These rules state that the lowest grade a student can have is a 50 percent, and any student can retake a test up to an 80 percent. I cannot assert that SIS is 100 percent responsible for an emphasis on grades over learning, as the 50 percent and 80 percent rules are key factors as well. A calculus teacher listed the 50 percent rule as a rule that "inflates the SIS grade book along with student scores, and is simply lying to everyone about what a student has really mastered." Learning should be a beautiful experience, but these changes and SIS added on to the problem.

I am not arguing that SIS has absolutely no benefits to it. On the contrary, I can recognize the benefits that SIS offers and can say that it should stay. The ease of access is crucial for certain teachers, such as a learning disabilities teacher who credits SIS for allowing him

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A Connection Newspaper

WORDS & PICTURES

Preface

Chantilly resident Anita R Mohan started writing poems for children a year ago and shared them on Facebook. Since they were children's poems, she thought they should be accompanied by art drawn by children. She also conducts poetry workshops for children in grades K-4 every month at the Chantilly Regional Library.



ILLUSTRATION © PARMIS SALAHY, AGE 9, CHANTILLY

Summer Fun

By Anita R Mohan

Summer will soon be here
time to get out the beach gear
Umbrellas, pails, spades, balls, hats
towels, sunscreens, slippers, mats
listen to the ocean as it roars
watch the seagulls as they soar
build sandcastles and eat ice cream
lay under the sun and daydream!

Copyright © Anita R Mohan

OPINION

In Defense of Learning

FROM PAGE 6

to “see if a student struggles across the board, or needs remediation after school.” For certain types of classes, the use of SIS is a vast improvement compared to previous grading systems. Unfortunately, as Centreville High School student Caton Gayle put it, “SIS has become the new focus compared to literally everything else.”

Now, a lot of skeptics might say that this is all great philosophically, but it seems impractical.

To fix this issue, the system itself must be changed, then the problems that SIS and the overall “grade grubber” problem will be fixed. I am suggesting however, that classes should be modeled after the AP computer



ILLUSTRATION © JASHWIN FERNANDES, AGE 7, ROCKVILLE, MD.

An Elephant Limerick

By Anita R Mohan

There was an elephant that sneezed
because his big long nose got squeezed
He looked left and right
Saw no one in sight

And so he walked away feeling pleased

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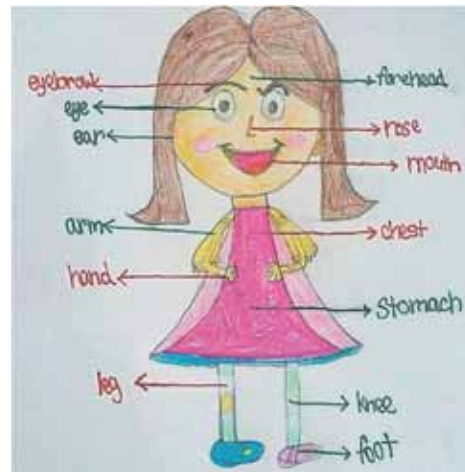


ILLUSTRATION © MEDHA KUMAWAT, AGE 8, FAIRFAX

All of Me, Dances

By Anita R Mohan

Feet asked legs out for a dance
Legs ran happily to tell thighs
Thighs shook with joy telling hips
Hips wriggled in delight shaking stomach
Stomach growled happily at chest
Chest heaved with excitement at shoulders
Shoulders moved hands in delight
Hands clapped with pleasure looking at neck
Neck turned to share the news with head
Head nodded with happiness as Ears heard music
Mouth sang, Eyes lit up, Nose wiggled
and they all danced to the beat of the Heart.

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ILLUSTRATION © SHIVANI PADMANABHAN, AGE 9, FAIRFAX

My Lost Tooth

By Anita R Mohan

Today while having sandwich and punch
my wiggly tooth got stuck to my lunch
I will now have a funny smile on my face
since my mouth has an empty space
But I am all excited because mommy said
a tooth fairy will visit me when I am asleep in bed.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

My Ramadan Experience

To the Editor:

Ramadan is a month where Muslims around the world fast. It is a time when Muslims remember the revelation of the Holy Qur'an, and engage in spiritual reflection and self-improvement. This year Ramadan is being observed from May 27 until June 25.

This Ramadan, we should all try to benefit from the spiritual atmosphere of the blessed month by taking time out to reflect on sinful actions and habits and strive to resolve them. When we abstain from food and drink from dawn to sunset we experience the hunger and thirst felt by the less

fortunate in our society. In that curriculum, the grades are secondary, as people can retake tests any time before the AP exam to boost a previous grade.

What matters is whether one learned the material or not, and that makes sense. This is not a one size fits all solution, but it is a good place to start from.

What we have now are far too many students with 4.0 GPAs, many who don't understand the material in the first place. Of course, it will all be meaningless if the parents, teachers, and students do not strive to put learning ahead of GPA. Only then will those students truly be ready for the complexities that life has ahead of them.

The writer is a junior at Centreville High School.

fortunate in our society. It is a time to give generously and feed the poor.

We also wish to show the immense difference between the true Islamic approach to Ramadan and what extremists have done in recent days in Manchester and Egypt. Instead of preparing for this holy month by praying and increasing charity, they go out and commit forbidden and un-Islamic acts.

Ramadan is a time to seek forgiveness of our sins and helping us become better Muslims. As a Muslim girl it helps me understand the hardships that some people might go through and allows me to help the needy. Thus, the important message in Ramadan is to become a better person and help humanity.

Ujala Yousaf
Centreville



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ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar.
Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Baby Toddler Sign Classes. 10-11:30 a.m. Fridays in May at the NOVA Natural Birth Center, 4200 Technology Court, Suite A, Chantilly. Lisa Carlson of Toddler Signs has ways to teach a baby or toddler to how to express themselves with signing months before they can in words. Cost is \$60 for all four classes or \$20 each. Classes will be taught again in June. Visit www.novabirthcenter.com for more.

Art Guild of Clifton Exhibit. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call 703-409-0919 for more.

Carolina Shag Dance. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Visit www.nvshag.org for more.

Open Rehearsal. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaire.org 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 age 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. 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.

Practice English Conversation Group. Saturdays, 3-5 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Drop in and enjoy casual conversation and learning for adult learners of English. Volunteer led program. Call 703-830-2223.

English as Second Language Book Club. Mondays, 7-9 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Call the library 703-830-2223 for book title.

Advanced English Conversation Group. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Drop-in conversation group for adult English as Second Language speakers who want to improve their skills. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

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, 11 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults learning



Art at the Library

Keeping a Travel Sketchbook/Journal, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Bring a sketchbook and drawing material. This is part of the The "Art at the Library" series which is held the fourth Wednesday of every month at Centreville Regional Library, 7-8:30 p.m. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

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, 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.

Duplo Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 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.

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

Legos Kids Club. Every other Tuesday, 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 to reserve a space.

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

PET ADOPTIONS

Adopt a 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 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.

THROUGH JUNE 30

Thrift Store Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday at Pender Regift Thrift Store, 4447-C Brookfield Corporate Drive. Storewide sale, 25 percent off. Visit www.penderthrift.org, or call 703-378-7371 for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 30

Whys and Whey of Dairy. 1, 2 and 3 p.m. at the Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Learn

how dairy products used to be made before the days of big grocery stores and chilly refrigerator sections. \$7. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site for more.

Constellations and Campfire. 8:30-10 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Meet at Cabell's Mill and head into the meadow with a naturalist to identify the early summer constellations. Then return to the campfire to make s'mores. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Whys and Whey of Dairy. 1, 2 and 3 p.m. at the Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Learn how dairy products used to be made before the days of big grocery stores and chilly refrigerator sections. \$7. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site for more.

MONDAY/JULY 3

History at Sully Historic Site. Tours from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. \$7 for adults, \$6 for students, and \$5 for seniors and children. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site for more.

TUESDAY/JULY 4

Holiday Crafts Day. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. The crafts will highlight the holiday and the railroads. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225 for more.

BEGINNING JULY 5

Zumba Gold for Adults 50+. 1-2 p.m. at Sully Senior Center, 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Afternoon fitness classes for adults 50 and over. Free. 703-322-4475 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs.

SUNDAY/JULY 16

NTRAK Scale Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. \$4 for adults 16 and over \$2 for children 5-15 free for Museum members and children under 5. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or phone 703-425-9225.

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Connection readers love their pets. This keepsake edition will feature photos, anecdotes, advice and more about beloved family pets. Reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention.

The Pet Connection will publish on July 26, 2017, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 19. We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.

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CONNECTION FAMILIES

A Week of Area Independence Day Celebrations

FRIDAY/JUNE 30

Independence Fireworks. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Fireworks with Mansion Tour: \$34 for adults; \$24 for youth; No Mansion Tour: \$30 for adults; \$20 for youth. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Fireworks at Lake Fairfax Park. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. The Water Mine Park, boat rentals, live music, food, puppet show, camping and fireworks. \$10 per car. The rain date is Sunday, July 2. Call 703-471-5414 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax/.

Workhouse Arts Center Festivities. 5-9:30 p.m. at The Workhouse, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. \$20. Golf course lecture, hole-in-one challenge, fireworks. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

Independence Fireworks. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Fireworks with Mansion Tour: \$34 for adults; \$24 for youth; No Mansion Tour: \$30 for adults; \$20 for youth. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

MONDAY/JULY 3

History Day Tours. Tours at 11 a.m. through 3 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Test your knowledge of U.S. history at Sully Historic Site with political trivia, games and fun facts. \$7 for adults, \$6 for students, and \$5 for seniors and children. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

TUESDAY/JULY 4

Firecracker 5K. 8-10 a.m. Reston Town Center, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Live music and American flags while rooting for the runners in the "Battle of the Branches" competition. Call 703-912-4062 or visit restontowncenter.com.

Autism Speaks 5K. 8 a.m. at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac, Md. Fundraiser for autism. Registration, packet pick up at 6:30 a.m. Call 202-955-3111 or email AutismSpeaks5K@AutismSpeaks.org.

Great Falls Hometown Celebration. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at at Great Falls Village Centre, 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. Great Falls 5K Walk/Run starts at 8 a.m. and then view the floats, antique cars,



FILE PHOTO

People capture the firework display on cell phones and cameras during the 2016 celebration of Alexandria's birthday.

horses and the bike brigade in the 4th of July Parade at 10 a.m. After the parade, food, music, field games and festivities on the Village Centre Green. At 6 p.m., the gates open at Turner Farm Park featuring music, games, contests and food trucks until the Fireworks Show gets underway just after dusk. Visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

Mount Vernon Independence Day. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Troop inspection, wreath laying, citizen naturalization, music, fireworks and cake. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org.

Fairfax Independence Day Parade. 10 a.m. On Main Street in downtown Fairfax. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration.

City of Fairfax Evening Show. 5:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run. Children's activities (inflatables, face painting, and balloon artists), On-stage entertainment with a fireworks display that follows. The rain date for the fireworks only is July 5. Items that may puncture the synthetic turf, smoking, alcohol and animals (except service animals) are not permitted on the football field. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov or call 703-385-7855.

Fairfax Station Holiday Crafts Day. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Crafts will highlight the holiday and the railroads. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225.

Great Falls Fireworks. 6 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. As part of the Village of Great Falls Independence Day celebration, Christ the King Lutheran Church invites members, friends, and members of the community to gather on the church's front lawn to enjoy the fireworks from this premium vantage point. Visit www.gflutheran.org or call 703-759-6068.

Arlington Independence Day. 5-10 p.m. at the Long Bridge Park, 475 Long Bridge Drive, Arlington. Family-friendly activities including live music, food vendors, games, and a view of the Washington, D.C., fireworks display. Games and activities will include face painting, balloon art, moon bounces (weather permitting), cornhole, bocce, and more. No on-site parking at the event. Free event shuttles will run continuously from 4:30-10:30 p.m. between Long Bridge Park and the



PHOTO BY TOWN OF VIENNA

Celebrate Independence Day at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Food, water games, pie eating contest and more. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

Pentagon City and Crystal City Metro stations. Free. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/july-4th/.

Vienna July 4 Festival and Fireworks. 6:30 p.m. at at Yeonias Park, 1319 Ross Drive SW, Vienna. Food available from the Vienna Little League snack bar, those who register can get their taste of America in the form of two eating contests: Children ages 5-10 can sign up onsite to participate in a pie-eating contest. Adults can give their chomping skills a try in Vienna's second annual hot dog-eating contest. Visit viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

McLean Independence Day. 6:30 p.m. at Churchill Road Elementary School, 7100 Churchill Road, McLean. Musical entertainment by a local disc jockey, as well as food trucks selling a variety of entrees and snacks. Off-site parking and shuttles available. Admission is free. In case of inclement weather, the fireworks show will be presented at 8 p.m. on the rain date, Wednesday, July 5. Call 703-790-0123, or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Herndon Independence Day Celebration. 6:30-9:30 p.m. in Bready Park at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave. Family-fun event featuring games, patriotic arts and craft activities, live music, family games,

bingo, food, balloon artists and more. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/4th-of-july.

Falls Church Celebration. 7-10 p.m. at George Mason High School, 7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Live music. Visit www.fallschurchva.gov/.

Montgomery County Sparkles. 7:30 p.m., Albert Einstein High School, 11135 Newport Mill Road, Kensington. Montgomery County celebrates Independence Day with live music featuring Gringo Jingo. Fireworks are at 9:15 p.m. Shuttle bus at Westfield Wheaton North Building. Handicap parking only available at Einstein High School. Food vendors on site. Raindate is July 5 for fireworks only. Call 240-777-0311.

Free Sober Rides. Tuesday, July 4, 7 p.m. through Wednesday, July 5, 2 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code SOBERJULY4 in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code. Visit www.soberride.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 6

Patriotic Music. 1-2 p.m. at Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton. \$2 or free for residents. Visit www.holidaypark.us/.

Summer Under the Stars Concert. 8 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater (adjacent to City Hall), 10455 Armstrong Street, Fairfax. Main Street Community Band. Visit fairfaxva.gov or call 703-385-7855.

SATURDAY/JULY 8

USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration. 5-10 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Event to celebrate the 241st birthday of the USA and the 268th birthday of the City of Alexandria, featuring entertainment, cannon salute during the 1812 Overture, food and beverage sales, and fireworks at 9:30. Call 703-746-5592 or visit www.visitalexandriava.com/alx-bday/.

Riverfront Fundraiser. 7:30-10:30 p.m. Del. Mark Levine's house, at 805 Rivergate Place, Alexandria. Refreshments include "impeachment punch," "Orange Russians," wine and beer, soft drinks, and food. And great views of the fireworks which begin at 9:30 p.m.

Come early to get a good lawn seat or come later after the festivities next door at Oronoco Park.

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News



Riptide Coaches (bottom): P. Kearney, G. Eisenhart, N. McGrath, C. Cogan, L. Emanuel, M. Henderson-Kurz, (top) H. Schlatter, J. Metcalf, S. Boyle, L. Stovall, and A. Borsato.

Virginia Run Riptide

A major record was set and swimmers excelled as the Virginia Run Riptide opened its 2017 NVSL season. The Riptide's Charis Roundtree swam a blis-

tering 15.25 seconds in the 25-meter freestyle to shatter a 32-year-old NVSL record for 8 and under girls. And while 55 Riptide teammates swam to 78 per-

sonal bests for the season, Virginia Run was narrowly beaten by Vienna Woods 221 to 199.

SEE RIPTIDE, PAGE 11



The senior Piranhas led by example in and out of the pool for Sully 2. Back row: Karenn Hall, Kellen Campbell, Brody Campbell, Harmon Saint Germain, Colin Brown, Max Morris, Brantley Cervarich. Front row: Hope Alston, Ally Introne, Delaney Kennedy, Georgia Stamper, Carly Logan, and Nicole Phillips.

Sully Station II Piranhas

The Sully Station II Piranhas kicked off the 2017 summer swim season with their trademark team spirit amid races against Somerset-Old Creek on Saturday, June 24. Competing in Division 11, swimmers gave their all in the pool while cheering in festive Hawaiian gear. Four Piranhas came away as double event winners, including 8&U Grace Ver Planck in backstroke (27.61) and butterfly (26.56), 13-14 standouts Caroline Li in free (32.59) and fly (34.68) and Angela Cai in back (35.58) and breaststroke (40.26), and 15-18 leaders Delaney Kennedy in breaststroke (38.71) and fly (33.77) and Kellen Campbell in back (30.65) and fly (29.62).

The 15-18 girls displayed their depth and dominance across all events, with Karenn Hall capturing first in free (30.13) and second in fly (34.60), two

2nd place finishes by Carly Logan in free (32.59) and back (36.76), and a 2nd place finish in breaststroke for Georgia Stamper (39.94).

The girls combined their skills to turn in a truly dominant 10-second win in the medley relay.

The 8&U girls followed in the footsteps of the older Piranhas by securing personal bests and the relay win. Mary Campbell added points in freestyle (26.90) and breaststroke (29.29) and Natalie Lumsden finished a strong 3rd in free (31.02). Alyssa Seng brought home the breaststroke win in 28.87 as well as 2nd place in fly (28.53).

Five more Piranhas notched wins, including backstrokers Caden Seng (51.06), Lilly Wilson (47.90), and Charles Tai (43.43) and breaststrokers Jason Li (51.09) and Harrison Saint Germain (43.10). Excellent 2nd place fin-

ishes included Bryan Kim (free and back), Ehma Stalfort (free and breaststroke), Callie Ver Planck, Harrison Saint Germain, Mark McLendon (back and breaststroke), Caden Seng, Carson Saint Germain (breaststroke and fly), Madison Stalfort, Harmon Saint Germain, Jason Li and Lilly Wilson. Adding crucial points in 3rd place were Piranhas Michael Zhang (free and back), Ella Ammons, Harmon Saint Germain, Simon Campbell, Zacchaeus Post, and Brody Campbell.

The meet concluded with several exciting relays, highlighted by the 11-12 squad of Callie Ver Planck, Angela Cai, Caroline Li and Hayley Norris and the mixed age racers Cai, Stalfort sisters Ehma and Madison, and anchor Karenn Hall. The Piranhas will travel to Annandale for their next A meet next Saturday, July 1.

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SPORTS



8 & Under Girls Freestyle Sweep with new NVSL Record Holder: C. Coughlin, C. Roundtree, and A. Kelliher.

Riptide

FROM PAGE 10

When Charis Roundtree set the NVSL freestyle record, her teammates Anna Kelliher and Carson Coughlin captured second and third for a sweep of the event. In backstroke Carson Coughlin placed first and Caroline Friess third. With new best times in breaststroke Charis Roundtree took first and Jenna VanBuren second. Caroline Friess was first and Anna Kelliher was second in butterfly, also recording personal bests. For the 8 and under boys Ethan O'Connor was third in free and first in back. Five-year-old Tyler Harris swimming in his first A meet, captured a third place in backstroke. Older brother Nicholas Harris won both the breaststroke and butterfly with two best times and Christopher Thomson, also swimming a best time, swam to second in the breaststroke.

For the 9-10's Angela Thomson swam to first in free and second in breaststroke. Ali Harkins place third in free and fly, while Laney Zimmerman was third in backstroke. Posting two best times, Ryan Fries was first in free and second in back. Davis Collingsworth captured two first place finished in back and breaststroke. Ryder Hicks swam for second place in free and fly, while Christopher Lee was third in fly.

Outstanding swims were made by the 11-12's with Caitlin Kelliher placing second in free and fly and Isabelle Cogan third in back and fly. Jackson Blansett, swimming two personal bests, placed first in back and fly, while Charles Beamon took a first in free. William Whitton was third in free and second in back. Griffin Osterhout placed second and Nathan Ryman third in breaststroke, while Sean Gunn captured third in fly.

Competition in the 13-14's was intense and points hard to come by. Maddie Whitton was first in fly and second in freestyle, while Alana Turflinger was first in back and second in breaststroke. Jason Cheifetz was third in free and Kevin Wang second in breast.

For the 15-18-year olds, Sarah Boyle captured first place in free and fly, setting a new team record of 30.00 seconds in the 50 meter butterfly. Meredith Matz swam for second in breaststroke and Chanel Cogan for third in backstroke. Nick McGrath won first in free and breast, Anthony Arcomona was first in back and fly, while Thomas Beamon was third in free and back.

The lead in the meet changed on six occasions, but heading into the relays the Riptide needed to win a majority of the races. Virginia Run came up a little short, winning 5 of 12 relays.

Virginia Run boasts 211 swimmers from 122 families. The Riptide Board, chaired by Robin Osterhout, secured the services of new head coach, Morgan Henderson-Kunz, a competitive swimmer from the age of 5, who went to the Olympic Trials in 2008 and has coached at club and high school levels. Patrick Kearney, a former Riptide record holder, has returned as assistant coach. Senior coaches Chanel Cogan, Geoffrey Eisenhart, Luke Emanuel, Nick McGrath, Didi Pace and Leo Wang, along with Junior Coaches Abby Borsato, Sarah Boyle, Jack Metcalf, Harry Schlatter, and Lauren Stovall complete the coaching staff.

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Infusing is Rarely Amusing

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Four weeks out of every five, it appears as if I don't have cancer. Fortunately, I don't look the part. Nor do I act the part – in my opinion. However, there is one week out of every five when I most definitely feel the part: the week after my chemotherapy infusion, when eating is a particular challenge. The look, feel, taste and thought of food and/or drink is nearly impossible to swallow – literally and figuratively. And though I'm not in any pain during this post-chemotherapy weak, I am compromised nonetheless.

Friends and family who are familiar with my "normal" eating habits (I'd order off the children's menu if I could) have joked that since I'm unable to eat any of the usual and customary Kenny selections, perhaps I should try eating foods that I would never select: Brussels sprouts, grapefruit, tuna fish in a can, fresh fish on a platter, all condiments other than mayonnaise, all legumes and a million other foods that you probably love. Plain and boring is how I roll (a potato roll is my preference), repeatedly.

The problem is that when I'm post chemo, nothing satiates: salty, sweet or "snacky;" hot, cold or medium; fast or slow; store-bought, home-made or restaurant-ready. It's all merely a variation on a theme where my back stiffens, my head tilts back and down and my eating mind says "no." It's been this way for about two and a half years now. And though I don't look the least bit undernourished, I am overwhelmed by these week-long post-chemotherapy eating fits and non-starts.

Naturally I have discussed this side effect with my oncologist. When asked how long this situation lasts, my seven-ish day struggle seems about average, according to my doctor, maybe even slightly shorter than some other patients he treats who are infused with the same chemotherapy drug as I am. Apparently, there are other patients where the eating challenges last even longer than mine. And since there's nothing to be prescribed/recommended to affect this eating problem/lack of outcome, all I can do is live with the consequences of my treatment. Live being the operative word. So unless I stop treatment, this eating challenge will persist, presumably. (Although, there's scant clinical information regarding side effects on stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patients still living after eight years and four months as we're a patient population that doesn't much exist. We're not exactly unicorns, but neither are we ponies at the Fair.)

Fairness – and normalcy for me was officially gone on Feb. 27, 2009, the date of my diagnosis and the initial Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist. But so what. As of that date, my perspective/orientation became about living forward, not recriminating backward. Sure, the present was important, but the future was more important, and the past, well, it had passed. No more could I afford to consider who, what, where, when, why and how I ended up in this predicament. My goal was to remain positive, take the bad with good, survive until the next drug approval by the FDA (of which there have been half a dozen in the last two years specifically for the treatment of lung cancer) and try not to impose my problems on anyone else.

Which I believe I've succeeded in doing. Oh sure, I've imposed myself on you regular readers, but what I've imposed on you have been my experiences. Considering the context, I'd like to think I've shared, not self-indulged. Moreover, I'd like to think we're all better off for the 'experience.' I know I am.

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

ROUNDUPS

WFCCA Elects Officers

The Western Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) held its 38th annual meeting on June 12 and elected the following officers: President, Steve Chulick; Vice-President, Mark McConn; and Treasurer, Ted Troschianeki. Committee chairmen are: Environment, Chris Terpak-Malm; Land Use, John Litzenberger; and Transportation, Ted Troschianeki.

WFCCA Land-Use Committee members elected to two-year terms were: Steve Chulick, Carol Hawn, John Litzenberger, Mark McConn, Jim Neighbors, Chris Terpek-Malm and Ted Troschianeki.

Meetings are held as required for most committees, with the Land-Use committee meeting every month jointly with the Sully District Council Land-Use committee. The WFCCA thanks At-Large Planning Commissioner Jim Hart for serving as the election officer overseeing this year's elections.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, July 6, 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.

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Volunteers Needed

The Health Department is seeking volunteers to participate in its upcoming Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise on Saturday, July 29. From 9-11 a.m. a simulated POD will be operated at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton.

Trained Health Department staff and volunteers will assist actors — POD clients — with filling out a screening form, dispensing faux-medications and answering questions. This exercise is intended to evaluate the Health Department's ability to provide critical services during a disaster, specifically dispensing medication quickly to residents.

Register to participate as an actor by going to www.eventbrite.com/e/fairfax-county-health-department-point-of-dispensing-exercise-tickets-33333277731. For more information, contact Liz Sullivan, training and exercise coordinator, at 703-246-8703.

Volunteer at WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries at 4511 Daly Dr. Suite J, Chantilly seeks individuals to volunteer for the following:

- ❖ Volunteer(s) to clean office and bathroom, Tuesday or Thursday, either 8:30-9:30 a.m. or 2:30-4 a.m.
- ❖ Volunteer(s) to answer phones and schedule appointments, Tuesday and Thursday, 2 - 4:30 p.m. Requirements: good phone skills, personable, able to conduct pantry tours. Interview and completed application required.

See wfcmlva.org/how-you-can-help/volunteer-program/

Cappies Gala Honors High School Theater

The 18th Annual Cappies Gala honoring high school theater was held Sunday, June 11 at The Kennedy Center in the District.

Winning the top prizes for the Best Musical was West Potomac High School for "Billy Elliot," and winning Best Play was Duke Ellington School of the Arts for "The Bluest Eye."

This year's Masters of Ceremony were Judy Bowns and Janie Strauss with Erich DiCenzo and Phil Reid as Lead Players.

The show included 59 public and private high schools in Fairfax County, Arlington, Fauquier, Loudoun, Montgomery, and Prince William counties, and the Cities of Falls Church, Alexandria, and Washington, D.C. This year's awards were pretty much evenly distributed across all of those regions. The Cappies season extended from late October to early May.

Cappies shows were attended, on average, by 45 student critics who wrote 300-599 word reviews.



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The award for Supporting Actress in a Musical is Aja Rene, "Legally Blonde," Westfield High School.

More than 300 student-written reviews were published or broadcast in local newspapers, including The Connection, Patch, Falls Church News Press, Times Community Newspapers, Loudoun Now, Maryland Theatre Guide, and Fairfax County Public Schools and other media.

The Cappies program was launched in the summer of 1999 by Judy Bowns, the Theatre Arts resource teacher with FCPS, and the late Bill Strauss (director, Capitol Steps), in cooperation with area theater teachers, for the purpose of celebrating and bringing public acclaim to high school theater.

— STEVE HIBBARD

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Free Sober Rides. Tuesday, July 4, 7 p.m. through Wednesday, July 5, 2 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code SOBERJULY4 in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code. Visit www.soberide.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Museum offers a variety of exciting volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Contact volunteers@fairfax-station.org or 703-945-7483 to explore services that will fit your schedule and interests. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225 for more.

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