

Five Year Sentence For Robbery

Solomon robbed Chantilly man last spring.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Nearly a year has passed since a Chantilly man was robbed outside his apartment. But now, the man responsible for it — Abel Solomon, 21, of 2410 Southgate Square in Reston — has been sentenced to five years in prison.



Solomon

Solomon stood trial, Nov. 3-4, 2008, in Fairfax County Circuit Court, and the victim, 34, testified first. The incident occurred March 11, 2008 and, the night before, he'd invited friends from work to his home in the Shenandoah Crossing Apartments. Around 10 or 11 p.m., another friend, Carolyn Kelly, called to see if she could come over, too, and bring someone named Abel. But the victim didn't know him, so he said no.

She brought Solomon, anyway, but another friend of the victim's, Carolina Miyake, turned him away at the door. He and the victim never saw each other.

The next night, Miyake and a friend named Casey were in the parking lot on their way to the victim's apartment when they noticed the dome lights on in his car. When he went outside to turn them off, he said, "I noticed three guys walking, all dressed in black. I'd lived there four years and they just didn't fit."

He turned out the dome lights and started walking back to his

SEE FIVE YEARS, PAGE 10



Lees Corner Celebrates 100th Day

The first-grade classes at Lees Corner Elementary celebrated the 100th day of school, last Thursday, Feb. 12. Students read poems and books about the 100th Day, made 100th Day glasses and 100th Day hats. (Pictured): Teacher Susie Sterrett's first-grade class.

Planning OKs Office Building

Members see it as an asset to area.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

It's on to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors now for 11-7 Associates LLC, which hopes to construct a new office building along Route 29 in the Fairfax Center area. It got a resounding thumbs up, last week, from the county Planning Commission.

"We approved it unanimously," said Springfield District Planning Commissioner Pete Murphy. "It's in conformance with the [county's]

Comprehensive plan and the zoning ordinance and meets all the criteria necessary for that area."

Planned for 11717 Lee Highway, near Robertson Farms Circle and the Lee Plaza shopping center, the new structure would be three stories and 30,000 square feet. It'll also be a green building with LEEDS certification.

But the county must first rezone that property from residential to commercial.

At the Jan. 6 meeting of the Springfield District/Fairfax Center Land-Use Commit-

"They've been as sensitive as they can to the neighbors."

— Jeff Saxe, Land-use committee member

tee, residents of two, nearby communities complained that the building and its lighting would adversely impact their privacy, property values and local traffic. So the applicant and residents met Jan. 21, with 11-7 Associates returning to the committee Feb. 2 to discuss new changes to the plan and unveil a scale model of the building in relation to the homes.

SEE OFFICE, PAGE 3

Eight Years For Store Robbery

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

True, Antonio Wilson helped the prosecution convict two of the co-defendants in the Chantilly Prime Mart robbery.

But the judge couldn't ignore his prior criminal record and the violence of the offense. On Friday, Feb. 6, in Fairfax County Circuit Court, Wilson, 27, of 9500 block



Wilson

Greencastle Lane in Lorton, was sentenced to eight years in prison.

"This defendant, along with Rickey Price, went into the Prime Mart on June 22, 2007," said Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Mark Sullivan. "Rickey had a taser and both were wearing masks and bandanas. Rickey shocked the clerk three times and he went down. Wilson secured the door and helped get the money from the register and the back room — \$30,000 total."

Wilson's DNA on a bandana recovered afterward led to his arrest, and he eventually admitted that he and three others committed the robbery. Now all four have been convicted.

On Oct. 3, 2008, Robert F. Price, 31, of Springfield, received a year in prison. His brother Rickey, of no fixed address, will be sentenced

SEE EIGHT YEARS, PAGE 10

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NEWS

Two Men Sentenced For Thefts From Store

By BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

In November, Fairfax County police charged four men from Maryland with stealing items from a store at Fair Oaks Mall. Now two of them have been convicted of petit larceny.

The incident occurred Nov. 19, 2008, around 3:15 p.m. An employee of the Apple store alerted a police officer that two men just stole items from that business. The employee followed them as they left the mall in a car. And the officer tried to stop the car outside the mall, but the driver and the vehicle's occupants fled.

Officers pursued the car for several miles until it stopped on Wakefield Chapel Road, just prior to Braddock Road. All four men were taken into custody and transported to the Adult Detention Center. The driver, Victor Jackson, 37, of 5657 Sergeant Road in Hyattsville, was charged with speeding to elude, grand larceny and grand larceny with the intent to sell.

Edwen M. Primrose, 27, of 6408 L St. in Capitol Heights, and Corey E. Tilghman, 28, of 1002 Cypress Tree Drive in Capitol Heights, were each charged with grand larceny and grand larceny with the intent to sell. Anthony W. Cruso, 36, of 8505 Greenbelt road in Greenbelt, was charged with grand larceny.

Primrose and Tilghman both appeared Jan. 13 in General District Court before Judge Ian O'Flaherty. At that time, the charges against each of them were reduced to petit larcenies. For one of Primrose's offenses, O'Flaherty sentenced him to 12 months in jail, suspending all but one month. For the other offense, the judge gave him 12 months, with all of that time suspended.

Regarding Tilghman, O'Flaherty sentenced him to 12 months in jail, with 10 months suspended, on one charge, and 12 months with 12 months suspended on the other charge. He also ordered both men to stay out of the Apple store.

Cruso also went before O'Flaherty on Jan. 13, but his grand-larceny charge was not reduced. Instead, the judge certified it to the grand jury for possible indictment. Jackson does not yet have a court date.

ROUNDUPS

Burglary, Grand Larceny Charged

Fairfax County police have charged two Chantilly men with burglarizing the Chantilly Donuts store at 4394-E Henninger Court. They are Ramiro Gomez, 22, of 14502 Trans World Ave., and Anibal Lopez, 34, of 4054 Chantilly Road. According to police, the burglary occurred some time between Friday, Jan. 30, at 11:30 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 31, at 12:55 p.m. Taken were computers, cash and checks, and police say the men allegedly tried to cash a stolen check at a nearby check-cashing store.

Officers responded, reportedly discovered the stolen property inside a car parked outside and took the suspects into custody. The vehicle was seized and both men were charged with burglary and grand larceny. They both have March 10 court dates.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections, Thursday, Feb. 19 and Feb. 26, 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. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140 to confirm dates and times.

Republican Women of Clifton Host Attorney General Candidates

The Republican Women of Clifton will host the three Republican candidates for Attorney General on Monday, Feb. 23, at Clifton Elementary, 7010 Clifton Road. Social time is at 7 p.m., with the candidates speaking at 7:30 p.m. John Brownlee, Sen. Ken Cuccinelli (R-37th) and David Foster will each present his vision for the Virginia Attorney General's office. For more information, call Bonnie Fite at 703-449-7751.

Fair Oaks CAC To Meet

The Citizens Advisory Council of the Fair Oaks District Police Station will meet Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m., in the roll-call room of the police station. It's at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway in Chantilly.

Sully District Council Meeting

The Sully District Council of Citizens Associations and its Land-Use Committee will meet Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly.

The keynote speaker will be a representative from Fairfax County Public Schools to discuss the school budget. The panel will also consider a land-use matter concerning the Chipotle restaurant in Franklin Farm. Call Jeff Parnes, evenings, at 703-904-0131.

Discuss School Start Times

The Fairfax County School Board will hold a meeting about school starting and dismissal times next Wednesday, Feb. 25, from 7-9 p.m., at Rocky Run Middle School, 4400 Stringfellow Road in Chantilly. Parents and interested citizens are invited to comment on potential changes being considered to start and end school later. These changes would affect elementary, middle and high-school students and could also impact parents' work schedules and child-care arrangements, as well as after-school activities, including athletics.

Route 50 Public Hearing

VDOT will hold an open-forum public hearing on the Route 50 widening project in Fairfax and Loudoun counties, Thursday, Feb. 26. It will be at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 14685 Avion Parkway in Chantilly. Hours are from 6-9 p.m., with a VDOT presentation at 7 p.m., followed by question-and-answer period.

NEWS



Scale model of the proposed office building in relation to the nearby homes.

Office Building Gets Approvals

FROM PAGE 1

"We've revised the lighting, proffers, security and buffers," said attorney Melanie Reilly. "And there's more landscaping than required." Architect Dario Davies, of FormDesign, said the model shows the view from the houses, plus the new, evergreen buffer for year-round screening. And, he added, "We'll proffer some money to plant extra trees in some yards."

Davies said parking-lot lights will be 15 feet at the highest and "the light fixture will be Dark Sky compliant, recessed and pointing down." Where possible, light will shine only on the building's property, and there'll be motion detectors for security, plus timers.

THE PROPERTY'S EASTERN edge is bounded by the Robertson-Kidwell Family Cemetery. And the applicant will relocate a gate and complete an existing fence to completely enclose the cemetery. It'll also

provide more landscaping for screening.

Annie Robertson Kidwell Allison, whose family owns the cemetery, expressed appreciation at the Feb. 2 meeting. "I think you've done a wonderful job in what you've tried to create," she said. "And my family agrees 100 percent."

Committee member Philip Poole asked what 11-7 had done to address the traffic problem, and Reilly replied that "There are planned improvements on Lee Highway and we're dedicating the necessary land for it when the time comes. But at this time, this project doesn't warrant a traffic study."

Earlier, county staff's Kris Abrahamson said Route 29 will eventually become a series of grade-separated interchanges and the current traffic signal at the Lee Plaza shopping center will be eliminated. That service drive will someday become a connector road, carrying eastbound traffic only as motorists "circu

SEE PLANNING, PAGE 4

Rios-Leon Pleads Guilty in Mall Thefts

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

In July 2008, Fairfax County Police charged three people from College Point, N.Y., with stealing merchandise from the Hollister store in Fair Oaks Mall. Now one of them, Daniel Esteban Rios-Leon, 27, has pleaded guilty in court to grand larceny, possession of burglary tools and larceny with intent to sell stolen property.

Before accepting his plea, last Tuesday, Feb. 3, Circuit Court Judge Jane Roush made sure he understood its ramifications. A Spanish-language interpreter translated the proceedings to him.

"Are you entering these pleas of guilty because you are guilty of these charges?" she asked.

"Sí," replied Rios-Leon, who is from Colombia.

Roush noted that Rios-Leon's case did not have a sentencing agreement and that other, related charges against him had been dropped at his preliminary hearing. She also advised him that, by pleading guilty, he gave up his right to a jury trial and to cross examine witnesses against him.

In addition, she warned him that he could receive as much as 20 years in prison for each offense. Then Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Dylan Gallagher explained what the case against Rios-Leon would have been, had it gone to trial.

He said that, on July 18, Rios-Leon participated with another man and a woman in the theft of more than \$1,000 worth of clothing from the Hollister store in Fair Oaks Mall.

"The female stacked shirts inside the store while

the other man kept a lookout outside the store," said Gallagher. "Then the defendant removed a white bag from under his shirt, placed the shirts inside it and left the store."

After their arrest, continued the prosecutor, "The defendant told police the three had come from New York to steal clothing, and he showed police the vehicle he'd driven. Three hundred pieces of clothing worth \$15,000 — with price tags and security sensors affixed — were found in laundry bags in the car."

Gallagher said 200 additional security sensors that had been removed from clothing were also in the vehicle, a Dodge Caravan. He said Rios-Leon told police that he stole for someone named Carlos and was paid \$100-\$150/day to do so. "He also told police that, on March 27, 2008, he had helped steal more than \$200 worth of clothing from the Hollister store," said Gallagher.

ALSO CHARGED in connection with this incident were Rafael Steven Rodriguez, 35, and Geraldine Henao-Gaviria, 19. In July 28, 2008 affidavits for warrants to search the trio's cell phones, plus the Garmin GPS in Rios-Leon's vehicle, police Det. Samuel S. Song of the Fair Oaks District Station presented further details of the crimes.

He wrote that police and mall security officers viewed the July 18 thefts on the store's surveillance video. He also noted that Rodriguez, seen standing in front of Hollister, was "wearing a blue tooth earpiece and scanning the mall in all directions," wrote

SEE RIOS-LEON, PAGE 4

Police Charge Man with Identity Theft

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Fairfax County police have charged a Fairfax Corner man with identity theft. He is Jason Pears of 4245 Summit Corner Drove, No. 345, in Fairfax.

In a Dec. 4 affidavit for a warrant to search his apartment for possible evidence, police Det. D.R. Bateman of the Financial Crimes Section explained the case against him. He wrote that, on Sept. 11, 2008, a local resident received a letter from Bank of America stating that she had three overdraft fees on three charges from her bank account.

When she investigated, she discovered that an unknown person had used her checking account and routing number to

pay for three bill payments online. One of the three charges was for \$4,485 at Camden Fairfax Corner and, according to Bateman, the bank said Pears's name was allegedly associated with the transaction.

"The only place that [the victim] had given her checking-account information was Equinox Fitness Gym in Vienna," wrote the detective. So he went to that gym and "received information from the manager that Pears was a former employee of the gym."

"Pears had [reportedly] set up several accounts with the gym which gave him access to account routing numbers, as well as access to computer files with client personal information," continued Bateman. "[I] was also informed that Pears's last known residence was Camden Fairfax Corner."

The detective then spoke with that apart-

ment complex's facility management who confirmed that Pears rented an apartment there. "I was also informed that there was a declined payment of \$4,485 on the apartment's account," wrote Bateman. "The person named on the failed attempted payment was [the victim]."

Noting that Pears and his roommate were behind on their rent payments, the detective wrote that another try to make payment with an account belonging to a second person — who also belonged to Equinox — failed, as well. And the gym manager told Bateman that two other members also "had their accounts compromised." In addition, none of the victims ever lived at Camden Fairfax Corner.

Police arrested Pears on Dec. 5 and charged him with three counts of identity theft. He had a Feb. 17 court date.

Rios-Leon Pleads Guilty

FROM PAGE 3

the detective. "Hena-Gaviria entered the Hollister store and was observed stacking shirts in the store."

According to the affidavit, "She later advised [me] that they communicate by using hand signals and their cellular telephones to coordinate the thefts," wrote Song. "While Rios-Leon was loading the shirts into the bag, Hena-Gaviria was [allegedly] holding up a shirt in an attempt to obstruct the view of sales associates and anybody else who may have been looking in Rios-Leon's direction."

He wrote that the pair reportedly left the store with the concealed merchandise, and then they and Rodriguez left the area. But the next day, July 19, around 2:45 p.m., via closed-circuit TV, mall security observed the same, three people in the mall.

THIS TIME, they were seen walking in and out of the Abercrombie Fitch store. Mall security then notified police, and all three New Yorkers were arrested. Rodriguez was charged with two counts of grand larceny and one count of possession of burglary tools.

Hena-Gaviria was charged with one count each of grand larceny, intent to sell stolen property and receiving stolen goods. Rios-Leon was charged with two counts each of grand larceny, possession of burglary tools and intent to sell stolen property.

Following Rios-Leon's guilty pleas in court, last week, Judge Roush ordered a pre-sentencing report be made and then set his sentencing for March 20.

Planning Commission OKs Building

FROM PAGE 3

late through a series of service drives." "But we don't have any funding for [the road improvements], yet," she told Poole. Abrahamson said the signal helps somewhat, but acknowledged that "because the service drive is too close to the intersection, traffic queues up there."

Committee member Mark Cummings asked Davies why he's willing to build a "spec" building "in this economic climate." Davies explained that his company would occupy 20 percent of it and lease out the rest. His business partner, Rob Seidel, said they'd hoped to move forward in a year or two, "but now it could take longer."

Ron Smith, representing the Robertson Farms Homeowners Association on the committee, said traffic's the big issue for his community. "We're adding 25 percent to the direction the cars come from, and it's just going to be a nightmare to try to get in and out," he said. "Cars will come from a fourth direction that doesn't exist now, and I think it's premature for the county or the committee to approve anything that'll add any traffic to that area."

Walter Williams of the nearby Estates at Leewood said, "I can clearly see the existing shopping center [from my home], and this would be half the distance and 30 feet above my vantage point." He also worried about potential safety issues resulting from opening up the service road from the shopping center to Village Drive.

"People from our 26 homes wait there for a bus, and there's a slight rise there where you can't see them," he said. "I'd hate for someone to get hurt or killed there by someone with a desire to get home fast."

WILLIAMS SAID his neighbors also fear their property values will decrease because of the new building and they're concerned that it could someday be sold to someone else. Said Williams: "We feel it's a project that could be delayed, or not done at all, until the county has a solution for the traffic problem there."

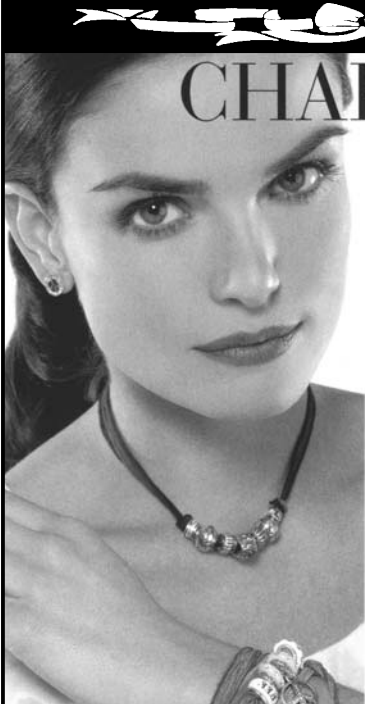
Saying "government should represent the greatest good for the greatest number of people," Williams asked the panel not to override the wishes of the community "which is resolute in its opposition to this rezoning." But committee member Sherry

Fisher replied, "This is just one vote and there'll be other opportunities to speak."

Prior to voting, committee member Claudette Ward said she was pleased with the applicant's efforts to preserve the cemetery and to "alleviate the concerns of the neighboring residents." Calling it actually a "small building" for this area, committee member Jeff Saxe said, "I think they've been as sensitive as they can to the neighbors, and staff has no outstanding issues with it; I support it." The panel then approved it, 6-3, setting the stage for the Feb. 11 Planning Commission meeting and vote.

"We asked the citizens to meet again with Chris Abrahamson," said Commissioner Murphy. "But there's no empirical evidence that a building already planned for [commercial zoning] will hurt their property values. As it is, they pass a tire company and a transmission place on their service road, on their way home, so there are commercial uses all around them."

Besides that, said Murphy, "It's going to be a nice office building. We're trying to spruce up Lee Highway, and this is a nice way to do it."



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Bruce Pleads Guilty: Malicious Fire-Setting

Blaze destroyed three vehicles.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

A 20-year-old Little Rocky Run man pleaded guilty last week to maliciously setting a vehicle on fire in the Fair Oaks area. He is Alexander Scott Bruce of 13807 Stonefield Drive.

The damage occurred in fall 2008 to a blue, 2004 Honda CV-S2000. It had been parked on Runabout Lane in the Carriage Park community near the county Government Center. The car belonged to a woman who lived on a nearby street.

Before accepting Bruce's plea, last Monday, Feb. 9, Fairfax County Circuit Court Judge Randy Bellows asked him some specific questions. "Are you entering this plea of your own, free will and because you are guilty as charged?" asked the judge. "Yes," replied Bruce.

"Do you understand that, by pleading guilty, you give up your right to a trial and to confront witnesses?" asked Bellows. Again, Bruce answered yes.

The judge said there's no sentencing agreement in this case and Bruce could be given anywhere from one to five years in

prison. Then Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Timothy Davis told what the prosecution's evidence would have been, had this case gone to trial.

"On Oct. 3, residents on Runabout Lane woke up to a loud explosion and discovered a car fully engulfed in flames," he said. "Investigation determined that, around 5 a.m., the defendant and co-defendants went to the Sunoco station on West Ox Road and purchased two gallons of gasoline which was used to make a Molotov cocktail."

Then, said Davis, "They ripped open the top of the convertible and lit and threw the Molotov cocktail into the car, setting it on fire."

The car was normally driven by the owner's son and, when the judge asked the motive for the defendants' behavior, Davis explained that earlier, "The victim was involved in a physical altercation with the boyfriend of his ex-girlfriend - and the defendants are friends with the boyfriend."

Stressing that there are three co-defendants, defense attorney Kelly Sprissler told Bellows, "My client was the transport for the other defendants. He didn't light or throw anything."

The two other co-defendants are Brian

Jesse Fletcher, 19, of 15163 Stratton Major Court in Centreville, and Michael Daniel Mirch, 19, of no fixed address. They're both charged with the same crime by the Fairfax County Fire Marshal's Office.

In an Oct. 21, 2008 affidavit, Lt. Patricia Tomasello with the Fire Marshal's Office wrote, "After the fire, Brian and Mike [re-

portedly] ... admitted to pouring gasoline inside of the vehicle [and] then igniting it." She also stated that "Alex Bruce admitted driving Brian and Mike to the gas station to purchase gas. He then drove to

[the victims'] house and acted as a lookout while Brian and Mike [allegedly] cut the convertible top open and set fire to the vehicle."

Fire officials estimated the damage to the Honda at \$23,950 but, since the flames also spread to the vehicles parked on both sides of it, Davis said the total amount of restitution due for the three vehicles is \$48,265.

Following Bruce's plea, Judge Bellows set his sentencing for March 27 and allowed him to remain free on bond until then. Mirch is scheduled to enter a plea March 5. Fletcher pleaded guilty, Dec. 18, before Judge David Schell and is slated for sentencing on March 6.

"Residents woke up to a loud explosion."

— Timothy Davis, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney

Erickson: Guilty Of Tax Evasion

Donald Ray Erickson, 65 of Fairfax, pleaded guilty on Jan. 15 to one count of federal income tax evasion.

Erickson, the president of Nevada Management Company, a bearer stock company, faces up to five years in prison, a \$100,000 fine, three years of supervised release and about \$1 million in restitution, according to federal court documents and Dana J. Boente, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

U.S. District Court Judge Liam O'Grady is scheduled to sentence Erickson in federal court in Alexandria on April 17.

Erickson assisted John Marcus Green, the former founder and chief executive of a Chantilly computer-engineering firm, in concealing more than \$1.17 million that Green received from his company's work primarily as a subcontractor with the Department of Defense, according to Boente.

Erickson's company, MCN, owned 45 to 55 percent of Green's business and Erickson attempted to conceal Green's income by holding MCN as a nominee for the benefit of Green, according to statement of facts filed with Erickson's plea agreement.

— KEN MOORE

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PEOPLE

Matthew Thomas Earns Eagle Rank

By STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Chantilly High School sophomore Matthew S. Thomas, 16, completed his Eagle Scout project and attained the rank at an Eagle Court of Honor on Jan. 7.

The son of Kathy and George S. Thomas of Chantilly organized a dozen scouts from Troop 695 in Chantilly in adding a tree line and shrubs at E.C. Lawrence Park near Walney Pond last April.

Matthew met with his advisor Ken Garlem, purchased wire and tubing, six trees, and transplanted existing trees at E.C. Lawrence Park. He also organized his helpers to do the project on a certain day.

"I learned that it's good to over-prepare so then you can expect the worst and then all you can do is be happily surprised," he said.

He said the most enjoyable part of the project was the actual day



Matthew Thomas

of the work, "because I felt it was getting wrapped up and had this relief when it was all finished," he said.

Matthew has been involved in scouting since first grade at Popular Tree Elementary. He is also a member of the Order of the Arrow.

Besides Scouting, Matthew enjoys playing on his computer, reading books, doing puzzles and hanging out with his friends.



Members of Ugly Thrash Demon play at the 9:30 Club on Sunday. (From left to right): Christoph Lejeune (trumpet), Andy Crumpler (sax), Philip Eberhart (accordion), Chris Smith (guitar), Elbert Danger Kim (violin), Jed Lingat (bass), Alec Sieber (cello), Dan Hrebenak (lead guitar), Ryan Coleman (In back, on drums).

Ugly Thrash Demon Takes Third Place in 'Next Big Thing'

By STEVE HIBBARD
CENTRE VIEW

Nine students at Westfield High who make up the band, Ugly Thrash Demon took third place in the invitation-only Next Big Thing Rock Band Contest at the 9:30 Club in the District on Sunday, Feb. 15. The bands played 25-minute sets at four different venues: DC Nine, Rock and Roll Hotel, Town and the 9:30 Club. The first place band was Kilgore Trout and second place was Fire in the Hole.

"We didn't expect to win anything," said Ryan Coleman, 17, a junior at Westfield High. "We just thought it would be a good experience. We were ecstatic it was more than we ever expected."

He adds: "We've never really worked with profes-

sional sound and lights before, and they had a whole crew.... We just all kind of felt empowered being on stage in a bigger venue. It was probably our best that we've ever done."

The contest started on Sunday, Feb. 15 at 11 a.m. and ended at midnight. Ugly Thrash Demon went on at 12:45 p.m.

The band's sound can be described as "soft folk rock," says Coleman. It's a mix of banjos, mandolins, cellos and horns in addition to the guitars and drums.

The bandmates have been together for a year and a half but have known each other their entire lives, starting in elementary school at Deer Park, and middle school at Stone Middle and then Westfield High.

Members of the band include:

- ❖ Ryan Coleman, 17, a junior at Westfield High; lives in Virginia Run; plays drums and guitar;
- ❖ Chris Smith, 17, a senior at Westfield High; lives in Sully Station II; plays guitar and banjo;
- ❖ Philip Eberhart, 18, a senior at Westfield High; lives in Sequoia Farms; plays piano, mandolin and accordion;
- ❖ Jed Lingat, 17, a junior at Westfield High; lives in Sequoia Farms; plays bass;
- ❖ Alec Sieber, 17, a senior at Westfield High; lives in Virginia Run; plays cello;
- ❖ Elbert Kim, 17, a senior at Westfield High; lives in Herndon; plays violin;
- ❖ Andy Crumpler, 17, a senior at Westfield High; lives in Sully Station; plays saxophone and ukulele;
- ❖ Dan Hrebenack, 18, a freshman at Georgetown; lives in Pleasant Valley; plays lead guitar;
- ❖ Chris Toph, 17, a senior at Westfield; lives in



(Left to right): Christoph Lejeune, Andy Crumpler, Philip Eberhart and Chris Smith.



(Left to right): Phillip Eberhart, Chris Smith and Jed Lingat.



(Left to right): Phillip Eberhart, Chris Smith, Elbert Danger, Jed Lingat, Alec Sieber and Dan Hrebenak.



Merv and Judith Rosen of Clifton hosted the fourth-anniversary party for the Democratic Women of Clifton.

Democratic Women Celebrate Anniversary

The Democratic Women of Clifton (DWC) celebrated its fourth anniversary at a party hosted by DWC member, Judith Rosen and her husband, Merv, of Clifton, on Sunday, Feb. 8.

Hundreds of photographs depicting the organization's first four years were displayed around the Rosen home, which prompted much reminiscing and sharing of stories.

Formed in February of 2005, the DWC was the idea of Jane Barker, wife of Virginia State Sen. George Barker (39th District), and Donna Netschert, both of Clifton. They envisioned an organization that would unite Democratic women in a friendly, social atmosphere to discuss and learn about current issues and the political process, increase awareness in their communities, participate in political campaigning, and work towards needed change.

The DWC is active in service to the community. As part of the National Day of Service, DWC members participated in two ongoing, year-round projects: a roadside clean-up of Clifton Road with the Adopt-a-Highway program and, in

partnership with Our Daily Bread (ODB) in Fairfax, a donation of food gift cards.

On Feb. 26, DWC members will attend an ODB fundraiser titled "Empty Bowls," at which attendees will select hand crafted pottery bowls created by local artisans and enjoy a supper of soup and bread served in the bowls. Proceeds from the food-card donation and Empty Bowls fund-raiser will provide food for low-income families in Fairfax County. For the last two years, the DWC has also donated, packaged, and mailed holiday care packages to soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The DWC sponsors a monthly book club and publishes a monthly newsletter to keep members informed of current issues and events. Mid-month updates and frequent Political Action Alerts also advise members of imminent legislation and encourage political awareness.

The DWC hosts its 2009 Candidate Forum on April 19, 3-5 p.m., at the Clifton Community Hall. The Democratic candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor have been invited to participate. Call 703-830-1355.

Recession Affects Area Moms

Economic downturn bringing some moms back into workforce.

BY ROB WILE
CENTREVIEW

On a recent Thursday morning, Jen Doolittle of Chantilly was bouncing her 15 month-old-daughter on her knee to the child-friendly strumming of Susan McNelis, better known as Oh Susannah!, at the Jammin' Java cafe-club in Vienna. At \$5 per child — and siblings free — Jammin' Java's daily 10:30 a.m. children's shows have been getting a lot of traffic these days. "Its cheaper than enrolling her in a class," Doolittle said. "Plus, she likes the music."

With the recent economic downturn, attendance has never been higher, according to Rebecca Brindlee, the club's daytime manager. This particular morning, 80 parents and children had streamed in for the 45-minute performance. For the most popular children's shows, Brindlee said, 100 parents and toddlers is not out of the question. While the club boasts on their Web site of having recently been voted best live music venue in the D.C. area in an aol.com survey, Brindlee conceded that the \$5 ticket price doesn't hurt either. "If you have an option of doing a 5-day or 3-day pre-k[indergarten] program versus spending \$5 on a kids show [you're going to choose the show]," she said.

Across Northern Virginia, mothers of young children — as well as the places they frequent and the schools and institutions in which they enroll their children — are feeling the effects of the recession in a variety of ways.

For mothers that have been pinched the hardest, going back to work has gone from distant prospect to reality.

Shannon Munro, a medical technologist at a research lab in Chantilly, says that after giving birth to her daughter in 2006, she had hoped to become a full-time mom, but was lured back to the workforce by the benefits package offered by her employer, which included free child care. She added that the rapidly evolving nature of her field, combined with an economy in flux, also contributed to her decision. "I wanted to keep my foot in the door to keep my experience up to date and current with the job," she said.

Still, she said, raising her daughter is more important than having a career, and added that when she is at work, her in-laws provide care. "The grandparents get to spend quality time with their granddaughter," she said.

MUNRO BELONGS to the Mother's First group, a weekly gathering of area moms with young children. At a recent meeting of the Reston/Herndon chapter, attendance was good: six

moms and caregivers, along with their young children. But the chapter's president, Amy Anderson, said that the group has had some trouble attracting new members. On their last trip to the New Mom Support Group at the Reston YMCA, they found few mothers able to sign up. "In general, I think that more people are working," she said.

Shannon Kruse, another Mother's First member living in Centreville, is a part-time X-ray technician and the mother of two young sons. She said she's been picking up more shifts and not taking as much time off as she had been before the downturn. Like Munro, though, she said she has only one objective in mind. "Right now my primary goal is to raise my kids," she said. Nevertheless, her two sons, aged two-and-a-half and nine months, might also be affected by the downturn. "We're looking to put our older son in preschool, and its definitely a consideration how we're going to fit that into our budget," she said. "You just find a way to make it work when you have kids; we're not going to take him out of preschool."

AS IT TURNS OUT, preschools are also feeling the crunch. While some of the most expensive private preschools in Fairfax County have weathered the storm, even low-cost pre-schools have been hit. Pamela Blankenship, the director of the denominational community assistance group ALIVE! in Alexandria, said that for the past year they've been operating around 22 percent under their 46-student capacity, despite offering tuition on a sliding-scale.

"We've had people come in who'd like to enroll
SEE RECESSION TAKES TOLL. PAGE 18

The man who is prepared has his battle half fought.

—Miguel de Cervantes



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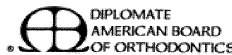
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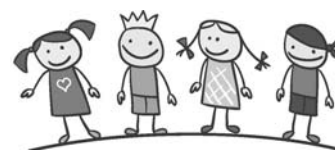


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Schools Float Second HQ Building Proposal

Supervisors will discuss project at Feb. 23 meeting.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
CENTRE VIEW

Fairfax County Public Schools has revived a proposal to purchase a second building for its central office staff after initial efforts to acquire the property stalled last fall.

According to school staff, the new office building would allow the school system to consolidate many of its central administration functions on one Merrifield campus and could result in cost savings.

But following a closed door meeting in September, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors rejected the school system's first plan for building acquisition. Several said they were skeptical that the \$110 million purchase was fiscally prudent, particularly in the current economic downturn and as the county faced a projected \$650 million budget deficit.

"The deal that was presented before I felt very strongly was something we should not do. I thought they were paying too much for the building," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

On Feb. 23, school officials will return to the supervisors with a new, cheaper plan to purchase the property at 8111 Gatehouse Road. In a matter of months, the cost of the project has gone from \$110.1 million to \$94.5 million and the savings estimate associated with the project has grown from \$22.2 million to \$62.2 million over the next 30 years, they said.

ACCORDING to the school system, these additional savings were realized primarily because the owner agreed to drop the price of the building from \$52 million to \$45 million. Officials have also agreed to scale back their renovation plans for the building from \$58.1 million to \$49.5 million by eliminating plans to acquire new furniture, add parking and improve traffic flow on the site at this time.

The school system had also identified one more leased building, the Instructional Center Support Systems warehouse, which could be vacated if the school system moved into the new Gatehouse property. The rent on the warehouse is currently about \$502,000 annually and could go toward covering the cost of the building purchase instead, said officials.

Since school officials brought forward the proposal this fall, the number of positions that would be eliminated as a result of the move has also increased from 18 to 28. By



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/CENTRE VIEW

The school system is coming back with a proposal to purchase this building for administrative purposes.

cutting 10 more jobs, the school system would gain an extra \$2 million annually in cost savings, according to documents explaining the merits of the building purchase.

YET SEVERAL PEOPLE, including at least two supervisors, are still skeptical of the plan. They question the merits of the school system's business case and wonder whether purchasing administrative offices during the county's worst financial crisis in history is politically palpable.

Many argued that too much of the discussion about the building's purchase has taken place out of the public eye in "back rooms." Some critics said that the school board should have conducted more outreach to the public on the project.

"I would think spending \$100 million would be something that they would want the community to respond to. I don't see why they can't take this out to the community before making a decision on it," said Michelle Menapace, president of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D) said she is attempting to make the dialogue over the building purchase more transparent. Instead of having conversations about the project behind closed doors, the supervisors and school officials will discuss the new building acquisition proposal in public Feb. 23.

"I think it is appropriate and long overdue for us to have that discussion out front," said Bulova, who added that holding a public hearing on the project did not seem necessary.

The supervisors are unlikely to vote on the proposal directly after hearing the school system's presentation next week and would probably make a final decision about the building at a later meeting. In the mean-

time, Bulova said the school system has set up meetings with community stakeholders to brief them on the revised building purchase plan.

"I encouraged presentations to be made to as many community organizations and groups as possible," said Bulova.

FCPS Chief Operating Officer Dean Tistadt added that many major county organizations, including the local federation of civic associations and chamber of commerce, had endorsed the previous plan.

"These are not groups that were going to support anything we put in front of them," he said.

STILL, THERE are some groups and supervisors who said it is not likely that they will be talked into supporting the purchase of a building for central administrators under any circumstances.

"I don't understand why anybody would think it was a good thing to do," said Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield).

Herrity questions much of the school system's analysis of the cost savings the project would achieve.

Some of the cost savings show up because the building purchase has only been compared to one other option — the construction of a new administrative building, said Herrity. According to the Springfield supervisor, the financial picture, and savings, could change drastically if the building purchase was compared to other scenarios — such as maintaining the status quo.

The school officials' numbers also assume that the school system would have to continue leasing office space for the same price it currently does if officials did not have the opportunity to move into the newly purchased building. But many of the school system's leases are up for renewal next year and it is likely officials could negotiate better rates at that time, said Herrity.

And though the price of the building has come down, Herrity added that it is still too high. The property's present owners paid \$45 million for the building in 2006 and the school system should not be paying the

exact same price in 2009, when the commercial real estate market is in decline, he said.

"Their financial model is off. They are making the numbers work to justify what they want to do," said Herrity of the current proposal.

Scott Chronister, who helps lead the Fairfax Coalition of Advocates for Public Schools (Fairfax CAPS), agrees with Herrity. He is concerned that many of the cuts to bring the project's cost down will reappear in future years.

Chronister said he anticipates the traffic changes that were originally planned as part of the project will be completed at a future date and that the school system will eventually purchase new furniture for building, even if they took out those expenses in their recent proposal.

"We are going to pay for those traffic changes as a result of [the project.] They are just taking it off the books and not reflecting it in the project right now so they can show some additional savings," said Chronister.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM had predicted its first administrative building, Gatehouse I, would save them over \$20 million. Instead, the building ended up reducing costs by \$10 million, in part because they were unable to eliminate as many positions as they had originally planned.

"The first cost savings weren't what they said they were going to be," said Herrity.

Tistadt said the school system is likely to "realize" most of the costs savings that they had originally slated for the first administrative building project when they purchase the second office building.

At the request of Herrity and other supervisors, the school system will also present "status quo" and "lease" options along with the building purchase and building construction scenarios next week, he said.

But the school system also has pressing facility needs that would make the purchase of second administrative building advantageous, said Tistadt. The school system intends to convert many of the smaller office buildings where central office workers are currently housed into schools sites to deal with the county's growing student population, he said.

Some of the supervisors still think the administrative building purchase will be a tough sell to the public in a year when county residents are being asked to make large sacrifices in other areas of the budget.

"I think [the project] is a concept that has come at the completely wrong time. The perception of this matters. When you are increasing class sizes and cutting police services, I don't see how you can agree to purchase a new office building for administrators," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

"I just don't know that this is the right time to invest \$100 million in an administrative building. It definitely sends a wrong signal," said Foust.

"I don't see why they can't take this out to the community before making a decision on it."

— Michelle Menapace, president, Fairfax County Council of PTAs

No to Gatehouse II

Almost \$100 million for second school HQ building is pre-meltdown thinking.

Superintendent of Schools Jack Dale and other Fairfax County Public school administrators persist in pressing for the purchase of a new, additional building next to its current headquarters.

School Board members and Board of Supervisors members should push back against this proposal.

So far, proponents of buying the 275,000-square-foot building next door to the 210,000 square foot existing headquarters say that this is the only way they can vacate 15 properties.

Vacating those buildings will save millions of dollars they say by terminating leases and avoiding renovations; plus some are needed for new schools. These savings lead proponents to call this program "self funded."

But now that we are in a different economy, local government will have to learn to think differently about such problems.

Leaders will have to find a way to vacate 15 buildings without spending nearly \$100 million, thereby reaping the savings without going into debt for part two of a school Taj Mahal.

There are some 600 employees in Gatehouse I, and plans to move some 700 more to

Gatehouse II. That's nearly half a million square feet of top quality office space for administration. There will be no teachers or students in these buildings.

We should note that this proposal comes from good intentions. We hear that camaraderie, synergy and communication have all improved from having a critical mass of administration and services located in a single place. It's a benefit Dale, Dean Tisdadt and others rightly would like to expand.

But administrators of the Fairfax County Public School system do not need office space fit for a top-flight law firm. Space inside Gatehouse I could be reconfigured so that almost all employees had their own cubicles — not offices. A few small conference rooms could make room for private conversations and phone calls as needed.

Many employees already telecommute, or could, on some days, and others spend most of their time in a variety of schools. These employees should share space; a cart for their files and a laptop should enable them to use modular space, greatly increasing the number of workers who could be accommodated in-

side the existing building.

FCPS also purchased three acres next to Gatehouse I where the original proposal was to build Gatehouse II. Now the proposal is to purchase an adjacent existing building.

Instead, the schools should install modulars (trailers) on the three acres to accommodate any employees who need to vacate the 15 buildings but don't fit inside a reconfigured Gatehouse I.

There are also problems with the process being used in this decision. There have been no public hearings on the subject. And the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider this in closed session next week. When we modernize or build schools here, voters get to weigh in by means of a referendum, and Fairfax voters have overwhelmingly supported school projects. Why don't voters have a say on this, which has been in the works for years?

This way, the schools can save \$100 million twice.

Don't just take our word for it, read the school system's arguments in favor of buying Gatehouse II at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/office.htm>.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

General Assembly 2009 Half Time Report

To the Editor:

The 2009 legislative session reached halftime this past week with the event known as Cross-over. This is when both the Senate and House of Delegates complete work on each chamber's own legislation with the exception of the state budget. Now, we in the House can only consider the Senate's bills (and vice versa). About 2,300 bills and resolutions were introduced this year and about half are still alive. So, here's a rundown of some of the significant pieces of legislation:

Smoking ban. Legislation that would ban smoking in restaurants and bars was amended to allow smoking during hours minors are not admitted; to permit smoking in a room separated from the rest of establishment only by a door; and, to permit smoking when rented for private parties. The ban would begin Jan. 1, 2010. This is a much weaker version of what Gov. Kaine proposed in agreement with the Speaker of the House, Bill Howell. However, it is understood that the Governor and the leadership of both chambers will try to amend the current legislation to put forward a much tougher ban.

For your information, my recent survey of the 67th District resulted in almost 80 percent favoring a prohibition of smoking in all public places.

Autism insurance. The bill that would require insurance companies to cover the diagnosis and treatment of autism for children failed to pass in either chamber. I am a co-patron of this legislation and am very disappointed that this bill failed to get out of the Commerce and Labor committee.

Gun show loophole. The bill would have required private sellers of firearms at gun shows to have a criminal background check performed on the purchaser before completing the transaction. This Senate bill made it out of Committee, but was killed on the floor of the Senate. I have worked hard in both the 2008 and this session to have this bill pass in both the Senate and the House. Last year, despite the impassioned testimony of aggrieved Virginia Tech families and anti-gun organizations, my legislation was killed by the Militia, Police and Public Safety Committee. This year I proposed similar legislation and the Chair of this

committee wouldn't even allow the bill to be heard.

Cap on the number of Out-of-State Students in Public Colleges and Universities. A number of bills failed that would have required most colleges/universities to have at least 70 to 80 percent in-state enrollments. This is of serious concern to so many Northern Virginia parents whose children are denied admission to our fine institutions of higher learning because of the lack of capacity and the large number of out-of-state students who are willing to pay higher tuition.

The Governor's proposed budget (HB1600) was passed on Feb. 12 with several amendments by the House of Delegates. These amendments were created by the House Appropriations Committee and resulted in unsuccessful objections by House Democrats to several harmful amendments in such areas as education (K-12 and higher ed.), stem cell research, energy, and water quality improvement. The Senate has decided to wait until at least Feb. 18 before considering the Governor's introduced budget. The Senate wanted to

wait until the January revenue data was available and for the details of what Virginia would receive from the recent Federal economic stimulus package. The Speaker of the House decided to not wait.

During the budget amendment deliberations, I attempted to restore the \$500 per year increase in the community college transfer grant that the Governor had proposed in his budget. Currently, students transferring from a community college with an Associates degree, a 3.0 GPA and demonstrated financial need can get \$1,000/year for two years (\$2,000/year for specialties like engineering and nursing). It seemed appropriate to attempt to raise that amount, given the increased financial needs of families during this current economic disaster.

So, now we are heading into the final two weeks of the session, which will be full of heavy lifting to reach a final budget that must cover the more than \$3.2 billion revenue shortfall.

Del. Chuck Caputo,
67th District, Chantilly

Empty Bowls Fund-Raiser

Our Daily Bread Inc. will host "Empty Bowls," a unique event to raise funds to help the hungry in the Fairfax County area, on Thursday, Feb. 26 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall in Fairfax City (3999 University Drive).

The event will feature a meal of soup and bread, served in ceramic bowls hand-crafted by local artisans and high school students. Classical guitarist John Graham and cellist Liz Graham will provide entertainment.

Attendees will purchase the bowl of their choice for a donation of \$25 and up. Families are welcome at the event, with a donation of \$10 per child or \$20 for two or more children (hand-crafted bowl not included). In addition to the bowls, attendees may also purchase local artwork and flowers and participate in a silent auction.

RSVP at 703-273-8829 or info@ODBfairfax.org. More information at www.our-daily-bread.org.

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42695 Rolling Rock Sq	\$385,000	Sun. Feb. 22nd, 1-4pm	Samson Realty	Janet & Dana DeSarno	571-212-7770
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All listings due by Mon. at 3pm.

Five Years Prison for Robbery

FROM PAGE 1

apartment when the men approached him. "Three guys came up to me," said the victim. "One guy had a bat in my face, and a guy to my right had a gun, but kept it down. The guy with the bat kept cocking it back, cursing and saying, 'Give me your money, give me your keys; we're gonna rob you.'"

The victim said the bat-wielder had a 5-o'clock shadow, curly hair and "almost like a ponytail coming out the bottom of his mask." Since the victim was standing beneath a street light and the man with the bat was just a foot away, the victim got a good look at him. He then pointed out Solomon in court as his assailant.

Furthermore, the victim said it wasn't a random encounter — he'd been targeted. "I remember one of the other guys saying, 'Is this him?'" he testified. Then, he said, "After they took \$20 from my hand, I started backing away toward Stringfellow Road, with my hands up. The guy swung the bat and it struck the street sign, and I ran to Casey and Carolina's car."

Trying to figure out who'd want to rob him, he remembered what had happened the night before. "I asked Carolina if Abel had long hair, and she said he did," said the victim. "She had him on her Facebook account, and I saw him and it was [the

guy with the bat]. That was what he looked like, the night of the robbery — exactly."

Robbery-squad Det. Eric Deane testified that Solomon had shoulder-length, curly hair in a ponytail, plus a few days' beard growth, when he was arrested April 2. He said police seized from Solomon's townhouse a dented aluminum baseball bat, a "gaiter" — a black, stretchy mask that covers the face below the nose, a black knit cap and a black hooded jacket. Deane said the bat, mask, cap and "a black, nylon thing to cover your hair" were all found together by a couch.

"One guy had a bat in my face."
— The victim, a Chantilly resident

Defense attorney Martin Mooradian said being refused entry into the victim's home wasn't motive enough for Solomon to commit robbery. But Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Kathy Stott said young men like Solomon often have "hot tempers" and "don't yet know that it's better to walk away from an injury to your reputation."

As for the bat, Solomon's friend, Kenneth Rodriguez, told the court it got dented when he and Solomon demolished a DVD player with it. But neither Stott, nor the jury, bought that explanation.

In the end, the jurors found Solomon guilty and recommended he serve five years in prison. On Feb. 6, Judge Gaylord Finch imposed that very sentence, placing Solomon on three years active probation upon his release.

Eight Years Prison for Store Robbery

FROM PAGE 1

March 6. Devin Manigo, 31, of Chantilly is facing a possible 25 years behind bars when he's sentenced in April.

Sullivan told Judge David Schell last week that the brothers pleaded guilty "based upon [Wilson's] testimony and cooperation," and that a jury found Manigo guilty "in large part, because of Wilson's testimony." Saying Wilson came forward without any sentencing agreement for himself, Sullivan asked Schell to show him leniency.

Defense attorney Roger Nord said it only took Manigo's jury about two hours to convict him, so Wilson's testimony was "very important to the commonwealth." He said his client was originally from Georgia, moving here five years ago because his stepfather was ill.

"In Georgia, he had no trouble with the law," said Nord. "He was a security guard in a mall and helped foil a robbery at a Red Lobster. When he moved up here, his trouble started and he was convicted of speeding to elude, assaulting a police officer, receiving stolen property and probation violations."

Still, Schell was puzzled. "Can you tell me how he went from a security guard thwarting crimes to com-

mitting his 11th and 12th felony convictions?" he asked.

"That's a good question, Your Honor," said Nord. "After his stepfather passed away, things went downhill for him. He got involved with a girl, had a couple children and started hanging around with the wrong crowd. Then Robert Price recruited him for the robbery, and he didn't fully think about the possible consequences."

Standing to apologize before being sentenced, Wilson said, "I take full responsibility for my actions." And Schell asked him, "What turned you from a law-abiding security guard into a criminal?"

"Mistakes on my part," said Wilson. "There's no excuse."

The judge said he took Wilson's cooperation into consideration, but "This was a planned crime in which the victim was stunned with a taser, robbed, tied up and left."

Noting Wilson's prior record and the nature of this crime, Schell then sentenced him to 10 years in prison, suspending all that time, for the abduction offense, and 10 years in prison, with two years suspended, on the robbery charge. He also placed Wilson on five years active probation following his release.

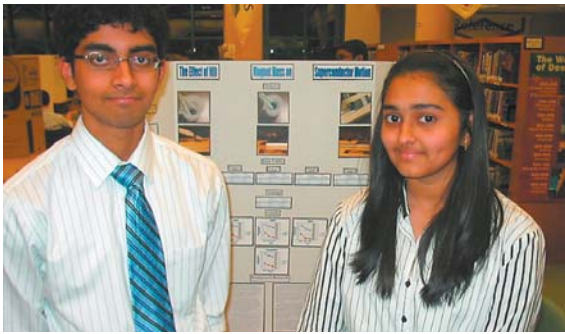
"What turned you from a law-abiding security guard into a criminal?"
— Judge David Schell, Fairfax County Circuit Court

Police Make One Arrest in Alleged Illegal Alcohol Sale

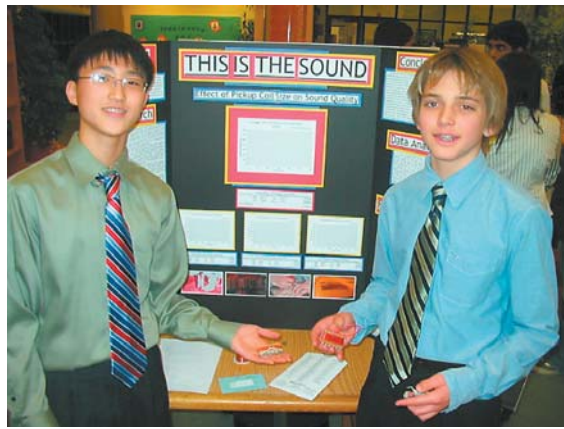
On Tuesday, Feb. 10, police officers from the Fair Oaks District Station conducted business compliance checks at several area locations. This sting is part of the ongoing, youth alcohol/business compliance enforcement campaign in which a police cadet, dressed

in plain clothes, tries to buy alcohol from various businesses. During the most-recent sting, police entered 19 businesses and made one arrest — at the Bloom supermarket, 13065 Fair Lakes Blvd., in the Fair Lakes Shopping Center.

SCHOOLS



Suraj Malladi and Bhargavi Munukutla with their project, "The Effect of NIB Magnet Mass on Superconductor Motion."



Isaac Lee and Blair Mason with their project, "This is the Sound Effect of Pickup Coil Size on Sound Quality."

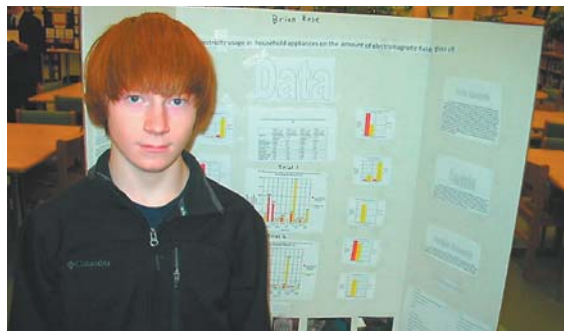
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| Conor Moran & Ben Cobb — Effect of Stress on Mitosis in Human Lung Cells | Sam Cipriani — Effect of Sugar Concentration on Refraction Angle | Nicholas Dvorak — Effect of Location on Local Ionizing Radiation |
| Devika Pateriya — Effect of Carbon Nanotubes on E-Coli K-12 | Nithin Donnipad — Can Coronal Mass Ejections Predict Earthquakes? | Ben Hirsh & Ariel Hallam & Jonathan Le — Rediscovering an Ancient Weapon: Greek Fire |
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| Patrick Clark — Effect of Temperature on Algae Growth | Lauren Summerill — Effect of Cleaning Substances on Gluten Contamination | Hanna Busse — Effect of Detergent pH on Thread Strength |
| Justine Ferrarri & Erin Horil — Effect of Light Cigarettes on Toxins Released | Amanda Miesner — Effect of Compression Format and Size on Quality | Matthew Cumpian & Vinay Dandekar & David Yang — Effect of Everyday Chemicals on CD/DVD Readability |
| Grace (Eun Kyeong) Jeong — Water Extraction of BPA in Baby Bottles | Munfarid Zaidi — Effect of ENSO on Hurricane Activity | Robbie Nicoll — Effect of Insulation Materials on Heat Efficiency |
| Christina Knippler — The Effect of Delivery Method on Iron Absorption | Briana Neuberger — Effect of Blade Number on Electricity Output | Erica Jensen — The Effect of Wetland Depth on Impurity Filtering |
| Elizabeth Knippler — Effect of Spray v. Cream Sunscreen on UV Protection | Christian Rodriguez & Eric Rolfe — | Dhruv Kedar — Entanglement in Conjunction with Relativity |

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/CENTRE VIEW



Alek Hagopian and Kyle O'Connor with their project, "Fun With Friction — The Effect of Various Lubricants on the Friction Between Two Objects."



Brian Rose with his project, "The Effect of Electricity Usage in Household Appliances on the Amount of Electromagnetic Fields Given Off."

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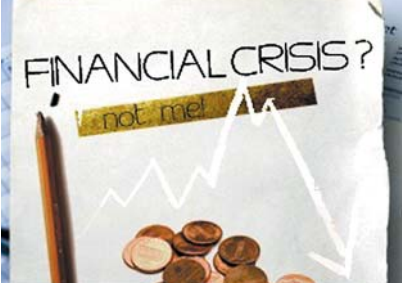
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Elbows, Beam Can't Stop Chargers

Chantilly girls gymnastics team owns region for the first time since 2000.

BY JASON MACKEY
CENTRE VIEW

Injuries dashed any hope the Chantilly girls gymnastics team had of winning last year's Northern Region championship. This year, they required only a lecture.

Senior Elly Taura, who dislocated her elbow during warm-ups last year at the Virginia AAA state meet and had to be rushed to the hospital, has been battling persistent elbow pain since winning the Concorde District all-around title on Feb.

5. Freshman Heather Guryansky was also lost to an elbow injury during the first meet of the season last year, and the Chargers never regained their full, team-wide health.

And after last practice Wednesday — one day before the Northern Region meet at Lake Braddock Secondary School — Taura felt a twinge of pain in her balky elbow and was instructed to apply ice that night by Chantilly's coach, Maureen Naquin.

Taura forgot.

"I'm kinda bad at those things," Taura joked. "I definitely heard it for that one."

FORTUNATELY it didn't carry over to Thursday's meet. By finishing first on vault (9.600), first on bars (9.425), first on floor (9.600) and tied for fourth on beam (9.050), Taura won the all-around competition and, in the process, helped Chantilly total 144.250 points and win its first region title since 2000.

"It feels great," Naquin said. "It's been a long time coming, so we're very, very excited."

"It's been a long time coming."

— Chargers coach
Maureen Naquin

The event's first rotation put the Chargers face-to-face with the event that nearly doomed them at the district meet: the balance beam. Although Chantilly still led the rest of the Concorde last week, Naquin

knew her team didn't perform up to its capabilities.

And when the same subpar performance happened at the region meet, Naquin, once again, didn't worry.

"I knew we were going to score well on floor because we had worked hard on that,



PHOTO BY JASON MACKEY/THE CONNECTION

With 144.250 points last Thursday at Lake Braddock Secondary School, the Chantilly girls gymnastics team won its first Northern Region title since 2000.

so I wasn't really worried about it," Naquin said. "I just wanted them to not worry about it."

"Beam's a tough one," Taura added. "You have to get in the groove of things, so hav-

ing to jump right into beam was kinda tough. But I think we managed this week a little better."

SEE CHARGERS, PAGE 13

'It's a Great Day for Wrestling, Baby'

With four individual winners, Westfield wrestling gets second straight region title.

BY JASON MACKEY
CENTRE VIEW

There's a fine, imaginary line that exists between having a team under your thumb and losing it entirely. There's another make-believe, disciplinary line coaches often flirt with, and it's located somewhere between tough-mindedness and insanity.

Westfield wrestling coach Chuck Hoskins has been able to straddle the latter while staying far, far away from the former. Though he runs as physically demanding a workout as common practices will allow, the Bulldog grapplers gravitate toward Hoskins.

"He's like my second dad," senior Brandon Berling joked.

"It's a fine line," Hoskins said of his team's demanding practice routine. "I tell them in practice that it's OK to be upset. It's OK to hate me under your breath. But don't be disrespectful and know that it's all about you guys and me wanting you to reach your

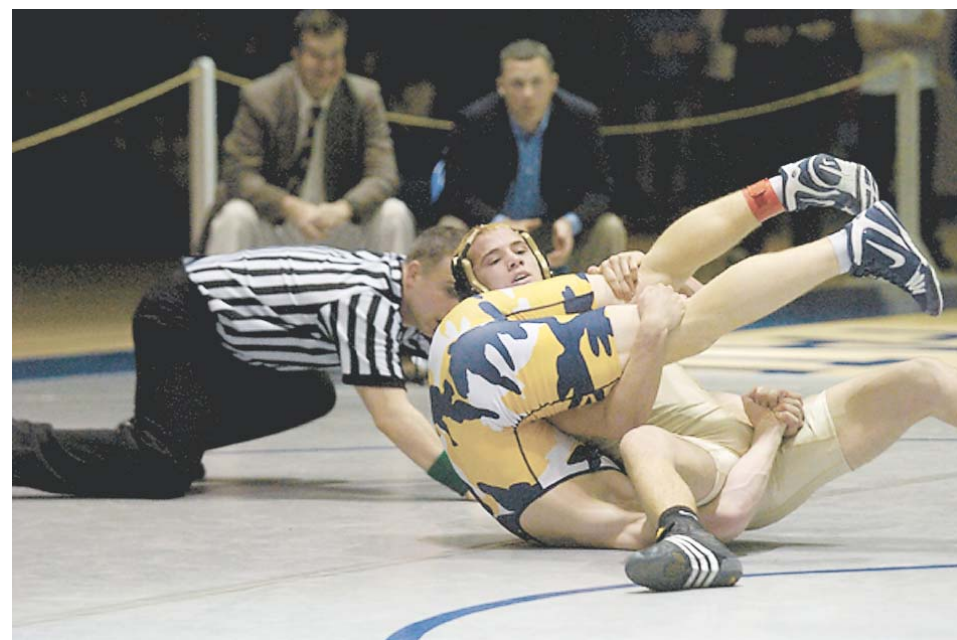


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Westfield's Nick Grinups, a 145-pound junior, pinned Robison's Reid Brown in 3 minutes, 40 seconds last Saturday to win a Northern Region title.

goals."

"He knows how to push us to the max, and sometimes that's hard to handle because you don't know how to react," junior Nick Grinups said. "You're put in certain situations that most coaches wouldn't put you in, but it always benefits you and helps you wrestle to the best of your ability."

THIS PAST Saturday afternoon at Fairfax High School for the finals of the Northern Region wrestling tournament, Westfield's hard work paid off. The Bulldogs held off rival Robison, 220.5-198, to win their second straight region title. And for the first time in the program's history, four wrestlers

won individual region titles.

Jeremy Ryan, a 112-pound senior, earned a 5-0 win over W.T. Woodson's Bob Hauser.

"It's expected of me, which puts more pressure on me, but it feels great coming through it and rising up to the challenge," Ryan said of the win, his second in two weeks after capturing the Concorde District 112-pound title on Saturday, Feb. 7.

Berling, wrestling at 130 pounds, earned a 9-3 win over Robison's Charlie Vannoy. Grinups (145) pinned Robison's Reid Brown in 3 minutes, 40 seconds and 189-pound Austin Fallon scored a 4-2 win over Robison's Marcus Hathaway.

"We wrestled four times this year, and this time I came out tough," said Fallon, who held off a final charge from Hathaway with less than 30 seconds to go. "I think that's how you win matches ... you don't stop wrestling."

Next up for the Bulldogs will be this weekend's Virginia AAA state tourna

"He's like my second dad."

— Westfield senior
Brandon Berling

SEE WRESTLING, PAGE 13

SPORTS

WEEK IN SPORTS

Triple OT for Heavyweights

A triple-overtime wrestling match would have even a 119-pounder bent at the waist and clutching his knees. So when two heavyweights require three additional one-minute periods?

"I'm tired," said Chantilly's Chris Cabe, who won this past Saturday's heavyweight bout with Jefferson's Matt Becker at Fairfax High School, securing his first-ever Northern Region title.

"He improved," Cabe continued. "He got a lot better. I had a plan, but he wrestled smart."

Cabe's win followed last week's much-simpler 3-0 defeat of Fairfax's Josh Patterson at the Concorde District championships.

Cabe will now advance, along with teammates Lloyd Tenaglia (third, 125) and Jack Carlson (third, 145), as well as Centreville's Emilio Garcia (second, 171), to this weekend's Virginia AAA state tournament at Oscar Smith High School in Chesapeake.

Benecki Wins Tight One

At the 2008 Northern Region swim and dive championships, Chantilly senior Matt Benecki enjoyed more than a six-second advantage over his competition — Oakton junior Bradley Phillips — in the 500-yard freestyle event.

Benecki would go on to set a region record last winter, touching the wall with a time of 4 minutes, 30.43 seconds, which was 23 seconds faster than the state-qualifying time and an automatic All-American mark by more than six seconds.

At this season's region meet, Benecki didn't enjoy quite the



The VISTA Patriots FC, a boys U-16 travel soccer team that competes in the Old Dominion Soccer League (ODSL), won the Randy Rawls Sportsmanship Award for the fall 2008 travel season. Pictured are the VISTA Patriots and coach Bill Walter.

same comforts. But he did swim fast enough to hold off Phillips. The Minnesota-bound Benecki finished this year's 500 in 4:27.37, breaking his old record, but Phillips wasn't far behind at 4:27.48.

"It was a lot harder than last year because [Phillips] really improved over the summer," said Benecki, who finished third in the 200 freestyle. "It was so much more intense than last year's race."

IN OTHER MEET ACTION, the Chantilly girls team was fifth with 167 points, led by Elizabeth Hall, who finished second in both the 100 fly and 100 backstroke. She also anchored the second-place 400 freestyle relay team (Maggie Shaw, Alexis Regan and Becca Yost and Hall).

The boys team was also helped by a fourth-place finish by Mitch Phillips in the 200 freestyle, and along with Greg Borowski and Brian Rothschild, Benecki and Phillips helped the 200 and 400

freestyle relay teams to a pair of fourth-place finishes.

Senior Softball Seeks Players

Northern Virginia Senior Softball (NVSS) seeks men ages 50 years and older and women over 40 (with an average age 65) for fun, fitness and fellowship, playing two seven-inning, slow-pitch softball games on Fairfax County fields. Games are on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from April 15 to Aug. 7. NVSS will have 25 teams organized into three conferences according to players' skill level, which is determined by an assessment not a tryout. Eleven fielders are on defense and everyone present bats. An indoor conditioning program for members runs from Feb. 17 through April 9. After Labor Day, September through October fall season begins. For more information, call Dave at 703-524-5576 or Ted at 703-913-0028.

'It's a Great Day for Wrestling'

FROM PAGE 12

ment, with the finals scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday at Oscar Smith High School in Chesapeake.

BERLING POINTS to one precise moment where Westfield's grapplers know that Hoskins means business, and it occurs the moment he walks in the door.

"Every day he walks into the [wrestling] room and says, 'It's a great day for wrestling, baby,'" Berling explained, "... every single day since I was a freshman."

"You have to start out in a positive frame of mind," Hoskins countered.

In practice, Hoskins' favorite patience-tester involves announcing to everyone that the next drill will be the last; push yourself for two minutes and

everyone can go home. Then, as Westfield's wrestlers stagger toward him, he announces that the match now requires overtime.

"There are points where I cannot stand him," Berling said. "I can't even look at him."

But as Hoskins said, it's OK to hate him. Just don't be disrespectful. And besides, Berling's, like many Westfield wrestlers' feelings, tend to dissipate quickly. As much was evident on Saturday as Westfield celebrated yet another region title, advancing to a more desirable version of overtime: the state tournament.

"It makes us mentally tough," Grinups said. "In a match, if we're up by two with 30 seconds left and we get taken down, it's overtime. "We know that we're in that condition and we know not to break or anything. Most people break, but because he pushes us, we know we can do it."

Elbows, Beam Can't Stop Chargers

FROM PAGE 12

IN ADDITION to Taura, Chantilly was aided by the efforts of Lyndsey Saunders, who finished 12th in the all-around competition. Heather Guryansky (vault), Saunders (bars, floor) and Katie Guryansky (floor) all posted top-eight finishes on individual events.

But with Guryansky healthy and

Taura crossing her fingers — Naquin might prefer if she ices her elbow instead — Chantilly figures to enjoy the Virginia AAA state meet, which is scheduled for this weekend at West Potomac, a little more than it did last season.

"Last season it really did hurt us with two kids," Naquin said. "This season there have only been some aches and pains, and that we can deal with."

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WORTH NOTING

ONGOING

Smart Markets of Oakton is a year-round market with vendors offering meats, cheeses, breads and bakery goods, pasta, sausages, coffee and Virginia wines. It is held Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Visit www.smartmarkets.org.

Centreville Regional Library will be offering AARP Tax-Aide to walk-in clients on Tuesdays from 1-8 p.m.; Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. starting Feb. 1 through April 15. The library is at 14200 St. Germaine Dr., Centreville. This year, all tax returns will be electronically filed. All taxpayers MUST bring a government issued picture ID and Social Security cards for all persons included on the tax return. For more information, call 1-888-227-7669 (AARP NOW) or visit the Web site at www.aarp.org/taxaide.

THURSDAY, FEB. 19

The Western Fairfax Republican Women's Club will host Del. Tim Hugo on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center. Hugo will be speaking on Virginia's General Assembly and how most of us are more concerned about how short our pocketbooks will be

with a reported \$3 billion shortfall. The address is 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. For details, go to www.wfrwc.org.

La Leche League of Centreville/Chantilly will hold its February meeting on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 10 a.m. The topic is "The Family and the Breastfed Baby". Pregnant and nursing women as well as their children are welcome to attend. Meeting location for February is the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Rd. Free. Call a La Leche League Leader at 703-471-7762 or 703-449-0131.

FRIDAY, FEB. 20

Swing Dances are held every Friday night at the Dulles Hilton in the Red Fox Room with Sue and Gary Caley. Drop-in beginner lesson included in price of admission from 8:30-9 p.m. Live music from 9 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$15. All ages welcome, large dance floors, air conditioned. Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. Go to www.gottaswing.com for details etc.

The public is invited to celebrate African American History Month at the Fairfax County Government Center on Friday, Feb. 20, at a free event sponsored by the county government, Cox Communications and TV One Lifestyle & Entertainment Television. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with a

reception and musical performances by the Antioch Baptist Church Gospel Choir, Alfred Street Baptist Church Male Chorus and the Cheyney Thomas Trio. The feature entertainment, which begins at 7:30 p.m., is the play, "A Rose Among Thorns: A Tribute to Rosa Parks," performed by award winning actress Ella Joyce. Contact Emma Marshall with the Department of Family Services at 703-324-7483; TTY 703-222-9452 or by e-mail at emma.marshall@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SATURDAY, FEB. 21

Peter Douskalis, Westfield High graduate and senior at Shenandoah University, is performing at Pacino Ristorante, on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 7-9 p.m.; Admission is free. Peter specializes in many aspects of the guitar such as jazz, classical, rock, and pop. Pacino Ristorante is located at 5653 Stone Road, Centreville. Reservations not required, but recommended. Call 703-222-5885.

Campfire Night Hike: Predators Who Hunt at Night

Not all predators are sleeping. On Saturday, Feb. 21, enjoy a night hike with your family at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and learn about nocturnal hunters. Listen to taped calls of owls and coyotes before trying to catch a glimpse of them in the forest. Afterward, return to

a warm campfire for hot chocolate and roasted marshmallows. The cost is \$5 per person. Call 703-631-0013.

MONDAY/FEB. 23

The Republican Women of Clifton will host the three Republican candidates for Attorney General on Monday, Feb. 23 at Clifton Elementary School 7010, Clifton Rd. John Brownlee, Ken Cuccinelli and David Foster will each present his vision for our Virginia Attorney General's Office. Social time is 7 p.m.; Candidates speak at 7:30 p.m. Call Bonnie Fite at 703-449-7751.

Help Feed Animals and Search for Sleeping Bugs. Monday, Feb. 23 is Feeding Day at the Walney Visitor Center in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. From 3 to 4 p.m., join a naturalist and youth volunteers for a demonstration on how to feed the hungry reptiles and amphibians. Participants will help collect worms and insects, and then assist in serving the exhibit animals their dinner! Reservations are required for this all-ages event. The cost is \$1 per person. Call 703-631-0013. Ellanor C. Lawrence Park is located at 5040 Walney Road in Chantilly.

FEB. 26-MARCH 1

The Capital Home & Garden Show will take place Feb. 26 - March 1 at the

Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. The region's largest consumer home show offers one-stop shopping for deals on products and services, including the latest eco friendly green items and cutting-edge technology, spread over two large exhibit halls. Hours are Thursday 5-9:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$12 adults, \$3 children (6-12), free kids 5 & under. Save \$3 off of adult admission when you buy your ticket online at www.CapitalHomeShow.com.

FEB. 26-28

The Capital Home & Garden Show will be held Feb. 26 - March 1, at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. Look for valuable show specials, get expert advice and learn cost-saving measures all under one roof. Hours are Thursday, Feb. 26 from 5-9:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, Feb. 27-28 from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 1 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$12/adults, \$3/children (6-12) and free kids 5 & under. Go to www.CapitalHomeShow.com.

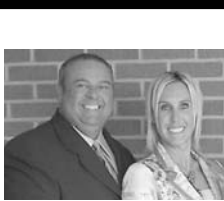
TUESDAY/MARCH 3

The Northern Virginia Holistic Moms will hold its March meeting on Tuesday, March 3 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Communities of Worship

To highlight your faith community, call Karen at 703-917-6468

CAPITAL WORSHIP CENTER



A Multicultural Spirit Filled Church of Centreville

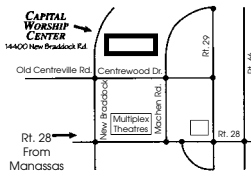
- Relevant messages
- Vibrant music
- Live band
- Kids church



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 703 530-8100

Meeting at: Centre Ridge Elementary School

Sundays 10:30 am
Wednesdays 7:30 pm



Warm People ~ Hot Coffee
Come in for a serving of both this Sunday

Centreville United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship Services
8:15 AM
9:30 AM
11:00 AM

Contemporary Service in the ROC
11:02 AM



Worshiping God ~ Serving Others

703.830.2684
www.centreville-umc.org
6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville VA 20121
Corner of New Braddock Road & Route 28

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Christian Education for All Ages: 9:45 a.m.

Adult Bible Study: Wed. 9:30 a.m.

Our mission is to welcome all people, to grow in our relationship with Christ, and to serve the Lord

Braddock Road and Cranoke Street

Centreville, VA 20120

www.saintandrewlc.org

703-830-2768

Tree of Life Bible Church

In Historic Centreville at Lee Hwy & Braddock Rd

13924 Braddock Road
Centreville, VA 20120
(703) 830-4563

Pastor James & First Lady Ada Vanison, Founders

Worship Services:
Sunday Services 11 AM & 4 PM
Wednesday Service 8 PM

Visit us on-line at www.treelifebiblechurch.org



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Church of the Epiphany...703-481-8601
Christ the Redeemer...703-502-1732
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Centreville Assembly of God...703-830-1841
BAHA'I
Baha'i Faith...1-800-22-UNITE
BAPTIST
Centreville Baptist Church...703-830-3333
Chantilly Baptist Church...703-378-6880
Clifton Baptist Church...703-263-1161
Second Baptist Church...703-830-1850
Mount Olive Baptist Church...703-830-8769
Ox Hill Baptist Church...703-378-5555

Centreville Community Bible Church

A Family Church Where Every Person is Loved and Cared For

Meeting at Deer Park Elementary School

15109 Carlbern Drive Centreville, VA 20120

Bible Study-9:30 a.m.

Worship-10:30 a.m.

- Programs for Children, Youth & Adults
- Nursery Provided

(703) 815-8860 www.ccbc-va.com Pastor, Gary L. Maines

Mount Olive Baptist Church

6600 Old Centreville Road
Centreville, VA 20121
703-830-8769

Rev. Eugene Johnson, Pastor
www.mountolive-church.org

"MOVING FROM MEMBERSHIP TO DISCIPLESHIP!"

Worship Services:

Sunday Praise & Worship Services:
7:30 am and 10:45 am
Sunday Children's Church 8:00 am and 11:00 am
Sunday Communion Services
Third Sundays 7:30am and 10:45 am
Sunday School 9:45am - 10:45 am
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm



THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



Traditional Anglican Service

1928 book of Common Prayer

9:00am - Morning Prayer

11:00am - Holy Communion

(CHURCH SCHOOL & NURSERY)
13941 Braddock Road, (north off Rte. 29)

Centreville, VA
703-830-3176

BIBLE
Chantilly Bible Church...703-263-1188
Community Bible Church...703-222-7737
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St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church...703-817-1770
St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church...703-266-1310
St. Paul Chung Catholic Church...703-968-3010
St. Timothy Catholic Church...703-378-7461
St. Veronica Catholic Church...703-773-2000

FAITH

Christ the Redeemer Church of Centreville announces a 10-week study for those struggling with depression and those who love them, Set Free: Biblical Hope and Help for Depression. The weekly class runs from March 5 through May 7 and meets on Thursdays from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Christ the Redeemer offices located at 5900 Fort Drive, Suite 300 in Centreville. The class, which takes a biblical look at the spiritual components of depression, is free and open to residents of Centreville, Manassas, and neighboring communities. Contact Rev. Sue Hardman at shardman@ctrchurch.org or by phone at 703-502-1732.

Mount Olive Baptist Church is sponsoring a Black History Program Saturday, Feb. 28 at 4 p.m. The church is at 6600 Old Centreville Road, Centreville. Call 703-830-8769.

Mount Olive Baptist Church is sponsoring a Spring Revival March 9-13 at 7:30 p.m. nightly. The church is at 6600 Old Centreville Road, Centreville. Contact Audrey Washington at 703-338-3762 with questions.

Centreville United Methodist Church invites the community to participate in a Lenten Book Read featuring *The Shack* by William P. Young. Small groups are forming now and will be

available at a variety of locations, days and times. Contact the church office 703-830-2684 to find one that works for you! Check out the CUMC Lenten Book Read blog: www.theshackcumc.wordpress.com

Centreville United Methodist Church will host a Day Retreat with Ben Pratt, author of *Seven Deadlier Sins & 007's Moral Compass*. The event will be held on Saturday, March 7, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the church. The morning of the retreat will be an overview of James Bond and the seven deadlier sins addressed by Ian Fleming in his novels. Requirement: Read one James Bond novel prior to the retreat. Cost for the day, including lunch, is \$35. RSVP to Lorraine Brown in the CUMC office at 703-830-2684.

Wellspring Church will have English-Spanish bilingual worship this Sunday, Feb 22, with songs and prayers in both languages. Pastor Al Fuertes' sermon on "God's community" will be preached in both English and Spanish. Sunday worship is at 11 a.m., at the chapel on Route 29, 13510 Lee Highway, Centreville. The chapel is on the north side of Route 29, just west of the Lee Highway-Union Mill Rd. intersection.

Sunday School for children meets during the worship hour. Following worship this week there will be a pot-

luck meal, and all are welcome.

"Living the Questions" Bible study meets in Centreville and Manassas during the week, and the Immigration Forum meets at 7 p.m., Feb. 24. There will be a dream workshop led by Dr. Kathy Kopec on Saturday, Feb. 28. Check the website, wellspringucc.org, or call Sara Little at 703-368-7650 for information on these and other special events.

Wellspring United Church of Christ is thoughtful, prayerful, justice-seeking, and Open and Affirming to seekers of all backgrounds. Worship is informal.

Ash Wednesday services at King of Kings Lutheran Church and Preschool located at 4025 Kings Way near the Greenbriar Shopping Center at Route 50 and Middle Ridge Drive. The community is invited to Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion Services on Feb. 25 at 6 and 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Following the 11 a.m. service join us for a Soup Lunch and prior to the 7:30 p.m. service join us for a 6 p.m. Soup Supper. Contact the church office at 703-378-7272, ext. 221.

"Fireproof" Movie at Jubilee Christian Center on Feb. 22. Jubilee Christian Center will be showing the feature movie, "Fireproof," on Sunday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. The movie is free, and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Nursery and separate Youth and Children's activities are available at the same time. Located at 4650 Shirley Gate Rd., Fairfax. Call 703-383-1170, or see www.jccag.org.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church is conducting Dave Ramsey's (of Fox News Channel) Financial Peace University, a video-based small group study, that teaches individuals and couples how to address their debt, begin to build wealth, and how to better manage their finances. Sessions are ongoing on Sunday afternoon from 4 to 6 p.m. at Lord of Life's location on Union Mill Road just south of Centreville High School. Contact the church at 703-323-9500 / www.lordoffielutheran.com.

Westgate Chapel announces 40 Days of Relationships. In 40 days, bring new depth to all of your relationships — from marriage, to family, to friends and the workplace. You'll be equipped with insights and a practical path for fulfilling God's intention for all your relationships — even the difficult ones.

Relationship Seminars begin Sunday, March 1 at the Westgate Training Center in Chantilly and continue every Sunday through April 5.

Rick Warren's best-seller, *The Purpose Driven Life*, profoundly affected many individuals. The Relationship Principles

of Jesus, written by Rick's colleague Tom Holladay, has the potential to bring the positive relationship changes you've been looking for. 40 Days of Relationships is based on this new book.

Discussing the relationship principles with others on the same journey will bring this book and seminars to life! Discussion Groups will take place in Chantilly, Centreville, and South Riding. Each week, explore one of six foundational principles that Jesus taught and lived. You're invited to take part in a discussion group, which begin the first week of March and will meet once a week for six weeks.

"Focus On Marriage" Presented by Focus On The Family — Live Simulcast hosted at Cedar Run Community Church.

Mark your calendars and tell your friends Cedar Run will be hosting a landmark Live Simulcast event: Focus On Marriage — Seeing Your Marriage Through The Eyes Of God? This event will show you what your relationship looks like through God's eyes. Focus on Marriage will help you understand the higher purpose of your marriage, while providing practical insights to help with everyday issues. It will take place at Cedar Run Community Church on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. To purchase tickets go to <http://www.ccn.tv/focusonmarriage>

CENTREVILLE

CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Worship Services
8:00 & 9:30 am Celebration Service
11:00 am Contemporary Service

Bible Study
9:30 am & 11:00 am

Ministries Include:
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15100 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20120
703-830-3333 www.cbcva.org

Clifton Presbyterian Church
In Historic Clifton behind the Hermitage Inn
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
(Nursery Provided)

The Rev. Lynn Stanton-Hoyle
Youth & Families Pastoral Asst.
Jennifer Dunfee
(703) 830-3175
Rediscover your faith with us.

Non-Denominational

Westgate Chapel

Contemporary Worship Service
Teaching on Spiritual Gifts
Small Group Discipleship
"Virtual Church" Service Online

Sunday Services now begin at 9:30 am.
Visitors Welcome!

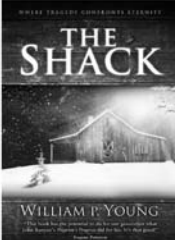
www.WestgateChapel.Net
4500 Southgate Place - Chantilly, VA - (703) 773-0456

CENTREVILLE

Centreville UMC invites the community to participate in a Lenten Book Read featuring *The Shack* by William P. Young.

Small groups are forming now. Contact the church office to find a day/time that works for you! For more information, check out the CUMC Lenten Book Read blog: www.theshackcumc.wordpress.com. Lenten Sermon Series corresponds with the Lenten Book read.

Lenten Book Read Sermon Series For Lent

	<p>March 1 Guilt versus the Sense of Guilt</p> <p>March 8 Believing in the Totally Irrational</p> <p>March 15 Images of God and the Trinity</p> <p>March 22 Questioning God: Where do you go when you are sick of God?</p> <p>March 29 Theodicy and Loss: God is NOT Causing the Pain</p> <p>April 5 Healing and Forgiveness</p>
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Centreville United Methodist Church
Sunday Worship Services
8:15, 9:30 & 11:00 AM Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
11:02 AM Contemporary Worship in the ROC
6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville, VA 20121
www.centreville-umc.org ~ (703)830-2684

CHILDREN OF EDEN

March 13th -15th

Centreville Presbyterian Church

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Congregation Yad Shalom...703-802-8901
Temple Beth Torah...703-263-2252
- LUTHERAN**
King of Kings Lutheran Church...703-378-7272
Lord of Life Lutheran Church...703-323-9500
St. Andrew Lutheran Church...703-830-2768
- METHODIST**
Centreville United Methodist...703-830-2684
Pender United Methodist Church...703-278-8023
Pleasant Valley United Methodist...703-327-4461
- NON-DENOMINATIONAL**
Centreville Community Church...703-580-5226
Christian Life Center...703-754-9600
Clear River Community Church...703-881-7443
Covenant Christian Center...703-631-5340
Fair Oaks Church...703-631-1112
New Life...703-222-8836
Tree of Life Bible Church...703-830-4563
- PENTECOSTAL**
Capital Worship Center...703-530-8100
Church of the Blessed Trinity...703-803-3007
- ORTHODOX**
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church...703-818-8372
St. Raphael Orthodox Church...703-303-3047
- PRESBYTERIAN**
Centreville Presbyterian Church...703-830-0098
Chantilly Presbyterian Church...703-449-1354
Clifton Presbyterian Church...703-830-3175
Young Saeng Korean Presbyterian Church...703-818-9200
- UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
Wellspring United Church of Christ...703-257-4111

Money Matters



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

How to get by on one income while really trying? That will not only be the question but the strategy as my wife, Dina, and I, attempt to adjust to the new unemployment paradigm: she's out of work for the first time in our 30-plus years of marriage. Her long-time employer, Tivoli's Restaurant in Rosslyn (the deli and pastry shop remain open, however) closed after nearly 27 years serving the public (25 years during which Dina worked in the second floor lounge as a waitress and bartender).

To say she made friends over all those years would be an understatement of prodigious proportions. To say she networked an entire new family including the owners and their families, employees and their families, and, of course, the thousands of Tivoli customers and their families, together creating a fabric of associations and activities spanning the globe and lasting an entire generation, and then some, would be more accurate.

To characterize Dina's status as out of work is way to simple; disconnected from the only lifestyle she's really ever known and cared about her entire adult life would be more appropriate. And though the loss of Dina's income is significant (and matters more to me since I'm the business end of the relationship; she's the social director), I can certainly appreciate and understand how the loss of a lifestyle can be equally distressing. The joke among our friends has been that Dina doesn't need a new job, she needs a new lifestyle that pays.

Moving forward, the choices we have to make need to be a balance between substance and style, between money and quality of life, between fact and fiction, quite frankly. Having 25 percent fewer dollars to do it with is likely to be a challenge unlike any we, as a couple, have ever endured.

Moreover, given the middle age that we are, with the skill sets we possess, and further considering the inheritances that at present are unknown and unexpected, what we do, how we survive, what money we spend, seem unlikely to be replenished anytime soon by some financial savior riding in on a cash cow. It seems that we will have to make do riding the horse on which we rode in on.

All of which we can manage, I think. It's more that neither one of us expected to be horse-less at our present age, the age at which, accumulating for retirement becomes not only an extremely serious family business but maybe the most important, to the exclusion of all other, family business. And being left to fend more for ourselves than we had expected or anticipated was hardly the plan I had intended. Still, it's not over yet. My father made more money between age 55 and 70 than he had ever made previously, enough to fund my parent's retirement for the 15 years or so they had together before retiring for good.

If I am indeed my father's son, then I will succeed just as he did. It may not be easy but if I've inherited anything from my father (aside from his sense of humor), I've inherited his positive attitude. Dina's being out of work presents us with an opportunity. It's up to us to make the most of it.

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

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21 Announcements

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-Abraham Lincoln

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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29 Misc. for Sale

29 Misc. for Sale

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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NOTICE

We deeply regret that due to space limitations, we're no longer able to publish the Crossword Puzzle. We appreciate the week-to-week commitment and enthusiasm of our loyal participants.

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21 Announcements

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Recession Takes Toll on Area Moms

FROM PAGE 7

their children, but when they hear the cost, they walk away," she said. "I'm absolutely sure it's because of the economy." She added that as a non-profit, they are largely dependent on subsidies from the City of Alexandria — an untenable situation, she said, given that the Alexandria City Council voted to freeze subsidies. "Nobody knows for sure what's going to happen — we're not getting our hopes up. We certainly won't get any more money."

Maura Burke, a spokesman for the Fairfax County Public Schools, said that although she cannot say conclusively that their preschool programs have been affected by the recession, their waiting list has swelled to 700 — at least a 200-person increase from last year.

Kathy Ridenhour of Chantilly said she took her four-year-old daughter out of pre-school in November when it became clear she and her husband could no longer afford it. "We put my daughter in preschool, and I took that time to do a work search," the writer and former teacher said. "But really there was nothing that didn't require me going so far in that the benefits and salary would be cut exponentially by childcare costs and health expenses. It'll be better now because gas has gone down so much but at that time in November we just sort of gave up." She added that despite these challenges, her daughter would be starting kindergarten in

the fall — at which point she hopes to return to work.

SOME EXPERTS say that, in general, women will wind up propping up the economy during the downturn. Erica Williams, the study director for the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington, said that because women are more likely to hold jobs that do not pay as well, they stand a greater chance than their husbands of keeping their jobs. "I think women's income and they're earnings are probably are

what's going to pick up the slack during the recession," she said. "Unfortunately, women earn less than men, so it's not necessarily the income you want to rely on, but women's income is increasingly important to family income. There are more single mom families than there used to be, and women's earnings now account for 36 percent

of family income, and it's getting increasingly larger. I think there are a lot of people saying who's worse off — I think it's not a relevant question, because everyone's in this together."

For some moms with older children, re-joining the workforce has proven a respite after years of the daily grind as a stay-at-home mom. Callie Mackenzie of Alexandria recently picked up a part-time job at Robcyn's women's and children's clothing store to help shore up expenses. She said she has not held a job since 2002, when

she left her long-time job as a social worker around the time she had her second child. Still, she expressed few regrets about returning to the workforce. "It felt good to go back," the mother of two children, aged nine and five, said. "I'm more stimulated, I get to be around people my age more. Sales is fun."

She added that in her case she was lucky to get a job with flexible hours, which she said made the decision to return to work easier. "The truth is, I think there are a lot of jobs out there, they're just not in the areas or have the salaries that people want," she said.

Lisa Vohra, a stay-at-home mom with an 11-year-old daughter, is also returning to the workforce. She and her husband had planned since before the downturn to open a franchise of an upstart chain of healthy burgers to supplement their income. Now, she said, it is more crucial than ever. However, like Mackenzie, she said she did not feel burdened by the decision. "It'll be a change of venue," she said. "It's harder to be at home sometimes."

The picture is not so bleak for all area moms, especially those whose family income comes from the government or military. But even for civilians like Christina Rinehart, a Department of Defense employee and single mom who sends her son to a free military-run daycare facility, everything else is on a budget. "Before, if I had \$300 I could just think about what to do with \$300," she said. "Now I have to break it down to make sure I don't exceed it," she said.

"You just find a way to make it work when you have kids."

— Shannon Kruse of Centreville

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- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Six Months in Jail for Robbing Woman

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

A Centreville man who originally came to America seeking asylum has been sentenced to six months in jail for robbing a Chantilly woman. He is Boris Nelson Salmeron, 23, of 14452 Rustling Leaves Lane in The Meadows community.

The incident occurred Aug. 17, at 2:49 a.m., outside a bank in the 14200 block of Centreville Road in Chantilly. According to Fairfax County police, the woman, 24, had used an ATM card inside the bank lobby and, when she left, Salmeron approached her and demanded money.

He then grabbed her, knocked her to the ground and took her cash. But a police K-9 unit found him nearby and he was arrested

and charged with robbery and abduction. The latter charge was eventually dropped and, in December, Salmeron pleaded guilty in Circuit Court to the robbery offense.

He returned to court Feb. 6 for sentencing before Judge Bruce White and a Spanish-language interpreter translated the proceedings for him. At the outset, defense attorney Joe Thelin said his client "has pending ICE hearings regarding whether he'll be granted political asylum here, since there was a murder attempt on him by MS-13 back in El Salvador."

Thelin said he and Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Brandon Shapiro had reached an agreement whereby Salmeron would be sentenced within the state sentencing guidelines — which, in this case, ranged from probation to six months jail.

"We're just asking the court to accept the agreement," said Thelin. "He's already served six months. This is his first offense ever and there was intoxication involved. It wasn't a planned, well-thought-out offense, and he'll never do anything like this again."

Thelin also said that, if allowed to stay in the U.S., Salmeron will live with his father, who's an American citizen. The defendant then stood and, via his interpreter, said, "I'm very sorry for what I did. I've never done anything like this before and I apologize."

White then sentenced him to five years in prison, suspending all but six months and placing him on five years active probation, providing, he told Salmeron, "that you violate no further laws of the commonwealth or any other jurisdiction."

Centreville High School To Present Four One-Act Plays

Instead of acting, four Centreville High theater students are trying their hands at directing, and the result is their school's upcoming One-Act-Play Festival. Four plays will be presented, each lasting 30-45 minutes.

Show times are Thursday-Friday, Feb. 26-

27, at 7:30 p.m. each night, in Centreville's theater. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Chris Creane is directing "Going to School," about a boy whose family accompanies him to his college orientation. Samantha K. Johnston directs a more mature and intense version of "Alice in Won-

derland." Zach Schebish helms "The Swimmer," a contemporary tragicomedy about a man who thinks he's drowning on a park bench. And Jessica Starr and Christine Tillema co-direct "Cut," about everything going wrong while professional actors are rehearsing a play.

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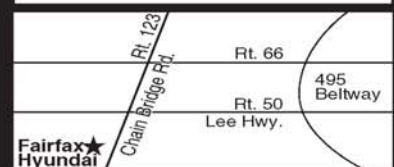
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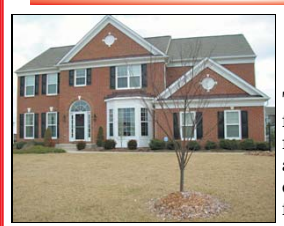
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