

Remembering Reema



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Mayzsoul, including Westfield 2005 grad Michelle Murgia, performs "God Only Knows" during a tribute to Westfield grad and Virginia Tech victim Reema Samaha, last Friday, May 22, at Westfield High. MORE PHOTOS, SEE PAGE 3

Talking about Gangs

'We're all working to keep your kids safe.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

When members of a gang tried to recruit students at a local middle school, it came as a wakeup call to police and parents, alike. And last Wednesday, May 20, some 70 people gathered at the Sully District Governmental Center to hear Fairfax County law-enforcement authorities discuss the matter.

The first speaker was an undercover detective with the police department's Gang Unit. Although he's been with that unit for the past eight years, he said the gang-recruitment attempts at Franklin Middle School "surprised me and brought together police and the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office to deal with this issue."

He described a gang as three or more people in the same geographic area who wear like colors and do violent acts. And, he warned, "It's not just about MS-13, anymore; other gangs have popped up."



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh

He said his unit works closely with the school resource officers (SROs) but, in the incident at Franklin, "Some of these kids didn't fit the stereotypical portrait of a gang member. It's not just one race or one culture. The demographics in the county change constantly, so this gang [Sur 13] was new to this area."

He then showed a video produced by the U.S. Attorney's Office. In it, gang members said they recruit minors, even as young as

SEE POLICE, PAGE 12

'Chantilly Showcase' at Church

Free concert on June 8 at Ox Hill Baptist.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Under the direction of Mike Fuchs, the Chantilly High Chamber Chorale will perform a free concert, Monday, June 8, at 7 p.m., at Ox Hill Baptist Church, 4101 Elmwood St. (off Route 50) in Chantilly.

It's called the Chantilly Showcase because each of the 20 vocalists will sing either a solo or duet of their own choosing. Five musicians will accompany them, and a reception will follow the program.

"It's an annual concert that lets the students sing songs they like, themselves," said Fuchs. "They're all talented singers but, throughout the year, not all of them get a chance to do a solo, so this is their opportunity." For the seniors, it's one, last time to perform before graduation so, said Fuchs, "I tell all of them to pick something meaningful that they love and can sing well."

There's a large variety of songs, ranging from jazz to popular to classical. In the jazz category, Joel Bading sings George Gershwin's "Nice Work If You Can Get It," and Cydney Hatch performs the Etta James standard, "At Last." Classical numbers include Becca Lipps's rendition of Franz Schubert's "Gretchen am Spinnrade" and Charles Gounod's "L'Absent" sung by Susie Dixon.

Among the folk tunes are an English folk song, "The Water is Wide," sung by Pritika Ramesh and Brendan Graham's

SEE CHANTILLY CHAMBER, PAGE 13

Suspended Commitment For Gang-Involved Teen

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

On March 18, Fairfax County police charged seven Chantilly teenagers with gang participation and recruitment after students at Franklin Middle School told their

school resource officer that another student asked them to join his gang.

Now, that student — a 14-year-old boy who said he was the leader of that gang — has been given a suspended commitment in the ju

SEE JUDGE, PAGE 12



The Chantilly High Chamber Chorale will be performing June 8 at Ox Hill Baptist Church.

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NEWS



Negassa



Holmes

Two Charged In BB&T Crime

Police arrest suspect during bank robbery.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Fairfax County police arrested two people in connection with a bank robbery, last Wednesday, May 20, at the BB&T Bank at 13360 Franklin Farm Road in Chantilly. Both live in The Meadows community of Centreville.

Marlon Negassa, 37, of 14547 Golden Oak Road, was charged with robbery, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, malicious wounding and abduction. Police also charged him with possession of narcotics for a prior, unrelated offense. Zoghanna Holmes, 50, of the same address, was charged with robbery. She was also charged with unauthorized use of a vehicle stemming from a previous, unrelated case.

In a May 20 affidavit for a warrant to search the couple's townhouse, robbery Det. John Vickery of the Criminal Investigations Bureau detailed the case against them. He wrote that, between November 2008 and March 2009, there were eight armed robberies in western Fairfax County and each was "linked by the suspect description and modus operandi."

Then, on May 20, around 10:35 a.m., wrote Vickery, a masked man walked into the Franklin Farm BB&T, "pointed a handgun at a bank employee and demanded money." However, in the course of the robbery, a struggle ensued and two men inside the bank were able to disarm the robber, subdue him and hold him until police arrived.

The two men sustained minor injuries during the scuffle. The 23-year-old victim was taken to Inova

SEE TWO, PAGE 4

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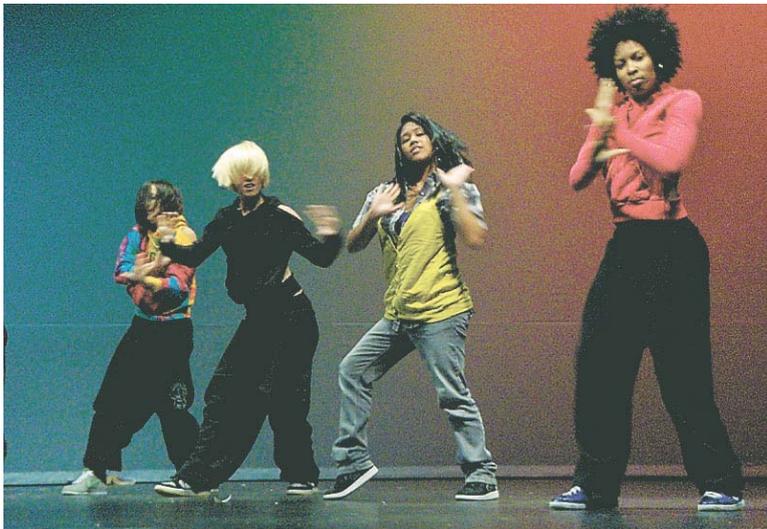
Remembering Reema in Music and Dance



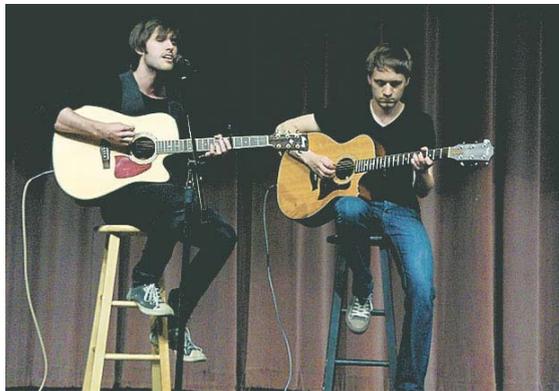
Floating across the stage during "Slow Me Down" are the Contemporary Dance Ensemble of Virginia Tech dancers.



Dancensations Dance Center performers interpret "True Colors."



At left, the Kickrocks Crew wows the crowd with its hip hop dance to "Principal's Office."



From left, Westfield 2004 grad Jon Lawlor and John Holt perform "Signs of Waking Up."



Westfield 2008 grads Jade Jones and Dan Hrebenak perform "Reema's Song," written by Jones.



PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS/
CENTRE VIEW

From left are Angel Fund co-founder LuAnn McNabb with Mona and Joe Samaha.

Westfield High students and alumni paid tribute to Westfield grad and Virginia Tech victim Reema Samaha, last Friday, May 22, at Westfield High in a program of music and dance. Proceeds went to the Reema J. Samaha Memorial Scholarship Fund and to the Angel Fund. (See www.angelfundva.org.)

Afterward, her father, Joe Samaha, said how much the event meant to their family and that they feel her spirit with them every day. He said they also think about the other victims, too, including Westfield grad Erin Peterson, and thanked the community for its support. "This is why we're standing on our feet — because of you," his wife, Mona, told the audience. "We feel your prayers; please don't stop."



Michelle, Monica and Meredith Murgia dance "I Miss You" for Reema.



Westfield senior Jeremy Rommel (on right) plays guitar while this group sings, "In the Aeroplane Over the Sea."



Rockin' out to "Mustang Sally" are Charlie Makes Rockets members (from left) Mark Murgia, Westfield Theater Director Scott Pafumi, Pat Mitchell and Charlie Manship.

ROUNDUPS

Indicted for Identity Theft

Believing that a former employee of a Vienna gym used other people's personal information to try to pay his rent and other bills, in December 2008, Fairfax County police arrested a Fairfax Corner man. He is Jason Pears of 4245 Summit Corner Drive, No. 345, in Fairfax. Then last Monday, May 18, the grand jury indicted him on three charges — one count of identity theft and two counts of credit-card fraud. He was slated to enter a plea, May 26, in Circuit Court.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections, Thursday, May 28, 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.

Westfield Community Coalition

The Westfield Community Coalition will meet Monday, June 1, at 3:30 p.m., at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Contact Jennifer Cooper at 703-966-8304 or jalcooper@aol.com.

Student Achievement Awards

The 24th annual Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee (CPMSAC) awards ceremonies will be held the first weekend in June. Achievement awards will be presented to middle- and high-school students Saturday, June 6, at 5 p.m., at Chantilly High. Elementary-school students will receive their awards Sunday, June 7, at 4 p.m., at London Towne Elementary.

Chantilly Community Coalition

The next meeting of the Chantilly Community Coalition will be Monday, June 8, at 4 p.m., in the Chantilly High media center. Call Carol Hoffman at 703-378-6155.

WFCM Needs Donations

With the downturn in the economy, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) could use some help meeting its increased demand from local residents for food, clothing and financial aid. To make donations for the food pantry or thrift shop, to volunteer or to receive information on the next free budgeting class, in May, call 703-988-9656.

NEWS

Choirs Sing Fauré's 'Requiem'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

More than 160 voices will be raised in song when Westfield High's entire choral department, accompanied by a professional orchestra, performs Gabriel Fauré's "Requiem in D Minor, Opus 48."

It will do so next Wednesday, June 3, at 7 p.m., at Pender United Methodist Church, 12401 Alder Woods Drive, in Fair Oaks (off Route 50). Tickets are \$6 at the door or at www.westfieldhschoral.org.

"Since the beginning of the 20th century, Gabriel Fauré's 'Requiem' has become one of the most beloved works in the choral masterwork repertoire," said Choral Director Jessica Lardin. "It is an elegant and astonishingly beautiful work that has captivated both amateur and professional musicians."

"Fauré was the most prominent French composer of both sacred and secular music," continued Lardin. "He's known in the solo vocal world for bringing the French 'chanson,' song, to the height of its artistic beauty through his compositions intimately linking poetry with innovative musical composition."

This masterwork concert is a funeral mass written during the Romantic time period and contains seven movements with several songs. Singing it will be the Westfield Chorale, Chamber Singers, Men's Chorus and Women's Chorus.

The two soloists are junior Carey Jarosik and senior Alex Kruszewski. A baritone, Kruszewski has solos within the second and sixth movements. The second movement, "The Offertory," mimics Gregorian chanting. The sixth movement, titled "Libera Me," is a famous, baritone solo in the vocal-music world.

"It's saying, 'Deliver us from the fires of hell so we may be in heaven,'" said Kruszewski. "It's like a plea, and I express the power of the request and also show the vulnerability of a soul in that state."

Besides his choral experience, Kruszewski brings to his performance his talents as an actor in Westfield theater, including knowing how to create a character. And as a trained singer, he's thrilled to do the major works in choir. As a freshman, he sang in "The Messiah" and, in his sophomore year, he performed in "The Mass in G." Now, said Kruszewski, "I'm happy I get to close out my high-school career with two solos in Fauré's 'Requiem.' I have such a strong love for music that choir helps me broaden my musical ability and has been a conduit for creative expression. And being a senior going off into the collegiate world, I find it interesting that this is a death mass that ends in heaven. It's like artistic serendipity, and I like these beautiful moments when life is happening through art."

Jarosik's solo is the fourth movement, "Pie Jesu," and she describes it as slow and beautiful, with "a pretty harp part accompanying it." Often sung by itself at funerals, she said it "can be really touching."

A soprano, she said this song also has "cool dynamics, going from really quiet at the beginning to kind of loud and back down again at the end." However, taking breaths while singing it can be challenging. "When you're singing in a group of 100 people, it doesn't matter," said Jarosik. But because it's a solo, I can't breathe in the middle of a word."

However, since she's trained as a soloist, she's delighted to sing a solo within a choral setting. Said Jarosik: "I have a big appreciation for this type of classical, romantic music, so I'm really excited about it."

Classmate Samantha Harris, an alto, called it "a great opportunity because there aren't many places to sing something this long. It sounds like it should be for an adult choir, but doing it in high school makes us feel important — and we sound awesome." She especially likes the third movement, "Sanctus," because "it sounds different than the others. It's peaceful and has pretty

SEE WHS, PAGE 7

Police Charge Two in Bank Robbery

FROM PAGE 2

Fair Oaks Hospital and the 42-year-old victim was treated at the scene.

Police later reportedly identified the robber as Negassa. In addition, patrol officers "arrested Holmes in a nearby neighborhood after she was [allegedly] connected to the male robber and the getaway vehicle," wrote Vickery. He also noted that this robbery was similar in method and suspect information to the other eight robberies.

Furthermore, wrote the detective, "During the post-arrest interview with Holmes, she [allegedly] implicated herself and her boyfriend, Negassa, in all of the robberies. Holmes [reportedly] detailed how each robbery was planned and executed by either her or Negassa."

When they searched the couple's home, police hoped to find the

clothing worn by the suspect in the previous robberies, as well as any gun-packaging material, latex gloves and records and documents possibly related to the planning and execution of the robberies. Police executed the warrant May 21 and seized trash bags, a cell-phone bill, plastic packaging for a Barretta 9255 pistol, packaging for an air pistol, purple latex gloves, a handwritten note on yellow paper, suspected drug paraphernalia, various records and documents, plus blue work pants and khaki work pants.

BOTH NEGASSA and Holmes are being held without bond in the Adult Detention Center and have June 30 court dates. Although they're suspects in the earlier bank robberies, they've not been charged with any of them, at this time, and the investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call police at 703-691-2131.



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Planning a Tasty Fund-Raiser

Group gives filled Christmas stockings to needy children.

By BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW



From left are A Child's Joy board members and co-founders, Denise Forgione and Wista Rector.

True, Christmas is seven months away. But members of "A Child's Joy" are already busy buying toys and making Christmas stockings for local needy children, and there's no time to waste.

So they're holding a fund-raiser, Sunday, June 7, from noon-4 p.m., at Joe's Crab Shack in Fair Lakes. Customers will enjoy tasty meals, and the nonprofit organization will receive a percentage of the proceeds to use toward their toy purchases.

"I used to volunteer at WFCM [Western Fairfax Christian Ministries] and noticed there were a lot of moms who didn't have much to give their children at Christmas," said A Child's Joy co-founder Denise Forgione of Chantilly. "Growing up, my favorite part of Christmas was always my stocking. So in 2005, I gave 45 filled stockings to WFCM as a personal gift to the moms coming to the food pantry."

When her friends learned about it, they wanted to help, too; and in 2006, they gave WFCM more than 150 stockings — and they were gone in two weeks. Each stocking was about 17 inches tall and, said Forgione, "We put really nice things in them — like Pez, Play Doh, Legos, coloring books and crayons — as if we were giving them to our own kids."

They kept buying toys at the after-Christmas sales, and Forgione's church, Fairfax Church of Christ, began holding toy drives through its daycare center. "People started collecting toys and giving them to me,"

said Forgione. "By March 2007, we had enough toys to deliver 300 stockings."

THE COLLECTION kept growing so, that April, she and some friends — especially Wista Rector — turned A Child's Joy into a nonprofit. And beginning in 2007, they gave their stockings to another local nonprofit — Our Neighbor's Child (ONC) —

"We don't want to disappoint some child."

— Denise Forgione, A Child's Joy co-founder

which included them in its own Christmas deliveries to the same population in western Fairfax County served by WFCM.

"At first, we bought the stockings, but then Wista decided they should be homemade," said Forgione. "So now we probably have 40 women who sew them out of Christmas fabric and line them with flannel. Even my mother in New Jersey and a woman in Arizona make them for us."

By Christmas 2008, the group donated some 1,000 filled stockings to needy children, ages 5-12. It gave about 750 to ONC and approximately 250 to area churches and the Katherine Hanley Family Shelter in Centreville and even sent a boxful to children in Texas who'd otherwise

receive nothing.

"Women sew stockings and collect toys for us, all year 'round," said Forgione. "Our signature is a Beanie Baby at the top of each stocking, and we have 50 people who help stuff them. It's become a whirlwind, and what's amazing is the way people have stepped up to help. We went from just a few people to 100-150 volunteers."

The group is part of the Combined Federal Campaign as a local charity, so people may contribute to it by designating No. 24197. It also has an 11-person board of directors, including two teen-agers. Said Forgione: "They do IT and helped us figure out the logistics of filling all these stockings." For more information, see www.achildsjoy.org.

"This year is an especially tough year economically for so many people, so we're doing at least 1,200 stockings," said Forgione. "Figuring 12 toys per stocking, we need 14,400 toys. So we're holding a fund-raiser at Joe's Crab Shack to raise money to buy more toys. We'll also have an information table there where people can get a flier and learn more about us."

After Christmas, the toys they've collected are all given out, so they collect them all year long because, said Forgione, "We don't want to disappoint some child. We always want to have enough toys to fill the need. If there are children who wake up on Christmas morning with a stocking, I'm happy."

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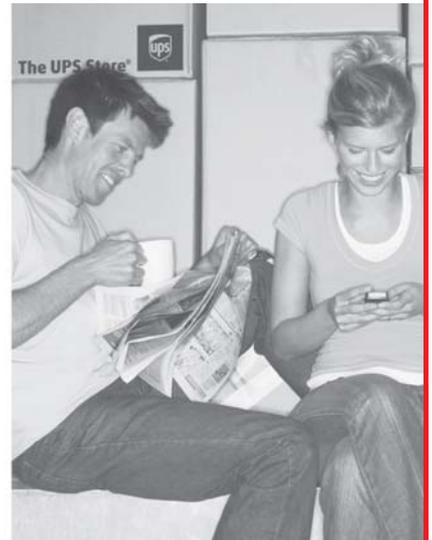
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Remembering on Memorial Day 2009

On Memorial Day, we recognize that here in Northern Virginia, many local families continue to bear the personal sacrifice of having lost a loved one in Iraq or Afghanistan. Nearly 4,300 U.S. military members have been killed in Iraq and more than 680 more have been killed in Afghanistan since Sept. 11, 2001.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. "Danny really had a heart of gold," said his mother. "He loved his country, and we're so proud of him."

2Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Ga. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington. He graduated from West Point and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Military Intelligence branch.

Pfc. David Sharrett, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand along with former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept. 23, 2008, while serving in Iraq. His unit came under small arms fire, and Brown, 26, died from his wounds.

Brown, a leader who often insisted on riding in the lead vehicles of convoys, the ones most likely to be targeted in an attack, was three weeks away from completing his tour of duty.

HERE ARE the names of some of the local men and women who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. We repeat these names several times a year to honor their service and to keep their memories in our consciousness.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet. His father, Ed Kirkpatrick, calls him the "warrior poet," and he and his wife help injured vets at Walter Reed through the Yellow Ribbon fund (www.yellowribbonfund.org).

Ami Neiberger-Miller of Sterling lost her brother, U.S. Army Specialist Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb while serving in Baghdad, Iraq. He was 22 years old when he died. Since her brother's death, Neiberger-Miller has devoted herself to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (www.taps.org), which provides peer-based emotional support and other services for families of the fallen, and provides intensive services and activities, including during Memorial Day weekend.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007.

Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, of wounds inflicted when an "improvised explosive device" exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, of wounds suffered during combat in Anbar province in Iraq.

Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006. He had been a respected football and basketball player at J.E.B. Stuart High School and had proposed to his high-school sweetheart about three weeks before he was killed.

Airman 1st Class Lee Bernard E. Chavis, 21, was killed Oct. 14, 2006, by sniper fire in Iraq, trying to protect civilians from a roadside bomb.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

United States Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children. His parents live in Alexandria.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, who, at age 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after 9/11.

Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in An Najaf, Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005.

Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded.

Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Samarra, Iraq, Oct. 17.

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005.

Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.



U.S. Army Specialist Christopher Neiberger's headstone at Arlington National Cemetery.

PHOTO TAKEN BY DR. RICHARD E. NEIBERGER

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq Oct. 28, 2005.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq.

Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt.

Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount

Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon;

Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria;

Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria.

Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church;

Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria; Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

— MARY KIMM,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Write

The Centre View welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Send to:

Letters to the Editor
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7913 Westpark Drive
McLean, VA 22102
Call: 703-917-6431.
By fax: 703-917-0991.

By e-mail:
centreview@connectionnewspapers.com

NEWS

WHS Choral

FROM PAGE 4

harmonies; the others are intense and loud.”

Senior Romae Kelly also sings alto, and her favorite movement is “Libera Me” because of Kruszewski’s solo and how “the choir comes in afterward and mimics what he’s done.” Since it’s all sung in Latin, she said the pronunciation can be tough. But she, too, is happy to sing this work in high school because “it’s an upper-level thing. So it’s challenging and helps us be better musicians.” Kelly said the audience will enjoy the whole performance because “it’s just pretty and pleasing to the ear.”

First soprano Hannah Miller, a senior, uses singing to express her emotions. She likes the section in “The Offertory” when the basses, tenors, altos and sopranos “come in at different times and then all sing together. It’s a layering effect and sounds really cool — and Alex sounds amazing.”

She said the audience will like the choral performance with orchestra and harpist. And despite the difficulty of changing from hard to gentle notes, said Miller, “We can do

SEE WHS, PAGE 13



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WORTH NOTING

To have community events listed in Centre View, e-mail to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Call Steve Hibbard at 703-917-6407.

ONGOING

The **Centreville Farmers Market** will start May 15 and will be operating every Friday until Oct. 30 from 3:30-6 p.m. at 5885 Trinity Parkway, Centreville. Vendors will change throughout the season.

Craft Vendors are needed for Centreville United Methodist Women's Bazaar scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church, 6400 Old Centreville Road; contact psbyers@verizon.net.

Centreville Chiropractic Center has a Mother's Day special. During the month of May, buy a 30-minute (\$40) massage and receive the second massage for a \$10 donation to Isaiah House. Centreville Chiropractic Center is at 13880 Braddock Road, Suite 108, Centreville, near the IHOP. Call 703-266-0505 or go to www.CentrevilleChiro.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 29

Swing Dancing. 8:30-midnight at Dulles Hilton Swing Dance. \$15/person. Dance to live music. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

Small Wonders. 11 a.m. at Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children 13-23 months enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required, 703-830-2223.

How's the Weather. 1:30 p.m. at Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children 2-5 enjoy stories, activities and a craft. Free. Registration required, 703-830-2223.

Clifton Store Live Music night. Entertainment by Mike. Anyone interested in participating in an open mike? Get your guitars or keyboards ready, tune up your voices, and call Kevin or Judy at 703-266-6307.

MAY 29-30

The **Clifton Lions** will conduct their annual White Cane fundraiser on Friday, May 29, and Saturday, May 30, at the Union Mill Colonnade and University Mall Giant food stores. In addition to cash donations, the Lions will collect used eyeglasses. Go to the web site www.orgsites.com/va/cliftonlions.

SATURDAY/MAY 30

Vintage Virginia Wine Festival at Bull Run. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Adult single day \$25. More than 50 of Virginia's wineries. At Bull Run Regional Park Special Event's Center, Vintage Virginia is every wine lover's rite of passage into summer.

Clifton Caboose Twilight Run. 6 p.m. A 5K Run and 1 mile Fun Run/Walk. Intersection of Clifton Road and Newman Road and Main Street, Clifton. Sign up at www.signmeup.com/64806. Call Gary Anderson at 703-968-0740.

Peter Douskalis Performs. 7-9 p.m. Free admission. Peter specializes jazz, classical, rock, and pop and he plans on continuing with his graduate work at NYU's Steinhardt School of Music and is currently working on a Solo Jazz CD. At Pacino Ristorante, 5653 Stone Road, Centreville. Call 703-222-5885.

MAY 30-31

2009 Star Heritage Indian Festival. At the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. Enjoy the sights, sounds, fragrances and tastes of the best of South Asia, all under one roof. Highlights include: shopping, free Ayurveda health check-up, Baba Ramdev Ayurvedic medicines,

discourse and bhajans from Art of Living, financial tips from Arun Sareen and Associates, ATW travel airline tickets to India raffle, Sumptuous cuisine by Minerva Indian Cuisine, live concert by renowned Washington Shruti Band, Vibha Kids' Carnival, featuring face painting, animal mask, decorating, quiz competitions, frame decorating, greeting card making and cup and bag painting! Call 703-459-5000.

SUNDAY/MAY 31

Vintage Virginia Wine Festival at Bull Run. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Adult single day \$25. More than 50 of Virginia's wineries. At Bull Run Regional Park Special Event's Center, Vintage Virginia is every wine lover's rite of passage into summer.

Hispanics in the American Revolution. Noon to 4 p.m. At Sully Historic Site. The Spanish Louisiana Regiment co-hosts an event that highlights contributions of Spanish-speaking nations in our fight for independence from Great Britain in the 18th century. At 12:30 p.m., Furia Flamenca performs elegant and exciting dances to guitar music. Lane's Mill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, will be at the site to discuss genealogical research. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. Call 703-437-1794.

Classical Youth Benefit Concert. 2 p.m. At the Gainesville United Methodist Church, 13710 Milestone Ct., in Gainesville.

Young classical players from the Washington, D.C., area will join their talents in presenting the Classical Youth Benefit Concert to raise funds for Possibilities Unlimited, a Christian humanitarian organization building a residential training center for special-needs youth in Central Eurasia. Anne Rupert, musical

director of the Youth Orchestras of Prince William, resides in Clifton.

MONDAY/JUNE 1

Spring Shoot-Out. 9 a.m. Sponsored by Blue Iguana's Restaurant. Golf tournament (Captain's Choice format) at Pleasant Valley Golf Club, 4715 Pleasant Valley Road, Chantilly. Call 703-631-7904. Cost is \$135 entry fee.

SATURDAY/JUNE 6

Sully Station Community Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to noon. Sponsored by the Sully Station Community Association. Maps and a list of the addresses are available at the community center, located at 5101 Sequoia Farms Drive, Centreville. Call Mary Patch Johnson at 703-222-2329.

Greenbriar Community Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many homes in this large community participating. Come find your treasures of toys, clothing, household goods, collectibles, and more. Community access from Stringfellow Road or Route 50 in Chantilly. Rain date Sunday, June 7.

Boy Scout Yard Sale. 8 a.m. to noon. Church of the Epiphany (Fairfax County Parkway and Franklin Farm Road). Furniture, toys, clothing, household items, electronics, bikes, CDs, DVDs, video games and more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 7

Fund-raiser. Noon-4 p.m. Joe's Crab Shack will be hosting a fund-raiser for the charity, "A Child's Joy," which provides sewn Christmas stockings to underprivileged children between the ages of 5-12. Joe's Crab Shack is located at 12831 Fair Lakes Pkwy, Fairfax.

SCHOOL NOTES

The **Westfield High Choral students** will be performing the Faure Requiem with an orchestra on Wednesday, June 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Pender Church.

The **24th annual Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee (CPMSAC)** awards ceremonies are slated for the first weekend in June. Achievement awards will be presented to middle- and high-school students on Saturday, June 6, at 5 p.m., at Chantilly High. Elementary-school students will receive their awards on Sunday, June 7, at 4 p.m., at London Towne Elementary.

The following newspaper and literary magazine students were winners in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's Gold Circle Awards. These national awards are the highest available for individual pieces.

❖ For Andromeda: **Marisa Reed:** Second Place in "Typography: Use of a designed or art headline" for the spread titled, "The IQ Equation;" The entire staff: Certificate of Merit in "Typography: General use of typography through the magazine;" **Alex Ott:** Certificate of Merit for "Page design: Literary portfolio" (three spreads by the same designer)

For The Purple Tide: **Jessica Albert:** First Place for "Op-Ed design: Tabloid format black and white;" **Shevy Chaganti and Joe Skopowski:** Third Place for "Photo layout: Full-page black and white;" **Colleen Cook and Ben Kekoler:**

Certificate of Merit for "Informational graphics: Black and white/black and white with one color."

These Chantilly High School students competed in Harrisonburg at the VHSL State Speech Forensics Tournament:

❖ **Wes Rutherford & Taylor Jarrell** – 3rd Place in the state for "Duo Interpretation of Literature" (2-person one-act play)

❖ **Kenny Lau** – 2nd Place in the state for "Original Oratory" (delivering a personally written speech)

❖ **"Avi" Jasjot Jaggi** – 4th Place in the state for "Original Oratory" (delivering a personally written speech)

Michael H. Bealey is the recipient of the 2009 Pamplin Leader Award at Chantilly High School. The Pamplin Leader is a one-year, \$1,000 scholarship to Virginia Tech. Presented annually to a top student from each public high school in the state, it was established by Robert B. Pamplin Sr. (VT, Class of '33) and Robert B. Pamplin, Jr., to acknowledge students with a record of outstanding academic achievement that is balanced with a commitment to community service and leadership experience. Michael is an Eagle Scout from Troop 1548, member of the National Honor Society, Chantilly and Greenbriar Swim teams, CYA basketball coach and player, and has been an intern for State Sen. Ken Cuccinelli's campaign for Attorney General. He will study business at Virginia Tech in the fall.

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Suns Shine Bright for Chantilly

Pole-vaulting twins lift Chantilly outdoor track and field team to new heights.

BY JASON MACKEY
CENTRE VIEW

Curtis Sun didn't have much of a choice. When his twin brother, Wesley Sun, started pole vaulting as a freshman at the behest of a neighbor — former Chantilly vaulter Dominic Lauchengco — Curtis Sun, though he might not have known at the time, would eventually be unable to resist the competition.

Whether it's basketball, football or Scrabble, the Sun brothers, now seniors at Chantilly High School, try to beat each other at everything. And pole vaulting is no different.

"We're really competitive," Wesley Sun said. "We both do sprints too, so we're always competing in that. He's faster than me in some of the shorter events, but I can beat him in the other ones."

In addition to being competitive, the past two weekends have proven that Wesley and Curtis Sun are talented, too. At the Concorde District championship meet on May 14-15, Curtis Sun took first with his 13-foot mark. His brother, because of a sore hamstring that has been bugging him for most of the season, sat out.

A week later at the region championship meet at Lake Braddock Secondary School, Wesley Sun bounced back, taking top honors with his vault of 14-06. Curtis Sun, meanwhile, was third at a personal-best 14-0.

"Top two in the region would've been awesome," Wesley Sun said. "We were pretty close."

While Wesley Sun has been pole vaulting for his entire high school career, Curtis Sun didn't start until his sophomore year after spending that first winter on Chantilly's swim and dive team. At the track and field meets that Curtis Sun attended, he watched his brother. He thought he could beat him. So he decided to try.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK HALL

At the Northern Region outdoor track and field championship meet last Friday, May 22, Chantilly's Wesley Sun won the pole vault with his mark of 14 feet, 6 inches.

CHANTILLY'S JUMPING coach Nick Burgoyne watches the pair every day at practice, and admits that the two, naturally, are very similar. A former Chantilly vaulter himself, Burgoyne insists that he can see that Curtis Sun's career trajectory is just slightly behind that of his twin brother, a sure sign attributable to his missed seasons.

In addition to that freshman campaign, Curtis Sun missed the outdoor track and field season during his sophomore year because of a stress fracture in his back. Then this past winter, Curtis Sun skipped the winter season to take up, of all things, boxing.

"I see Curtis coming up the same way Wes did, and he's progressing along the same timeline as Wes did," Burgoyne said. "It's awesome but I kinda wish he didn't box for a season. I kinda wish he didn't swim for a season or he didn't get hurt for a season. Then they'd both be 15-foot vaulters."

Despite the competition, both Sun brothers enjoy watching video of their performances together at home. Each can pick out specific



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK HALL

Wesley and Curtis Sun of Chantilly nearly swept the pole vault at the Northern Region outdoor track and field championships. "Top two in the region would've been awesome," Wesley Sun said.

Not the Only Ones

While Wesley and Curtis Sun finished first and third at last Friday's Northern Region championship meet, the Chantilly outdoor track and field team had a total of five pole vaulters qualify for this weekend's Virginia AAA state meet in Newport News.

On the boys' side, Josh Trikakis placed fifth with his mark of 13 feet, 3 inches and Kyle Cantrell finished sixth with a vault of 13-0. Nina Ullom paced the girls' team, finishing fifth at 9-0.

"They're so competitive as a group," said Chargers coach Matt Gilchrist, whose boys' team tied for 10th with 23 points. Chantilly's girls' team, meanwhile, was 19th with 12.5 points. "When you're fifth in the region and only the third best on your own team, that says something about your team."

mistakes and offer his own version of a correction. With a few more seasons under his belt, Wesley Sun often finds himself coaching his twin brother. And after joining the team, it didn't take long for Curtis Sun to improve.

After maxing out at 11-6 during the winter of his sophomore year, Curtis Sun returned from the back injury with a 13-0 season-best mark during the Concorde District championship meet of the spring season in 2008, finishing second to his brother's 13-06 mark.

This spring, Curtis Sun matched that 13-06 height at the Lake Braddock Hall of Fame Invitational on April 17-18. Still, Wesley Sun took first that day at 15-0 — his current personal-best mark. Then with Wesley Sun out with the hamstring injury, Curtis Sun had the spotlight all to himself at the district meet.

"When I first started, he was better than me," Curtis Sun said. "But as I got better he got better, and it became more of a competition thing. I didn't win as many meets as him, but I beat him once or twice and that was fun."

IN OTHER ACTION, Julian Bellamy of Westfield took second place in the long jump with his leap of 22-01 1/4, as the Bulldogs finished 18th with 13 points and South Lakes won its second straight region crown with 75.5.

Westfield's Kaylin Newman paced the girls' team, finishing second in the shot put with her throw of 36-03 3/4 and second in the discus at 107-01. Sarah Meier of Chantilly took third in the shot put at 33-06 1/4. Westfield's girls' team was 12th with 25 points, while Lake Braddock won its seventh straight region title with 105.5.

SPORTS

Yearly Tradition

On Saturday, May 9, the Sixth Annual Lees Corner versus Oak Hill basketball game was held at Chantilly High School. The game was a joint PTA fundraiser for future projects at the respective schools. Hundreds of students and their families attended to support the teams. The game started with a musical performance by the Oak Hill Band and then students sang the national anthem from both schools. The Lees Corner Band continued to play throughout the game, and at halftime each school's pep squad performed a cheer routine. Lees Corner won the game this year and both schools are ready for a show-down at next year's game.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICOLE BROWN

Drew Cohen, Andrew DeLeon, Joey Lisko and Cameron Vaughn of the Lees Corner boys' basketball team and Jake Fries, Chris Dare, Evan Green, Ricky Macheski and Adam Burnette of Oak Hill lineup for the tip-off at Chantilly High School on Saturday, May 9.

Semifinal Appearance

This past weekend, the Westfield crew team competed at the Scholastic Rowing Association's National Championship Regatta on Mercer Lake near Princeton, N.J. The men's and women's top varsity eight boats each advanced through two highly competitive heats to reach the semifinals. Westfield was one of only two area schools — Yorktown was the other — to have both its top men's and women's boats advance to the semifinals. Westfield boats also competed in the men's second varsity eight and the men's and the women's junior eights. Those competing in the men's top varsity boat were Paul Lorenzi, Craig Trumbull, Peter Schlatter, Peter Malm, Chip Mathieson, Perry Cox, Grant Bowden, Justin Aid and coxswain Ellie Goodman. Competing in the women's top varsity boat were Lauren Baker, Carrie Capps, Rachel Johnson, Virginia Ratcliff, Lindsay Toma, Darby Nelson, Stasia Schlatter, and Amy Gregory with Erin Friedlander as their coxswain. For more information about the Westfield Crew team, visit the team's Web site at www.westfieldcrew.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG MATHIESON/MAE

The Westfield men's varsity eight boat includes Justin Aid, Grant Bowden, Perry Cox, Chip Mathieson, Peter Malm, Peter Schlatter, Craig Trumbull, Paul Lorenzi and coxswain Ellie Goodman.

Basketball Camps

The Chantilly boys' basketball program will hold four consecutive weeks of basketball camps starting July 6 for boys ages 8 through 15. Cost is \$150 and the sessions will be held at Chantilly High School. For more information, call head coach Jim Smith at 703-222-6306 or visit the Chantilly athletics Web site at www.chantillysports.org.

The Westfield boys' basketball program will hold a series of four camps throughout the end of June and all of July. The first four-day session runs from June 29 through July 3; the second runs from July 13-17; the third from July 20-24; the fourth from July 27-31. For more information, contact Doug Ewell via email at douglas.ewell@fcps.edu.



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Police, Prosecutor Talk about Gang Problem

FROM PAGE 1

10, to do their bidding because, if they're caught, they won't receive stiff legal penalties. One member said, "If parents aren't providing a strong family for the child, the gang will." But, said authorities, "It's the wrong kind of family."

Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh said the existence of gangs in this county isn't a new problem and isn't going away anytime soon. "I've been in the prosecutor's office for 25 years, and the gang violence I've seen is mostly just senseless crimes. The names of the gangs change, but the problem persists." Regarding gang brutality, he said, "I can't tell you how many people I've seen maimed by machetes and baseball bats. I'm always amazed at the kind of damage people can inflict on one another."

But Morrogh stressed that Fairfax County has gotten ahead of the gang problem and is part of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force and shares information with other jurisdictions. He said the county's gang unit and SROs, plus education, are valuable tools in this fight "to save some of these kids before they get involved." But ultimately, he said, "It really comes down to the families. When it comes down to me, there's blood on the street and it's too late."

"Nothing is more important than

parental involvement," continued Morrogh. "And keep your eyes open in your neighborhood — and don't think it can't happen in your neighborhood, because it happened at Franklin Middle School. But we're all working together to keep your kids safe."

Addressing the audience, he said, "a lot of you are saying, 'My kid wouldn't join a gang,' but as a parent, I worry that MS-13 could roll up to McDonald's while your kids or my kids are there. So if your kids are dressing up and doing hand signs — playing at being gang members — tell them to knock it off, because the real gang members could take offense and beat them up."

Furthermore, advised Morrogh, "If your kids are out somewhere and someone flashes a gang sign at them, tell them to walk away. These people have got no motivation in life but to hurt people. And the fact that all you folks are here tonight is a testament to the real serious problem that we all care deeply about."

Sarah Allen, a regional director with the county's Human Services department, provided information packets about youth activities and opportunities within the county. Then Bob Bermingham, the county's gang-prevention coordinator, said the SROs meet and establish relationships with the students in the schools. And he and the detectives talk to parents about "kids who are starting to go down

the wrong road."

He said the county's middle schools have "quality, after-school programs" and "Here, in Fairfax County, human and social services and police work together." But, he warned, "If we don't create awareness and keep working together, we'll lose control of this issue."

Police Capt. Cindy McAlister, commander of the Sully District Station, called this area a wonderful place to live, work and raise children in, but told parents it's important to be aware of the dangers. "Spread the word to talk to your kids [about avoiding gangs]," she said. "Look in their notebooks for graffiti; see what they're etching on their windowsill, hanging in their room or wearing. In many homes, both parents have to work, but we're fortunate here that the county has resources for your kids to be in supervised environments — so please take advantage of them."

A woman who works at a middle school asked for more specifics about gangs, and the undercover detective replied, "The newest intelligence we have is that they're covering their tattoos, cutting their hair, sewing their bandanas inside their clothes, hiding their graffiti on sewers, in backs of notebooks and behind doors — to not call attention to themselves."

Traditionally, he said, Fairfax County has had "gang-on-gang violence, but we've had our share of it involving innocent bystand-

ers. Although they're going to gain more of a reputation and make a name for themselves by attacking a rival gang member."

Del. Chuck Caputo (D-67) attended the meeting and, afterward, he said that, following the incident at Franklin Middle, he met with the principal and the undercover detective. "I asked what I could do in the [state] legislature to give them more tools to work with, and [the detective] is going to get back to me. But one thing for sure, we've got to be vigilant."

Judge Sentences Teen In Gang Recruitment

FROM PAGE 1

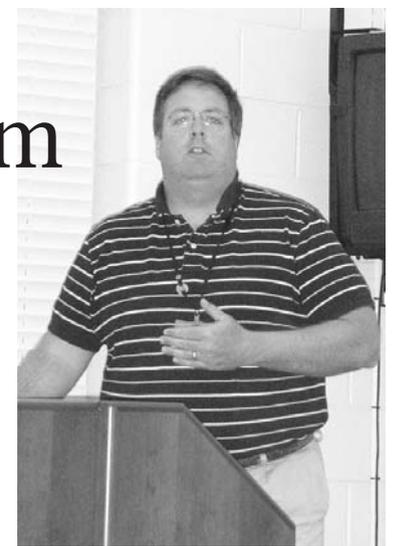
venile justice system, after serving more than 60 days in the Juvenile Detention Center and pleading guilty in April. Centre View is not identifying him because he's a minor but, according to police, he and his co-defendants tried to entice five students to join Sur 13 (Sur Trece), known as a violent street gang.

The solicitations occurred between October and November 2008, and the victims reported them in December 2008. They told police they resisted, but felt threatened and intimidated.

Following his arrest, the boy calling himself the gang leader told police he'd "been 'jumped in' [beaten in] to Sur 13 during summer 2007 and is a member," wrote an undercover gang detective in March affidavits for search warrants. "[He] also admitted 'tagging' several locations with gang graffiti and occasionally meet[ing] in Chantilly with other members. He stated that the gang had 15 members."

However, Thursday afternoon in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, the boy was quiet and soft-spoken. His parents sat in the first row while a female interpreter translated the proceedings into Spanish for them. While in jail, he attended school and did well, and the jail staff wrote what Judge Thomas Mann described as an "excellent report" about his behavior there. So although he entered the courtroom last week in handcuffs, he left it as a free person.

Mann sentenced the teen according to the recommendations of his probation officer. He committed the boy to the Department of Juvenile Justice for a period not to exceed his 21st birthday and then suspended that sentence, pro-



Bob Bermingham, gang-prevention coordinator

vided the teen behaves himself and violates no further laws.

He must also attend anger-management and victim-impact classes and have no more contact with the co-defendants or any other gang members. And, said the judge, "That 'no contact' also means by Facebook, MySpace, tweets, e-mails or texts."

In addition, Mann placed the boy on 12 months probation and ordered him to pay restitution for the cleaning of a wall that he and the other gang members had spray-painted with gang graffiti. And a sample of his DNA was to be taken for placement into Virginia's database of convicted felons.

Before leaving the courtroom with his parents, the teen thanked the judge and said he'd learned his lesson in the JDC. But, said Mann, "All you learned in the JDC was how not to be free. You're going to need to use all you learned from the counseling you received there, out in the world. If not, the probation officer can ask me to act and send you downstate 'til your 21st birthday — and that would be a disaster. You can avoid that by being a good student, a good son, a good friend — and choose your friends really carefully. Then, you and me, we're good. But if you go back to that life, [we're not], because gang life is just intolerable in Fairfax County."

Mann told the boy that, if he decides to participate in a gang, he'll no longer have freedom. "You should not let others have control over your life," he said. "Freedom is precious; don't let anybody like me be in a position to take it away from you. Do you know how to do that?"

"Stay out of trouble," replied the boy. Agreeing, the judge stressed, "That life was yesterday; you're looking at the future now."

Tips for Parents To Recognize And Prevent Gang Involvement

Fairfax County has compiled a list of warning signs of gang involvement for parents, plus prevention suggestions. Parents may also call the following phone numbers for more information: Gang Prevention, 1-866-914-GANG (4264); FCPS Safe & Drug-Free section, 571-432-4274; Gang-Prevention coordinator, 703-246-2396; and Northern Virginia Gang Task Force Tip Line, 1-866-664-2647.

Warning Signs

- ❖ Child hangs out with youths in gangs.
- ❖ Shows an unusual interest in one or two, particular colors of clothing or a certain logo.
- ❖ Unusually interested in gangster-influenced music, videos, movies or Web sites.
- ❖ Uses unusual hand signals to communicate with friends.
- ❖ Has a specific drawing or hand symbol on school-books, clothing or walls.
- ❖ Displays tattoos related to a particular gang.
- ❖ Has unexplained injuries, such as bruises and injuries to hands/knuckles.
- ❖ Has unexplained cash or goods, such as clothing or jewelry.
- ❖ Carries a weapon.
- ❖ Has been in trouble with the police.
- ❖ Exhibits negative changes in behavior, such as withdrawing from family, declining school attendance

or performance, staying out late with no reason, secrecy, signs of drug use, breaking rules consistently and speaking in gang-style slang.

What Parents Can Do

- ❖ Spend quality time with your child.
- ❖ Get involved in child's school activities.
- ❖ Encourage good study habits.
- ❖ Know child's friends.
- ❖ Encourage participation in positive, after-school activities.
- ❖ Be involved in Neighborhood Watch and report crimes, including graffiti.
- ❖ Teach child how to cope with peer pressure.
- ❖ Talk with child about dangers and consequences of gang involvement. Tell child that because you don't want him or her hurt or arrested, he or she shouldn't associate with gang members, attend gang-sponsored parties, or use hand signs, symbols, language or clothing having meanings to area gangs.

PEOPLE



PHOTO BY BARRY WHEELER

New Music Director

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra selected Christopher Zimmerman to be its new music director this upcoming season. Zimmerman, a guest conductor in May, was selected from a pool of 249 applicants across the globe and will take the podium Sept. 12, 2009 to begin the orchestra's 53rd season in Fairfax County. "I want to give people music that is entertaining, but music that is food for thought, food for their heart and soul. It has to be more than toe-tapping," Zimmerman said. See www.fairfaxsymphony.org or call 703-563-1990. Visit connectionnewspapers.com for more on the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and Zimmerman.

Chantilly Chamber Chorale To Perform

FROM PAGE 1

"The Blessing" performed by Kristen Duffy. In the pop tunes genre, Austin Tenny will sing Michael Buble's "Lost" and Jessica Brown will sing "Angel" by Sarah McLaughlin.

Tenny and Blair Whittington will perform the duet, "Lucky," by Jason Mraz; Peter Ikeda and Jamie Gorman will sing, "Love will Find a Way," by Tom Snow; and Cydney Hatch and David Harsh will per-

form "Quando, Quando" by Michael Buble. The choir will also sing two numbers all together, John David's "You are the New Day," and Keith Hampton's "Praise His Holy Name."

Fuchs said it's nice to give a concert at Ox Hill Baptist Church because it's a "smaller, more intimate setting than a high-school auditorium, and both the students and audience enjoy it. So it's a great evening of music in a lovely setting. It's very entertaining and is one of the most popular concerts we do all year."

PEOPLE NOTES

At the Centreville-Gateway Long & Foster office, **Darren Marquardt** was the top producer and the top lister, with a sales volume of \$1.9 million. **Gary Roach** was the top seller and Felipe Valdes was the agent with the most new listings (9). **Edwin Taylor** was the commercial Top Producer with a sales volume of \$15 million.

At the Centreville-Gateway Long & Foster office, **Darren Marquardt** was the Top Producer and the Top Lister, with a sales volume of \$1.5 million. **Cindy & Bill Glacken** were the Top Sellers and **Felipe Valdes** was the agent with the most new listings.

Leslie Atwood, of Fairfax, has been

named senior sales executive for Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles, an award-winning resort-style property and conference center in Chantilly.

The winners of the Blue Iguana March Free Lunch Contest are: **Sonja Palomaki** from International Association of Fire Chiefs; **Elizabeth Lane** from Bearing Point and **Greg**

Bertelsen from Pace Global.

K E M Johnston of Chantilly wrote "The Witness Tree and the Shadow of the Noose." It can be purchased at most bookstores and online.

Leslie Atwood, of Fairfax, has been named senior sales executive for Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles, www.westfieldsmarriott.com.

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WHS Choral

FROM PAGE 7

it because we have mad skills."

Senior Joshua White, a tenor, also likes "Libera Me" because "I love the solo Alex does." Toughest for White is having to sing a G-sharp at the end of "The Offertory" because it's so high. He said the whole program is beautiful and the audience will especially like the opening.

Classmate Amanda Buckner, a second soprano, likes the "Agnus Dei" (Lamb of God) portion. Since the first sopranos sing so loudly, she said, "It's hard to hear the other second sopranos" so they can sing together. But she's excited to sing this difficult and celebrated a work. Said Buckner: "We can put it on our resumé that we sang this in high school."

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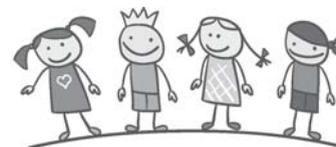


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It's Not Fun or Funny



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

The re-escalating price of gasoline is starting — or rather accelerating — its impact on my digestive system; that is to say, it's giving me more than indigestion. It's beginning to eat away at the layers of tolerance that I've built up over the years, and is likewise effecting, adversely I may add, my sunny disposition. In spite of the many suggestions one hears about driving to maximize one's use of gasoline as efficiently as possible (properly inflated tires; clean air filters; slowing down, generally, smoother accelerations and more gradual decelerations, etc.) the fact of the matter is, I wonder how much any of it really matters — in the big picture. Picture this, with less mattering, to me, I'm getting madder at more people for indiscretions, oversights, forgetfulness and so forth that I might otherwise have ignored when the price at the pump — and some of the related product and service increases — were not returning to previously painful highs.

Now I haven't quite gone public yet, with any of my observations and suggestions as the actual circumstances have presented themselves. But if anybody was telepathic or could read lips — or understood muttering — I'd have already gotten into a number of fistfights; well, verbal confrontations, at least. And it's not like I wrote the book on social discourse or proper behavior when push comes to shove (figuratively speaking, of course; I don't condone violence). But, there does seem to be a dollars and sense correlation. If I were to guess, and make a casual, non-scientific, not-supported-by-any-empirical-evidence observation — as the price of a gallon of gasoline goes up, people's behavior has an inverse reaction to it: it goes down, as in it gets worse. As the dollars needed to fill the tank become almost indecent (again), so too does the corresponding behavior of the person filling that tank.

I don't know if it's simply that we feel helpless against the forces combining (I didn't say conspiring, many others did, though; others with a great deal more knowledge and insight than I will ever have.) to prime the pump, but the loss of any control over a portion of the family, business and/or government budget allocated for such expenses, creates a stress unhealthy for mere mortal men. Moreover, the victimization and exploitation us mere mortal men feel as the Oil and Gas companies quarterly profits are announced simultaneously it seems, to the still-increasing unemployment rate and bankruptcy protections being granted to some of America's oldest and most familiar companies, gives one pause to reflect: Has America passed itself by? Is what opportunity and quality of life, which many of us have experienced — and some even taken for granted — indeed been compromised by circumstances many in a position of responsibility say is mostly beyond our country's control? And if so, does that mean that our future is not nearly as bright as we thought it was? And if the future is likely to be more difficult than the past, then my attempts at humor concerning the minutiae of everyday life seem rather unimportant.

But I can't solve any of these problems; I can only write about them — and complain (a little ignorance goes a long way). I have to tell you, though, from where I sit — and write, it's getting ugly. People (myself included) are getting irritated, and unless something changes soon, the American consumer will be an endangered species.

Put that in your oil tanker and ship it!
Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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