



PHOTO BY MARY NELMS

The gamblers include, front row (left to right), Max Ehrlich, Nick Burroughs, Andrew Freix, Julian Sanchez, Osman Tirmizi, Andrew Oquendo; second row, Howie Bouchat, Kevin Clay, Adam Thomas, Alexander Kruszewski, Trevor Knickerbocker, Chaz Coffin, Josh Greenberg, and, back row, Joey Biagini, Bradyn Heck, Andrew Nye, Chris Hoffman, Will Clayton, and Taylor Nelms. (Not pictured: Golshan Jalali.)

Alliance Presents 'Willy Wonka'

'I've Got a Golden Ticket'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Golden tickets, Oompa Loompas and a chocolate river — all these things and more are part of The Alliance Theatre's production of the musical, "Willy Wonka."

With a cast of 85 and crew of 15, it'll take the stage at Chantilly High on July 24, 30, 31 and Aug. 1 at 7:30 p.m.; and July 25, 26 and Aug. 1, 2 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12-\$20 at www.TheAllianceTheatre.org or 703-220-8101.

In the title role is Burke resident Timothy R. King, theater teacher at Springfield's Irving Middle School. Wonka owns a candy factory and is looking for someone to leave it to, so he places golden tickets inside chocolate bars, and the children finding them are invited to the factory for a wild adventure.

"Wonka is unpredictable, eccentric, a little scary, funny and charming," said King, dressed in a purple-velvet morning coat and a brown wool hat. "I go from one to the other in the drop of a hat. It's wonderful — a dream role I always wanted to play. There's just something so intriguing about the part, and freedom in being unpredictable and getting to put your own stamp on it. And the hat is super cool."



PHOTO BY MARY ZEMPOLICH

From left to right, Mike Cash, Anthony Ingargiola and Timothy R. King are in the "Wonka-Vator."

Memorizing all the lines is a bit difficult, he said. "There are a lot of tongue twisters and things that aren't easy to say, but it's more fun than hard." Best, said King, is singing "Pure Imagination" because "I love that song; the words and melody are beautiful and there's something dreamy about it."

He directed his own students in this play, two years ago, and says it's nice not to be in charge now, but to get to play Wonka. "What the directors have done with the show is very creative," he said. "There are some surprises — for example, with the chocolate river and the set. Yet, the story is still intact and this one is

SEE ALLIANCE, PAGE 3

'Luck, Be a Lady Tonight'

'Guys and Dolls' at Westfield Summer Stage.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Since 2001, Westfield Summer Stage has wowed local audiences with its annual, musical-theater production. And Director Lori Knickerbocker says its upcoming presentation of the legendary Broadway musical, "Guys and Dolls," will keep the tradition alive.

"I think it's going to be our best production ever," she said. "We have a young and enthusiastic cast and more than 150 people overall are involved. It's an upbeat show with a happy ending, and our goal this summer is to make people leave the theater whistling the tunes."

Show times are Thursday-Sunday, July 23, 24, 25 and 26, at 7:30 p.m. each night, at Westfield High. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door; all seating is reserved. Order tickets at

www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com.

Based on a story by Damon Runyon, and featuring music and lyrics by Frank Loesser — plus a 25-person, live orchestra — "Guys and Dolls," follows what happens while Nathan Detroit seeks a location for "the oldest established permanent floating crap game in New York. He bets gambler Sky Masterson that he (Masterson) can't convince Sarah Brown to go to Havana on a date with him. And since Brown is a sergeant in the Save-A-Soul Mission, winning her over is tougher than Masterson expected.

"He's got an answer for everything — until he meets Sarah."

— Colby Dezelick who plays Sky Masterson

Some 64 middle- and high-school students are in the show, including Nathan Neeley, Kevin Clay, Trevor Knickerbocker, Alex Kruszewski, Max Ehrlich, Sarah Bowden, Nick Burroughs, Josh Greenberg, Taylor Nelms, Andy Nye, Will Clayton, Caitlin Booe,

Golshan Jalali, Heather Doubleday and Meredith Freeman. There's also a large ensemble of singers, dancers and actors portraying gamblers, Hot Box girls in the dance club and townspeople.

Yvonne Henry is the choreographer; Charlie Manship, musical director; Carol Jones, vocal di

SEE SUMMER STAGE, PAGE 2

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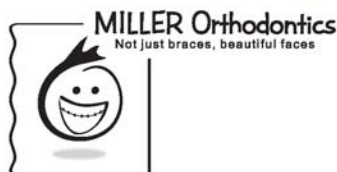
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NEWS

Summer Stage

FROM PAGE 1

rector; and Bonnie Cowdery, producer. Megan Henry is stage manager, with assistants Eden Volbrecht and Amanda Buckner. Sets by Craig Dykstra and Chris Burroughs transport the audience to the 1940s, as do the colorful costumes by Chris Hobbs and lighting by Stacy King.

"The choreography is just phenomenal," said Director Knickerbocker. "Yvonne's really outdone herself. Carol and Charlie have taught the kids to sing four-part harmony, and Chris Hobbs has knocked herself out and really brought these characters to life with her colorful, period costumes."

"And the sets are gorgeous," continued Knickerbocker. "We have a Times Square backdrop with 12-foot-tall, Broadway marquees. Artist Chris Burroughs designed the set and handpainted much of it, including a 20-foot-wide seascape for the Havana scene. Craig Dykstra is building the sets, and it's been a smooth process, thanks to his genius."

Westfield junior Adam Thomas plays Nathan Detroit. "I'm the leader of New York's floating craps game, and a lot of my fellow gamblers look up to me," said Thomas. "When I'm around them, I act heroic, like the big cheese. And when guys like Sky and Big Julie — the real high rollers — come around, I lay low."

But deep down, said Thomas, Detroit's kind of phony because he's cowardly. "I've been engaged to my fiancé, Adelaide, for 14 years, but have been preoccupied with the craps game," he said. "All Adelaide wants to do is get married, and I lie and tell her I'm not gambling anymore."

Thomas said it's "awesome" playing Detroit. "He's got so many different sides. For most of the show, his lines and actions are really big, so I use a lot of energy to play him. The hardest part is changing emotions on a dime — for example, from loving to angry. But it's cool that he's a big figure in the eyes of his fellow gamblers."

He said the audience will enjoy the comedic bits and funny one-liners between him and the gamblers. His favorite song is "Sue Me," in which Adelaide is fed up with his stalling and he apologizes and tells her he loves her.

Portraying Adelaide is Westfield junior Avery Hobbs. "Adelaide is bubbly and really wants Nathan to

SEE 'GUYS'. PAGE 6

ROUNDUPS

Kathy Smith Elected Board Chairman

Kathy Smith, Sully District's representative on the Fairfax County School Board, is now its leader. Last Thursday, July 8, she was elected board chairman for the second time.

Smith, of Chantilly's Poplar Tree Estates community, joined the board in March 2002 after winning a special election and was re-elected in 2003 and 2007. During her tenure, she's established student-achievement goals encompassing academics, essential life skills and civic responsibility. She's also championed all-day kindergarten, foreign languages for students and fiscal responsibility for the board.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections, Thursday, July 16 and July 23, 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.

WFCCA Quarterly Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee is slated for Monday, July 20, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly. Discussion items include residential parking (Brookfield Civic Association) and the sale of alcohol at gas stations in the local community.

WFCCA Land-Use to Meet

The next meeting of the West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee is slated for Tuesday, July 21, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly.

Learning about Lyme Disease

To educate the public and raise awareness of the dangers and serious implications of Lyme disease, Supervisors Pat Herry (R-Springfield) and Michael Frey (R-Sully) will hold a town hall meeting, Wednesday, July 22, at 7 p.m. It will be in the cafeteria of Centreville High, 6001 Union Mill Road in Clifton, and the community is encouraged to attend.

Park Authority to Meet

The Fairfax County Park Authority will meet Wednesday, July 22, at 7:30 p.m., in the Herry Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 900 in Fairfax. Call Judy Pedersen at 703-324-8662.

WFCM Needs Food Donations

During the school year, many students in need in the local community receive free and reduced-prices lunches at their schools. But that doesn't happen during the summer, so their families turn to Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) for help, even more. However, according to Executive Director Melissa Jansen, the organization "desperately needs help" from area residents, in the form of food donations so it may continue to serve people from its food pantry.

Especially needed are: Canned fruit, canned meat (Spam, chicken, Vienna sausages), hot and cold cereal, canned pasta, chili, rice, dried beans, coffee, sugar and cooking oil. The food pantry is at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly, and donations are accepted Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; and the first and third Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 7



The cast of Alliance Theatre's "Willy Wonka."

PHOTO BY LAURIE GRIGGS

Alliance Presents 'Willy Wonka'

FROM PAGE 1

true to the original version."

CENTREVILLE HIGH sophomore Anthony Ingargiola portrays Charlie Bucket. "He's poor, but caring and generous, and always thinking positive — which is his family's motto," said Ingargiola. "He dreams of finding the golden ticket, meeting Mr. Wonka and seeing the factory."

He's having fun with his part and believes audience members will be able to connect with Charlie. "He's going through a transformation after finding the golden ticket," said Ingargiola. "It's like his biggest dream was achieved and being poor doesn't matter anymore. I like that he's a nice kid who always strives to reach his goals, despite the difficulties he has to overcome."

Ingargiola's favorite song is "Think Positive," which Charlie sings with his father. "It's a fun, upbeat number that kicks up the mood," he said. "And I get to be in a kickline with a bunch of girls." He said children attending the show will like all the audience interaction, plus the special effects, such as the Wonkavator and a scene with Mike Teavee."

Playing Charlie's Grandpa Joe is Mike Cash of Chantilly's Franklin Glen community. "He's humble and the eternal optimist," said Cash. "He always hopes for the best, believes it will come and — even in the worst of times — believes in his heart that things will work out. And he thinks Charlie hung the moon; he's the only grandchild, so all his grandparents' affection is heaped on him."

Cash is pleased that he doesn't have to be serious, all the time, and he has the flexibility to be silly and develop his character. "I seem to get cast when they need someone willing to make a fool of himself," he said. "But I'd rather be typecast than not cast."

He has to remind himself he's playing an older man and can only kick up his heels so much. But he loves his role and especially his song, "Flying," because, he said, "My favorite, recurring dream in real life is actually flying — without a plane — so it feels very uplifting to me."

Cash says "Willy Wonka" is also a real crowd-pleaser: "Everybody in the audience has small problems and big problems, and this is a wonderful escape for a short while."

SPORTING A GERMAN accent, Lynn Simmons-Chvotkin portrays Mrs. Gloop, whose obese son Augustus found a golden ticket. "She's encouraged

his overeating and doesn't realize the harm she's doing to him physically," said Simmons-Chvotkin. "She's charming, nurturing, motherly, traditional and Old World and is proud that she's reared a unique child and is his champion. But she's also a bit ditzy."

It's Simmons-Chvotkin's first show with Alliance and, she said, "It's a delightful and professional group, and it's heartening to work with kids so talented and dedicated. I thought it would be a good opportunity and a fun time, and I'm having a ball. I have lots of latitude to develop the character and get to add comedy to her. The music and lyrics of her songs are great fun and a challenge."

She especially likes "The Candy Man" number because "it's uplifting; and in this time when people are so concerned about the economy, jobs and the war, it's a nice, optimistic diversion." She said the audience will enjoy the show's sights, sounds and colors. "Alliance has gone to great lengths," she said. "There are fabulous costumes and incredible sets — way beyond the scope of usual, community theater. There are things that fly and spin, plus pathos, comedy, mystery, laughter and surprise. You run the gamut of every emotion, and it brings us all back to our childhood."

Rocky Run Middle School eighth-grader Amanda Mason plays ticket winner Veruca Salt. "She's a complete, spoiled brat because her dad gets her whatever she wants," said Mason. "She's rich and her father's a pushover. It's completely different from how I really am, but my real dad is my dad in the show, so we already have father-daughter chemistry."

It's a little hard doing a British accent, she said, but she loves her scene where Veruca goes out of control. "I sing, 'I Want it Now' and, after that, I fall onto a garbage chute for bad nuts," said Mason. "The audience will like the creative ways kids are used in this show; it's very 'out there.'"

PORTRAYING an Oompa Loompa is Oakton's Colin Carmody, 9. "It's fun because you get to be silly and teach kids a lesson," he explained. "But you don't just say it; you do things to teach it to them and then sing funny songs about it with dances. This is a great fit for me because there are both kids and adults in the show and I've made lots of new friends."

Clifton's Emily Dillard, 10, plays several small roles, including an Oompa Loompa, a squirrel in training and a therapist. She likes being an Oompa Loompa best because "they're fun, little, mystical creatures from Loompaland. You cannot not love an Oompa

SEE ALLIANCE, PAGE 7

Community College To Lead the Way

Options for students looking for a way to get into top schools while saving money.

Northern Virginia Community College offers many local students of all ages an accessible and affordable path to success.

In the Connection this week, education reporter Julia O'Donoghue highlights one little known program at NVCC that the region's top students should carefully consider.

Competition is so steep to get into Virginia's top colleges and universities, like the University of Virginia and the College of William and Mary, that students with excellent grades and SAT scores, plus many other accomplishments, still have been unable to win acceptance to the

schools of their dreams.

But those students who really want a degree from a particular Virginia school can control their own fate by first enrolling at Northern Virginia Community College.

The process is not simple; students and their families must carefully study all of the requirements. But if a student gets their associate degree while taking the required classes set by the college where they would like to transfer, achieving the required grade point average, filing the letters of intent with the state college of their choice, then that student is guaranteed acceptance as a transfer student.

Students who make use of this program can graduate from a top Virginia college or university in four years, and they will have saved thousands of dollars in tuition along the way.

Another advantage of attending NVCC for two years is evident for the many students who have taken International Baccalaureate courses. NVCC will accept those classes (with passing test scores) for credit; then four-year

colleges will accept the NVCC credits. For many students, the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate credits they carry forward into college can save a full year of college, and college tuition, for some students saving as much as \$40,000.

NVCC also offers degree and certification programs in myriad fields that meet the needs of older students and students who are not headed for a four-year degree.

Demand is surging at NVCC, not surprisingly. The institution will need funding and flexibility going forward.

Read our story, Northern Virginia Community College "Guarantees," inside our July issue of our new monthly camps and schools section, A+: Education, Learning, Fun in this issue or online at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com. Click on "print editions online" in the red bar at the top of the page.

Let us know your thoughts and experiences.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

Party Support Appreciated

To the Editor:

On June 18 approximately 710 seniors graduated from Westfield High School at the George Mason Patriot Center. Immediately following the ceremony, 500 people boarded charter buses headed to the ESPN Zone in Washington, D.C. to attend a lock-in celebration. Since opening in September 2000, Westfield has offered each graduating class a safe, fun and memorable drug and alcohol-free celebration. The tradition continued for the Westfield High School Class of 2009 because the citizens and businesses of Chantilly, Centreville and Herndon understand the importance of such an event. With difficult economic times, even more ticket "scholarships" were given to students in need this year, due to the generosity of the community.

None of this could be accomplished without the contributions from the community. The Westfield High School Class of 2009 shared fun, good food and best wishes for life after high school at their All Night Graduation Party "Carpe Diem." Thank you to the WHS principals Tim Thomas and Dave Jagels, Class sponsors, Amy Ward, Amy Sutphin, and Pat Williams, Christy Jenkins, and the staff at Westfield High School who consistently put the best interests of our students first. Thanks to the scores of parents, family members, and friends who spent countless hours planning the ANGP, and dealt with the uncertainty of planning the event at an out-of-house venue at the ESPN Zone and to the 24 parents who stayed up all night in DC with the grads, chaperoning or dealing with the event games.

Parents of younger children often do not understand why all of the hype about ANGP: the ultimate goal to keep our graduates safe on the riskiest night of the year, to continue to teach them how to have fun without drugs and alcohol- something that is done nationwide, due to accident statistics.

Thank you to the following businesses and organizations whose donations of resources or services helped make the event possible: Assemblers Incorporated, Costco, Always Fun Casinos, Boy Scout Troop 30, United Parcel Service, Data Systems and Technology, Five Guy's, Frank Parsons, Girl Scouts, Kiwanis Club of Fairfax, Lenore Bullock with Long & Foster Realtors, Moe's, McDonald's- Van Management, Sundra Printing, Wegman's Fairfax, The Woman's Club, and the Westfield Business Owner's Association.

Finally, thanks to the Westfield High School community for purchasing over 18,500 bags of mulch in support of the All Night Graduation Party to make the event possible: Living Color Landscapes, Clippers, Inc., Village Landscapes, Katchmark Construction, and the Cronin family who donated their business' trucks to help with mulch delivery. We are also appreciative of the collaborative efforts by the WHS Track Team and Crew Club athletes and parents for their mulch spreading, most of which was in the rain.

On behalf of the All Nigh Graduation Committee thanks to all. We could not have done it without your support.

Jennifer Campbell

PTSA President
Westfield High School

Steve and Helene Nichols

Clifton

Endurance Challenge

A regular program of physical conditioning has started early for Scouts and Adult Leaders of Boy Scout Troop 1104 preparing to backpack their way through Philmont Scout Ranch in July 2010. Philmont, the Boy Scouts of America's High Adventure base located in the New Mexico wilderness, will challenge the Scouts for 11 days. The route they are taking is 82 miles minimum from start to finish, which does not include optional side hikes. Those scouts and adults participating at Philmont must be physically prepared to carry a 35- to 50-pound pack (containing all their own food, water, cooking and sleeping gear) over steep, rocky



PHOTO BY CHUCK STONE

trails at elevations ranging from 6,500 to 12,500 feet while protecting themselves and their gear from wild animals such as bear. To learn more about Boy Scout Troop 1104 contact Scoutmaster Bo Reese, at 703-830-0048 or blreese1@cox.net.

Fraud Charges Sent to Grand Jury

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

In February, Fairfax County police charged a Chantilly woman with 14 counts of prescription fraud. Eleven of them have since been dropped, but three are moving forward in the legal system.

The woman is Heidi Hendrix Fleming, 33, of 14600 Pam Am Ave. in the Meadows of Chantilly community. Officer J.N. Herring explained the case against her in a Feb. 2 affidavit for a warrant to search her home for possible evidence.

He wrote that, on that date, he responded to 8505 Arlington Blvd., Suite 200, in Fairfax in regard to a prescription-fraud investigation that began in November 2008. He stated that the pharmacist at Prosperity Pharmacy, at that same address, but in Suite 110, allegedly reported that Fleming had been "dropping off forged prescriptions since November 2008."

Herring wrote that the doctor who'd reportedly written the prescription she'd allegedly tried to fill, Feb. 2, was notified and was actually Fleming's supervisor. The Chantilly woman had worked in the doctor's office, in Suite 200, since June 2005.

"The suspect [reportedly] forged and/or stole legitimate prescriptions from two, separate doctors at this office and submitted them to the Prosperity Pharmacy for refill," wrote the officer. "Both physicians [allegedly] confirmed that the prescriptions in question were fraudulent."

Herring stated that the pharmacist working the

counter, Feb. 2, alerted the doctor's office about the reportedly phony prescription and the doctor's office called the police. Upon the officer's arrival at the doctor's office, wrote Herring, "The physician dismissed [Fleming] from her employment with the company and [I] subsequently placed Fleming under arrest."

He noted that copies of the 14 fraudulent prescriptions were confiscated from the doctor's office as evidence and all of them were for "Schedule II narcotics." Herring wrote that, after being read her Miranda rights, Fleming allegedly "openly admitted to stealing the prescriptions and using them to obtain Schedule II narcotics. [She] denied selling the prescriptions, but did [reportedly] admit that she has been addicted to pain medications for nearly five months."

Police executed the search warrant at Fleming's trailer on Feb. 3 and seized a credit card with powder, plus 15 pill bottles. She appeared June 3 in General District Court and, at that time, Judge Michael Cassidy certified three of her charges to the grand jury for possible indictment.

FAITH NOTES

Congregation Yad Shalom, located in Centreville, provides a variety of programs in a traditional format with a modern flair:

- ❖ Ask about the K - 2 Hebrew school for the children for the upcoming year.
- ❖ Join the congregation and Cantor Zucker for a BBQ and Havdalah service on Saturday, July 18 at 6 p.m.

For more information and/or directions, contact the Congregation at 703-579-6079, or visit www.yadshalom.com.

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THEATER

'Guys and Dolls' at Westfield

FROM PAGE 2

marry her," said Hobbs. "But he refuses to settle down so she's confused. She's a dumb blonde who dances at the local club, the Hot Box, and I love this role because I sing, dance and get to do jazz and tap."

She's also delighted to work with Thomas because they've been friends since seventh grade. Toughest is talking in a high-pitched voice with a New York accent. But she's pleased that her character is "funny, but doesn't realize it." She especially likes the number, "Bushel and a Peck," a tap dance with the Hot Box dancers, because she and her friend, Sarah Bowden, helped choreograph it.

WESTFIELD SOPHOMORE Colby Dezelick plays Masterson. "He's the top gambler and the best-looking guy, too," said Dezelick. "He captures your attention when he walks into a room, and he has a huge reputation as a ladies man. He's about to go to Havana for a big game, and he bets Nathan Detroit that he can take any 'doll' Nathan names with him."

That's how Masterson meets Sarah Brown of the Save-A-Soul Mission. "Nathan figures he'll win because she's so prim and proper, but Sky is sharp, suave and knows what he's doing," said Dezelick. "He's fun to play because of his coolness, and he's wealthy from gambling so he's always well-dressed. And his lines are great; he's got an answer for everything — until he meets Sarah."

His favorite song is "Luck, Be a Lady" that he sings when Masterson bets the other gamblers \$1,000 each. If Sarah accompanies him to Havana, they'll show up at her mission as sinners seeking repentance. But this time, said Dezelick, "He has 'more than dough' riding on the outcome." Dezelick said the audience can relate to the various characters' relationships and will like the show because "it's a great mix of music and the songs work really well with the story."

A 2009 Westfield grad, Claire Manship plays Sarah Brown, a Christian missionary who falls hard for Masterson. "She's extremely conservative and is in her early 20s, but doesn't know how

to act young," said Manship. "But she loves her job and has such a devotion to God that she wouldn't want to do otherwise. The last few roles I've played were loud, obnoxious and crazy, so it's interesting to portray this reserved character."

Hardest, she said, is "finding ways to relax my own, inherent, energetic personality and childishness. I find it difficult to be believably mature — which is ironic because I'm one of the oldest people in the cast. But it's exciting and challenging to end my time on the Westfield stage with a role unlike any other I've ever played."

Manship's favorite number is "I'll Know," sung by Sky and Sarah. "I went to Governor's School for opera last summer, but never had the chance to use that skill here," she explained. "Now, I get to use it in all my songs." Manship said the audience will enjoy the gamblers ensemble and their unity shows in their choreography.

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NEWS

Alliance

FROM PAGE 3

Loompa. They'll give you the creeps, one minute, and be sweet and harmless, the next." She enjoys being in the show because "I can make new friends and learn more about acting."

Director Matt Lanoue-Chapman has received "tons of support" from parent volunteers and says the play's coming along wonderfully. "The set is fantastic — gorgeous, very smart and intricately designed by Craig Dykstra." And although King's playing in the "enormous shadows" of Gene Wilder and Johnny Depp, who both portrayed Wonka in the movies, Lanoue-Chapman said he's definitely up to the challenge.

"That role requires an actor who can still hold some of their magic, but add himself to it, and Tim King pulls it off," he said. "So audiences will be pleased with him as Willy Wonka; and I, as an actor, have really enjoyed watching him."

Lanoue-Chapman said Artistic Producer Elaine Wilson tasked him to make every special effect bigger than the one before it — and Alliance has done so with help from Scott Nurmi of Mojo Factory Productions and Kurt Gustafson of Lost Weekend Productions. "The special effects don't feel gimmicky, but really slick," said Lanoue-Chapman. "And everybody will love this story."

ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 3

Backpacks Are Needed

Each year, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) collects backpacks for the 24 elementary, middle and high schools in Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton, Fairfax Station and the 22033 area of Fairfax (including Greenbriar, Fair Oaks and Fair Lakes). But with so many local families unable to provide them for their children, WFCM is asking area residents to help. These new backpacks are provided at no cost to those students receiving free or reduced-price school lunches. And for the 2009-2010 school year, school counselors have requested nearly 1,000 backpacks.

Donations of new, large-size backpacks (without wheels) may be dropped off anytime this summer, prior to Aug. 19. Bring them to WFCM at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly. They'll then be delivered directly to the schools sometime during the week of Aug. 24. For more information, contact Pam Ryan at development@wfcmv.org.

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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.

THURSDAYS

Hope for Today Al-Anon Family Group. 7:15 p.m. Help for friends and family of problem drinkers. At Centreville Presbyterian Church, 15450 Lee Hwy., Centreville. Go to www.AlAnonVA.com.

FRIDAY/JULY 17

Dairy Days. 1-4 p.m. \$5/person. Make your own ice cream and churn your own butter. The kids can play historic games, and enjoy a taste of 18th century life and marvel at the difference between today and yesteryear. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Call 703-437-1794.

Peterson's Ice Cream Depot Charity Fundraiser. 6 p.m.-9 p.m. at 7150 Main Street, Clifton. The Depot will donate a portion of its evening proceeds to The Bryce Foundation, a charitable organization dedicated to assisting pediatric oncology patients and their families. For more information on The Bryce Foundation, call 703-266-0146 or visit www.BryceFoundation.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 18

Clowning Around With Shakespeare. 10-11 a.m. At E.C. Lawrence Park amphitheater. An interactive, fast-paced one-person show filled with humor of Shakespeare's clowns. Production is put on by Young Audiences of Virginia. At 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469).

Attorney Mitch Lambros will discuss applying for Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) benefits when you have 'difficult to diagnose' syndromes which include pain, fatigue insomnia, and/or anxiety. Presented by The NOVA Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), Fibromyalgia (FM), and MVPS/Dysautonomia (OI) Support Group. Saturday, July 18, from, 10 a.m. - 12 noon, in the McDonnell Room, Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly. No registration required; no fee. Contact Elly at 703-968-9818 or CFSsupport-owner@yahoo.com. On the web, see www.cfsnova.com

Peter Douskalis Performs. 7-9 p.m. At Pacino Ristorante. This is Peter's last appearance before starting graduate studies at NYU. Free admission. At 5653 Stone Road, Centreville. Call 703-222-5885.

TUESDAY/JULY 21

Rotary Meeting. 11.15 a.m. at Eggspectations, 5009 Westone Plaza, Chantilly, off Westfields Blvd. Speaker: Sahil Sinha, president of INO Solutions, on "The Digital Divide." Prospective members and visitors welcome; \$12 lunch Call Mary Ann Imgram at 703-966-8168.

Tour of McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operational Center. 10 a.m. Sponsored by the central Virginia chapter of WTS, a professional group advancing the careers of women in transportation, includes lunch. Cost is \$15/members, \$20/nonmembers. At 4890 Alliance Drive, Fairfax. RSVPs due by Friday, July 17, to Tammy Thomas at tkthomas@pbsj.com.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 22

Lyme Disease Forum. 7 p.m. Supervisors Pat Herrity and Michael Frey are hosting a Town Hall Meeting to discuss practical steps that can be taken to reduce the risks of contracting

SEE WORTH, PAGE 11

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Not Counted Out Yet

Fairfax resident Mark 'Carnage' Perez, 47, still chasing his wrestling dreams.

BY JASON MACKEY
CENTRE VIEW

Just beyond a Best Western in Wilmington, N.C., a red brick building sits to the left of seven orange barrels, loose gravel and a sign alerting visitors that the road ahead is not fit for use.

That building, the Coastline Convention Center, used to host wrestling shows. Seven years ago, Mark "Carnage" Perez was carried away from that brick building on a stretcher. In a summer 2002 match, Perez suffered a cut in the middle of his forehead, courtesy of Abdullah the Butcher's hand and a fork.

"Whenever you wrestle Abdullah the Butcher, there's going to be blood," said the 47-year-old Fairfax resident. "Somebody's getting cut."

Memories like these do not deter Perez from living his dream. They encourage it. Although he's been luckier than most, having yet to suffer a broken bone, Perez has no peaceful way to describe the way he spends his weekends.

Spending between 20-25 weekends a year on the road, Perez wrestles in convention centers, armories or gymnasiums, sometimes for little or no money.

But the 6-foot-5, 260-pound Perez also has children and a stable job, working for the past four years as a business services coordinator at Sallie Mae, a financial services firm based in Reston where Perez has his own office and a staff to supervise.

Perez was married once but has been divorced for 10 years. Only one of his children still lives in the area. Mark Perez Jr. lives with his mother in Chambersburg, Pa. and occa-



A 47-year-old professional wrestler, Mark 'Carnage' Perez warms up before a show in Charlotte, N.C. on Saturday, June 27.

sionally escorts his dad to the ring. His middle daughter, Heather Fuller, died from cancer in 2004 at the age of 18.

"Even after all this time, it's still pretty weird seeing a little kid running up to your dad asking for his autograph," said Kandi Welsh, 22, Perez's oldest daughter. "Even though I've been seeing it since I was tiny, it's still pretty weird because in my eyes he'll always just be my dad."

ALFONZO WEBB has spent the past 13 years of his life at Sallie Mae and the past three of them working under Perez. Webb graduated from George Washington High School and wrestled during that time at 95



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/CENTRE VIEW

During a match on Saturday, June 27, Carnage applies a headlock. Known during the day as Mark Perez, he works as a business services coordinator at Sallie Mae in Reston.

pounds. Now, he plays the bongos in a funk band called "The Suns of Soul."

Whenever materials are delivered to the loading dock at Sallie Mae, it's Webb's job to greet the carrier and to make sure the drop-off goes as planned. It's not Webb's job, though, to intimidate that person.

"When the delivery people come in here, I tell them, 'Don't be coming up here with a bunch of noise. My supervisor is a professional wrestler,'" Webb said. "I take them over to his office and show them the pictures."

The pictures to which Webb directs deliverymen include the poster from the night when Perez's forehead was turned into a dinner plate. Director of building operations Larry Zepp, Perez's boss, said that he's yet to see a banged-up Perez hobbling into work on Monday morning, the differences in his two career choices are striking.

"A lot of people have more than one career, but I think this one's a little bit more flashy than the others," Zepp said. "You have a little difference in perspective that way."

THIRTY-FIVE miles southwest of the Coastline Convention Center sits a small fishing town called Shallotte, N.C., with a population of about 1,600. In the summer of 2001, Perez had finished a show with his tag team, an up-and-coming star named Mike Youngblood, and the two stopped off for a few beers at The Anchor Inn, a hole-in-the-wall, blue cloud-type place where Harley Davidsons line the sidewalk outside.

The bar's owner dabbled in professional wrestling and would routinely invite both wrestlers and fans to mingle there after shows around Shallotte. After Perez and Youngblood

kicked off what would become a six-year partnership, an overzealous, inebriated fan took exception to Youngblood and was in the process of swinging a beer bottle at his head. But before the fan connected, Perez dropped him with a single punch.

"Ever since then, we've been like brothers," Youngblood said.

A slightly more heartwarming story makes
SEE COUNTED, PAGE 15

Wrestling Glossary

Wrestling, like many professions, has its own language. It also has an unspoken — well, unheard — code. Whenever wrestlers lock in close, it's usually because they're discussing strategy for the next series of moves.

Here are a few wrestling terms and their definitions.

Powder out — Whenever one wrestler scrambles outside of the ring, it's generally because the series of pre-planned moves has veered off course. This is designed as sort of a reset-button approach.

Face — Short for "babyface" and describes those wrestlers who the fans are supposed to cheer for.

Heel — Opposite of a face and, essentially, the match's or promotion's villain.

Stretching — Oftentimes young wrestlers won't listen to their older, more experienced peers. So the older wrestler, known as a shooter (see below), will purposely inflict more pain than would otherwise be necessary. This is typically done to teach younger wrestlers a lesson.

Shooter — An older wrestler hired by a promoter with the goal in mind of stretching out one of the younger wrestlers who refuses to cooperate.

Worked — As in, "worked him." Wrestlers refer to a match as working their opponent, not wrestling them.



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/CENTRE VIEW

Mark 'Carnage' Perez attended Savannah Powell's, far right, birthday party when she turned 8. "That was crazy. I had no idea about it," she said.

WORTH NOTING

FROM PAGE 9

the disease. At Centreville High School's cafeteria, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton.

JULY 22-24

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JULY 23-26

Westfield High School "Summer Stage" presents the musical "Guys & Dolls" July 23, 24, 25 and 26 at 7:30 p.m. Order online reserved seating at www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com or call 703-488-6439 for more information. Tickets \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

FRIDAY/JULY 24

Clifton Film Festival. 8:30 p.m. in Clifton Town Park. Submissions must be 3-10 minutes long from children ages 13-21. There is also a 21-and-up category. The films must be 2-5 minutes and the top two will be shown. \$25 entry fee. To participate, contact Dani: dani@cliftonfilmfest.com or visit <http://www.cliftonfilmfest.com>. \$5 admission to the festival. Rain date is Saturday, July 25.

TUESDAY/JULY 28

Rotary Meeting. 11.15 a.m. at Eggspectations, 5009 Westone Plaza, Chantilly, off Westfields Blvd. Speaker: Jennifer Rose, Northern Virginia Family Service, on "NVFS Training Futures Program." Prospective members and visitors welcome; \$12 lunch. Call Mary Ann Imgram at 703-966-8168.



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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Centreville/Clifton					
6613 PEACEFUL MEADOW LN	\$999,000	Sun. Jul 19 from 12-4pm	Long & Foster	John T. Nguyen	(571) 277-1694
12601 CLIFTON HUNT LANE	\$749,990	Sun. July 19 from 1-4pm	Keller Williams Realty	Diane Lenahan	703-283-7328
15066 STILLFIELD PLACE	\$709,900	Sun. July 19 from 1-4pm	ERA Champion Realty	Nancy Foltz	703-772-0215
Fairfax					
3712 FARR AVE	\$790,000	Sun. July 19 from 1-4pm	Long & Foster	Jim Fox	703-898-6717
12506 LT NICHOLS RD	\$569,000	Sun. July 19 from 1-4pm	Samson Realty	Bernard Kagan	703-216-0985
4603 WHITTEMORE PL #1112	\$359,999	Sun. July 26 from 1-3pm	Ko-Am Realty	Chan Choi	571-344-0355
4363 PATRIOT PARK CT	\$614,900	Sat. July 25 from 1-4pm	Fairfax Realty	Walter Serrano	703-568-6317
13115 HEARTHSIDE LN	\$399,900	Sun. July 19 from 1-4pm	Samson Realty	Dana DeSarno	571-212-7770
3114 PLANTATION PKWY	\$459,000	Sun. July 19 from 1-4pm	Weichert	Ron Fowler	703-598-0511
Herndon					
1163 SILVER BEECH RD	\$849,900	Sun. July 19 from 1-4pm	McEneaney	Elena Pehrkon	703-927-3444
Burke					
9112 HUBER CT	\$489,950	Sun. July 19 from 1-4pm	Weichert	Kathleen Quintarelli	703-862-8808
9311 KITE ST	\$419,900	Sun. July 19 from 1-5pm	ERA Teachers	Kathleen Aust	571-217-8360
5210 DUNLEIGH DR	\$749,000	Sun. July 19 from 2-4pm	Weichert	Laura Nunley	703-795-8667
9412 ONION PATCH DR	\$589,950	Sun. July 19 from 1-4pm	Weichert	Kathleen Quintarelli	703-862-8808
9473 LAPSTRAKE LANE	\$589,950	Sun. July 19 from 1-4pm	Weichert	Kathleen Quintarelli	703-862-8808
Fairfax Station					
11319 LONG MANOR LN	\$2,474,863	Sun. July 26 from 12-4pm	Jobin Realty	Esteria Warrick	703-507-9642
11451 QUAILWOOD MANOR DR.	\$1,325,000	Sun. July 19 from 1-4pm	Keller Williams Realty	Diane Lenahan	703-283-7328



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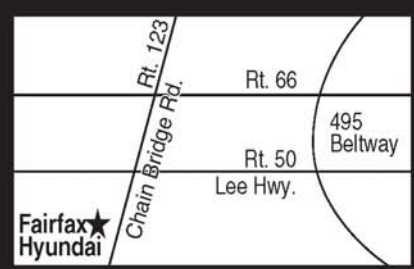
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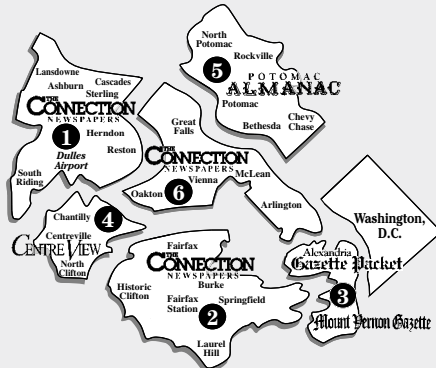
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Now That's Heavy



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Do you want to know what "heavy" is? I'll tell you what "heavy" is.

"Heavy" is when you ask your oncologist what you perceive to be a rather ordinary question about dental health, as it relates to your ongoing treatment/chemotherapy for stage IV lung cancer and he responds as he knows (and you've told him) how you want him to: honestly and succinctly.

He advises you not to bother spending the money on hardware if a band-aid/temporary solution will work. Specifically responding to the question, now that I'm nearly finished with my primary chemotherapy, if it's OK to have my dentist put in two crowns that we've delayed since I was diagnosed (and had treatment begun).

My oncologist asks how long will the crowns last. I shrug and say I don't know. He guesses/estimates 10 years. I guess back that I suppose that's right. To which he replies that it might not be necessary for me spend money on something that will last 10 years. Puzzled for a moment by his answer, I process the information, then I nod and say: Oh, I get it. I don't have 10 years so why spend money on something that will outlast me. So much for dental work.

But I'm not thinking that way. Nor would my oncologist want me to be thinking that way. All things are possible.

Everybody is different and responds to treatment differently. Medications; prescription or otherwise, chemotherapy; approved or experimental, homeopathic, non-western/alternative medicine; what's not effective for persons 1-99 might be perfectly effective and suitable for person 100. And not that I see my self "the one" (the surviving one against all statistical odds and case histories), but as I've written previously, it ain't over simply because the chemotherapy is completed and the "standard of care" sort of says it is (so far as the treatment protocols for the next 12 months are indicated).

Nevertheless, I don't have any reason to believe that I am "the one;" that somehow forces beyond my control (in conjunction with some forces within my control) and somehow unique to me, will physically, spiritually, chemically, anatomically and miraculously combine to track me on an alternative route that will change the course of my recently predicted (abbreviated) life expectancy. However, thinking that all is hopeless and preordained seems foolish and short-sighted.

What will be will be; moreover, what has been diagnosed has been diagnosed and it's my responsibility, my duty, my job, if you will, to see that it becomes prudent and meaningful that I pay the \$700 or so per crown for the more permanent hardware because life is for the living; it's not for the waiting and wondering if.

So I'm going to follow Red's (Morgan Freeman) advice from the 1994 Oscar-nominated film, "The Shawshank Redemption," "Get busy living or get busy dying." Given the alternatives, what choice do I have? What choice would I want to have? Granted, I've been dealt a bit of a bad — and quite unexpected — hand, but so what? It's not like it's my fault.

I didn't cause it; I just got diagnosed with it. I can live with it, hopefully long enough to replace these two crowns with a new pair in another 10 years. Hey, stranger things can happen; after all, a lifelong non-smoker like me was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. What's up with that?

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



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/CENTRE VIEW

After a wrestling show in Shallotte, N.C., Fairfax resident Mark Perez takes a breather. Known as 'Carnage,' Perez, 47, has been a professional wrestler since 1994.

Not Counted Out Yet

FROM PAGE 10

its way around Shallotte, too.

When Savannah Powell was about to turn 8, her mother, Karen Powell, sent an e-mail to a wrestling promoter she knew. It would be great, she said, if maybe Perez could send some sort of birthday wish to her daughter.

A few months before, Savannah had seen Perez at the town's Wal-Mart, located less than a mile from the U.S. Army National Guard Armory. Several wrestlers were there signing autographs, but Perez was the only one taking it seriously. So Savannah approached him and struck up a conversation.

Instead of just e-mailing Savannah for her birthday, Perez recalled that Wal-Mart conversation and decided to show up for the party.

"That was crazy," Savannah said. "I had no idea about it."

But the next few years weren't as enjoyable, as Karen Powell died. Savannah Powell, though, has kept in contact with Perez through e-mail and the two reunited on Saturday, June 27 at a wrestling show in Shallotte for the first time in six years.

THREE ROWS of steel chairs adorn three-quarters of the wrestling ring, and the barren side gives way to a garage door and a gravel and grass parking lot where a hazardous waste storage unit sits off to the left. The ring for the night's show is comprised of a steel frame with a 1-inch sheet of plywood covered by a blue and red canvas. Foam-padded steel wires tie everything together.

Seven matches are scribbled on a piece of paper in the locker room, which sits to the right of the concession stand where they're selling Sam's Choice-brand soda.

Perez will be "going over" tonight, wrestling's way of saying that he will win. The opponent he'll be wrestling — or "working" — goes by the ring name of Djinn and has been in the business on and off for seven years.

Once it's determined that they'll be work-

ing each other, Perez and Djinn confer to discuss strategy and how they want the 8 to 12-minute match to end. Perez and Djinn hatch a plan that has Djinn landing a cheap shot before the match while Perez interacts with his fans. The design here is to turn the crowd against Djinn. He's a "heel" or the antagonist. Perez, meanwhile, is considered a "face" — short for "baby face" — and essentially the protagonist.

James Beasley has always been a face around Shallotte. During high school, Beasley worked a part-time job setting up and tearing down wrestling rings for \$75 a show. Then at a show in 1980, one wrestler didn't show and the promoter asked if anyone could "bump and sell," which is parlance for looking serviceable enough as a wrestler. Beasley could.

After making \$150 that night, Beasley was



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/CENTRE VIEW

Signing autographs and posing for pictures is one of Mark 'Carnage' Perez favorite ringside activities. 'You can't have wrestling without the fans,' he said.

Not a Way To Get Rich

A few basic precepts surround the sport of wrestling and one involves addressing a wrestler only by his stage name at a show. Another involves not disclosing, both among wrestlers and with fans, how much one made at a particular event.

The sobering reality is wrestlers not competing in the WWE aren't compensated all that much. Take for instance Mark "Carnage" Perez's weekend trip to North Carolina. For 14 hours of driving and more than six hours spent at the U.S. Army National Guard Armory, Perez returned to Fairfax with \$26. And that's assuming he's reimbursed for his hotel room.

Consider (rounded to the nearest dollar):
 Gas — \$45
 Hotel — \$51
 Food — \$50
 Misc. — \$20
 Total Expenses — \$166
 Earnings (wrestling and merchandise sales) — \$140
 Hotel Reimbursement — \$51
 Net Earnings — \$26

hooked. Not only was it double his previous earnings, it became a hobby for Beasley, known around the ring as Beast. Since that day, Beasley has wrestled in more than 14 countries. In addition, the grandfather of 10 owns his own taxicab business.

One of his taxis idled near the hazardous waste storage unit in Shallotte as Beasley tossed two bags in its trunk and walked gingerly to the driver's side. Beasley's wife was taken to the hospital earlier that day. He offered to stay with her and cancel his appearance at the show; however, she told him to leave, knowing how miserable he'd be if he missed a show.

"This is worse," Beasley said, "than a drug addict needing a fix."

On Sunday morning after the show, Perez didn't struggle. He was awake before 9 with only minor back pain and a sprained left ring finger. In his mind, he'd like to keep wrestling for at least 10 more years.

"I'm meeting more and more people every year," Perez said. "I'm in so many different places and working with so many different promotions, it's never the same. That's the beauty of what I do."



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